

Acquisition of citizenship statistics

Data from March 2014. Most recent data: Further Eurostat information, Main tables and Database .

This article presents recent statistics on the acquisition of [citizenship](#) in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) .

In 2012, 818 100 people obtained citizenship of an [EU-28](#) Member State, an increase of 4.0 % compared with 2011; More people had acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State than in any other year during the period from 2002 to 2011. The main contribution to the increase at EU level came from United Kingdom (+16 300), followed by Ireland (+14 300) and Sweden (+13 500). The increase in Ireland, however, is a consequence of the efforts in the past two years to reduce the backlog of citizenship applications.

Most new citizenships in 2012 were granted by the United Kingdom (193 900 or 24 %), Germany (114 600 or 14 %), France (96 100 or 12 %), Spain (94 100 or 12 %) and Italy (65 400 or 8.0 %).

Of those acquiring citizenship of an EU-28 Member State, 87 % had previously been citizens of non-EU countries. Of these, citizens of Morocco and Turkey made up the highest numbers, followed by citizens of India, Ecuador and Iraq.

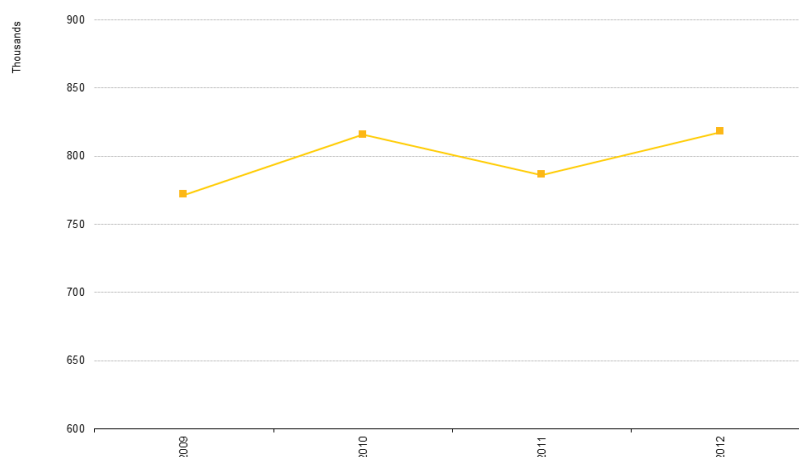


Figure 1: Total number of acquisitions of citizenship in the EU-28, 2009-2012 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

	2009	2010	2011	2012
EU-28	771.8	815.7*	786.4*	818.0*
Belgium	32.8	34.6	29.8	38.6
Bulgaria	1.0	0.9	0.6	1.8
Czech Republic	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.8
Denmark	6.9	4.0	4.2	3.6
Germany	96.1	104.6	109.6	114.6
Estonia	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.3
Ireland	4.5	6.4	10.7	25.0
Greece	17.0	9.4	17.5	16.2
Spain	79.6	123.7	114.6	94.1
France	135.8	143.3	114.6	96.1
Croatia	5.3	3.3	3.3	1.1
Italy	59.4	65.9	56.2	65.4
Cyprus	4.1	1.9	2.2	2.3
Latvia	3.2	3.7	2.5	3.8
Lithuania	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Luxembourg	4.0	4.3	3.4	4.7
Hungary	5.8	6.1	20.6	18.4
Malta	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.1
Netherlands	29.8	26.3	28.6	31.0
Austria	8.0	6.1	6.7	7.0
Poland	2.5	2.9	3.4	3.8
Portugal	24.2	21.8	23.2	21.8
Romania	9.4	:	:	:
Slovenia	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.5
Slovakia	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
Finland	3.4	4.3	4.6	9.1
Sweden	29.5	32.5	36.6	50.2
United Kingdom	203.6	194.8	177.6	193.9
Iceland	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4
Liechtenstein	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Norway	11.4	11.6	14.4	12.7
Switzerland	43.4	39.3	36.0	33.5
Montenegro	5.3	3.3	3.3	:
FYR of Macedonia	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.1
Turkey	8.1	9.5	9.2	:

The individual values do not add up to the total due to rounding

(*) The EU-28 aggregate includes Romanian data for 2009.

(:) Data not available

Table 1: Total number of acquisitions of citizenship in the EU-28, EFTA and candidate countries, 2009-2012 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

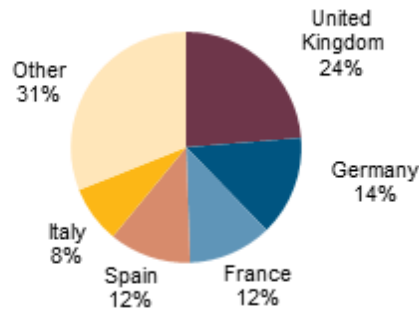


Figure 2: Five main EU-28 Member States granting citizenship, 2012 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

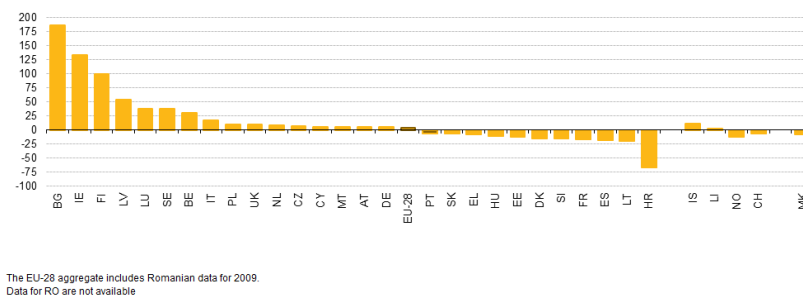


Figure 3: Acquisitions of citizenship, relative change 2012-2011 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)and (migr_acq)

