

Immigration in the EU27 in 2006

40% of immigrants who settled in the EU27 were citizens of EU27 Member States

In 2006, about three million foreign immigrants¹ settled in a country in the **EU27**. These immigrants can be divided into two groups based on their citizenship: citizens of EU27 Member states (1.2 million persons) and non-EU27 citizens (1.8 million).

EU27 citizens migrating to a Member State, of which they were not citizens, accounted for 40% of foreign immigrants. The remaining 60% of foreign immigrants were almost equally divided between citizens of countries in Europe outside the EU27, Asia, America and Africa, with each accounting for about 15%.

In 2006, the largest foreign immigrant groups in the **EU27** were citizens of **Poland** (about 290 000 persons), **Romania** (about 230 000), **Morocco** (about 140 000), the **United Kingdom**, **Ukraine** and **China** (each about 100 000) and **Germany** (about 90 000).

These figures are extracted from a report² issued by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**. The immigration data are compiled from available national sources, completed by Eurostat estimates where necessary. Due to differences in coverage and definitions, the data are not fully comparable and must be interpreted with care. The report also includes information about the gender and age composition of immigrants.

Highest immigration rates in Luxembourg, Ireland, Cyprus and Spain

In 2006, the largest number of foreign immigrants was recorded in **Spain**³ (803 000 persons), **Germany** (558 500) and the **United Kingdom**⁴ (451 700), who together received 60% of all foreign immigrants in the **EU27**.

When compared with the population in the Member State of destination, the highest rate of foreign immigration in the **EU27** was recorded in **Luxembourg** (28.8 foreign immigrants per 1 000 inhabitants), followed by **Ireland** (19.6), **Cyprus** (18.7), **Spain** (18.1) and **Austria** (10.3), compared with the **EU27** average of 6.2 foreign immigrants per 1 000 inhabitants. Rates were 1 foreign immigrant per 1 000 inhabitants or less in **Poland**⁵, **Romania**, **Lithuania** and **Latvia**.

Highest share of non-EU27 immigrants in Slovenia, Romania, Portugal and the Czech Republic

In 2006, 60% of foreign immigrants in the **EU27** Member States were not EU27 citizens. In 17 of the 24 Member States, for which data were available, a majority of the foreign immigrants were non-EU27 citizens. The highest shares of immigrants from non-EU27 countries were registered in **Slovenia** (90%), **Romania** (86%), **Portugal** (84%) and the **Czech Republic** (83%).

In seven Member States a majority of the foreign immigrants were EU27 citizens. These Member States were **Luxembourg** (84%), **Ireland** (77%), **Germany** (57%), **Hungary** and **Slovakia** (both 54%), **Austria** (53%) and **Belgium** (51% in 2003).

In some Member States immigration was concentrated in certain citizenships. The Member States with the highest concentration of immigrants from one single country were **Romania**, where 56% of the foreign immigrants were citizens of **Moldova**, the **Czech Republic** (46% citizens of **Ukraine**), **Slovenia** (43% citizens of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**) and **Greece** (42% citizens of **Albania**).

Foreign immigration, 2006

	Foreign immigration	Of which (%)		Immigration per 1 000 inhabitants
		EU27 citizens	Non-EU27 citizens	
EU27*	3 000 000	40	60	6.2
Belgium**	68 800	51	49	6.6
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	66 100	17	83	6.4
Denmark	34 300	49	51	6.3
Germany	558 500	57	43	6.8
Estonia	:	:	:	:
Ireland	84 400	77	23	19.6
Greece⁷	86 700	21	79	7.8
Spain³	803 000	38	62	18.1
France⁶	182 400	:	:	2.9
Italy**	392 800	26	74	6.8
Cyprus	14 500	41	59	18.7
Latvia	2 300	46	54	1.0
Lithuania	2 200	18	82	0.7
Luxembourg	13 700	84	16	28.8
Hungary	19 400	54	46	1.9
Malta	700	:	:	1.6
Netherlands	67 700	47	53	4.1
Austria	85 400	53	47	10.3
Poland⁵	1 800	22	78	0.0
Portugal	27 700	16	84	2.6
Romania	7 700	14	86	0.4
Slovenia	18 300	10	90	9.1
Slovakia	11 300	54	46	2.1
Finland	13 900	39	61	2.6
Sweden	80 400	32	68	8.8
United Kingdom⁴	451 700	31	69	7.4
Croatia	1 000	28	72	0.2
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 600	16	84	0.8
Norway	37 400	56	44	8.0
Switzerland	107 200	62	38	14.3

