

Population of foreign citizens in the EU27 in 2008

Foreign citizens made up 6% of the EU27 population

On 1 January 2008, 30.8 million foreign citizens¹ lived in the **EU27** Member States, of which 11.3 million were citizens of another **EU27** Member state. The remaining 19.5 million were citizens of countries outside the EU27, of which 6.0 million were citizens of other European countries, 4.7 million of Africa, 3.7 million of Asia and 3.2 million of the American continent. Foreign citizens accounted for 6.2% of the total **EU27** population.

This news release, issued on the occasion of the International Migrants Day² on 18 December 2009, is based on a report³ by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, on foreign citizens in the EU27 Member States, Norway and Switzerland. This report presents data either supplied by National Statistical Institutes, or approved by them if estimated by Eurostat.

The proportion of foreign citizens varied between 0.1% in Romania and 43% in Luxembourg

In 2008, the largest numbers of foreign citizens were recorded in **Germany** (7.3 million persons), **Spain** (5.3 million), the **United Kingdom** (4.0 million), **France** (3.7 million) and **Italy** (3.4 million). More than 75% of the foreign citizens in the **EU27** lived in these Member States.

Among the **EU27** Member States, the highest percentage of foreign citizens in the population was found in **Luxembourg** (43% of the total population), followed by **Latvia** (18%), **Estonia** (17%), **Cyprus** (16%), **Ireland** (13%), **Spain** (12%) and **Austria** (10%). The percentage of foreign citizens was less than 1% in **Romania, Poland, Bulgaria** and **Slovakia**.

More than a third of foreign citizens in the EU27 came from another Member State

In 2008, 37% of the foreign citizens living in the **EU27** were citizens of another **EU27** Member state. The largest groups were from **Romania** (1.7 million or 15% of the total number of foreign citizens from another EU Member State), **Italy** (1.3 million or 11%) and **Poland** (1.2 million or 11%). Among the citizens of countries outside the EU27, the largest groups were from **Turkey** (2.4 million or 12% of the total number of foreign citizens from countries outside the EU27), **Morocco** (1.7 million or 9%) and **Albania** (1.0 million or 5%).

The origin of the population of foreign citizens varied greatly between Member States. In six Member States, the largest single group of foreign citizens accounted for more than 30% of the total foreign population. The Member States with the highest percentage of foreign citizens from one single country were **Greece** (64% of foreign citizens were from **Albania**), **Slovenia** (47% from **Bosnia and Herzegovina**), **Hungary** (37% from **Romania**) and **Luxembourg** (37% from **Portugal**). In **Latvia**, 90% of the population of foreign citizens were recognised non-citizens⁴.

Population of foreign citizens in the EU27 Member States, 2008

	Total foreign citizens		Citizens of another EU27 Member State		Citizens of countries outside the EU27	
	000s	% of total population	000s	% of total population	000s	% of total population
EU27	30 779	6.2	11 302	2.3	19 476	3.9
Belgium	971	9.1	659	6.2	312	2.9
Bulgaria	24	0.3	4	0.0	21	0.3
Czech Republic	348	3.3	132	1.3	216	2.1
Denmark	298	5.5	93	1.7	205	3.7
Germany	7 255	8.8	2 516	3.1	4 740	5.8
Estonia*	229	17.1	8	0.6	221	16.5
Ireland	554	12.6	392	8.9	162	3.7
Greece*	906	8.1	158	1.4	748	6.7
Spain	5 262	11.6	2 113	4.7	3 149	7.0
France*	3 674	5.8	1 283	2.0	2 391	3.8
Italy	3 433	5.8	934	1.6	2 498	4.2
Cyprus	125	15.9	81	10.3	44	5.6
Latvia	415	18.3	8	0.3	408	17.9
Lithuania	43	1.3	3	0.1	40	1.2
Luxembourg	206	42.6	177	36.6	29	6.0
Hungary	177	1.8	101	1.0	76	0.8
Malta	15	3.8	8	2.0	7	1.8
Netherlands	688	4.2	263	1.6	425	2.6
Austria	835	10.0	290	3.5	545	6.6
Poland	58	0.2	25	0.1	33	0.1
Portugal	446	4.2	116	1.1	331	3.1
Romania	26	0.1	6	0.0	20	0.1
Slovenia	69	3.4	4	0.2	65	3.2
Slovakia	41	0.8	26	0.5	15	0.3
Finland	133	2.5	47	0.9	86	1.6
Sweden	524	5.7	241	2.6	284	3.1
United Kingdom*	4 021	6.6	1 615	2.6	2 406	3.9
Norway	266	5.6	138	2.9	128	2.7
Switzerland	1 602	21.1	968	12.7	634	8.3

