

Residence permits statistics

Data from October 2014, most recent data: Further Eurostat information, Main tables and Database .

This article presents European Union (EU) statistics on first residence permits issued to non-EU citizens. Data are based on the regulatory framework of the Article 6 of the Regulation 862/2007 on migration and international protection statistics.

Residence permit represents an authorization issued by the competent authorities of a country allowing third-country national (non-EU citizens) to stay legally on its territory. Data on residence permits are collected by reasons for issuing such permit. The main such reasons are: education, family, employment and other reasons (including stay without right to work, international protection, etc.). Among the main categories of reasons specific categories of reasons are distinguished (e.g. students, researchers, highly-skilled workers etc.). National administrative registers and databases are the main sources for these statistics, with the exception of the United Kingdom¹.

The evolution of residence permits at the country level reflects the national migration's systems diversity and the influence of European immigration policy. Other factors such as: characteristics of third-country nationals, legal framework and characteristics of countries involved in the immigration process like the geographical proximity or language ties can be also important.

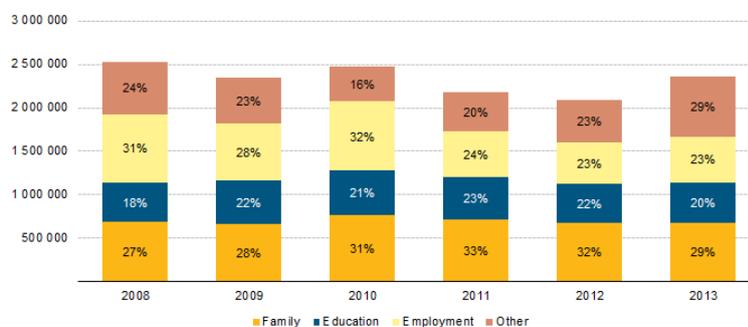


Figure 1: First residence permits issued in the EU-28 by reasons, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 - Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

¹Please note that the statistics for the United Kingdom use different data sources to those used in other Member States. For that reason, statistics for the UK presented in this article may not be fully comparable with other statistics presented here. Statistics for the United Kingdom are not based on records of residence permits issued (as the United Kingdom does not operate a system of residence permits), but instead relate to the numbers of arriving non-EU citizens permitted to enter the country under selected immigration categories. According to the United Kingdom authorities, data are estimated from a combination of information due to be published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom' and unpublished management information. The 'Other reasons' category includes: diplomat, consular officer treated as exempt from control; retired persons of independent means; all other passengers given limited leave to enter who are not included in any other category; non-asylum discretionary permissions.