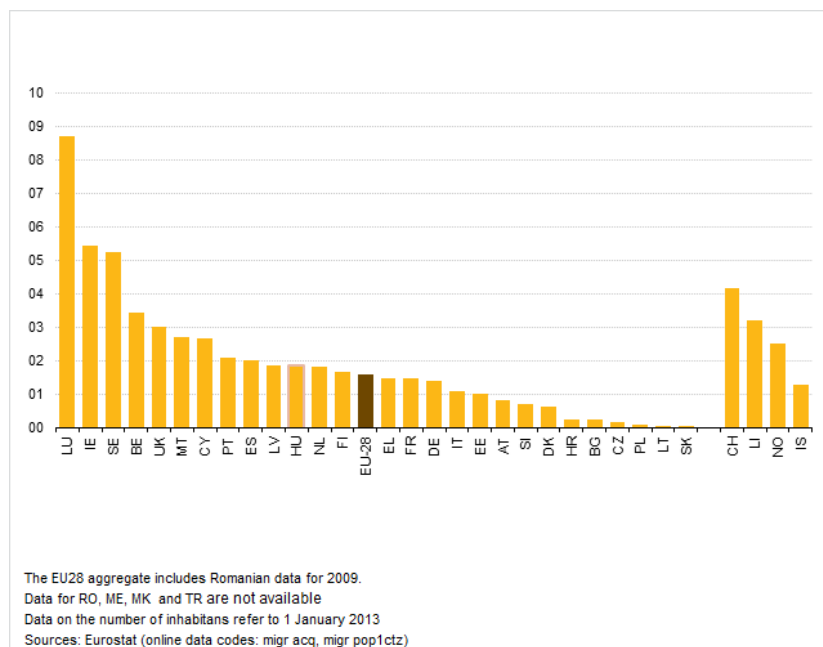


Figure 4: Acquisitions of citizenship per 1000 persons, 2012 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)and (migr_acq)and (migr_pop1ctz)

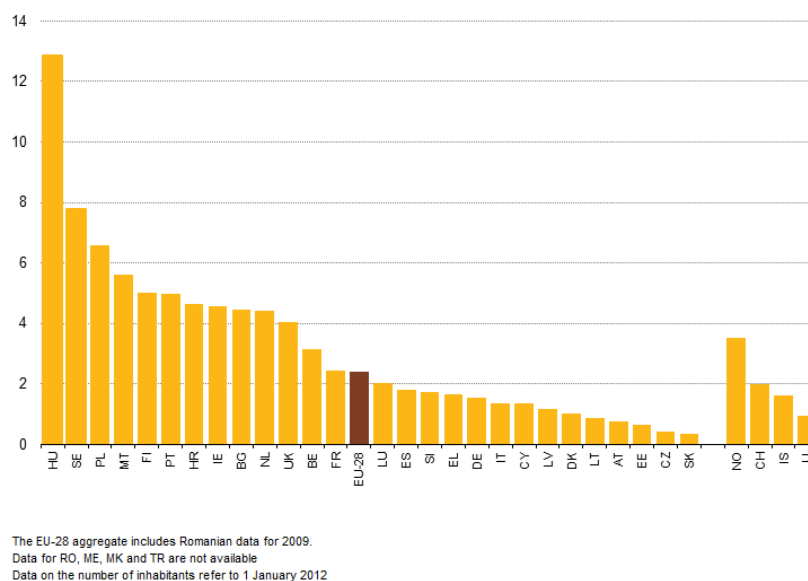


Figure 5: Naturalisation rate (acquisition of citizenship per 100 non-citizens), 2012 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq) and (migr_pop1ctz)

	Total (1000)	EU-28 Member States		Non EU-28 Member States		Unknown	
		(1000)	(%)	(1000)	(%)	(1000)	(%)
EU-28*	818.0	92.4	11.3	707.8	86.5	17.8	2.2
Belgium	38.6	8.6	22.2	29.8	77.2	0.2	0.6
Bulgaria	1.8	0.0	1.2	1.7	96.9	0.0	1.9
Czech Republic	1.8	0.5	28.5	1.2	70.6	0.0	0.9
Denmark	3.6	0.3	9.1	3.3	90.8	0.0	0.1
Germany	114.6	20.7	18.0	93.4	81.5	0.6	0.5
Estonia	1.3	0.0	0.3	1.3	99.7	0.0	0.0
Ireland	25.0	1.4	5.6	23.6	94.3	0.0	0.1
Greece	16.2	0.2	1.5	15.5	95.4	0.5	3.0
Spain	94.1	1.4	1.5	92.7	98.5	0.0	0.0
France	96.1	8.2	8.6	74.3	77.3	13.6	14.2
Croatia	1.1	0.3	23.6	0.8	76.2	0.0	0.2
Italy	65.4	5.7	8.8	59.6	91.2	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	2.3	1.3	54.4	1.1	45.6	0.0	0.0
Latvia	3.8	0.0	0.9	3.8	99.1	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	0.2	0.0	1.0	0.2	99.0	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	4.7	4.1	86.6	0.6	13.4	0.0	0.0
Hungary	18.4	14.9	81.1	3.5	18.9	0.0	0.0
Malta	1.1	0.3	28.6	0.8	69.9	0.0	1.5
Netherlands	31.0	2.4	7.8	27.3	88.3	1.2	3.9
Austria	7.0	1.2	16.6	5.9	83.4	0.0	0.0
Poland	3.8	0.4	11.4	3.4	88.6	0.0	0.0
Portugal	21.8	0.7	3.4	21.1	96.6	0.0	0.0
Romania	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Slovenia	1.5	0.3	22.6	1.1	77.0	0.0	0.3
Slovakia	0.3	0.1	31.0	0.2	69.0	0.0	0.0
Finland	9.1	1.1	12.2	7.9	86.7	0.1	1.1
Sweden	50.2	7.4	14.8	41.3	82.4	1.4	2.8
United Kingdom	193.9	10.5	5.4	183.3	94.5	0.1	0.1
Iceland	0.4	0.1	22.8	0.3	77.2	0.0	0.0
Liechtenstein	0.1	0.0	29.4	0.1	70.6	0.0	0.0
Norway	12.7	1.2	9.2	11.6	90.8	0.0	0.0
Switzerland	33.5	15.1	45.0	18.4	54.9	0.0	0.1
Montenegro	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FYR of Macedonia	1.1	:	:	:	:	:	:
Turkey	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

