

EU Member states granted citizenship to more than 800 000 persons in 2010

The number of people who acquired citizenship in one of the EU Member States rose to 810 thousand in 2010, a 4% increase with respect to 2009. This is the first time that the total number of acquisitions in the EU exceeds 0.8 million.

The increase at EU level was essentially due to an increase in citizenships granted by Spain (+44 000 or +55% with respect to 2009).

For the first time, there were more persons acquiring Spanish citizenship than German. In terms of total acquisitions, in 2010 Spain (124 000) was the third country in the EU after the UK (195 000) and France (143 000).

The largest groups of foreigners who acquired citizenship in the EU were Moroccans (67 000 who mostly took French citizenship) and Turks (50 000, who mostly took German citizenship). Other significant groups were persons who previously held the citizenship of Ecuador, India, Colombia or Pakistan.

The vast majority of new citizens (almost nine out of ten) were previously third-country nationals, i.e. citizens of a country outside the EU.

Half of these new citizens were aged 32 years or less, with a slight predominance of women (52.8%) over men (47.2%).

Persons granted Spanish citizenship rose by 55% with respect to 2009

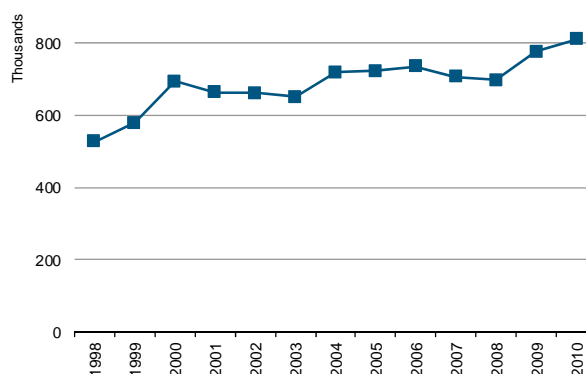
During 2010, for the first time since the data series has been available, the number of persons who acquired citizenship in EU Member States was more than 0.8 million, an increase of 4% with respect to 2009. This is the second consecutive year of increase at EU level, after two years of decline in 2007-2008.

The Member State that contributed most to this overall increase is Spain, for which acquisitions rose from 80 000 in 2009 to 124 000 in 2010 (+55%). Sizeable increases were also recorded in Germany (+8 500 or +9%), France (+7 500 or +5%) and Italy (+6 500 or +11%). On the other hand, the largest decreases occurred in the UK (-8 800 or -4%) and Bulgaria (-8 300 or -90%).

It should be noted that the year-to-year fluctuations in the number of acquisitions in a country depend not only on reforms of the citizenship laws and procedures, but also on past migration trends,

which modify the stock of foreigners eligible to apply for citizenship.