* Estimated value based on 2006 data

** 2003

: Data not available

Largest immigrant groups in % of total foreign immigration, 2006

	% of foreign immigration					
	Citizens of	%	Citizens of	%	Citizens of	%
EU27*	Poland	10	Romania	8	Morocco	5
Belgium**	Netherlands	12	Morocco	12	France	12
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	Ukraine	46	Slovakia	10	Vietnam	10
Denmark	Poland	11	Germany	8	Norway	5
Germany	Poland	26	Turkey	5	Romania	4
Estonia	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:	:
Greece⁷	Albania	42	Bulgaria	15	Romania	6
Spain³	Romania	16	Morocco	10	Bolivia	10
France⁶	Algeria	16	Morocco	13	China	6
Italy**	Romania	19	Albania	12	Ukraine	11
Cyprus	Sri Lanka	13	United Kingdom	11	Philippines	10
Latvia	Russia	35	Lithuania	12	Germany	10
Lithuania	Belarus	29	Russia	18	Ukraine	13
Luxembourg	Portugal	28	France	18	Germany	7
Hungary	Romania	35	Ukraine	12	China	8
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	Germany	11	Poland	10	United Kingdom	5
Austria	Germany	19	Serbia and Montenegro ⁸	9	Poland	7
Poland	:	:	:	:	:	:
Portugal	Ukraine	31	Brazil	27	Moldova	12
Romania	Moldova	56	China	5	Italy	4
Slovenia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	43	Serbia and Montenegro ⁸	24	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11
Slovakia	Czech Republic	11	Poland	10	Ukraine	9
Finland	Estonia	18	Russia	15	Sweden	5
Sweden	Iraq	13	Poland	8	Denmark	6
United Kingdom⁴	Poland	13	India	13	China	6

* Estimated value

** 2003

: Data not available

- Immigration means the action by which a person establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of a 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 immigration. In the current analysis it does not apply to persons already living in the country who migrated in the past. Foreign immigrant means a person who does not hold citizenship of the country to which he/she migrates. Non-EU27 immigrants include all non-EU27 citizens arriving in an EU27 Member State either from a country outside the EU27 or from another EU27 Member State. National immigrants, i.e. persons returning to their country of citizenship, are not included in the data presented in this news release.
In most EU27 Member States administrative data are used as a source for international migration statistics thus including registered migrations. Registration of immigration of non-EU27 citizens is usually tied to the issue of a residence permit. This release covers the EU27, including Bulgaria and Romania, which joined the EU on 1 January 2007.
- Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 98/2008 "Recent migration trends: citizens of EU-27 Member States become ever more mobile while EU remains attractive to non EU-citizens"**, available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.
- Data include non-EU27 citizens registered with the local municipality regardless of whether they have a residence permit.
- Excluding immigrants from Ireland, whatever their citizenship.
- Including only immigrants taking up permanent residence.
- Including metropolitan and overseas departments and regions. The number of immigrants excludes citizens from EU15, Cyprus, Malta and EFTA countries.
- The number of immigrants excludes citizens from EU25 and EFTA countries.
- Data refer to Serbia and Montenegro, which existed between 2003 and 2006.

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For further information on the data:

Johan WULLT
Tel: **+352-4301-33 444**
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Anne HERM
Tel: **+352-4301- 36235**
anne.herm@ec.europa.eu

Eurostat press releases on the Internet: **<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>**