

Population by citizenship and by country of birth

Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Compiling agency: Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)

For any question on data and metadata, please contact: [EUROPEAN STATISTICAL DATA SUPPORT](#)

1. Contact

1.1 Contact organisation	Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)
1.2 Contact organisation unit	Unit F1: Population
1.5 Contact mail address	2920 Luxembourg LUXEMBOURG

2. Metadata update

2.1 Metadata last certified	12 April 2010
2.2 Metadata last posted	12 April 2010
2.3 Metadata last update	12 April 2010

3. Statistical presentation

3.1 Data description

Usually resident population by sex, age group, citizenship or country of birth. Since 2008 migration data by single age are also available.

The data sources are administrative records or national surveys. For some datasets statistical estimation methods are applied, mostly based on census, migration and vital statistics data.

Data are presented country by country and for groups of countries.

The completeness of the tables depends largely on the availability of data from the relevant national statistical institutes.

For country-specific information see the Annexes of this document.

3.2 Classification system

Geo classification: ISO 3166-alpha 2 (International Organization for Standardization), with the exception of UK (United Kingdom).

3.3 Sector coverage

Usually resident population on the territory of EU27, EFTA and candidate countries.

3.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Population by citizenship

Composition of usually resident population by country of citizenship.

Population by country of birth

Composition of usually resident population by country of birth.

"Citizenship" denotes the particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalization, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation;

"Country of birth" is the country of residence (in its current borders, if the information is available) of the mother at the time of the birth or, in default, the country (in its current borders, if the information is available) in which the birth took place;

"Usual residence" means the place at which a person normally spends the daily period of rest, regardless of temporary absences for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage or, in default, the place of legal or registered residence;

Indicators available:

Usually resident population by age (group), sex, citizenship or country of birth.

3.5 Statistical unit

Person

3.6 Statistical population

World population

3.7 Reference area

EU-27 Member States, Candidate countries, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Member States and other UNECE countries according to availability.

3.8 Time coverage

The length of series varies with indicator and country. The longest series start in 1998.

3.9 Base period

Not applicable

4. Unit of measure

Number of persons.

5. Reference period

Data refers to the total usually resident population of the reporting country on 1 January each year.

6. Institutional mandate

6.1 Legal acts and other agreements

Data until 2009 were collected on the basis of a gentleman's agreement.

From 2009 onwards the annual migration data collection is under the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection.

6.2 Data sharing

Data are requested from national statistical institutes as part of the Joint Annual Migration Data Questionnaire. This questionnaire is administered by Eurostat, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and the International Labour Office.

7. Confidentiality

7.1 Confidentiality - policy

[Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Statistics (OJ No L 87/164) and [Council Regulation \(EURATOM, EEC\) no 1588/90](#) of 11 June 1990 on the transmission of the data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities (OJ No L 151/ 1) stipulates the detailed rules used for receiving, processing and disseminating the confidential data.

7.2 Confidentiality - data treatment

Not applicable

8. Release policy

8.1 Release calendar

New data are disseminated between March and May each year on the website at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

8.2 Release calendar access

Not applicable

8.3 User access

Data are disseminated simultaneously to all interested parties through a database update and on Eurostat's website (see "Dissemination format" below for more details).

9. Frequency of dissemination

Annual

10. Dissemination format

10.1 News release

News releases on-line.

10.2 Publications

Free publications :

- Statistics in Focus
- Data in Focus
- Eurostat Yearbook
- Key figures of Europe
- Living conditions in Europe
- etc.

10.3 On-line database

Please consult free data on-line at <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

10.4 Micro-data access

Not applicable

10.5 Other

In principle each second year one publication (*Population statistics*) with detailed tables is published.

See also: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

11. Accessibility of documentation

11.1 Documentation on methodology

See Annexes

11.2 Quality documentation

See Annexes

12. Quality management

12.1 Quality assurance

A Migration Metadata and Quality Questionnaire is developed by Eurostat to ensure the compliance of Member States with the requirements of Articles 3 of Regulation 862/2007. As given in the Article 9 of the Regulation, Member States must report to Eurostat on the data sources used, the reasons for the selection of these sources and the effects of the selected data on the quality of the statistics. Where estimations are applied to the data, Member States should report on the estimation methods used. Member States should also inform Eurostat of any changes that are made to data sources and methods used.