Figure 1: Total number of acquisitions of citizenship in the EU-27



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

Table 1: Total number of acquisitions of citizenship, 1998-2010

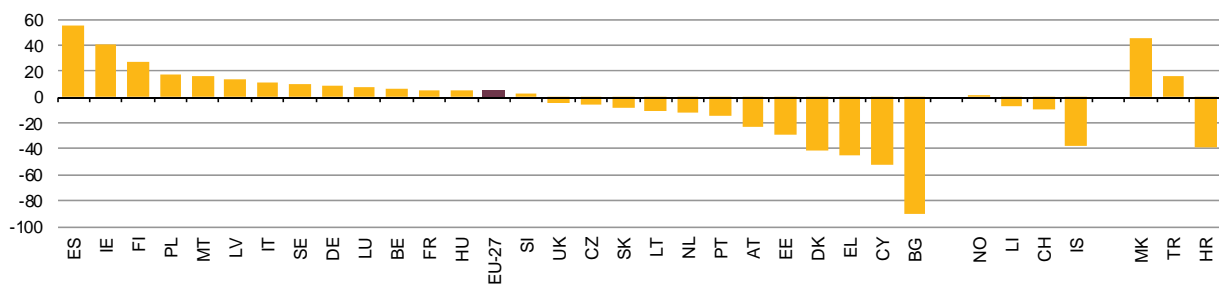
	Total acquisitions (1000)												
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
EU-27	528.0	579.7	693.9	663.3	662.5	651.9	719.1	723.6	735.9	707.1	698.6	776.1	810.5
Belgium	34.0	24.2	62.0	62.2	46.4	33.7	34.8	31.5	31.9	36.1	37.7	32.8	34.6
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	3.5	4.4	5.8	5.9	6.7	6.0	7.1	9.2	0.9
Czech Republic	:	7.3	6.4	6.3	3.3	2.2	5.0	2.6	2.3	2.4	1.2	1.1	1.1
Denmark	10.3	12.4	18.8	11.9	17.3	6.6	15.0	10.2	8.0	3.6	6.0	6.9	4.0
Germany	106.8	143.1	186.7	180.3	154.5	140.7	127.2	117.2	124.6	113.0	94.5	96.1	104.6
Estonia	10.0	4.5	3.4	3.1	4.1	3.7	6.5	7.1	4.8	4.2	2.1	1.7	1.2
Ireland	1.5	1.4	1.1	2.8	:	4.0	3.8	4.1	5.8	4.6	3.2	4.5	6.4
Greece	0.8	:	:	:	:	1.9	1.4	1.7	2.0	3.9	16.9	17.0	9.4
Spain	12.6	16.4	16.7	16.7	21.8	26.5	38.2	42.9	62.4	71.9	84.2	79.6	123.7
France	123.8	147.5	150.0	127.5	128.1	144.6	168.8	154.8	147.9	132.0	137.3	135.8	143.3
Italy	12.0	11.3	9.6	10.4	10.7	13.4	19.1	28.7	35.3	45.5	53.7	59.4	65.9
Cyprus	:	0.1	0.3	:	0.1	0.2	4.5	4.0	2.9	2.8	3.5	4.1	1.9
Latvia	:	12.9	13.5	9.9	9.4	10.0	17.2	20.1	19.0	8.3	4.2	3.2	3.7
Lithuania	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
Luxembourg	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	4.0	4.3
Hungary	6.2	6.1	5.4	8.6	3.4	5.3	5.4	9.9	6.1	8.4	8.1	5.8	6.1
Malta	0.2	0.1	0.6	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.9
Netherlands	59.2	62.1	50.0	46.7	45.3	28.8	26.2	28.5	29.1	30.7	28.2	29.8	26.3
Austria	17.8	:	24.3	31.7	36.0	44.7	41.6	34.9	25.7	14.0	10.3	8.0	6.1
Poland	:	:	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.9	2.9	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.5	2.9
Portugal	0.5	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.9	3.0	4.4	:	22.4	25.6	21.8
Romania	:	0.2	:	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	5.6	9.4	:
Slovenia	3.3	2.3	2.1	1.3	2.8	3.3	3.3	2.7	3.2	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.8
Slovakia	0.9	1.3	4.5	2.9	3.5	3.5	4.0	1.4	1.1	1.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
Finland	4.0	4.7	3.0	2.7	3.0	4.5	6.9	5.7	4.4	4.8	6.7	3.4	4.3
Sweden	46.5	37.8	43.5	36.4	37.8	33.2	28.9	39.6	51.2	33.6	30.5	29.5	32.5
United Kingdom	53.9	54.9	82.2	89.8	120.1	130.5	148.3	161.8	154.0	164.5	129.3	203.6	194.8
Iceland	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	:	:	:	:	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.5
Liechtenstein	:	0.6	:	:	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
Norway	9.2	8.0	9.5	10.8	9.0	7.9	8.2	12.7	12.0	14.9	10.3	11.4	11.6
Switzerland	21.3	20.4	28.7	27.6	36.5	35.4	35.7	38.4	46.7	43.9	44.4	43.4	39.3
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	12.7	8.9	:	12.3	13.2	7.6	5.3	3.3
FYR of Macedonia	:	:	2.0	1.7	1.9	:	2.6	2.7	2.1	1.7	1.1	0.8	1.2
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	24.8	8.2	6.9	5.1	4.4	6.0	8.1	9.5

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

In relative terms, the highest increases with respect to 2009, apart from Spain, were recorded in Ireland (+41%), Finland (+27%) and Poland (+17%). For the first time, the number of persons acquiring citizenship was higher in Spain than in Germany.