The individual values do not add up to the total due to rounding

(*) The EU28 aggregate includes Romanian data for 2009.

(:) Data not available

Table 2: Acquisitions of citizenship by groups of previous citizenship in the EU-28, EFTA and candidate countries, 2012 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

Belgium				Bulgaria			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Italy	3.2	Morocco	7.9	Poland	0.0	Russia	0.4
Netherlands	1.0	Turkey	2.5	Germany	0.0	FYR of Macedonia	0.3
France	0.9	Congo, the Democratic Republic of the	1.9	Czech Republic	0.0	Moldova	0.2
Romania	0.8	Russia	1.4	Greece	0.0	Ukraine	0.2
Poland	0.7	Cameroun	0.9	France	0.0	Turkey	0.2
Other	2.0	Other	15.1	Other	0.0	Other	0.4
Czech Republic				Denmark			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Slovakia	0.2	Ukraine	0.5	Germany	0.1	Iraq	0.7
Poland	0.2	Russia	0.2	Sweden	0.1	Afghanistan	0.5
Romania	0.1	Vietnam	0.1	Poland	0.0	Turkey	0.3
Bulgaria	0.0	Armenia	0.1	Romania	0.0	Somalia	0.2
Greece	0.0	Belarus	0.1	United Kingdom	0.0	Iran	0.1
Other	0.0	Other	0.3	Other	0.1	Other	1.5
Germany				Estonia			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Poland	4.5	Turkey	33.3	Latvia	0.0	Former Soviet Union	1.1
Greece	4.2	Serbia	6.0	Lithuania	0.0	Russia	0.2
Romania	2.4	Russia	4.2	Finland	0.0	Ukraine	0.0
Italy	2.2	Ukraine	3.8	United Kingdom	0.0	Belarus	0.0
Bulgaria	1.7	Iraq	3.5	Belgium	0.0	India	0.0
Other	5.7	Other	42.6	Other	0.0	Other	0.4
Ireland				Greece			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Romania	0.5	Nigeria	5.7	Bulgaria	0.1	Albania	13.7
Poland	0.4	Philippines	3.8	Romania	0.1	Egypt	0.3
Croatia	0.1	India	2.6	Poland	0.0	Syrian Arab Republic	0.2
Latvia	0.1	Pakistan	1.3	United Kingdom	0.0	Ukraine	0.2
Bulgaria	0.1	Ukraine	0.8	Germany	0.0	Armenia	0.2
Other	0.3	Other	9.4	Other	0.1	Other	1.0
Spain				France			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Portugal	0.5	Ecuador	27.2	Portugal	3.3	Morocco	16.7
Romania	0.3	Colombia	16.1	Romania	1.2	Algeria	12.4
Italy	0.3	Morocco	9.3	Italy	0.6	Tunisia	5.0
Poland	0.1	Peru	8.5	Poland	0.6	Turkey	4.8
Bulgaria	0.1	Dominican Republic	6.5	Germany	0.5	Senegal	2.4
Other	0.2	Other	25.2	Other	2.0	Other	32.9
Croatia				Italy			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Germany	0.1	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.4	Romania	3.3	Morocco	14.7
Slovenia	0.1	Serbia	0.2	Poland	0.9	Albania	9.5
Austria	0.0	FYR of Macedonia	0.1	Croatia	0.4	Tunisia	2.6
Italy	0.0	Russia	0.0	Bulgaria	0.3	India	2.4
Czech Republic	0.0	China	0.0	Germany	0.1	Peru	1.6
Other	0.0	Other	0.1	Other	0.7	Other	28.9
Cyprus				Latvia			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Greece	0.8	South Africa	0.2	Ireland	0.0	Recognised non-citizen	0.0
United Kingdom	0.4	Russia	0.2	United Kingdom	0.0	Russia	0.0
Romania	0.0	Australia	0.1	Romania	0.0	Belarus	0.0
Bulgaria	0.0	Turkey	0.1	Belgium	0.0	Ukraine	0.0
France	0.0	Ukraine	0.1	Germany	0.0	Armenia	0.0
Other	0.0	Other	0.3	Other	0.0	Other	0.8
Lithuania				Luxembourg			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Poland	0.0	Stateless	0.1	Belgium	1.6	Montenegro	0.1
Belgium	0.0	Russia	0.1	Portugal	1.2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.1
Bulgaria	0.0	Ukraine	0.0	France	0.5	Italy	0.1
Czech Republic	0.0	Belarus	0.0	Italy	0.4	United States	0.0
Denmark	0.0	Armenia	0.0	Germany	0.2	Cape Verde	0.0
Other	0.0	Other	0.0	Other	0.2	Other	0.3
Hungary				Malta			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Romania	14.4	Ukraine	1.8	United Kingdom	0.2	Australia	0.3