Main statistical findings

	Total #	Family # (%)	Education # (%)	Employment # (%)	Other # (%)
EU-28*	2 357 583	672 914 28.5	464 040 19.7	535 478 22.7	685 151 29.1
Belgium	42 463	22 266 52.4	5 902 13.9	4 347 10.2	9 948 23.4
Bulgaria	6 436	2 242 34.8	935 14.5	334 5.2	2 925 45.4
Czech Republic	45 544	10 311 22.6	6 215 13.6	18 263 40.1	10 755 23.6
Denmark	31 311	9 068 29.0	7 463 23.8	10 684 34.1	4 096 13.1
Germany	199 925	82 492 41.3	45 955 23.0	27 788 13.9	43 690 21.9
Estonia	2 496	1 103 44.2	498 20.0	579 23.2	316 12.7
Ireland	32 780	2 042 6.2	21 394 65.3	4 018 12.3	5 326 16.2
Greece	18 299	10 852 59.3	1 074 5.9	1 226 6.7	5 147 28.1
Spain	196 242	107 620 54.8	26 416 13.5	50 171 25.6	12 035 6.1
France	212 098	91 232 43.0	62 747 29.6	17 480 8.2	40 639 19.2
Croatia	3 320	2 154 64.9	185 5.6	599 18.0	382 11.5
Italy	243 954	108 358 44.4	27 083 11.1	80 726 33.1	27 787 11.4
Cyprus	11 455	1 230 10.7	1 397 12.2	6 613 57.7	2 215 19.3
Latvia	7 615	3 521 46.2	808 10.6	793 10.4	2 493 32.7
Lithuania	4 601	988 21.5	603 13.1	2 822 61.3	188 4.1
Luxembourg	4 169	2 153 51.6	404 9.7	1 272 30.5	340 8.2
Hungary	16 833	4 058 24.1	5 515 32.8	3 561 21.2	3 699 22.0
Malta	10 187	2 762 27.1	2 187 21.5	2 612 25.6	2 626 25.8
Netherlands	64 739	25 376 39.2	12 878 19.9	12 673 19.6	13 812 21.3
Austria	34 308	12 652 36.9	5 538 16.1	3 555 10.4	12 563 36.6
Poland	273 886	2 628 1.0	23 007 8.4	141 668 51.7	106 583 38.9
Portugal	26 593	12 224 46.0	4 734 17.8	6 394 24.0	3 241 12.2
Romania	11 160	4 155 37.2	3 692 33.1	1 542 13.8	1 771 15.9
Slovenia	8 271	3 923 47.4	596 7.2	3 674 44.4	78 0.9
Slovakia	4 416	1 411 32.0	829 18.8	1 624 36.8	552 12.5
Finland	21 112	7 909 37.5	5 314 25.2	4 719 22.4	3 170 15.0
Sweden	99 122	43 156 43.5	7 474 7.5	17 189 17.3	31 303 31.6
United Kingdom	724 248	95 028 13.1	183 197 25.3	108 552 15.0	337 471 46.6
Iceland	.	.	.	.	.
Liechtenstein	.	.	.	.	.
Norway	27 692	9 992 36.1	4 193 15.1	7 814 28.2	5 693 20.6
Switzerland	49 238	20 561 41.8	11 153 22.7	13 384 27.2	4 140 8.4

Table 1: Total number of first residence permits issued by reason, in 2013 - Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

Country of citizenship	Permits	Main EU-28 Member states issuing permits												Other EU-28	
		Rank 1	#	(%)	Rank 2	#	(%)	Rank 3	#	(%)	Rank 4	#	(%)		
Ukraine	236 691	PL	171 769	72.6	CZ	18 822	7.9	IT	13 996	5.9	UK	7 453	3.1	24 851	10.5
India	200 844	UK	139 875	69.6	IT	15 389	7.7	DE	10 491	5.2	NL	6 119	3.0	28 970	14.4
USA	171 800	UK	105 718	61.5	DE	11 829	6.9	IT	11 658	6.8	FR	7 417	4.3	35 178	20.5
China*	165 559	UK	72 949	44.1	IT	19 967	12.1	FR	16 409	9.9	DE	13 654	8.2	42 590	25.7
Philippines	107 848	UK	86 801	80.5	IT	6 749	6.3	NO	2 689	2.5	ES	2 362	2.2	9 247	8.6
Morocco	101 970	ES	37 436	36.7	IT	25 165	24.7	FR	24 726	24.2	BE	5 641	5.5	9 002	8.9
Belarus	76 800	PL	69 958	91.1	UK	1 079	1.4	DE	1 001	1.3	LT	978	1.3	3 784	4.9
Russia	73 107	UK	10 080	13.8	DE	9 719	13.3	CZ	7 145	9.8	ES	5 357	7.3	40 905	55.8
Turkey	59 802	DE	18 601	31.1	FR	6 918	11.6	UK	6 695	11.2	NL	4 480	7.5	23 107	38.8
Brazil	55 020	UK	9 475	17.2	PT	8 023	14.6	IE	7 263	13.2	ES	6 618	12.0	23 641	43.0

