

## Migrants in the EU

# One in three foreign-born persons aged 25 to 54 overqualified for their job

## Compared with one person in five among the native-born

Over the years, migration has had an impact on the composition of European societies. In 2010, foreign-born persons<sup>1</sup> accounted for 9.4% of the **EU27** population. Their socio-economic situation was in general less favourable than for native-born persons<sup>1</sup>.

In 2008 in the **EU27**, the unemployment rate of foreign-born persons aged 25-54 was higher than for native-born persons in this age group (10% compared with 6%). When employed, foreign-born persons often have more difficulties to find a job corresponding to their education level. This can be measured using an overqualification rate<sup>2</sup>, which refers to the percentage of persons with a high level of education who have a job which does not correspond to this level. In the **EU27** in 2008, foreign-born persons aged 25-54 registered a significantly higher overqualification rate than native-born persons (34% compared with 19%).

These figures come from a publication<sup>3</sup> issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. This publication looks at a broad range of characteristics of migrants aged from 25 to 54 living in the European Union and EFTA countries. It looks separately at foreign-born persons, foreign citizens and second generation migrants. It covers the socio-economic situation of migrants including labour market status, income distribution and poverty. Reasons for migration and length of residence are also examined.

### Higher rates of unemployment and overqualification for foreign-born persons

In 2008, the unemployment rate of foreign-born persons aged 25-54 was higher than for native-born persons in this age group in all Member States for which data are available, except **Greece** and **Hungary**. Particularly high gaps were registered in **Belgium** (14% for foreign-born compared with 5% for native-born), **Sweden** (11% and 3%), **Finland** (11% and 5%), **Spain** (15% and 9%), **France** (12% and 6%) and **Germany** (12% and 6%).

As regards employment, foreign-born persons aged 25-54 registered a significantly higher overqualification rate than native-born persons in 2008 in all Member States for which data are available. The difference was particularly marked in **Greece** (62% for foreign-born compared with 18% for native-born), **Italy** (50% and 13%), **Spain** (58% and 31%), **Cyprus** (53% and 27%), **Estonia** (47% and 22%) and **Sweden** (31% and 11%).

### One in three foreign-born person aged 25 to 54 at risk of poverty or social exclusion

In 2008 in the **EU27**, 31% of the foreign-born aged 25-54 were assessed to be at risk of poverty or social exclusion, following the criteria set by the Europe 2020 strategy<sup>4</sup>. The native-born registered a lower rate of 20%. This pattern was observed in all Member States for which data are available, except **Hungary** and **Lithuania**. Particularly high gaps were recorded in **Belgium** (36% for foreign-born compared with 13% for native born), **Sweden** (32% and 10%), **Greece** (45% and 23%), **France** (34% and 14%), **Austria** (32% and 13%), **Finland** (31% and 13%) and **Denmark** (31% and 13%).

Foreign-born persons are also in a less favourable situation with regard to housing conditions. In 2008 in the **EU27**, foreign-born persons aged 25-54 were more likely to live in overcrowded dwellings<sup>5</sup> than native-born persons (23% compared with 19%). The differences were particularly high in **Austria** (40% for foreign-born compared with 9% for native born), **Greece** (49% and 26%), **Slovenia** (61% and 41%), **France** (26% and 8%) and **Denmark** (21% and 6%).

**Labour market situation of native-born and foreign-born persons aged 25-54 in 2008**  
(%)

	Unemployment rate						Overqualification rate					
	Native-born			Foreign-born			Native-born			Foreign-born		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>EU27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	5	4	5	14	14	14	22	20	25	29	26	32
<b>Bulgaria</b>	5	5	5	:	:	:	21	23	19	:	:	:
<b>Czech Republic</b>	4	3	5	7	5	10	7	7	7	20	14	28
<b>Denmark</b>	2	2	2	6	5	7	14	17	12	24	23	25
<b>Germany</b>	6	6	6	12	12	12	20	22	17	31	30	33
<b>Estonia</b>	5	5	5	6	:	:	22	23	21	47	53	43
<b>Ireland</b>	5	6	3	7	8	6	29	28	29	41	43	38
<b>Greece</b>	7	5	11	7	4	11	18	19	17	62	59	64
<b>Spain</b>	9	7	11	15	15	15	31	33	29	58	57	59
<b>France</b>	6	5	6	12	11	12	19	16	22	27	25	28
<b>Italy</b>	6	5	7	8	5	11	13	11	15	50	52	49
<b>Cyprus</b>	3	2	3	5	:	5	27	23	31	53	41	61
<b>Latvia</b>	7	7	6	9	8	10	16	20	14	19	20	18
<b>Lithuania</b>	5	5	5	:	:	:	19	24	16	:	:	:
<b>Luxembourg</b>	2	:	:	6	6	6	:	:	:	5	:	:
<b>Hungary</b>	7	7	7	6	:	:	11	10	11	14	:	:
<b>Malta</b>	5	5	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Netherlands</b>	2	1	2	5	4	6	12	10	13	22	20	23
<b>Austria</b>	3	2	3	7	7	7	21	26	15	28	27	30
<b>Poland</b>	6	5	7	:	:	:	15	15	15	:	:	:
<b>Portugal</b>	7	6	8	9	7	10	14	12	15	25	24	27
<b>Romania</b>	5	6	4	:	:	:	9	9	9	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	4	3	4	:	:	:	7	6	8	:	:	:
<b>Slovakia</b>	9	7	10	:	:	:	10	11	8	:	:	:
<b>Finland</b>	5	4	5	11	11	:	18	13	22	30	:	:
<b>Sweden</b>	3	3	3	11	10	12	11	11	11	31	33	30
<b>United Kingdom</b>	4	4	4	6	6	7	20	17	23	24	22	27
<b>Iceland</b>	2	2	:	:	:	:	7	7	7	:	:	:
<b>Norway</b>	2	2	2	5	5	:	11	11	11	26	28	24
<b>Switzerland</b>	2	1	2	6	5	8	21	22	18	19	17	20