* Data estimated by Eurostat

Three largest groups of foreign citizens residing in the EU27 Member States by citizenship, 2008
(% of total population of foreign citizens resident in the Member State)

	Citizens of	#	%	Citizens of	#	%	Citizens of	#	%
EU27	Turkey	2 419 000	7.9	Morocco	1 727 000	5.6	Romania	1 677 000	5.4
Belgium	Italy	169 000	17.4	France	130 600	13.4	Netherlands	123 500	12.7
Bulgaria	Russia	9 000	36.7	Ukraine	2 200	8.8	Greece	1 600	6.6
Czech Republic	Ukraine	103 400	29.7	Slovakia	67 900	19.5	Vietnam	42 300	12.2
Denmark	Turkey	28 800	9.7	Iraq	18 300	6.1	Germany	18 000	6.0
Germany	Turkey	1 830 100	25.2	Italy	570 200	7.9	Poland	413 000	5.7
Greece	Albania	577 500	63.7	Ukraine	22 300	2.5	Georgia	17 200	1.9
Spain	Romania	734 800	14.0	Morocco	649 800	12.3	Ecuador	423 500	8.0
France*	Portugal	492 000	13.6	Algeria	477 500	13.2	Morocco	461 500	12.7
Italy	Romania	625 300	18.2	Albania	402 000	11.7	Morocco	365 900	10.7
Latvia	Rec. non-citizens ⁴	371 700	89.5	Russia	28 500	6.9	Lithuania	3 400	0.8
Lithuania	Russia	12 800	29.7	Belarus	4 700	10.9	Stateless	4 200	9.7
Luxembourg	Portugal	76 600	37.2	France	26 600	12.9	Italy	19 100	9.3
Hungary	Romania	65 900	37.3	Ukraine	17 300	9.8	Germany	14 400	8.2
Malta	United Kingdom	4 100	26.5	India	900	6.0	Serbia	800	5.1
Netherlands	Turkey	93 700	13.6	Morocco	74 900	10.9	Germany	62 400	9.1
Austria	Serbia & Montenegro	132 600	15.9	Germany	119 800	14.3	Turkey	109 200	13.1
Poland	Germany	11 800	20.5	Ukraine	6 100	10.6	Russia	3 700	6.4
Portugal	Brazil	70 100	15.7	Cape Verde	64 700	14.5	Ukraine	39 600	8.9
Romania	Moldova	5 500	21.0	Turkey	2 200	8.4	China	1 900	7.3
Slovenia	Bosnia & Herzegovina	32 500	47.3	Serbia	13 800	20.1	Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	7 400	10.9
Slovakia	Czech Republic	6 000	14.6	Poland	4 000	9.8	Ukraine	3 700	9.2
Finland	Russia	26 200	19.8	Estonia	20 000	15.1	Sweden	8 300	6.3
Sweden	Finland	80 400	15.3	Iraq	40 000	7.6	Denmark	38 400	7.3
United Kingdom	Poland	392 800	9.9	Ireland	347 900	8.8	India	296 500	7.5
Norway	Sweden	29 900	11.2	Poland	26 800	10.1	Denmark	20 500	7.7
Switzerland	Italy	291 200	18.2	Germany	203 200	12.7	Portugal	183 000	11.4

* 2005 data
Estonia, Ireland, Cyprus: detailed data not available.

1. 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 citizens refer to persons who are not citizens of the country in which they reside. They also include persons of unknown citizenship and stateless persons.
2. For more information about the International Migrants Day see: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/events/migrants/>
3. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 94/2009 "Citizens of European countries account for the majority of the foreign population in the EU27 in 2008", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.
4. A recognised non-citizen is a person who is neither a citizen of the reporting country nor of any other country, but who has established links to that country which includes some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship.

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