*China including Hong Kong

Table 2: Main groups of citizenship granted a first residence permit in the EU-28 and main EU Member States issuing the permit, in 2013 - Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

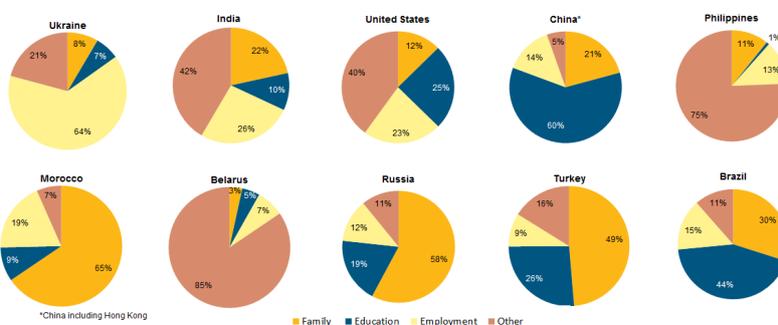


Figure 2: Main groups of citizenship granted a first residence permit in the EU-28, distribution by reason, 2013 - Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

EU-28	Belgium	Bulgaria	Czech Republic
Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)
Ukraine 236 631 10.0	Morocco 5 641 13.3	Russia 2 930 45.3	Ukraine 16 622 40.3
India 200 844 8.5	India 2 325 5.5	Turkey 1 044 16.2	Russia 7 146 15.7
United States 171 600 7.3	United States 2 262 5.3	Ukraine 476 7.4	Viet Nam 4 395 10.8
China 165 563 7.0	Turkey 2 064 4.3	China 219 3.4	United States 2 539 5.6
Philippines 107 848 4.6	Ukraine 1 824 4.3	Kazakhstan 194 3.0	Kazakhstan 1 137 2.5
Other 1474 831 62.6	Other 28 347 66.8	Other 1573 24.4	Other 11 985 24.6
Denmark	Germany	Estonia	Ireland
Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)
United States 3 752 12.0	Turkey 18 601 9.3	Russia 842 33.7	Brazil 7 263 22.2
India 3 036 9.9	China (including Hong 10 654 5.6	Ukraine 440 17.6	United States 4 171 12.7
China 2 528 8.1	United States of Am 1 829 5.9	Rec. non-citizen 303 12.1	India 2 506 7.6
Ukraine 2 341 7.5	India 10 431 5.2	United States 139 5.6	Venezuela 2 034 6.2
Philippines 2 312 7.4	Syria Arab Republic 10 301 5.2	China 69 2.8	China 1 613 5.5
Other 17 282 55.2	Other 135 043 61.5	Other 703 28.2	Other 980 29.5
France	Spain	Poland	Romania
Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)
Albania 10 250 56.0	Morocco 37 436 18.1	Algeria 25 007 11.8	Bosnia and Herz. 1 284 38.7
China 1 511 7.2	China 12 414 5.3	Morocco 24 725 11.7	Serbia 4 300 13.0
Ukraine 885 4.8	Colombia 10 304 5.3	China 16 409 7.7	FYR of Macedonia 229 6.3
Georgia 809 4.4	Bolivia 3 323 5.1	Tunisia 13 368 6.3	United States 204 6.1
Philippines 413 2.3	Dominican Republic 3 314 4.7	United States 7 417 3.5	Kosovo 183 5.8
Other 4 631 25.3	Other 116 645 59.5	Other 125 171 59.0	Other 980 29.5
Italy	Cyprus	Latvia	Lithuania
Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)
Morocco 25 165 10.3	Philippines 1 885 16.5	Russia 3 764 43.4	Russia 1 017 28.6
China 19 367 8.2	Russia 17 598 15.7	Ukraine 619 8.9	Belarus 978 21.3
Albania 15 830 6.5	Sri Lanka 1 502 13.1	Uzbekistan 477 6.3	Ukraine 873 19.0
India 15 389 6.3	India 1 008 8.8	Rec. non-citizen 436 5.7	Pakistan 99 2.2
Ukraine 13 396 5.7	Egypt 645 5.6	China 416 5.5	India 38 2.1