Source: Labour Force Survey 2008

: Data not available or not published due to small sample size

**Living conditions of native-born and foreign-born persons aged 25-54 in 2008**  
(%)

	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion						Overcrowding rate					
	Native-born			Foreign-born			Native-born			Foreign-born		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>EU27*</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	13	12	15	36	37	36	2	2	2	14	12	15
<b>Bulgaria</b>	36	36	37	:	:	:	52	51	53	:	:	:
<b>Czech Republic</b>	13	12	15	30	27	32	31	30	33	42	43	40
<b>Denmark</b>	13	15	12	31	30	32	6	6	6	21	24	19
<b>Germany</b>	19	18	20	28	29	27	7	7	7	13	11	14
<b>Estonia</b>	16	17	15	18	15	20	42	40	43	54	54	53
<b>Ireland</b>	20	18	21	23	20	25	4	4	5	6	8	3
<b>Greece</b>	23	22	24	45	46	44	26	26	25	49	51	47
<b>Spain</b>	18	17	18	32	33	32	3	3	3	12	13	11
<b>France</b>	14	12	15	34	28	39	8	8	7	26	23	28
<b>Italy</b>	22	21	23	34	31	37	25	25	26	39	40	39
<b>Cyprus</b>	13	13	14	30	28	31	1	1	1	3	4	3
<b>Latvia</b>	26	25	27	28	25	30	59	57	61	58	50	63
<b>Lithuania</b>	22	21	23	21	24	18	52	51	53	57	62	52
<b>Luxembourg</b>	9	6	11	23	21	24	4	4	4	14	16	13
<b>Hungary</b>	27	27	27	21	22	19	52	52	52	56	56	55
<b>Malta</b>	16	14	17	19	20	17	4	4	3	4	1	6
<b>Netherlands</b>	13	13	12	23	19	26	1	1	1	3	1	4
<b>Austria</b>	13	12	14	32	31	33	9	9	10	40	41	38
<b>Poland</b>	28	29	28	:	:	:	52	52	51	:	:	:
<b>Portugal</b>	22	21	23	26	26	25	15	16	15	23	22	25
<b>Romania</b>	39	39	39	:	:	:	61	61	60	:	:	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	15	16	15	22	24	21	41	40	42	61	64	59
<b>Slovakia</b>	18	17	18	24	:	:	46	45	47	52	:	:
<b>Finland</b>	13	13	12	31	33	29	5	6	5	8	9	8
<b>Sweden</b>	10	9	10	32	35	30	8	9	8	20	21	19
<b>United Kingdom</b>	18	16	19	25	24	25	5	4	5	14	13	14
<b>Iceland</b>	10	10	10	18	19	17	6	6	6	12	17	7
<b>Norway</b>	10	10	11	23	19	26	4	4	4	11	11	11

Source: EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2008

\* Eurostat estimate for foreign-born

: Data not available or not published due to small sample size

- Foreign-born** is a person whose place of birth (or usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth) is outside the country of his/her usual residence.  
**Native-born** is a person whose place of birth (or usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth) is the country of his/her usual residence.
- Overqualification rate** is defined as the percentage of those persons in employment with a high educational level (having completed tertiary education, ISCED 5 or 6) who are in low or medium skilled jobs (ISCO occupation levels 4 to 9).
- Eurostat, "Migrants in Europe - A statistical portrait of the first and second generation"**, available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site. The paper format of the publication will become available shortly.

4. **Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion** are those affected by at least one of the three following conditions:
- **Persons at risk of poverty** are those living in a household with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers). The equivalised income is calculated by dividing the total household income by its size determined after applying the following weights: 1.0 to the first adult, 0.5 to each other household members aged 14 or over and 0.3 to each household member aged less than 14 years old.
  - **Severely materially deprived persons** have living conditions constrained by a lack of resources and experience at least 4 out of the 9 following deprivation items: cannot afford 1) to pay rent/mortgage or utility bills, 2) to keep home adequately warm, 3) to face unexpected expenses, 4) to eat meat, fish or a protein equivalent every second day, 5) a one week holiday away from home, 6) a car, 7) a washing machine, 8) a colour TV, or 9) a telephone.
  - **People living in households with very low work intensity** are those aged 0-59 who live in households where on average the adults (aged 18-59) worked less than 20% of their total work potential during the past year. Students are excluded.

For more information on the Europe 2020 strategy: [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm).

5. A person is considered as **living in an overcrowded dwelling** if the household, taking into account its composition and size, does not have at its disposal a sufficient minimum number of rooms. This minimum number of rooms is equal to:
- one room for the household;
  - one room per couple in the household;
  - one room for each single person aged 18 or more;
  - one room per pair of single people of the same gender between 12 and 17 years of age;
  - one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in the previous category;
  - one room per pair of children under 12 years of age.

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