Member States compile requested data following the guidelines and instructions provided by Eurostat. Before publishing the data, consistent validation checks are performed.

12.2 Quality assessment

Data on population by citizenship and by country of birth are based on administrative sources or or national surveys. For some datasets statistical estimation methods are applied, mostly based on census, migration and vital statistics data. Certain differences in definitions and practices of producing statistics exist between countries but by following Regulation 862/2007 (the first reporting year is 2009) and Eurostat's guidelines, the reporting countries are improving the availability, accuracy and comparability of the data.

The internal coherence of the data is ensured through systematic validation checks.

For more country-specific quality issues see the attached Annexes.

13. Relevance

13.1 User needs

Main users of Eurostat migration statistics are various policy DGs in the European Commission, the European Parliament, as well as researchers, students and journalists.

13.2 User satisfaction

Not available

13.3 Completeness

The completeness of the tables depends largely on the availability of data from the relevant national statistical institutes.

For country-specific information see the Annexes of this document.

14. Accuracy and reliability

14.1 Overall accuracy

Number of different concepts, definitions and data sources are used in different countries which can make comparisons between countries difficult and occasionally misleading.

Please consult the explanatory notes by countries provided in the Annexes at the bottom of the page.

14.2 Sampling error

Applicable for certain countries and datasets (see Annexes).

14.3 Non-sampling error

Applicable for certain countries and datasets (see Annexes).

15. Timeliness and punctuality

15.1 Timeliness

Data supplied to Eurostat approximately 12 months after the end of the reference year.

15.2 Punctuality

Good

16. Comparability

16.1 Comparability - geographical

Every effort is made to collect comparable data. However, a number of different concepts, definitions and data sources are used in different countries which can make comparisons between countries difficult and occasionally misleading.

Certain countries are unable to supply some or all of the data requested by Eurostat.

Explanatory notes by countries are provided in the Annexes at the bottom of the page.

16.2 Comparability - over time

Improvements and changes in the administrative systems and statistical methodology may cause breaks in the time-series. Census data may differ from annual data.

Please consult explanatory notes by countries provided in the Annexes at the bottom of the page.

17. Coherence

17.1 Coherence - cross domain

-

17.2 Coherence - internal

Internal coherence (between time, age, sex, country/citizenship groups) is ensured through various validations performed before publishing the data.

18. Cost and burden

The main burden at Member State level for collecting and compiling the data is on the national statistical institutes.

19. Data revision

19.1 Data revision - policy

Data are revised on a continuous basis according to the most recently updated data provided by the reporting countries.

19.2 Data revision - practice

None

20. Statistical processing

20.1 Source data

Data are compiled by national statistical institutes.

Depending on the national methodology of the reporting country, the data sources are administrative records or statistical surveys. For some datasets statistical estimation methods are applied, mostly based on census, migration and vital statistics data. Most of the countries use administrative sources (population register, register of foreigners, database on issued residence permits etc.) for data on population by citizenship and country of birth.

For more country specific details see the Annexes at the bottom of the page.

20.2 Frequency of data collection

Annual

20.3 Data collection

The statistics are collected by national statistical institutes and supplied to Eurostat. Data are requested from national statistical institutes as part of the Joint Annual Migration Data Questionnaire. This questionnaire is administered by Eurostat, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Division, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and the International Labour Office.

20.4 Data validation

A set of standardised validations are applied by Eurostat before publishing the data.

20.5 Data compilation

EU aggregates are calculated by Eurostat where data are available for all Member States. For some years, for which data were not completely available, Eurostat, in agreement with the concerned national statistical institutes, has estimated EU27 and EU25 totals for nationals, foreigners, EU citizens and non-EU citizens.

20.6 Adjustment

none

21. Comment

21.1 Notes

Explanatory notes by countries are provided in the Annexes at the bottom of the page.

21.2 Related Metadata

21.3 Annex

[National Metadata Reports - 2008 Usually resident population data](#)

[Annex - Population by citizenship data until 2008](#)

[Additional information - EU funded THESIM project \(2005\) - Usually resident population](#)