

Foreign citizens made up 6.5% of the EU27 population in 2010

Foreign-born people accounted for 9.4% of the EU27 population

In 2010, 32.5 million foreign citizens¹ lived in the **EU27** Member States, of which 12.3 million were citizens of another EU27 Member State and the remaining 20.2 million were citizens of countries outside the EU27. Foreign citizens accounted for 6.5% of the total **EU27** population. On average in 2010, foreign citizens living in the **EU27** were significantly younger than the population of nationals (median age² 34.4 years compared with 41.5 years).

These figures come from a report³ published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

The proportion of foreign citizens varied between less than 2% in Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia and 43% in Luxembourg

In 2010, the largest numbers of foreign citizens were recorded in **Germany** (7.1 million persons or 9% of the total population), **Spain** (5.7 million or 12%), the **United Kingdom** (4.4 million or 7%), **Italy** (4.2 million or 7%) and **France** (3.8 million or 6%). In total, more than 75% of the foreign citizens in the **EU27** lived in these five Member States.

Among the **EU27** Member States, the highest percentage of foreign citizens in the population was observed in **Luxembourg** (43% of the total population), followed by **Latvia**⁴ (17%), **Estonia**⁴ and **Cyprus** (both 16%). The percentage of foreign citizens was less than 2% in **Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia**.

In terms of citizenship, nearly 40% of the EU foreign population were citizens of another EU27 Member State, with the highest shares in **Luxembourg** (86% of the foreign population), **Ireland** (80%), **Belgium** (68%), **Cyprus** (66%), **Slovakia** (62%) and **Hungary** (59%).

A third of the foreign-born population born in another EU27 Member State

Data on foreign citizens provide useful information on the part of the population with a foreign background. However, since citizenship can change over time, it is interesting to complement this information with data on the foreign-born population¹. This provides supplementary information as it includes foreign citizens who have acquired the citizenship of the country of residence, but who were born abroad. It also includes nationals born abroad (for example in the territory of a former colony) or nationals born in a part of a state which, due to dissolution or border changes, no longer belongs to the same country. The number of foreign-born people exceeded the number of foreign citizens in all Member States, except in **Luxembourg, Latvia** and the **Czech Republic**.

In 2010, there were 47.3 million foreign-born people living in the **EU27**, with 16.0 million born in another EU27 Member State and 31.4 million born in a country outside the EU27. In total, foreign-born people accounted for 9.4% of the total population of the **EU27**.

Data on the place of birth of the foreign-born population show that one third of foreign-born people living in the EU27 were born in another EU27 Member State, with proportions above 50% being observed in **Luxembourg** (83% of total foreign-born), **Ireland** (77%) and **Hungary** (67%).

Population of foreign citizens, 2010

	Total population, 000s	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*	501 098.0	32 493.2	6.5	12 336.0	2.5	20 157.2	4.0
Belgium**	10 839.9	1 052.8	9.7	715.1	6.6	337.7	3.1
Bulgaria	7 563.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	10 506.8	424.4	4.0	137.0	1.3	287.4	2.7
Denmark	5 534.7	329.8	6.0	115.5	2.1	214.3	3.9
Germany	81 802.3	7 130.9	8.7	2 546.3	3.1	4 584.7	5.6
Estonia⁴	1 340.1	212.7	15.9	11.0	0.8	201.7	15.1
Ireland	4 467.9	384.4	8.6	309.4	6.9	75.0	1.7
Greece	11 305.1	954.8	8.4	163.1	1.4	791.7	7.0
Spain	45 989.0	5 663.5	12.3	2 327.8	5.1	3 335.7	7.3
France	64 716.3	3 769.0	5.8	1 317.6	2.0	2 451.4	3.8
Italy	60 340.3	4 235.1	7.0	1 241.3	2.1	2 993.7	5.0
Cyprus	803.1	127.3	15.9	83.5	10.4	43.8	5.5
Latvia⁴	2 248.4	392.2	17.4	9.7	0.4	382.4	17.0
Lithuania	3 329.0	37.0	1.1	2.4	0.1	34.6	1.0
Luxembourg	502.1	215.7	43.0	186.2	37.1	29.5	5.9
Hungary	10 014.3	200.0	2.0	118.9	1.2	81.1	0.8
Malta	413.0	16.7	4.0	5.4	1.3	11.3	2.7
Netherlands	16 575.0	652.2	3.9	310.9	1.9	341.3	2.1
Austria	8 367.7	876.4	10.5	328.3	3.9	548.0	6.5
Poland	38 167.3	45.5	0.1	14.8	0.0	30.7	0.1
Portugal	10 637.7	457.3	4.3	94.2	0.9	363.1	3.4
Romania	21 462.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
Slovenia	2 047.0	82.2	4.0	4.6	0.2	77.6	3.8
Slovakia	5 424.9	62.9	1.2	38.7	0.7	24.2	0.4
Finland	5 351.4	154.6	2.9	56.1	1.0	98.5	1.8
Sweden	9 340.7	590.5	6.3	265.8	2.8	324.7	3.5
United Kingdom**	62 008.0	4 367.6	7.0	1 922.5	3.1	2 445.1	3.9
Iceland	317.6	21.7	6.8	17.2	5.4	4.5	1.4
Liechtenstein	35.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	4 854.5	331.6	6.8	185.6	3.8	146.0	3.0
Switzerland	7 785.8	1 714.0	22.0	1 073.7	13.8	640.3	8.2