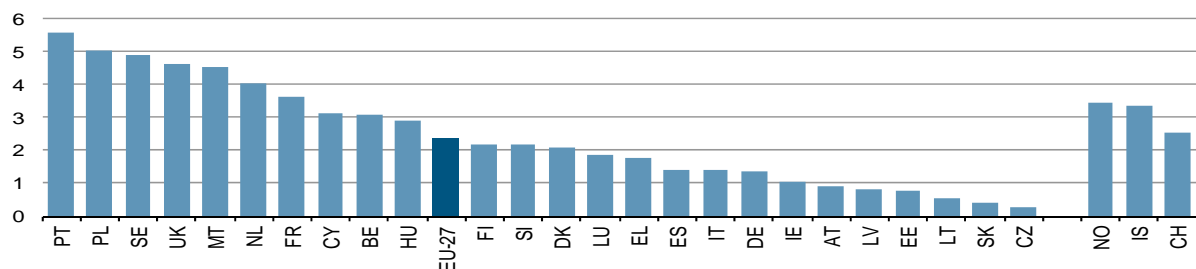
The top-three Member States (UK, France and Spain) granted 57% of all new citizenships in the EU, while the top-five (those listed above plus Germany and Italy) accounted for about 78% of the EU total.

Figure 2: Acquisitions of citizenship, % change on previous year, 2010



Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))

Figure 3: Naturalisation rate (acquisitions of citizenship per 100 non-nationals), 2010



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: [migr_acq](#), [migr_pop1ctz](#))

Highest naturalisation rates in Portugal, Poland and Sweden

The naturalisation rate (or rate of acquisition of citizenship) is the conventional indicator used to evaluate the effect of national citizenship policies on the stock of resident foreigners. It is computed as the ratio between the total acquisitions that occur within a given calendar year and the stock of resident foreigners at the beginning of the year.

Its common interpretation as "share of foreigners who become nationals in a given year" is complicated by the fact that not all foreigners are eligible to acquire citizenship, since in most cases a minimum length of stay in the country is required.

As in 2009, the highest naturalisation rate in 2010 in the EU was recorded in Portugal (5.6 acquisitions per hundred foreign residents,

slightly lower than the 5.8 of 2009), followed by Poland (5.0), Sweden (4.9) and the UK (4.6).

Two aspects should be noted: first of all, despite the fact that theoretically the naturalisation rate is a rather "volatile" indicator, its distribution in the EU has remained quite stable between 2009 and 2010: with the exception of Slovenia, all Member States which were above (or below) the EU average in 2009 remained above (or below) that average in 2010.

Secondly, among the top-five EU Member States in terms of total citizenships granted, only the UK and France rank above the EU average in terms of naturalisation rate, while Germany, Spain and Italy rank below.

The vast majority of acquisitions concerned third-country nationals

At EU level, about 90% of all those who acquired citizenship were previously third-country nationals, that is citizens of non-EU countries. With the exceptions of Luxembourg and Hungary, in all Member States acquisitions by third-country nationals outnumbered those by EU citizens.

This result is not surprising, given the set of rights which are granted to EU citizens irrespectively of where they reside within the Union. It is reasonable that non-EU citizens will have a higher incentive to seek the citizenship of their EU country of residence, as opposed to those who are already EU citizens.

The largest group of foreigners who acquired citizenship in the EU were Moroccans (67 000, of whom more than 40% took French citizenship), followed by Turks (50 000, of whom more than half took German citizenship) and Ecuadorians (45 000, virtually all getting Spanish citizenship).

Figure 4 shows the size of the thirty largest groups of foreigners who acquired citizenship in the EU, both in absolute terms and as a share of the foreign residents of the same citizenship. This list includes only three groups of EU citizens: Romanians, Poles and Portuguese. They are also the groups with the lowest share of acquisitions per foreign resident.

On the other hand, among the groups with the highest share we find countries with significant flows of asylum seekers in recent years, like Iraq, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is a feature which was also observed in previous years.