Slovakia	0.3	Serbia	1.3	Italy	0.1	Russia	0.1
Germany	0.1	Russia	0.2	France	0.0	United States	0.1
Croatia	0.1	Vietnam	0.0	Germany	0.0	Canada	0.1
Poland	0.0	Iran	0.0	Romania	0.0	Morocco	0.0
Other	0.1	Other	0.2	Other	0.1	Other	0.3
Netherlands				Austria			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Germany	0.4	Morocco	6.2	Croatia	0.4	Turkey	1.2
Poland	0.4	Turkey	4.3	Romania	0.3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.1
Romania	0.3	Iraq	1.3	Germany	0.1	Serbia	0.7
United Kingdom	0.2	Somalia	1.2	Slovakia	0.1	Russia	0.3
Belgium	0.2	Afghanistan	1.0	Hungary	0.1	Afghanistan	0.2
Other	1.0	Other	13.3	Other	0.2	Other	2.3
Poland				Portugal			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Germany	0.2	Ukraine	1.2	Romania	0.5	Brazil	4.6
Sweden	0.0	Belarus	0.5	Lithuania	0.1	Ukraine	3.3
Bulgaria	0.0	Russia	0.2	Spain	0.3	Cape Verde	3.2
Lithuania	0.0	Armenia	0.2	Germany	0.0	Moldova	2.0
Slovakia	0.0	Vietnam	0.2	Poland	0.0	Angola	1.9
Other	0.1	Other	1.2	Other	0.1	Other	6.0
Slovenia				Slovakia			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Italy	0.2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.6	Czech Republic	0.0	Ukraine	0.1
Croatia	0.1	FYR of Macedonia	0.2	Romania	0.0	Serbia	0.1
Germany	0.0	Serbia	0.1	Hungary	0.0	Vietnam	0.0
France	0.0	Ukraine	0.0	Poland	0.0	United States	0.0
Bulgaria	0.0	United States	0.0	Bulgaria	0.0	Belarus	0.0
Other	0.0	Other	0.2	Other	0.0	Other	0.0
Finland				Sweden			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Estonia	0.5	Russia	2.5	Finland	2.2	Iraq	16.6
Sweden	0.2	Somalia	0.6	Poland	1.6	Thailand	1.9
Romania	0.1	Afghanistan	0.5	Germany	0.7	Somalia	1.6
Germany	0.1	Iraq	0.5	Denmark	0.5	Stateless	1.5
Hungary	0.1	Iran	0.5	Romania	0.4	Iran	1.4
Other	0.2	Other	3.4	Other	2.0	Other	18.4
United Kingdom				Iceland			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Poland	3.0	India	29.3	Poland	0.0	Philippines	0.0
Greece	0.8	Pakistan	18.4	Romania	0.0	Serbia	0.0
Bulgaria	0.7	Nigeria	8.9	Sweden	0.0	Thailand	0.0
Romania	0.7	Philippines	8.1	Lithuania	0.0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.0
France	0.6	China	7.3	Bulgaria	0.0	Russia	0.0
Other	4.6	Other	112.2	Other	0.0	Other	0.2
Liechtenstein				Norway			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Austria	0.0	Switzerland	0.0	Sweden	0.3	Iraq	1.6
Germany	0.0	Turkey	0.0	Poland	0.2	Somalia	1.6
Italy	0.0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.0	Denmark	0.1	Afghanistan	1.0
Slovenia	0.0	Philippines	0.0	Germany	0.1	Stateless	0.9
Croatia	0.0	Serbia	0.0	Lithuania	0.1	Russia	0.6
Other	0.0	Other	0.0	Other	0.4	Other	5.7
Switzerland				FYR of Macedonia			
Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous EU citizens of (1000)	(%)	Previous non-EU citizens of (1000)	(%)
Italy	4.0	Serbia	3.4	Austria	0.0	Albania	0.2
Germany	3.4	Turkey	1.6	Germany	0.0	Serbia	0.2
Portugal	2.1	FYR of Macedonia	1.2	Croatia	0.0	Turkey	0.1
France	1.2	Sri Lanka	1.2	Slovenia	0.0	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.0
Croatia	1.2	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1.1	Bulgaria	0.0	Stateless	0.0
Other	3.2	Other	9.9	Other	0.0	Other	0.3

Notes: See methodological notes
Romania, Montenegro, Turkey: data are not available.

Table 3: Main countries of former EU and non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-28, EFTA and candidate countries, 2012 (in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total EU/ non-EU former citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship) Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

