



Legal Migration Fitness Check

Contextual Analysis : overview and analysis of legal migration statistics

Annex 1Bii



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Legal Migration Fitness Check

Contextual Analysis : overview and analysis of legal migration statistics

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1 Introduction

The proposed statistical overview is split into two sections. The first examines the overall 'stock' of third-country nationals. The second examines in more depth, the annual developments in migration by analysing the new permits that have been issued in given years.

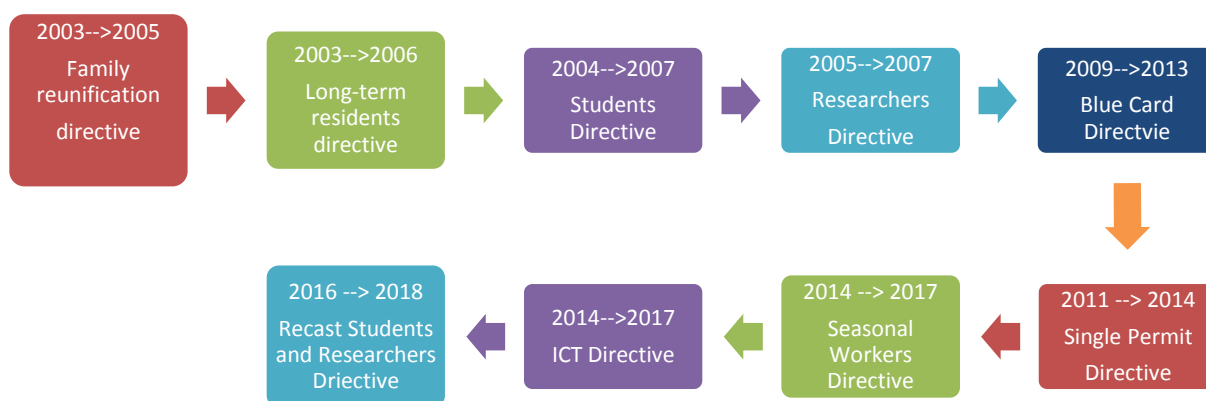
A number of methodological caveats should be introduced right from the start, regarding the data sources used, as well as the quality of the data.

- Comparable EU-28 'single series' data covering the entire period from 1999 to 2016 does not exist for a number of reasons: 10 Member States joined only in 2004, thereafter Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007 and Croatia in 2013.
- Data on different types of permits were introduced in line with the Directives' implementation.
- There are some data gaps and other methodological issues related to data collection and harmonisation due notably to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, and these are noted throughout the report in footnotes and beneath the tables.
- The data on the 'reasons for migration' and under certain types of permits is categorised as 'other' to such a significant extent that it in some cases does not allow for a meaningful interpretation.

The study team assessed the following data sources:

- Eurostat – the main data presented in the present statistical overview is based on data provided for the 2008–2016 period by Member States. The timeline in the figure below indicates when the directive was adopted and the year in which they were implemented, and respectively, started to provide statistical information to Eurostat. Therefore, there is no statistical data on the number of seasonal workers and intercorporate transferees.

Figure 1. Timeline of adoption and transposition of relevant EU directives



Prior to 2008, the key data source is the OECD International Migration Database.

There are two key reasons why data provided in the OECD International Migration Database (IMD) ^[1] is not comparable with EU-28 Eurostat data:

^[1] Accessible at: [<https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=MIG#>].

- The data doesn't differentiate between permits issued/held based on EU Directive vs. the ones issued/held based on national legislation. For most EU Member States, the OECD 'flows' data is not based on residence permits statistics but on population registers statistics. Therefore, no analysis linked to the impact of the directives can be carried out, as the national permits constituted, especially in the period before 2008 a much larger share of all permits held/issued to TCNs.
- OECD data covers only the 19 EU countries which have ratified the Convention on the OECD: AT, BE, CZ, EE, ES, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IT, LV, LU, NL, PL, PT, SI, SK and SE, thus leaving us without data for: BG, CY, HR, LT, MT and RO.
- The OECD IMD data provides less detail than Eurostat does in relation to reasons for migrating. Some data can be found on stock of foreign born labour but for data on family or 'other' reasons one has to turn to another OECD database – 'International Migration Statistics'. This latter database holds data only from 10 OECD countries.
- No separate OECD data is available for students, trainees, researchers, or the various categories of remunerated labour of interest to the present analysis (seasonal workers, ICTs, high-skilled).
- Further on, no separate OECD data is available to assess different types of permits, e.g. single permits, or long-term resident permits.