Table 2: Acquisitions of citizenship by group of previous citizenship, 2010

	Total	EU-27 Member States		Non EU-27 Member States		Unknown	
	(1000)	(1000)	(%)	(1000)	(%)	(1000)	(%)
EU-27	810.5	72.1	8.9	720.1	88.8	18.3	2.3
BE	34.6	6.4	18.4	27.8	80.4	0.4	1.2
BG	0.9	0.0	1.1	0.9	97.4	0.0	1.5
CZ	1.1	0.3	25.3	0.8	73.4	0.0	1.4
DK	4.0	0.4	8.9	3.7	91.1	0.0	0.0
DE	104.6	15.0	14.3	89.1	85.2	0.5	0.5
EE	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2	100.0	0.0	0.0
IE	6.4	0.4	5.9	6.0	94.1	0.0	0.0
EL	9.4	0.5	5.7	8.8	94.2	0.0	0.0
ES	123.7	1.7	1.4	122.0	98.6	0.0	0.0
FR	143.3	9.5	6.6	122.5	85.5	11.3	7.9
IT	65.9	8.4	12.7	57.6	87.3	0.0	0.0
CY	1.9	0.7	35.8	1.2	63.9	0.0	0.3
LV	3.7	0.0	0.2	3.7	99.8	0.0	0.0
LT	0.2	0.0	1.1	0.2	98.9	0.0	0.0
LU	4.3	3.2	74.5	1.1	25.5	0.0	0.0
HU	6.1	4.2	69.2	1.9	30.8	0.0	0.0
MT	0.9	0.2	18.7	0.7	79.3	0.0	2.0
NL	26.3	1.9	7.4	20.1	76.7	4.2	16.0
AT	6.1	0.6	9.7	5.5	90.2	0.0	0.0
PL	2.9	0.3	10.4	2.6	89.6	0.0	0.0
PT	21.8	0.5	2.4	21.2	97.6	0.0	0.0
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	1.8	0.2	13.4	1.6	86.0	0.0	0.6
SK	0.2	0.1	33.5	0.2	65.7	0.0	0.8
FI	4.3	0.6	12.9	3.7	86.5	0.0	0.6
SE	32.5	8.2	25.2	22.8	70.2	1.5	4.6
UK	194.8	8.3	4.2	186.6	95.7	0.0	0.0
IS	0.5	0.1	24.9	0.3	75.1	0.0	0.0
LI	0.1	0.0	31.6	0.1	68.4	0.0	0.0
NO	11.6	0.9	8.1	10.7	91.9	0.0	0.0
CH	39.3	14.2	36.0	25.1	63.9	0.0	0.0
HR	3.3	0.3	10.4	2.9	89.5	0.0	0.1
MK	1.2	0.2	14.7	1.0	83.6	0.0	1.8
TR	9.5	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

Table 3: Main previous citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship in 2010