Rank	Country of previous citizenship	Total acq. in EU-28	Main EU-28 Member States granting citizenship								
			Rank 1	(%)	Rank 2	(%)	Rank 3	(%)	Rank 4	(%)	Other (%)
		(1000)									
1	Morocco	59.3	FR	28.2	IT	24.8	ES	15.7	BE	13.3	18.0
2	Turkey	53.8	DE	61.9	FR	8.9	UK	8.8	NL	8.1	12.4
3	India	36.9	UK	76.7	IE	7.1	IT	6.4	DE	2.6	7.2
4	Ecuador	28.9	ES	93.9	IT	2.3	UK	1.3	DE	0.7	1.8
5	Iraq	27.5	SE	60.5	UK	13.9	DE	12.8	NL	4.7	8.1
6	Albania	25.4	EL	53.7	IT	37.3	UK	4.1	BE	1.5	3.5
7	Pakistan	25.3	UK	73.0	IT	6.0	IE	5.1	DE	5.0	11.0
8	Romania	25.2	HU	57.1	IT	13.0	DE	9.5	FR	4.9	15.6
9	Colombia	19.4	ES	82.9	UK	4.9	IT	3.4	FR	2.4	6.3
10	Russia	18.3	DE	23.0	FI	13.5	FR	12.0	UK	10.2	41.3
11	Nigeria	18.0	UK	49.4	IE	31.7	IT	5.2	DE	4.4	9.3
12	Algeria	16.9	FR	73.6	UK	9.2	BE	5.1	IT	4.2	7.9
13	Ukraine	16.6	DE	23.1	PT	20.0	HU	10.6	IT	9.5	36.8
14	Philippines	15.5	UK	52.5	IE	24.8	IT	5.8	ES	3.6	13.4
15	China	13.5	UK	54.2	DE	10.1	FR	8.7	IE	5.9	21.0
16	Serbia	12.8	DE	46.6	HU	10.4	SE	8.9	FR	8.5	25.6
17	Poland	12.8	DE	35.5	UK	23.8	SE	12.9	IT	7.2	20.4
18	Moldova	11.5	RO	55.1	PT	17.8	IT	10.7	IE	5.5	10.8
19	Peru	11.3	ES	74.8	IT	14.0	FR	2.4	SE	2.1	6.6
20	Brazil	11.3	PT	40.8	IT	12.8	ES	12.4	UK	9.9	24.2
21	Afghanistan	10.8	UK	42.8	DE	25.3	NL	9.1	SE	7.9	14.9
22	Iran	10.7	UK	38.5	DE	22.9	SE	13.2	NL	5.1	20.3
23	Tunisia	9.6	FR	52.0	IT	26.7	DE	9.1	BE	3.9	8.4
24	Somalia	9.3	UK	55.1	SE	16.6	NL	12.4	FI	6.5	9.3
25	Sri Lanka	8.9	UK	69.0	DE	9.7	FR	8.0	IT	7.0	6.2
26	Bangladesh	8.9	UK	64.2	IT	16.4	IE	6.4	SE	2.2	10.8
27	South Africa	8.4	UK	82.6	IE	8.4	CY	2.2	NL	1.9	4.8
28	Ghana	8.1	UK	58.3	IT	15.8	NL	6.7	DE	5.6	13.5
29	Dominican Republic	8.1	ES	80.1	IT	11.2	DE	3.1	NL	1.7	3.9
30	Italy	7.9	BE	40.3	DE	27.7	FR	8.0	UK	7.0	16.9

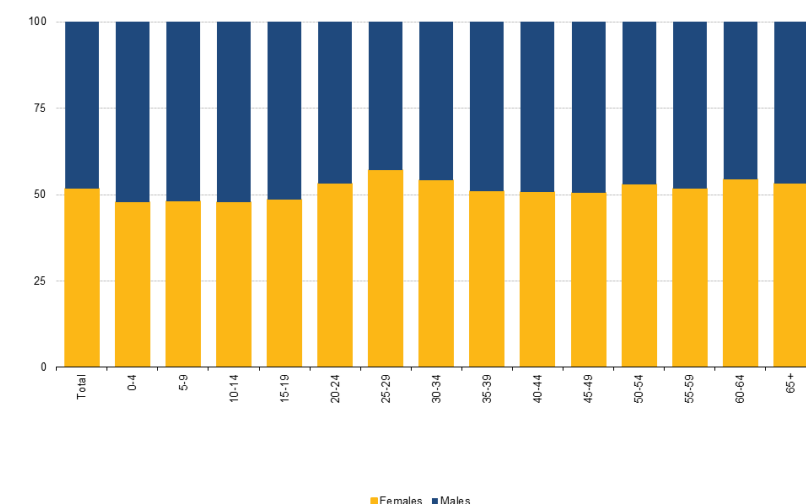
Table 4: Thirty main countries of previous citizenship, 2012 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