Comparing between OECD and Eurostat data, therefore, can be done only for evaluating general long-term trends in 'stock' and 'flows', and wherever appropriate such data is provided.

The analysis below aims to identify, amongst other things, dependencies between the statistical trends identified and the introduction of the various labour migration directives.

The information provided in this report is based on the available data in Eurostat as of **April 2018**.

2 Stock of third-country national residents

This section provides an overview of the stock of third-country nationals (TCN) in 2016 and its evolution between 2008 and 2016. It starts by an analysis of the main characteristics of valid permits and their holders, providing detailed statistics on the number of third-country nationals with valid permits, valid permits by main immigration reason, valid permits by length of validity, the gender and age of third-country nationals with valid permits, and the origin of third-country nationals with valid residence permits.

Then, the section focuses more specifically on valid permits held for different immigration reason (i.e., family, remunerated activities, education, refugees status and subsidiary protection reasons), given further insights on their evolution over the period and the origin on third-country nationals for each of them.

Finally, the section describes the main characteristics of long-term residence permits and their holders over the period. It depicts their evolution and their share in all valid permits, distinguishing notably between those held under the EU legal migration Directives and those regulated at Member State level, before describing the gender and age of third-country national holding them and their origin.

2.1 Main characteristics of valid residence permits and their holders

This section describes the total number of valid permits by reason for the years 2008–2016. The section also provides information on the duration of the permits as well as on the characteristics of the third-country nationals receiving them (age group, gender, continent of origin).

2.1.1 Number of third-country nationals with valid residence permits

On 1 January 2017, 21.6 million TCNs¹ were residing in EU-28 Member States, and nearly 18.7 million in EU-25². They represented 4.2% of the EU-28 population (and 4.3% of the EU-25).

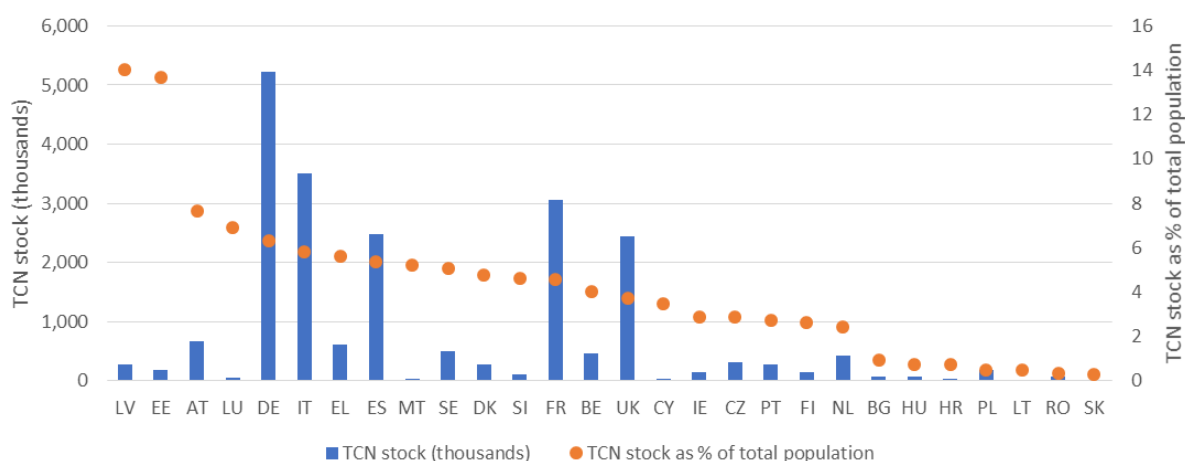
In the EU-25, the largest numbers of TCNs were in Germany (5.2 million), Italy (3.5 million), France (3.0 million) and Spain (2.5 million) (Figure 2)³. Around 76% of all TCNs in the EU-25 were residing in these four Member States. However, the Member States with the highest proportion of TCNs were Latvia and Estonia, followed by Austria and Luxembourg. In Latvia and Estonia, TCNs constituted approximately 14% of the total population, which was due to the high number of citizens of the former Soviet Union states. When taking into account the three Member States part of EU-3 (United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark), the largest number of TCNs were in the UK (2.4 million). However, Denmark had a higher proportion of TCNs (4.8% compared to 3.7% in the United Kingdom).

