

Population of foreign citizens in the EU27 in 2009

Foreign citizens made up 6.4% of the EU27 population

On 1 January 2009, 31.9 million foreign citizens¹ lived in the **EU27** Member States, of which 11.9 million were citizens of another EU27 Member State. The remaining were citizens of countries outside the EU27, in particular from other European countries (7.2 million), Africa (4.9 million), Asia (4.0 million) and the American continent (3.3 million). Foreign citizens accounted for 6.4% of the total **EU27** population.

This News Release is based on a report² by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, on foreign citizens in the EU27 Member States, EFTA and Candidate countries.

The proportion of foreign citizens varied between less than 1% in Poland, Romania and Bulgaria and 44% in Luxembourg

In 2009, the largest numbers of foreign citizens were recorded in **Germany** (7.2 million persons), **Spain** (5.7 million), the **United Kingdom** (4.0 million in 2008), **Italy** (3.9 million) and **France** (3.7 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 observed in **Luxembourg** (44% of the total population), followed by **Latvia**³ (18%), **Cyprus** and **Estonia**³ (both 16%), **Spain** (12%), **Ireland** (11%) and **Austria** (10%). The percentage of foreign citizens was 1% or less in **Poland, Romania, Bulgaria** and **Slovakia**.

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

In 2009, 37% of the foreign citizens living in the **EU27** were citizens of another **EU27** Member State. The largest groups were from **Romania** (2.0 million or 6% of the total number of foreign citizens in the EU27), **Poland** (1.5 million or 5%), **Italy** (1.3 million or 4%) and **Portugal** (1.0 million or 3%). Among the citizens of countries outside the EU27, the largest groups were from **Turkey** (2.4 million or 8% of the total number of foreign citizens in the EU27), **Morocco** (1.8 million or 6%) and **Albania** (1.0 million or 3%).

Foreign citizens younger on average than nationals

On average in 2009, foreign citizens living in the **EU27** were significantly younger than the population of nationals (median age⁴ 34.3 years compared with 41.2 years). This was true in all Member States except **Estonia**³, **Latvia**³ and **Poland**. The largest differences were recorded in **Italy** (32.3 compared with 43.9), **Finland** (33.0 compared with 42.1) and **Denmark** (32.1 compared with 41.0).

Amongst foreign citizens, those from countries outside the EU27 were younger than those from other EU27 Member States (median age 33.0 years compared with 36.9 years).

Population of foreign citizens, 2009

	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*	31 860.3	6.4	11 944.2	2.4	19 916.2	4.0
Belgium**	971.4	9.1	659.4	6.2	312.0	2.9
Bulgaria	23.8	0.3	3.5	0.0	20.3	0.3
Czech Republic	407.5	3.9	145.8	1.4	261.7	2.5
Denmark	320.0	5.8	108.7	2.0	211.4	3.8
Germany	7 185.9	8.8	2 530.7	3.1	4 655.2	5.7
Estonia³	214.4	16.0	9.6	0.7	204.8	15.3
Ireland	504.1	11.3	364.8	8.2	139.2	3.1
Greece	929.5	8.3	161.6	1.4	767.9	6.8
Spain	5 651.0	12.3	2 274.2	5.0	3 376.8	7.4
France	3 737.5	5.8	1 302.4	2.0	2 435.2	3.8
Italy	3 891.3	6.5	1 131.8	1.9	2 759.5	4.6
Cyprus	128.2	16.1	78.2	9.8	50.0	6.3
Latvia³	404.0	17.9	9.4	0.4	394.6	17.5
Lithuania	41.5	1.2	2.5	0.1	39.0	1.2
Luxembourg	214.8	43.5	185.4	37.6	29.5	6.0
Hungary	186.4	1.9	109.8	1.1	76.6	0.8
Malta	18.1	4.4	8.2	2.0	9.9	2.4
Netherlands	637.1	3.9	290.4	1.8	346.7	2.1
Austria	864.4	10.3	317.0	3.8	547.4	6.6
Poland***	35.9	0.1	10.3	0.0	25.6	0.1
Portugal	443.1	4.2	84.7	0.8	358.4	3.4
Romania	31.4	0.1	6.0	0.0	25.3	0.1
Slovenia	70.6	3.5	4.2	0.2	66.4	3.3
Slovakia	52.5	1.0	32.7	0.6	19.8	0.4
Finland	142.3	2.7	51.9	1.0	90.4	1.7
Sweden	547.7	5.9	255.6	2.8	292.1	3.2
United Kingdom**	4 020.8	6.6	1 614.8	2.6	2 406.0	3.9
Iceland	24.4	7.6	19.4	6.1	5.0	1.6
Norway	302.9	6.3	165.4	3.4	137.6	2.9
Switzerland	1 669.7	21.7	1 033.6	13.4	636.1	8.3
Turkey	103.8	0.1	45.3	0.1	58.4	0.1

* Estimate

** Belgium and United Kingdom: 2008 data

*** Provisional

Median age⁴ of the population by citizenship groups, 2009

	Nationals	Foreign citizens		
		Total	Citizens of another EU27 Member State	Citizens of countries outside the EU27
EU27*	41.2	34.3	36.9	33.0
Belgium	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	41.2	39.4	34.1	40.3
Czech Republic	39.6	34.7	36.8	33.7
Denmark	41.0	32.1	33.7	31.2
Germany	44.5	36.6	40.1	34.7
Estonia³	37.3	49.3	38.1	49.8
Ireland	33.9	33.7	33.9	33.1
Greece	42.6	34.1	44.0	32.2
Spain	41.1	32.6	35.5	31.1
France	39.3	38.3	46.2	34.1
Italy	43.9	32.3	32.9	32.0
Cyprus	:	:	:	:
Latvia³	36.5	52.4	38.4	52.7
Lithuania	39.0	33.4	39.6	32.5
Luxembourg	43.0	34.9	34.9	34.9
Hungary	39.7	37.4	37.7	37.0
Malta	39.2	36.6	48.4	30.6
Netherlands	40.8	34.0	36.1	32.6
Austria	42.3	33.9	35.5	32.9
Poland**	37.8	42.4	49.8	40.0
Portugal	40.9	34.0	38.0	33.3
Romania	37.9	34.1	40.3	33.1
Slovenia	41.4	37.3	41.7	37.1
Slovakia	36.7	36.0	38.0	32.9
Finland	42.1	33.0	36.2	31.3
Sweden	41.3	34.0	39.1	30.7
United Kingdom	:	:	:	:
Iceland	35.3	30.7	30.6	31.2
Norway	39.2	32.6	35.2	29.7
Switzerland	43.3	35.6	38.4	31.1
Turkey	28.5	33.4	39.3	30.0

* Estimate

** Provisional

: Data not available

- 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.
- Eurostat**, Statistics in Focus, 45/2010, "**Foreigners in the EU are diverse and largely younger than the nationals of the EU Member States**", 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. This phenomenon is also reflected in the median age of the foreign population of these two countries.
- 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.

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