	Total (1000)	Gender distribution		Median age	Distribution by age (%)						
		M (%)	F (%)		0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Unk.
EU-28*	818.0	48.2	51.8	31.4	20.3	15.0	25.4	23.1	9.9	6.2	0.1
Belgium	38.6	47.3	52.7	32.1	23.9	11.0	22.7	21.4	11.0	10.0	0.0
Bulgaria	1.8	56.6	43.4	32.3	4.6	19.8	33.0	17.3	12.9	12.5	0.0
Czech Republic	1.8	40.2	59.8	36.9	10.3	16.5	17.5	27.7	12.9	15.1	0.0
Denmark	3.6	45.4	54.6	23.6	29.8	24.5	16.0	18.0	8.3	3.5	0.0
Germany	114.6	49.6	50.4	29.2	13.1	28.1	24.7	21.6	7.7	4.8	0.0
Estonia	1.3	45.2	54.8	21.7	36.3	25.2	23.2	8.1	4.7	2.5	0.0
Ireland	25.0	44.1	55.9	36.1	14.3	10.9	20.0	40.0	12.2	2.6	0.0
Greece	16.2	53.2	46.8	24.2	25.3	26.6	13.9	9.8	9.7	13.8	1.0
Spain	94.1	45.9	54.1	30.8	21.7	12.0	28.9	21.2	8.9	7.3	0.0
France	96.1	48.6	51.4	27.9	30.6	14.1	21.7	18.5	8.4	5.7	1.0
Croatia	1.1	42.3	57.7	37.5	7.9	5.6	29.1	25.7	14.3	17.3	0.0
Italy	65.4	46.5	53.5	34.6	22.4	11.6	16.9	26.9	16.9	5.4	0.0
Cyprus	2.3	47.1	52.9	29.3	10.8	28.3	23.2	14.3	10.7	12.7	0.0
Latvia	3.8	51.0	49.0	24.7	23.3	27.7	23.9	9.5	7.8	7.8	0.0
Lithuania	0.2	46.0	54.0	38.1	0.0	17.8	21.8	26.7	15.3	18.3	0.0
Luxembourg	4.7	49.8	50.2	36.9	0.0	28.1	18.7	17.3	14.8	21.2	0.0
Hungary	18.4	48.5	51.5	34.3	9.4	12.4	30.3	23.7	11.1	13.1	0.0
Malta	1.1	46.1	53.9	36.0	13.2	12.4	21.5	23.5	14.4	14.8	0.3
Netherlands	31.0	43.2	56.8	32.7	18.2	13.3	25.8	25.2	10.6	6.9	0.0
Austria	7.0	45.6	54.4	26.6	28.5	18.6	21.7	21.8	7.1	2.4	0.0
Poland	3.8	50.2	49.8	34.2	7.9	12.9	31.8	24.0	11.9	11.4	0.0
Portugal	21.8	48.5	51.5	30.6	16.6	16.6	30.1	20.7	11.3	4.6	0.0
Romania	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Slovenia	1.5	54.1	45.9	30.7	24.6	13.0	25.2	20.9	9.5	6.9	0.0
Slovakia	0.3	49.4	50.6	33.0	7.1	18.0	31.0	24.3	10.2	9.4	0.0
Finland	9.1	45.3	54.7	29.9	27.0	15.8	20.9	20.3	10.1	6.0	0.0
Sweden	50.2	49.2	50.8	30.0	27.1	13.6	22.5	19.9	10.1	6.8	0.0
United Kingdom	193.9	49.5	50.5	32.5	18.9	10.4	30.6	27.0	8.8	4.4	0.0
Iceland	0.4	40.4	59.6	31.4	21.8	9.9	31.2	22.8	10.4	3.9	0.0
Liechtenstein	0.1	47.9	52.1	28.5	10.9	28.6	28.6	5.9	10.9	15.1	0.0
Norway	12.7	46.9	53.1	25.2	33.0	16.7	20.9	18.2	7.8	3.5	0.0
Switzerland	33.5	47.6	52.4	32.0	21.4	18.9	15.4	22.1	14.9	7.2	0.0
Montenegro	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
FYR Macedonia	1.1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Turkey	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

(*) The EU-28 aggregate includes Romanian data for 2009.

(.) Data not available

Table 5: Gender and age distribution of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-28, EFTA and candidate countries, 2012 Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)and (migr_acq)



The EU-28 aggregate includes Romanian data for 2009.

Figure 6: Distribution by gender and age of persons acquiring citizenship in the EU-28, 2012
Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

Main statistical findings

EU-28 Member States granted citizenship to around 818 000 persons in 2012

In 2012, 818 100 people obtained citizenship of an EU-28 Member State, an increase of 4.0 % compared with 2011. This was mainly caused by the increases in absolute terms in United Kingdom (16 300 more persons were granted British citizenship compared with 2011), followed by Ireland (14 300) and Sweden (13 500). By contrast, the largest decreases in absolute terms were observed in Spain (20 500 less persons were granted Spanish citizenship compared with 2011) and France (18 500 less).

The top five citizenship-granting countries accounted for 69 % of new citizenships granted in the EU in 2012: the United Kingdom (193 900 or 24 %), followed by Germany (114 600 or 14 %), France (96 100 or 12 %), Spain (94 100 or 12 %) and Italy (65 400 or 8.0 %).

The highest relative increases were seen in Bulgaria (up by 186 %), Ireland (up by 133 %) and Finland (up by 99 %). By contrast, the highest relative decrease of more than 50 % was recorded in Croatia (down by 67 %). However, in absolute terms, the increase in Bulgaria did not contribute significantly to the overall increase in the EU-28 in 2012.

In relation to the population, the highest number of citizenships were granted by Luxembourg (8.7 per thousand persons) followed by Ireland (5.5), Sweden (5.3), Belgium (3.5) and United Kingdom (3.0).

An indicator commonly used to measure the effect of national policies on citizenship is the "[naturalisation rate](#)" or ratio of the total number of citizenships granted over the stock of foreign population in a country at the beginning of the year. It is important to note that changes in naturalisation rates can also be attributed to changes in the foreign population and in the way the foreign population is measured (see the methodological notes below).

In 2012, in the EU-28 as a whole, 2.4 per hundred foreign citizens were granted citizenship. The country with the highest naturalisation rate was Hungary (13 per hundred), followed by Sweden (7.8), Poland (6.6), Malta (5.6), Portugal (5.0) and Finland (5.0). The lowest naturalisation rates were found in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (both 0.4). Other countries with naturalisation rates under 1.0 were Estonia (0.6), Austria (0.7) and Lithuania (0.9).

Of the five EU-28 countries that granted the most citizenships, the rate was above the EU-28 average in the United Kingdom (4.0) and France (2.4). The rates were below the EU-28 average in Spain (1.8), Germany (1.5) and Italy (1.4).