Other 153 547 62.3	Other 4 617 40.3	Other 1 844 24.2	Other 1 236 26.3
Luxembourg	Hungary	Malta	Netherlands
Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)
United States 643 15.4	China 2 657 15.8	Libya 1795 17.6	China 6 161 3.5
China 472 11.3	United States 1 614 9.6	Russia 361 3.4	India 6 115 3.5
Brazil 271 6.5	Brazil 1 519 9.0	Philippines 706 6.9	United States 4 801 7.4
Montenegro 265 6.4	Turkey 934 5.9	Serbia 669 6.6	Turkey 4 480 6.9
Cape Verde 207 5.0	Ukraine 830 5.5	Somalia 424 4.2	Somalia 2 909 4.5
Other 2 311 55.4	Other 9 119 54.2	Other 5 632 55.0	Other 40 269 62.2
Austria	Poland	Portugal	Romania
Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)
Serbia 4 120 12.0	Ukraine 171 769 62.7	Brazil 8 023 30.2	Moldova 1 909 17.1
Turkey 4 036 11.6	Belarus 6 958 25.5	Cape Verde 2 150 11.8	Syria AR 1 241 12.0
Bosnia and Herz. 3 603 10.5	Moldova 6 746 2.5	China 2 233 8.4	Turkey 1 261 11.3
Russia 2 443 7.1	Turkey 4 436 1.6	Angola 1 724 6.5	China 366 8.7
Afghanistan 2 201 6.4	Russia 3 868 1.4	Guinea-Bissau 1 439 5.6	United States 520 4.7
Other 17 905 52.2	Other 17 109 6.2	Other 9 364 37.5	Other 5 163 46.3
Slovenia	Slovak Republic	Finland	Sweden
Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)
Bosnia and Herz. 3 064 37.0	Ukraine 1 040 23.6	Russia 4 136 18.6	Syria AR 16 291 16.4
Serbia 1 338 16.2	Belarus 603 13.7	India 1 639 8.0	Somalia 10 112 10.2
Kosovo / UNSCR 124. 1 246 15.1	Korea 389 8.8	China 1 571 7.4	Thailand 7 618 7.7
FYR of Macedonia 626 7.6	Russia 377 8.5	Iraq 1 029 4.9	Stateless 6 107 6.2
Croatia 563 6.8	China 228 5.2	Somalia 391 4.7	India 5 847 6.0
Other 1434 17.3	Other 1 719 40.3	Other 11 686 55.4	Other 53 047 53.5
United Kingdom	Norway	Switzerland	
Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	Citizens of (%)	
India 153 075 13.3	Philippines 2 689 9.7	United States 5 257 10.7	
United States 107 719 14.6	Eritrea 2 465 9.7	India 4 074 8.5	
Philippines 86 801 12.0	Somalia 2 317 8.4	China 3 395 6.9	
China 72 949 10.1	India 2 097 7.6	Kosovo / UNSCR 124. 2 619 5.3	
Indonesia 22 509 3.1	United States 1 387 5.0	Russia 2 477 5.0	
Other 296 337 40.9	Other 16 517 59.6	Other 31 136 63.6	

China, including Hong Kong

Table 3: Main citizenships of persons granted first residence permits, in 2013 - Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

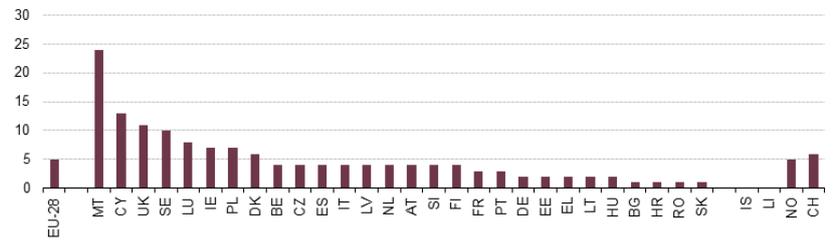


Figure 3: Total first residence permits issued per 1000 inhabitants, in 2013 - Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst,demo_r_gind3)