¹ Eurostat defines a third country national as any person who is not a citizen of the Union within the meaning of Article 17(1) of the Treaty, including stateless persons (see Article 2.1(i) of the Council Regulation (EC) no 862/2007).

² All EU-28 Member States less Denmark, Ireland, and United Kingdom (EU-3).

³ Eurostat (2017) migr_pop1ctz

Figure 2. TCN stock and share of the total population, 2017

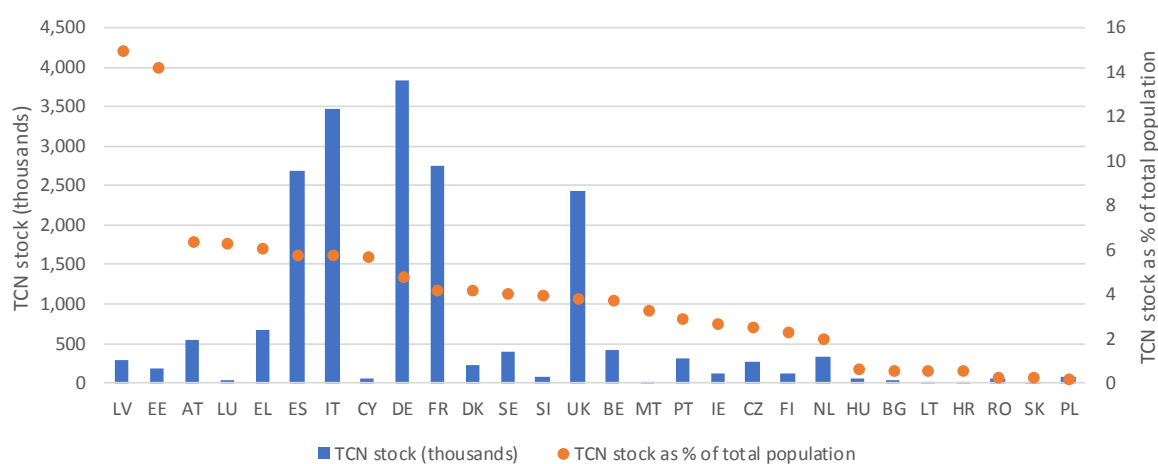


Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018. Total population on 1 January 2017. TCN stock: population with citizenship other than those of EU-28 countries.

Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Compared to 2014 – the earliest year for which data are available for EU-28 – the number of TCNs increased by 2.1 million, increasing the share of TCNs in the total population by 0.4 percentage points in the EU-28. Countries having experienced the highest growth in the stock of TCNs as a percentage of the total population between 2014 and 2017 are Poland, Malta, and Bulgaria (Figure 3).

Figure 3. TCN stock and share of the total population, 2014



Note: Data extracted on 04/04/2018. Total population on 1 January 2014. 'TCN stock': population with citizenship other than those of EU-28 countries.

Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

The number of TCNs holding a valid residence permit⁴ in the EU-Member States covered by the EU Directives amounted to nearly 18 million in 2016, compared to

⁴ Eurostat defines a residence permit as any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory. First permit is defined as residence permit issued to a person for the first time. All valid permits at the end of the reference period include notably first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits.

approximately 16 million in 2008 (Table 1). Their share in the total population at the EU-25 level was 4% in 2016, a slight increase compared to its level in 2008.