EU-27		Belgium		Bulgaria		Czech Republic	
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)
Morocco	8.3	Morocco	21.3	FYR of Macedonia	49.4	Ukraine	36.1
Turkey	6.2	Italy	8.2	Moldova	17.4	Slovakia	12.9
Ecuador	5.6	Turkey	8.0	Russia	8.9	Russia	6.8
India	4.3	Russia	4.7	Serbia	7.0	Poland	5.8
Colombia	3.4	Congo, Dem. Rep.	4.6	Ukraine	5.5	Vietnam	4.9
Other	72.3	Other	53.2	Other	11.8	Other	33.5
Denmark		Germany		Estonia		Ireland	
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)
Iraq	14.3	Turkey	25.1	Rec. non-citizen (1)	91.2	Nigeria	15.8
Afghanistan	12.4	Iraq	5.0	Russia	6.3	Philippines	9.9
Stateless (1)	7.0	Russia	4.0	Ukraine	1.4	India	6.9
Turkey	6.1	Poland	3.7	Belarus	0.3	South Africa	5.4
Somalia	5.6	Afghanistan	3.4	Azerbaijan	0.2	Pakistan	4.8
Other	54.6	Other	58.9	Other	0.7	Other	57.2
Greece		Spain		France		Italy	
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)
Albania	64.5	Ecuador	34.8	Morocco	19.3	Morocco	17.2
Georgia	8.1	Colombia	19.4	Algeria	14.6	Albania	13.8
Russia	6.5	Morocco	8.7	Tunisia	5.9	Romania	7.1
Armenia	2.1	Peru	6.7	Turkey	5.9	Peru	3.4
United States	2.0	Argentina	5.2	Portugal	3.4	Brazil	3.2
Other	16.7	Other	25.3	Other	50.8	Other	55.2
Cyprus		Latvia		Lithuania		Luxembourg	
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)
Greece	18.6	Rec. non-citizen (1)	96.1	Stateless (1)	52.5	Portugal	31.3
United Kingdom	11.7	Russia	1.8	Russia	20.4	Italy	15.4
South Africa	11.6	Ukraine	0.9	Ukraine	9.9	France	7.9
Russia	9.9	Belarus	0.3	Belarus	7.2	Germany	7.7
Australia	7.0	United States	0.2	Armenia	1.7	Belgium	6.0
Other	41.2	Other	0.7	Other	8.3	Other	31.6
Hungary		Malta		Netherlands		Austria	
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)
Romania	64.7	Australia	43.6	Morocco	22.1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	20.8
Serbia and Montenegro	11.8	United Kingdom	10.7	Turkey	19.0	Turkey	15.3
Ukraine	10.6	Canada	5.8	Suriname	3.7	Serbia	13.5
Belarus	2.0	United States	5.3	China	1.9	Croatia	7.4
Russia	1.8	Russia	4.1	Germany	1.6	Kosovo	7.1
Other	9.0	Other	30.4	Other	51.8	Other	35.8
Poland		Portugal		Romania		Slovenia	
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)
Ukraine	33.9	Brazil	18.4	:	:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	30.7
Belarus	14.3	Cape Verde	18.3	:	:	Serbia	11.5
Russia	7.3	Moldova	12.3	:	:	Italy	11.2
Armenia	3.5	Angola	9.0	:	:	FYR of Macedonia	10.7
Vietnam	3.3	Guinea Bissau	8.5	:	:	Croatia	8.4
Other	37.7	Other	33.5	:	:	Other	27.6
Slovakia		Finland		Sweden		United Kingdom	
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)
Serbia	23.8	Russia	44.4	Iraq	13.5	India	15.1
Czech Republic	18.8	Estonia	5.6	Finland	9.2	Pakistan	11.3
Ukraine	18.4	Iran	3.2	Poland	4.6	Philippines	4.8
Vietnam	6.3	Turkey	3.0	Thailand	4.4	Bangladesh	4.1
Hungary	5.0	Somalia	3.0	Stateless (1)	3.5	Nigeria	4.0
Other	27.6	Other	40.7	Other	64.9	Other	60.6
Iceland		Liechtenstein		Norway		Switzerland	
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)
Philippines	14.9	Switzerland	37.9	Somalia	12.9	Serbia	17.4
Poland	11.1	Austria	14.7	Iraq	11.4	Italy	10.5
Vietnam	8.7	Germany	10.5	Afghanistan	9.0	Germany	9.2
Thailand	6.2	Turkey	10.5	Russia	5.8	Portugal	5.6
Serbia	6.0	Italy	4.2	Iran	4.6	Turkey	5.3
Other	53.1	Other	22.1	Other	56.3	Other	51.9
Croatia		FYR of Macedonia					
Previous citizens of	(%)	Previous citizens of	(%)				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	38.4	Serbia	30.6				
Australia	8.4	Albania	25.1				
Serbia	6.9	Turkey	4.0				
Argentina	5.9	Croatia	3.8				
Chile	5.6	Austria	3.7				
Other	34.8	Other	32.9				