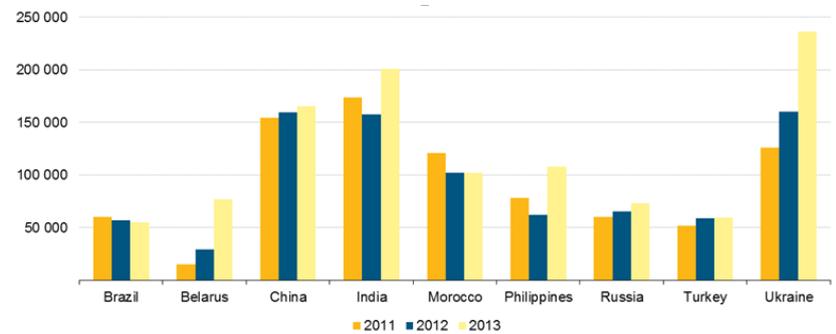


Figure 4: Last three years evolution of main groups of citizenship granted a first residence permit in the EU-28 - Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

a) permits issued for family reasons															
Country of citizenship	Permits	Main EU-28 Member states issuing permits										Other EU-28			
		Rank 1	#	(%)	Rank 2	#	(%)	Rank 3	#	(%)	Rank 4	#	(%)	#	(%)
Morocco	66 774	ES	28 048	42.0	IT	15 037	22.5	FR	14 094	21.1	BE	4 005	6.0	5 590	8.4
	43 295	UK	21 631	50.0	IT	5 911	13.7	DE	3 834	8.9	NL	2 449	5.7	9 470	21.9
China	34 401	IT	9 144	26.6	ES	6 887	20.0	UK	3 550	10.3	FR	3 020	8.8	11 800	34.3
Turkey	29 104	DE	13 226	45.4	FR	4 159	14.3	NL	2 903	10.0	AT	2 174	7.5	6 642	22.8
Russia	23 914	DE	4 954	20.7	LV	2 208	9.2	IT	2 055	8.6	ES	1 811	7.6	12 866	53.9

b) permits issued for education reasons															
Country of citizenship	Permits	Main EU-28 Member states issuing permits										Other EU-28			
		Rank 1	#	(%)	Rank 2	#	(%)	Rank 3	#	(%)	Rank 4	#	(%)	#	(%)
China*	99 198	UK	63 550	64.1	FR	10 454	10.5	DE	7 945	8.0	IT	4 636	4.7	12 603	12.7
USA	42 476	UK	15 236	35.9	IT	5 147	12.1	DE	4 111	9.7	ES	3 885	9.1	14 097	33.2
Brazil	23 957	IE	6 923	28.9	DE	3 008	12.6	FR	2 904	12.1	UK	2 821	11.8	8 301	34.6
India	20 901	UK	11 716	56.1	DE	2 830	13.5	FR	1 390	6.7	IE	1 086	5.2	3 879	18.6
Russia	15 750	UK	3 977	25.3	DE	2 081	13.2	IT	1 749	11.1	FR	1 336	8.5	6 607	41.9