A majority of the Member States of the EU-25 experienced an increase in the number of valid permits between 2008 and 2016. Those having enjoyed the largest growths in the stock of valid permits between 2008 and 2016 were Czech Republic, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Sweden. In all these countries but Sweden and Malta, the share of all valid permits in the total population remained nevertheless well below the EU-25 average in 2016.

Table 1. Number of all valid permits on 31 December in EU-25 and EU-3 and share of valid permits in total population, 2008–2016

	Valid permits on 31 december of each year (thousands)										% of total population									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	15,575	16,578	16,127	16,398	16,566	16,547	16,773	17,231	17,581		3.6	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	
Belgium	350	365	325	342	340	339	352	367	403		3.3	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.6	
Bulgaria	11	12	14	14	17	19	40	45	36		0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	
Czech Republic	306	305	267	283	262	275	281	288	310		3.0	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.9	
Germany	3,644	3,695	3,744	3,692	3,746	3,543	3,624	3,762	4,062		4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.9	
Estonia	217	213	209	206	202	198	195	193	191		16.2	15.9	15.7	15.5	15.2	15.0	14.8	14.7	14.5	
Greece	523	566	524	550	485	510	540	568	585		4.7	5.1	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.6	4.9	5.2	5.4	
Spain	2,681	2,992	2,682	2,797	2,800	2,705	2,614	2,585	2,575		5.9	6.5	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.5	
France	2,299	2,273	2,294	2,363	2,444	2,512	2,577	2,633	2,673		3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	12	11	24	26		:	:	:	:	:	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	
Italy	3,036	3,588	3,526	3,638	3,775	3,885	3,943	3,914	3,713		5.2	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.1	
Cyprus	113	117	112	113	49	56	47	47	52		14.6	14.7	13.7	13.4	5.6	6.5	5.5	5.6	6.1	
Latvia	398	385	372	365	352	344	337	330	321		18.1	17.8	17.6	17.6	17.2	17.0	16.8	16.6	16.3	
Lithuania	29	29	28	29	30	32	36	36	39		0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	
Luxembourg	:	24	23	26	28	30	32	34	37		:	4.9	4.6	5.0	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.4	
Hungary	101	93	91	90	77	66	40	45	55		1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.6	
Malta	5	5	5	6	7	10	15	19	21		1.2	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6	2.4	3.6	4.2	4.6	
Netherlands	418	433	371	321	300	351	342	365	373		2.5	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.2	
Austria	457	446	463	477	493	450	428	453	471		5.5	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.4	
Poland	72	87	131	145	227	316	365	501	545		0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.4	
Portugal	357	360	342	329	317	301	295	283	279		3.4	3.4	3.2	3	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	
Romania	59	62	60	61	54	56	58	61	63		0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Slovenia	96	89	86	88	82	99	94	102	110		4.8	4.4	4.2	4	4.0	4.8	4.6	4.9	5.3	
Slovakia	20	22	24	23	25	25	29	34	40		0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	
Finland	107	113	122	119	124	63	92	98	100		2.0	2.1	2.3	2	2.3	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.8	
Sweden	276	303	312	320	333	349	388	441	504		3.0	3.3	3.3	3	3.5	3.7	4.0	4.5	5.1	
Not covered	142	134	133	128	1,751	1,655	1,615	1,659	1,615		0.2	0.2	0.2	0	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Ireland	142	134	133	128	120	107	106	114	111		3.2	3.0	2.9	3	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	
United Kingdom	:	:	:	:	1,630	1,548	1,509	1,545	1,504		:	:	:	:	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3	

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'residence permit': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid, demo_pjangroup)

2.1.2 Valid residence permits by main reason

Table 2 shows the number of third-country nationals holding a valid permit per main reason as of 31 December 2016 in EU-25 compared to EU-3⁵.

