

Foreign citizens and foreign-born population  
**EU citizens living in another Member State  
accounted for 2.5% of the EU population in 2011**  
Non EU citizens made up 4.1% of the EU population

In 2011, 33.3 million foreign citizens<sup>1</sup> lived in the **EU27** Member States, accounting for 6.6% of the **EU27** population. This foreign population comprised 12.8 million EU citizens living in another Member State, i.e. 2.5% of the **EU27** population, and 20.5 million non EU citizens, i.e. 4.1% of the **EU27** population.

These figures come from a report<sup>2</sup> published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

#### **Highest proportion of foreign EU citizens in Luxembourg, Cyprus, Belgium and Ireland**

In 2011, the largest numbers of foreign citizens were recorded in **Germany** (7.2 million persons or 9% of the total population), **Spain** (5.7 million or 12%), **Italy** (4.6 million or 8%), the **United Kingdom** (4.5 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 proportion of foreign citizens in the population was observed in **Luxembourg** (43% of the total population), followed by **Cyprus** (20%), **Latvia**<sup>3</sup> (17%) and **Estonia**<sup>3</sup> (16%). The percentage of foreign citizens was less than 2% in **Poland, Bulgaria, Lithuania** and **Slovakia**.

Focusing on EU citizens, **Luxembourg** recorded the highest proportion of foreign EU citizens (37% of the total population), followed by **Cyprus** (13%), **Belgium** and **Ireland** (both 7%), **Spain** (5%) and **Austria** (4%).

#### **Nearly 50 million foreign-born people lived in the EU Member States in 2011**

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 population<sup>1</sup>. 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.

In 2011, there were 48.9 million foreign-born people living in the **EU27** Member States, with 16.5 million born in another Member State than the one in which they live (3.3% of the EU population) and 32.4 million born in a country outside the EU27 (6.4% of the EU population). In total, foreign-born people accounted for 9.7% of the total population of the **EU27**. The number of foreign-born people exceeded the number of foreign citizens in almost all Member States.

### Population of foreign citizens\*, 2011

	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
<b>EU27</b>	<b>33 306.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>12 805.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>20 500.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	1 162.6	10.6	749.0	6.8	413.7	3.8
<b>Bulgaria</b>	38.8	0.5	8.5	0.1	30.4	0.4
<b>Czech Republic</b>	416.7	4.0	135.4	1.3	281.3	2.7
<b>Denmark</b>	345.9	6.2	125.1	2.3	220.7	4.0
<b>Germany</b>	7 198.9	8.8	2 628.3	3.2	4 570.6	5.6
<b>Estonia<sup>3</sup></b>	208.0	15.7	12.6	1.0	195.4	14.8
<b>Ireland</b>	361.6	8.1	292.4	6.5	69.1	1.5
<b>Greece</b>	956.0	8.5	153.0	1.4	803.0	7.1
<b>Spain</b>	5 654.6	12.3	2 329.2	5.0	3 325.5	7.2
<b>France</b>	3 824.8	5.9	1 339.9	2.1	2 484.9	3.8
<b>Italy</b>	4 570.3	7.5	1 334.8	2.2	3 235.5	5.3
<b>Cyprus</b>	167.8	20.0	105.4	12.5	62.4	7.4
<b>Latvia<sup>3</sup></b>	379.8	17.0	9.8	0.4	370.0	16.6
<b>Lithuania</b>	33.6	1.0	1.9	0.1	31.7	1.0
<b>Luxembourg</b>	220.7	43.1	190.6	37.2	30.1	5.9
<b>Hungary</b>	209.2	2.1	127.1	1.3	82.1	0.8
<b>Malta</b>	20.4	4.9	10.4	2.5	10.0	2.4
<b>Netherlands</b>	673.2	4.0	334.5	2.0	338.7	2.0
<b>Austria</b>	907.4	10.8	352.2	4.2	555.2	6.6
<b>Poland</b>	47.3	0.1	15.5	0.0	31.7	0.1
<b>Portugal</b>	448.1	4.2	103.2	1.0	344.9	3.2
<b>Romania</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	82.7	4.0	5.4	0.3	77.4	3.8
<b>Slovakia</b>	68.0	1.3	41.9	0.8	26.1	0.5
<b>Finland</b>	166.6	3.1	61.2	1.1	105.4	2.0
<b>Sweden</b>	622.3	6.6	270.0	2.9	352.3	3.7
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4 486.6	7.2	2 061.4	3.3	2 425.2	3.9
<b>Iceland</b>	21.1	6.6	16.7	5.2	4.4	1.4
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	12.0	33.2	5.9	16.4	6.1	16.8
<b>Norway</b>	368.5	7.5	214.0	4.4	154.5	3.1
<b>Switzerland</b>	1 765.8	22.4	1 097.8	13.9	668.0	8.5
<b>Montenegro</b>	44.2	7.2	0.7	0.1	43.5	7.0
<b>Turkey</b>	175.4	0.2	74.5	0.1	100.8	0.1