A quarter of new EU citizens were Moroccans, Turks, Indians, Ecuadorians and Iraqis

About 87 % of those who acquired citizenship of an EU-28 Member State in 2012 were previously citizens of a non-EU country. This means that 707 800 non-EU-28 citizens residing in the EU-28 acquired an EU citizenship in 2012, a 4.0 % increase with respect to 2011.

These new EU-28 citizens were mainly from Africa (25 % of the total number of citizenships acquired), Asia (25 %), non-EU-28 Europe (20 %) and North and South America (15 %). Citizens of the EU-28 countries who acquired citizenship of another Member State amounted to 92 400 persons, accounting for 11 % of the total. Only in Luxembourg and Hungary were the majority of new citizenships granted to citizens of another EU Member State. In Hungary, citizenship was granted mostly to Romanians; in Luxembourg to citizens of Belgium, Portugal, France, Italy and Germany.

Viewed in terms of original citizenship, as in previous years, the largest groups were Moroccans (59 300 or 7.2 %) and Turks (53 800 or 6.6 %), followed by Indians (36 900 or 4.5 %), Ecuadorians (28 900 or 3.5 %), Iraqis (27 500 or 3.4 %), Albanians (25 400 or 3.1 %) and Pakistanis (25 300 or 3.1 %). The majority of Moroccans acquired citizenship of France (28 %), Italy (25 %), Spain (16 %), Belgium (13 %) and Netherlands (11 %), while more than half of the Turks received German citizenship. A large majority of Indians and Pakistanis were granted citizenship in United Kingdom (77 % and 73 % respectively), the overwhelming majority of Ecuadorians (94 %) in the Spain, more than half of the Iraqis received Swedish citizenship (61 %), and half of the Albanians received Greek citizenship (54 %).

Romanians were the eighth largest citizenship of origin in 2012, decreasing by 3.1 % (from 26 000 in 2011 to 25 200 in 2012). Grants of citizenship declined for two of the highest four citizenships of origin: for Moroccans by 7.8 % and for Ecuadorians by 14 % and increased for two of the highest four citizenships of origin: for Turks by 9.2 % and for Indians by 17 %.

In addition to Romania, among the thirty main countries of previous citizenship there are two other EU-28 countries whose citizens acquired citizenship of another EU country: Poland and Italy. In absolute terms, most Romanians acquiring citizenship became citizens of Hungary (14 400 persons) and Italy (3 300 persons), more than half of the acquisitions of citizenship by Poles were in Germany (4 500 persons) and the United Kingdom (3 000), about half of the Italians became citizens of Belgium (3 200 persons) and Germany (2 200 persons).

Half of those changing citizenship were aged 31 or less

The distribution by gender shows a slight predominance of women (52 % against 48 % men). Acquisitions of citizenship by women outnumbered acquisitions by men in all but five of Member States (Bulgaria, Greece, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia). The highest proportions of citizenship acquisitions by women were recorded in the Czech Republic (60 %), Croatia (58 %) and the Netherlands (57 %). The country with the highest share of acquisitions by men was Bulgaria (57 %).

Observed by age, there are two distinct peaks in terms of the predominance of acquisitions by women: one in the age group 20-34 and another slight peak among those aged 50-64.

In 2012, the **median age** of persons acquiring citizenship in the whole of the EU was 31. The Member State with the lowest median age was Estonia; half of its new citizens were younger than 22. The highest median age (38) was in Lithuania.

Age distribution varied from one Member State to another due to differences in citizenship legislation and age structure of the foreign population (see the methodological notes below). However, the common feature uniting all Member States was that most new citizenships were acquired by younger people, and that the numbers declined with age.

In 2012, more than a third of persons granted citizenship of an EU-28 country were younger than 25 years and nearly half aged 25 to 44, while those aged 55 or over accounted for less than 7 %. The proportion of citizenship acquisitions by children was highest in Estonia (36 %) and France (31 %) and lowest in Bulgaria (4.6 %).

%) and Croatia and Poland (both 7.9 %). In Lithuania and Luxembourg, no children were granted citizenship.

Luxembourg accounted for the highest share of grants of citizenship to persons aged 65 or older (9.4 %), followed by Croatia (7.9 %). The lowest shares of elderly new citizens were recorded in Ireland (0.4 %), Austria (0.8 %) and Portugal, Estonia and Denmark (all 0.9 %).

Data sources and availability

Data on acquisitions of citizenship are collected by [Eurostat](#) under the provisions of Article 3.1.(d) of [Regulation 862/2007](#) on migration statistics, stating that: "Member States shall supply to the [Commission](#) (Eurostat) statistics on the numbers of (...) persons having their usual [residence](#) in the territory of the Member State and having acquired during the reference year the citizenship of the Member State and having formerly held the citizenship of another Member State or a third country or having formerly been [stateless](#) , disaggregated by age and sex, and by the former citizenship of the persons concerned and by whether the person was formerly stateless."

The collection of data on acquisition of citizenship is defined by Regulation 862/2007 and breakdowns and composition of the EU, [EFTA](#) and [candidate countries](#) groups are given in the implementing [Regulation 351/2010](#) . The EU-28 aggregates for 2012, 2011 and 2010 include Romanian data for 2009.

Citizenship: 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 according to the national legislation. International law does not provide detailed rules, but it recognises the competence of every state in cases like: spouses of citizens, minors adopted by citizens, descendants of citizens born abroad returning to the country of origin of their ancestors, etc. Countries differ considerably in terms of the conditions to be fulfilled to acquire citizenship: in general a period of legally registered residence is required, combined with other factors such as evidence of social and economic integration and knowledge of national languages. Different conditions may apply for persons who were born in the country concerned (*jus soli*), or who have parents or other relatives with that country's citizenship (*jus sanguinis*).