c) permits issued for employment reasons															
Country of citizenship	Permits	Main EU-28 Member states issuing permits										Other EU-28			
		Rank 1	#	(%)	Rank 2	#	(%)	Rank 3	#	(%)	Rank 4	#	(%)	#	(%)
Ukraine	151 718	PL	124 419	82.0	CZ	9 324	6.1	IT	8 581	5.7	DK	1 818	1.2	7 576	5.0
India	53 175	UK	25 964	48.6	IT	8 070	15.2	DE	3 530	6.6	SE	3 202	6.0	12 509	23.5
USA	38 881	UK	24 797	63.8	DE	3 787	9.7	CH	2 179	5.6	FR	2 084	5.3	6 074	15.6
China	23 027	IT	5 530	24.0	UK	3 062	13.3	DE	2 761	12.0	ES	1 902	8.3	9 772	42.4
Morocco	19 127	IT	9 211	48.2	ES	7 506	39.2	FR	1 725	9.0	UK	206	1.1	479	2.5

d) permits issued for other reasons															
Country of citizenship	Permits	Main EU-28 Member states issuing permits										Other EU-28			
		Rank 1	#	(%)	Rank 2	#	(%)	Rank 3	#	(%)	Rank 4	#	(%)	#	(%)
India	83 473	UK	80 664	96.6	IT	626	0.7	IE	577	0.7	PL	360	0.4	1 246	1.5
Philippines	81 575	UK	79 947	98.0	IT	351	0.4	IE	275	0.3	EL	253	0.3	749	0.9
USA	68 773	UK	58 967	85.6	IT	3 172	4.6	FR	1 120	1.6	ES	1 013	1.5	4 601	6.7
Belarus	64 909	PL	63 718	98.2	UK	568	0.9	CZ	213	0.3	IT	59	0.1	351	0.5
Ukraine	49 228	PL	36 193	73.5	CZ	5 303	10.8	UK	4 896	9.9	IT	622	1.3	2 214	4.5

*China including Hong Kong

Table 4: Main groups of citizenship granted a first residence permit in the EU-28 and main EU Member States issuing the permit, by reason, in 2013 - Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

In 2013, EU Member States issued around 2.36 million first residence permits to third country nationals. This represents an increase of 12 % permits compared to the previous year (around 260 thousand more permits).

The United Kingdom (see Note 1) issued the highest number of first permits in the EU in 2013 with 724 thousand, followed by Poland with 274 thousand, Italy with 244 thousand, France with 212 thousand, Germany with 200 thousand and Spain with 196 thousand. These six countries represented more than 78 % of all first permits issued in the EU to non-EU citizens. However, if we consider the ratio between the number of permits issued and the size of the resident population (see Table 1), the highest number of permits was granted by Malta (24 permits for 1000 residents) followed by the Cyprus (13), UK (11) and Sweden (10).

The highest number of first permits was observed for other reasons with 685 thousand, followed by family related reasons with 673 thousand of permits; 535 thousand of permits were issued for employment reasons while less than a half a million permits were issued for education reasons (see Table 1). As in the previous four years (2009-2012), the distribution of the total first residence permits was to some extent balanced between the main reasons, counting between 20 % and 30 % from all first permits issued in the EU: family related reasons 29 %, education reasons 20 %, occupation reasons 23 % and other reasons 29 %. Compared with 2012, the number of permits issued for other reasons increased by 195 thousand. The number of first permits issued for employment and education reasons increased by 54 thousand and 10 thousand respectively while the number for family related reasons increased slightly by 3 thousand (see Figure 1).

Ukrainians were the top non-EU citizens granted first residence permit in the EU in 2013; large majority arrived for work reasons and Poland was their principal destination.

Residence permits by reason With around 141 thousand permits, Poland is the member state with the highest number of permits issued for employment reasons, followed by the United Kingdom (109 thousand) and Italy (81 thousand). Likewise in Lithuania and Poland in some other countries permits issued for employment reasons represented the largest share of all permits issued: Denmark, Czech Republic, Cyprus and Slovakia (see Table 1).