(1) See methodological notes

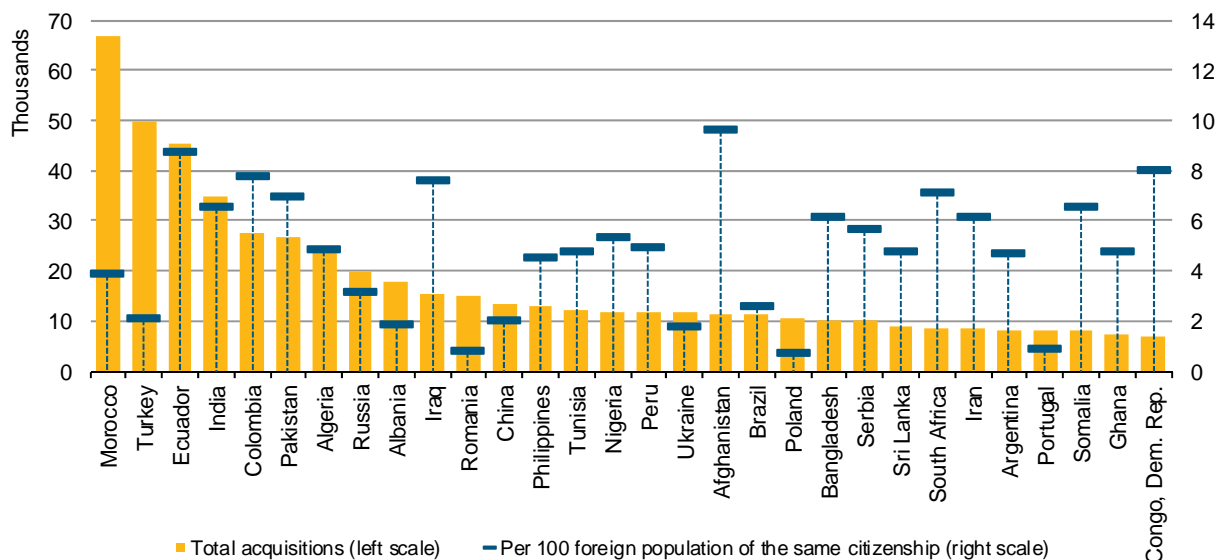
Source: Eurostat (online data code: [migr_acq](#))

Table 4: Main previous citizenship of persons acquiring citizenship in 2010

Country of previous citizenship	Total acq. in EU-27 (1000)	Main EU-27 Member States granting citizenship								
		Rank 1 (%)	Rank 2 (%)	Rank 3 (%)	Rank 4 (%)	Other (%)				
1. Morocco	67.0	FR 41.3	IT 17.0	ES 16.0	BE 11.0	14.8				
2. Turkey	49.9	DE 52.5	FR 16.9	NL 10.0	UK 9.3	11.3				
3. Ecuador	45.2	ES 95.4	IT 2.1	UK 1.1	DE 0.4	1.0				
4. India	34.7	UK 84.6	IT 3.6	DE 2.7	PT 2.6	6.4				
5. Colombia	27.5	ES 87.1	IT 3.7	UK 3.2	FR 2.1	3.9				
6. Pakistan	26.7	UK 82.6	DE 4.4	FR 2.8	BE 2.3	7.9				
7. Algeria	24.6	FR 85.0	UK 6.0	BE 3.0	IT 1.7	4.3				
8. Russia	19.8	FR 22.7	DE 21.1	FI 9.7	IT 9.5	37.0				
9. Albania	17.8	IT 51.2	EL 34.0	UK 7.5	DE 2.0	5.3				
10. Iraq	15.6	DE 33.6	UK 28.1	SE 28.0	DK 3.7	6.6				
11. Romania	15.1	IT 31.1	HU 26.0	DE 16.9	UK 6.7	19.3				
12. China	13.2	UK 58.3	DE 9.9	FR 9.3	IT 3.8	18.7				
13. Philippines	13.0	UK 72.6	IT 6.5	IE 4.9	ES 3.9	12.1				
14. Tunisia	12.3	FR 69.3	IT 16.3	DE 6.4	BE 2.9	5.1				
15. Nigeria	11.9	UK 66.3	IE 8.5	IT 6.3	DE 6.1	12.8				
16. Peru	11.7	ES 70.7	IT 19.1	FR 2.3	DE 2.3	5.6				
17. Ukraine	11.6	DE 28.6	IT 15.7	PT 11.7	UK 9.1	34.9				
18. Afghanistan	11.4	UK 46.4	DE 30.9	SE 7.4	DK 4.4	10.9				
19. Brazil	11.3	PT 35.4	IT 18.5	ES 15.3	DE 9.1	21.7				
20. Poland	10.5	DE 36.9	IT 17.4	SE 14.2	UK 13.6	18.0				
21. Bangladesh	10.2	UK 77.9	IT 8.0	PT 3.3	FR 2.9	7.8				
22. Serbia	10.0	DE 32.8	FR 31.7	IT 10.8	AT 8.2	16.5				
23. Sri Lanka	8.8	UK 56.4	FR 18.4	DE 13.8	IT 7.9	3.4				
24. South Africa	8.7	UK 85.8	IE 4.0	CY 2.6	NL 2.0	5.7				
25. Iran	8.6	DE 35.4	UK 30.0	SE 11.2	FR 5.5	17.9				
26. Argentina	8.1	ES 78.6	IT 12.4	FR 2.2	DE 2.2	4.6				
27. Portugal	8.1	FR 60.2	LU 16.6	ES 9.8	UK 5.9	7.5				
28. Somalia	8.0	UK 72.6	SE 13.4	DE 3.1	DK 2.8	8.1				
29. Ghana	7.1	UK 63.9	IT 11.1	BE 7.0	DE 6.3	11.7				
30. Congo, Dem. Rep.	6.8	FR 33.5	UK 31.1	BE 23.4	DE 7.1	4.8				