: Data not available

\* EU27 Eurostat estimate. Data for Latvia, Poland and the United Kingdom are provisional.

## Foreign-born population\*, 2011

	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
<b>EU27</b>	<b>48 868.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>16 474.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>32 393.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	1 628.8	14.8	773.5	7.0	855.3	7.8
<b>Bulgaria</b>	78.6	1.1	24.1	0.3	54.6	0.7
<b>Czech Republic</b>	388.0	3.7	124.1	1.2	263.9	2.5
<b>Denmark</b>	517.2	9.3	160.8	2.9	356.4	6.4
<b>Germany</b>	9 807.6	12.0	3 362.6	4.1	6 445.0	7.9
<b>Estonia<sup>3</sup></b>	212.7	16.1	17.7	1.3	194.9	14.8
<b>Ireland</b>	556.7	12.4	434.3	9.7	122.4	2.7
<b>Greece</b>	1 255.2	11.1	317.1	2.8	938.1	8.3
<b>Spain</b>	6 555.9	14.2	2 341.6	5.1	4 214.3	9.1
<b>France</b>	7 289.3	11.2	2 127.8	3.3	5 161.6	7.9
<b>Italy</b>	5 350.4	8.8	1 721.9	2.8	3 628.5	6.0
<b>Cyprus</b>	193.9	23.1	105.2	12.5	88.7	10.6
<b>Latvia<sup>3</sup></b>	334.4	15.0	36.6	1.6	297.8	13.4
<b>Lithuania</b>	207.9	6.4	32.5	1.0	175.4	5.4
<b>Luxembourg</b>	166.3	32.5	137.7	26.9	28.6	5.6
<b>Hungary</b>	443.3	4.4	298.1	3.0	145.2	1.5
<b>Malta</b>	31.2	7.5	16.2	3.9	15.0	3.6
<b>Netherlands</b>	1 868.7	11.2	449.2	2.7	1 419.5	8.5
<b>Austria</b>	1 299.1	15.5	528.0	6.3	771.2	9.2
<b>Poland</b>	544.5	1.4	232.9	0.6	311.6	0.8
<b>Portugal</b>	805.2	7.6	208.6	2.0	596.7	5.6
<b>Romania</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	228.6	11.1	21.2	1.0	207.4	10.1
<b>Slovakia</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Finland</b>	243.2	4.5	86.3	1.6	156.9	2.9
<b>Sweden</b>	1 384.1	14.7	483.0	5.1	901.1	9.6
<b>United Kingdom</b>	7 244.2	11.6	2 334.4	3.7	4 909.7	7.9
<b>Iceland</b>	34.7	10.9	22.7	7.1	11.9	3.7
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	22.5	62.2	7.5	20.9	15.0	41.4
<b>Norway</b>	568.3	11.6	236.2	4.8	332.1	6.8
<b>Switzerland</b>	1 940.3	24.7	1 158.2	14.7	782.2	9.9

: Data not available

\* EU27 Eurostat estimate. Data for Latvia, Poland and the United Kingdom are provisional.

- 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** means 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.
- Eurostat**, Statistics in Focus, 31/2012, "**Nearly two-thirds of the foreigners living in EU Member States are citizens of countries outside the EU-27**", 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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