The highest number of permits for family reasons (i.e. family reunification and formation) was issued in Italy and Spain with 108 thousand each, followed by the United Kingdom (95 thousand) and France (91 thousand). Family reason was the main reason for issuing residence permits in more than half of the EU Member States (19 out of 28) and in EFTA countries for which data are available: Norway and Switzerland(see Table 1). Five countries (Belgium, Greece, Spain, Croatia and Luxembourg) accounted for more than 50 % of all first permits issued.As in the previous years, the United Kingdom is by far the most popular destination in the EU for the students from third countries. In 2013 about 183 thousand of education related permits were issued in this country, what represents nearly 40 % of all first permits issued for education reasons in the EU (see Table 1).

Table 1 also shows the number of first permits issued for other reasons, such as international protection, residence without the right to work (e.g. for pensioners), diplomatic duties, and people in the intermediate stages of a regularisation process. A cross-country comparison based on this miscellaneous category is hampered by the differences that exist in the national administrative and legislative systems. In United Kingdom and Bulgaria this category of permits accounted for more than 45 % of total permits issued, while in countries like Slovenia and Luxembourg, this share was considerably lower (below 5 %).

Residence permits by citizenship The highest number of first residence permits in the EU was issued to the citizens of the Ukraine (237 thousand), followed by Indians (201 thousand), United States (172 thousand), Chinese (166 thousand), Philippines (108 thousand) and Moroccans (102 thousand). These six **citizenships** account for about 42 % of all permits issued in the EU. Ukraine is the largest country of citizenship of non-EU immigrants receiving residence permits in the EU in 2013. Most of Ukrainians received an employment related permit and the principal destination country was Poland.

Various factors or even combinations of such factors influence the choice of the destination EU Member State for the third-country citizens. Among these factors are the language ties (e.g. the United States citizens in the United Kingdom), geographical proximity of the country of destination (Ukrainians in Poland), historical links (e.g. Algerians in France) and established migrant networks (e.g. Turkish citizens in Germany) (Table 3).

The distribution of citizenships granted first permit may also vary depending on the reason considered. Moroccans represent the largest group granted permit for family reasons (67 thousand), followed by Indians (43 thousand) and Chinese (34 thousand). On the other hand Chinese (99 thousand), the United States citizens (42 thousand) and Brazil (24 thousand) are the largest groups receiving a permit for education purposes, while Ukrainians (152 thousand), Indians (53 thousand) and the United States citizens (39 thousand) are the top citizenships granted employment related permit (Table 4).

For some citizenships the reasons for immigration to the EU are mixed. For certain citizenships specific migration patterns meaning reasons for immigration can be observed. While family related reasons are predominant among Moroccans, Russians and Turks granted residence permit in the EU, nearly two thirds of Ukrainians are issued with employment related permit. For China and Brazil the main reason is education while other reason is predominant for Philippines and Belarus. (Figure 4).

The following of such immigration patterns may in addition depend on the destination EU Member State. For example, while most of the Chinese granted permission to reside in the United Kingdom were granted education related permit, large majority of those authorized to stay in Italy received permits for employment reasons. Similarly, while most of Turks permitted to stay in Germany were issued with family related permit, majority of Turks arriving to the United Kingdom arrived for education reasons.

Data sources and availability

The statistics used for this publication are provided to [Eurostat](#) by the national responsible authorities, mainly Ministries of Interior or Immigration Agencies of the EU Member States and [EFTA countries](#). Data are based entirely on relevant administrative sources. These data are supplied by Member States as part of the annual Residence Permits Data Collection conducted by Eurostat according to the provisions of Article 6 of [Regulation 862/2007](#) on statistics on migration and international protection.

The evolution of residence permits statistics is linked to European immigration policy as well as the national immigration policy. It is also influenced by different factors: characteristics of immigrants, legal framework and characteristics of countries involved in the immigration process.

The main dimensions for residence permits data collection are: the reporting country, the citizenship of the permit holder, the reason for the permit being issued and the length of validity of the permits issued. Since 2010 reference year, on voluntary basis, permit data are also collected with age and sex breakdown. The dimensions may differ from one to other dataset and can be consulted in the "Database" sub-section of this article.