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

**Figure 4: Main previous citizenship of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-27
Absolute figures and per hundred foreign population of the same citizenship, 2010**



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

Half of new citizens in the EU were aged 32 years or less

The distribution by gender of the persons who acquired citizenship in EU Member States in 2010 was relatively balanced, with a slight prevalence of women (52.8% versus 47.2%).

The share of women was highest in Finland (59.9%), Lithuania (59.7%) and Cyprus (58.3%), while the share of men was highest in Bulgaria (58.9%), Slovenia (54.3%) and Portugal (52.6%).

Concerning the distribution by age, at EU level the median age of persons granted citizenship was 31.9 years, ranging from 15.8 years in Estonia to 39.7 years in Lithuania.

Certain features of the age distribution of persons acquiring citizenship are common across Member

States (most acquisitions concern people in their young adulthood, with fewer people acquiring citizenship at older ages).

However the exact shape of the age distribution varies considerably from one Member State to another, since it depends heavily on the different legislative regimes concerning citizenship, which are very country specific (see methodological notes for further details).

For instance, the share of persons aged less than 15 who have been granted citizenship is as high as 48% in Estonia, and higher than 30% in Denmark and Austria, but it is less than 2% in Bulgaria, and zero in Lithuania and Luxemburg.

Table 5: Sex and age distribution of persons acquiring citizenship of EU-27, EFTA and Candidate countries, 2010

