

## Workers' remittances in the EU27

## Migrants sent 32 bn euro to their former country of residence in 2008

In the **EU27**, money sent by migrants to their former country of residence, usually referred to as workers' remittances<sup>1</sup>, amounted to 31.8 bn euro in 2008, compared with 31.3 bn in 2007 and 19.4 bn in 2004. These figures include both intra-EU27 and extra-EU27 flows. The increase in workers' remittances over recent years was mainly due to a sharp rise in **extra-EU27** flows (from 11.5 bn in 2004 to 22.5 bn in 2008), while **intra-EU27** flows rose less rapidly (from 7.9 bn to 9.3 bn). Consequently, the share of **extra-EU27** remittances in the total has risen from 59% in 2004 to 71% in 2008.

In 2008, two thirds of the total outflow of workers' remittances from the **EU27** came from **Spain** (7.8 bn euro or 25% of total EU27 remittances), **Italy** (6.4 bn or 20%), **France** (3.4 bn or 11%) and **Germany** (3.1 bn or 10%).

This News Release, issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, presents data<sup>2</sup> collected within the framework of Balance of Payments statistics.

### Workers' remittances, total outflows from EU27 Member States, bn euro

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Total outflow of workers' remittances</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>31.8</b>
Intra-EU flows	7.9	10.2	11.6	11.3	9.3
Extra-EU flows	11.5	13.4	16.8	20.0	22.5

## Workers' remittances, outflows from EU27 Member States, million euro

	2007			2008		
	Total	Intra-EU27	Extra-EU27	Total	Intra-EU27	Extra-EU27
<b>EU27*</b>	<b>31 340</b>	<b>11 340</b>	<b>20 010</b>	<b>31 780</b>	<b>9 300</b>	<b>22 480</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	350	40	310	400	40	360
<b>Bulgaria</b>	20	10	10	20	10	10
<b>Czech Republic</b>	460	210	240	380	50	320
<b>Denmark</b>	c	c	c	c	c	c
<b>Germany</b>	3 010	1 000	2 010	3 120	1 000	2 120
<b>Estonia</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ireland</b>	c	c	c	c	c	c
<b>Greece</b>	c	c	c	c	c	c
<b>Spain</b>	8 440	1 420	7 030	7 840	1 500	6 350
<b>France</b>	3 440	1 220	2 220	3 400	1 230	2 170
<b>Italy</b>	6 050	1 170	4 880	6 380	1 220	5 170
<b>Cyprus</b>	60	40	20	80	50	20
<b>Latvia</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lithuania</b>	350	150	200	370	140	230
<b>Luxembourg</b>	70	50	20	70	50	20
<b>Hungary</b>	90	40	40	90	40	50
<b>Malta</b>	c	c	0	0	0	0
<b>Netherlands</b>	670	100e	580e	730	100	630
<b>Austria</b>	770	430	340	830	460	370
<b>Poland</b>	10	10	0	20	10	10
<b>Portugal</b>	570	80	490	580	80	500
<b>Romania</b>	210	80	130	240	140	100
<b>Slovenia</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Slovakia</b>	c	c	20	c	c	10
<b>Finland</b>	20	10	10	20	10	10
<b>Sweden</b>	20	0	20	20	0	20
<b>United Kingdom</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:

\* The EU27 aggregate includes confidential data and estimates for missing Member States.

e estimated value, based on quarterly data

c confidential

: data not available

- In the Balance of Payments statistics framework, workers' remittances cover current transfers (in cash or in kind) made by migrants who are employed and resident in a Member State to residents of countries in which the migrant formerly resided. Persons who work and stay in new economies for less than a year are considered non-residents; their transactions are recorded in the Balance of Payments statistics framework under the component "Compensation of employees". Data on remittances are very difficult to compile, because they represent numerous, small transactions through a large variety of channels sometimes informal or illegal. Users need to bear this in mind when analysing the data.
- For most Member States, annual data on remittances by partner country are available from the Eurostat web-site at: [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/balance\\_of\\_payments/data/database](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/balance_of_payments/data/database)  
Quarterly data related to remittances by country are also regularly collected and disseminated by Eurostat as part of the Quarterly Balance of Payments data. These data do not have the same geographical detail as the annual data.

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