: Data not available

* Eurostat estimate

** Provisional

Foreign-born population, 2010

	Total population, 000s	Total foreign-born		Born in another EU27 Member State		Born in a country outside the EU27	
		000s	% of total population	000s	% of total population	000s	% of total population
EU27*	501 098.0	47 347.8	9.4	15 979.9	3.2	31 367.9	6.3
Belgium**	10 839.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	7 563.7	:	:	:	:	:	:
Czech Republic	10 506.8	398.5	3.8	126.4	1.2	272.1	2.6
Denmark	5 534.7	500.8	9.0	152.2	2.8	348.6	6.3
Germany	81 802.3	9 812.3	12.0	3 396.6	4.2	6 415.7	7.8
Estonia⁴	1 340.1	217.9	16.3	16.6	1.2	201.3	15.0
Ireland	4 467.9	565.6	12.7	437.2	9.8	128.4	2.9
Greece	11 305.1	1 256.0	11.1	315.7	2.8	940.3	8.3
Spain	45 989.0	6 422.8	14.0	2 328.6	5.1	4 094.2	8.9
France	64 716.3	7 196.5	11.1	2 118.1	3.3	5 078.4	7.8
Italy	60 340.3	4 798.7	8.0	1 592.8	2.6	3 205.9	5.3
Cyprus	803.1	150.7	18.8	42.2	5.3	108.5	13.5
Latvia⁴	2 248.4	343.3	15.3	36.9	1.6	306.4	13.6
Lithuania	3 329.0	215.3	6.5	31.6	0.9	183.7	5.5
Luxembourg	502.1	163.1	32.5	135.0	26.9	28.1	5.6
Hungary	10 014.3	436.6	4.4	292.3	2.9	144.3	1.4
Malta	413.0	26.6	6.4	10.8	2.6	15.7	3.8
Netherlands	16 575.0	1 832.5	11.1	428.1	2.6	1 404.4	8.5
Austria	8 367.7	1 276.0	15.2	512.0	6.1	764.0	9.1
Poland	38 167.3	456.4	1.2	171.1	0.4	285.3	0.7
Portugal	10 637.7	793.1	7.5	191.0	1.8	602.0	5.7
Romania	21 462.2	:	:	:	:	:	:
Slovenia	2 047.0	253.8	12.4	28.3	1.4	225.5	11.0
Slovakia	5 424.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
Finland	5 351.4	228.5	4.3	81.1	1.5	147.3	2.8
Sweden	9 340.7	1 337.2	14.3	477.5	5.1	859.7	9.2
United Kingdom**	62 008.0	7 012.4	11.3	2 245.0	3.6	4 767.4	7.7
Iceland	317.6	35.1	11.0	23.3	7.3	11.8	3.7
Liechtenstein	35.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	4 854.5	524.6	10.8	210.7	4.3	313.9	6.5
Switzerland	7 785.8	:	:	:	:	:	:

: Data not available
* Eurostat estimate
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- 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 stateless persons.
Foreign-born is a person whose place of birth, or residence of the mother at the time of birth, is outside the country of his/her usual residence.
- The median age is the age which divides the total population into two equal groups. Half of the population are older and half are younger than this age.
- Eurostat**, Statistics in Focus, 34/2011, "**6.5% of the EU population are foreigners and 9.4% are born abroad**", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.
- In the case of Latvia and Estonia, the proportion of non-EU foreign citizens is particularly large due to the high number of 'recognised non-citizens', mainly former Soviet Union citizens, who are permanently resident in these countries but have not acquired Latvian/Estonian citizenship or any other citizenship. The foreign-born would include people who were born in other parts of the former Soviet Union.

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