Certain methodological aspects are not fully harmonized between the reporting countries due to the different legal or IT systems. Therefore, the data availability may differ between countries and the interpretation of the figures resulted should be done with the help of metadata file related to Residence Permits Statistics.

Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences exist between the Member States. Namely, data for France relate to permits which were issued after at least 12 months since the expiry of the previous permit. No data are available for Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The UK has not established residence permits register. Statistics are provided by the Home Office and mainly based on passengers given leave to enter the UK in selected categories. For further details see: [Home Office](#) .

Resident permits statistics are available as both, flows and stocks statistics:

1. Datasets related to residence permits granted during the reference year. Data published on this category contains information about first residence permits issued during the reference year and information about change of resident status of immigrants during the reference year;
2. Datasets related to permits valid at the end of the reference year (stock of permits). Data published on this category contains information about number of valid permissions to stay at the end of reference year and long-term legal resident status at the end of the reference year.

A subset of resident permits data - statistics on EU Blue Cards, are now collected since 2012 on the basis of the Article 20 of [Directive 50/2009](#) - Conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment.

Context

Migration policies within the EU are built upon solidarity and responsibility, considering valuable contribution of immigrants to the EU's economic development and performance. Within the [European Commission](#) , the Directorate-General for Home Affairs is responsible for immigration policy. The EU measures on legal immigration cover the conditions of entry and residence for certain categories of immigrants, such as highly qualified workers subject to the 'EU Blue Card Directive', students and researchers. Family reunification and long-term residents are also provided for².

Statistics on residence permits is collected on the basis of the Article 6 of the Migration Statistics Regulation:

- [Regulation 862/2007](#) on Community statistics on migration and international protection;

The list of categories of reasons for issuing residence permit is provided by the Commission Regulation:

- [Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 216/2010](#) on Community statistics on migration and international protection as regards the definitions of categories of reasons for the residence permits

All relevant legal acts and information regarding the EU immigration policy can be accessed on [DG HOME website](#) .

See also

- [Asylum statistics](#)
- [Migration and migrant population statistics](#)

Further Eurostat information

Publications

- [Residence permits issued to non-EU citizens in 2009](#) - Statistics in Focus

²DG HOME - [Towards a common European Union migration policy](#)

Database

- [Population](#) , see:

International Migration and Asylum (migr)

Residence permits (migr_res)

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

First permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship - Annual data (migr_resfirst)

First permits issued for family reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship - Annual data (migr_resfam)

First permits issued for education reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship - Annual data (migr_resedu)

First permits issued for remunerated activities by reason, length of validity and citizenship - Annual data (migr_resocc)

First permits issued for other reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship - Annual data (migr_resoth)

All valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year (migr_resvalid)

Long-term residents by citizenship on 31. December of each year - Annual data (migr_reslong)

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

First permits by reason, age, sex and citizenship - Annual data (migr_resfas)

All valid permits by age, sex and citizenship on 31 December of each year (migr_resvas)

Long-term residents by age, sex and citizenship on 31 December of each year (migr_reslas)

EU Blue cards (migr_resbcard)

EU Blue Cards by type of decision, occupation and citizenship (migr_resbc1)

Admitted family members of EU Blue Cards holders by type of decision and citizenship (migr_resbc2)

EU Blue Cards holders and family members by Member State of previous residence (migr_resbc3)

Dedicated section

- [Population](#)

Methodology / Metadata

- [Residence permits statistics \(migr_res_esms\)](#)

Source data for tables and figures (MS Excel)

- [Residence permits statistics: tables and figures](#)

External links

- [European Commission - Home Affairs - Immigration](#)
- [EU Immigration Portal \(EUIP\)](#)
- [European Migration Network \(EMN\)](#)
- [European Web Site on Integration](#)
- [OECD - Migration](#)
- [International Migration Outlook 2011](#) (also in French)

Notes