	Total (1000)	Gender distribution		Median age	Distribution by age (%)						
		M (%)	F (%)		0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Unk.
EU-27	810.5	47.2	52.8	31.9	19.8	14.2	25.2	23.6	11.1	5.9	0.2
Belgium	34.6	48.0	52.0	32.0	22.7	11.8	23.5	20.6	11.1	10.2	0.0
Bulgaria	0.9	58.9	41.1	29.3	1.7	28.1	37.8	14.7	11.7	6.0	0.0
Czech Republic	1.1	44.1	55.9	36.1	7.4	17.7	21.3	28.8	13.3	11.6	0.0
Denmark	4.0	48.9	51.1	21.9	34.1	25.6	15.4	15.1	7.0	2.8	0.0
Germany	104.6	48.9	51.1	29.4	16.2	24.6	24.7	21.6	7.9	5.1	0.0
Estonia	1.2	45.1	54.9	15.8	48.0	28.3	13.1	5.5	3.4	1.8	0.0
Ireland	6.4	52.1	47.9	36.1	14.1	10.3	20.6	40.3	11.6	3.2	0.0
Greece	9.4	48.2	51.8	35.5	18.2	13.6	17.4	17.1	15.6	18.1	0.0
Spain	123.7	42.9	57.1	36.7	7.0	8.2	28.9	32.0	17.1	6.8	0.0
France	143.3	49.0	51.0	27.8	29.2	15.9	19.5	17.8	9.7	6.8	1.2
Italy	65.9	49.4	50.6	31.4	27.5	12.3	17.0	24.0	14.6	4.7	0.0
Cyprus	1.9	41.7	58.3	31.8	10.3	22.3	25.9	17.3	12.2	11.7	0.3
Latvia	3.7	52.2	47.8	24.9	13.1	37.3	27.5	9.3	7.1	5.7	0.0
Lithuania	0.2	40.3	59.7	39.7	0.0	18.8	17.7	33.7	16.0	13.8	0.0
Luxembourg	4.3	47.7	52.3	33.8	0.0	30.4	21.9	18.1	12.9	16.7	0.0
Hungary	6.1	43.5	56.5	32.2	12.4	12.1	35.8	20.7	7.7	11.2	0.0
Malta	0.9	50.9	49.1	31.3	13.6	18.1	29.0	18.1	11.9	9.3	0.0
Netherlands	26.3	42.9	57.1	31.8	19.5	16.0	23.2	22.8	9.5	9.0	0.0
Austria	6.1	46.8	53.2	25.1	30.0	19.8	19.7	20.5	7.2	2.9	0.0
Poland	2.9	47.3	52.7	35.3	7.0	11.8	30.3	25.7	13.3	11.9	0.0
Portugal	21.8	52.6	47.4	33.7	14.9	13.1	26.2	28.1	13.9	3.8	0.0
Romania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Slovenia	1.8	54.3	45.7	31.0	23.9	14.7	21.7	20.5	10.4	8.8	0.0
Slovakia	0.2	49.4	50.6	29.4	21.3	20.9	21.3	10.9	11.7	13.8	0.0
Finland	4.3	40.1	59.9	32.0	22.5	15.3	20.3	23.7	11.1	7.0	0.0
Sweden	32.5	45.7	54.3	31.3	21.3	14.2	24.9	20.7	11.6	7.4	0.0
United Kingdom	194.8	46.9	53.1	31.7	21.3	10.6	30.9	24.5	8.7	4.0	0.0
Iceland	0.5	41.1	58.9	31.7	21.8	10.7	30.9	19.8	11.8	5.1	0.0
Liechtenstein	0.1	50.5	49.5	29.8	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	11.6	47.7	52.3	29.4	28.4	13.6	22.7	21.5	9.6	4.2	0.0
Switzerland	39.3	47.2	52.8	31.0	23.3	19.0	14.9	21.6	14.0	7.1	0.0
Croatia	3.3	46.2	53.8	31.8	10.7	24.4	21.9	15.9	11.8	15.4	0.0
FYR of Macedonia	1.2	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	9.5	33.1	66.9	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Data on acquisitions of citizenship are collected by Eurostat under the provisions of Article 3.1.(d) of [Regulation 862/2007](#) on migration statistics, stating that: "*Member States shall supply to the Commission (Eurostat) statistics on the numbers of (...) persons having their usual residence in the territory of the Member State and having acquired during the reference year the citizenship of the Member State and having formerly held the citizenship of another Member State or a third country or having formerly been stateless, disaggregated by age and sex, and by the former citizenship of the persons concerned and by whether the person was formerly stateless.*"

Citizenship: 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 according to the national legislation. International law does not provide detailed rules, but it recognises the competence of every state in cases like: spouses of nationals, minors adopted by nationals, descendants of nationals born abroad returning to the country of origin of their ancestors, etc. Countries differ considerably in terms of the conditions to be fulfilled to acquire citizenship: in general a period of legally registered residence is required, combined with other factors such as evidence of social and economic integration and knowledge of national languages. Different conditions may apply for persons who were born in the country concerned (*jus soli*), or who have parents or other relatives with that country's citizenship (*jus sanguinis*).

Detailed information on the different modes of acquisition of citizenship in force in different countries can be found at the EUDO Citizenship website <http://eudo-citizenship.eu/>

Median age: the age that divides a population into two groups that are numerically equivalent.

Stateless: person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law. This includes also a person whose nationality is not established.

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 which include some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship. This category is particularly relevant in the Baltic States.

Naturalisation rate: ratio between the number of persons who acquired the citizenship of a country during a calendar year and the stock of foreign residents in the same country at the beginning of the year. The term 'naturalisation rate', however, is doubly misleading: first of all because the numerator includes all modes of acquisitions and not just naturalisations, then because it should not be interpreted as a demographic rate since the denominator includes all foreigners and not the relevant population, i.e. those foreigners who are eligible for naturalisation.

ABBREVIATIONS:

EU-27 Member States: 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) and United Kingdom (UK).

EFTA countries: Iceland (IS), Liechtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

EU candidate countries (at 1 January 2010): Croatia (HR), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK) and Turkey (TR).

For additional information concerning data on acquisition of citizenship (responsible authorities, data sources used, coverage, etc.), see the Annex on national methodologies in the [Eurostat Metadata page](#)

Further information

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

Data on 'International Migration and Asylum'
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

Further information about 'International Migration and Asylum'
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/introduction>

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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/>.

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