Detailed information on the different modes of acquisition of citizenship in force in different countries can be found at the [EUDO Citizenship website](#) .

The category [recognised non-citizen](#) is particularly relevant in the Baltic States.

Countries revising the population series after the 2011 Census round were expected to send revised post-census results by age, sex and citizenship or country of birth to Eurostat for the whole intercensal period or shorter by the end of 2013. Eurostat has been informed of difficulties from the following countries to meet the deadline of 31 December 2013 for post-2011 census data transmission together with the following planned deadlines:

- 1) post-2011 Census population stocks by citizenship/country of birth before end of 2014: Italy (2008-2013); Poland (2009-2012);
- 2) announcements: Germany (first half 2015); Greece (first half 2015); United Kingdom (first half 2015)

These revisions of data will have an impact on the naturalisation rates.

Context

Within the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Home Affairs is responsible for immigration policy. In 2005, the European Commission relaunched the debate on the need for a common set of rules for the admission of economic migrants with a Green paper on an EU approach to managing economic migration (COM(2004) 811 final) which led to the adoption of a policy plan on legal migration (COM(2005) 669 final) at the end of 2005. In July 2006, the European Commission adopted a Communication on policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals (COM(2006) 402 final), which aims to strike a balance between security and an individuals' basic rights during all stages of the illegal immigration process. In September 2007, the European Commission presented its third annual report on migration and integration

(COM(2007) 512 final). A European Commission Communication adopted in October 2008 emphasised the importance of strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies (COM(2008) 611 final) as an aspect of external and development policy. The Stockholm programme, adopted by EU heads of state and government in December 2009, sets a framework and series of principles for the ongoing development of European policies on justice and home affairs for the period 2010 to 2014; migration-related issues are a central part of this programme. In order to bring about the changes agreed upon, the European Commission enacted an action plan implementing the Stockholm programme – delivering an area of freedom, security and justice for Europe’s citizens (COM(2010) 171 final) in 2010.

In May 2013, the European Commission published the 'EU Citizenship Report 2013'. The Report notes that 'EU citizenship brings citizens new rights and opportunities. Moving and living freely within the EU is the right they associate most closely with EU citizenship. Given modern technology and the fact that it is now easier to travel, freedom of movement allows Europeans to expand their horizons beyond national borders, to leave their country for shorter or longer periods, to come and go between EU countries to work, study and train, to travel for business or for leisure, or to shop across borders. Free movement increases social and cultural interactions within the EU and creates closer bonds between Europeans. In addition, it generates mutual economic benefits for businesses and citizens, including those who remain at home, as the EU steadily removes internal obstacles.

See also

- [Asylum statistics](#)
- [EU citizenship - statistics on cross-border activities](#)
- [Migration and migrant population statistics](#)
- [Residence permits statistics](#)

Further Eurostat information

Data visualisation

- [Regional Statistics Illustrated](#) - select statistical domain 'Population' (top right)

Publications

- [EU Member states granted citizenship to more than 800 000 persons in 2010](#) - Statistics in focus 45/2012
- [Nearly two-thirds of the foreigners living in EU Member States are citizens of countries outside the EU-27](#) - Statistics in focus 31/2012
- [Migrants in Europe - A statistical portrait of the first and second generation](#) - Statistical books
- [6.5% of the EU population are foreigners and 9.4% are born abroad](#) - Statistics in focus 34/2011
- [Acquisitions of citizenship on the rise in 2009](#) - Statistics in focus 24/2011
- [Demographic Outlook](#) - 2010 edition
- [Immigration to EU Member States down by 6% and emigration up by 13% in 2008](#) - Statistics in focus 1/2011
- [Population grows in twenty EU Member States](#) - Statistics in focus 38/20

Main tables

- [Population](#) , see:

International Migration and Asylum (t_migr)

Acquisition of citizenship (tps00024)

Database

- [Population](#) , see:

International Migration and Asylum (migr)

Acquisition and loss of citizenship (migr_acqn)

Dedicated section

- [Population](#)

Methodology / Metadata

- [Acquisition and loss of citizenship](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_acqn_esms)
- [International migration flows](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_flow_esms)
- [Population](#) (ESMS metadata file — demo_pop_esms)
- [Population by citizenship and by country of birth](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_stock_esms)

Source data for tables and figures (MS Excel)

- [Acquisition of citizenship statistics-tables and graphs](#)

Other information

- [COM \(2004\) 811](#) Green Paper on an EU approach to managing economic migration
- [COM \(2005\) 669](#) Communication from the Commission - Policy Plan on Legal Migration
- [COM \(2006\) 402](#) Communication from the Commission on Policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals
- [COM \(2007\) 512](#) Communication from the Commission - Third Annual Report on Migration and Integration
- [COM \(2008\) 611](#) Communication from the Commission - Strengthening the global approach to migration: increasing coordination, coherence and synergies
- [COM \(2010\) 171](#) Communication from the Commission - Delivering an area of freedom, security and justice for Europe's citizens - Action Plan Implementing the Stockholm Programme

External links

- [Country ranking by Human Development Index \(United Nations Development Programme\)](#)
- [European Commission - Home Affairs - Immigration](#)
- [European Union Democracy Observatory on Citizenship](#)
- [European Web Site on Integration](#)
- [OECD - International migration \(feed\)](#)
- [International Migration Outlook 2013](#)