⁵ These data include statistics on all valid permits at the end of the reference period, therefore including first permits, change of status or reasons to stay and renewed permits.

The EU-25 Member States with the highest number of TCNs as of 31 December 2016 were Germany (4 million), followed by Italy (3.7 million) and France (2.7 million).

Table 2. All valid permits by main reason on 31 December in EU-25 and EU-3, 2016

	Total	Main reason (% of total)					
		Family reasons	Education reasons	Remunerated activities reasons	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Other
Covered	17,581,444	39.2	3.5	15.7	4.8	1.6	35.3
Belgium	403,001	57.4	3.2	7.2	10.5	3.0	18.6
Bulgaria	36,085	22.8	4.2	8.4	0.0	0.0	64.6
Czech Republic	309,601	34.5	7.3	19.2	0.5	0.5	38.1
Germany	4,061,552	40.5	3.9	3.6	12.4	0.9	38.8
Estonia	191,337	4.0	1.2	2.1	0.1	0.1	92.5
Greece	584,652	41.9	0.4	11.3	0.0	0.0	46.4
Spain	2,574,747	36.5	2.0	7.3	0.6		53.5
France	2,672,813	41.3	5.5	4.0	5.8	0.6	42.9
Croatia	26,252	36.3	2.9	12.2	0.5	0.2	47.8
Italy	3,712,563	49.8	1.2	41.9	0.6	1.1	5.2
Cyprus	52,029	27.9	8.0	48.3	2.1	7.3	6.3
Latvia	320,962	6.6	0.9	1.2	0.0	0.0	91.2
Lithuania	38,833	18.5	5.2	29.1	0.6	0.4	46.1
Luxembourg	36,779	55.6	1.2	14.6	5.4	0.1	23.1
Hungary	54,814	23.0	26.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	49.6
Malta	20,661	33.0	9.0	39.7	0.0	0.0	18.3
Netherlands	373,490	39.6	6.3	14.7	6.3	11.9	21.2
Austria	471,054	17.2	4.8	1.4	0.0	0.0	76.6
Poland	544,841	7.7	6.4	66.5	0.2	0.4	18.8
Portugal	279,469	25.0	3.4	13.9	0.0	0.4	57.3
Romania	62,882	41.9	24.7	8.7	3.1	1.9	19.7
Slovenia	109,981	12.3	1.9	15.6	0.3	0.1	69.9
Slovakia	39,906	36.8	9.9	30.2	0.7	0.4	21.9
Finland	99,559	37.8	10.5	16.5	0.0	0.0	35.3
Sweden	503,581	45.4	2.9	6.5	13.2	23.7	8.2
Not covered	1,614,945	33.9	33.6	21.9	2.3	0.1	8.3
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	110,927	24.6	31.8	18.9	1.0	0.5	23.2
United Kingdom	1,504,018	34.5	33.7	22.2	2.4	0.0	7.2

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

On 31 December 2016 the majority of TCNs in the EU-25 were holding a permit for 'other' reasons (35% or 6.2 million). This category does not include valid permit issued for the reasons related to refugee status or subsidiary protection status. Persons granted one of these statuses and holding a valid residence permit are primarily reported under the respective category (i.e. 'refugee status' or 'subsidiary protection'). Other important reasons why TCNs held a valid permit were family reasons (39% or 6.9 million) and remunerated activities reasons (16% or 2.8 million),

whereas 3% (or 608 thousand) were holding a permit for education reasons. In Italy half of all valid residence permits related to family reasons and the share was close to 60% in Belgium. Over 65% of the valid permits in Poland and almost 50% in Cyprus were granted for remunerated activities. The largest percentage of valid permits for education reasons was in Hungary with around 27%.

2.1.3 Valid residence permits by length of validity

At the EU-25 level, around 90% of the permits had a length of validity of 12 months or over, compared to 80% at the EU-3 level. TCNs in Member States covered by the Directives were more likely to have permits valid for more than a year than those in the Member States not covered (90% for EU-25 vs 81% for EU-3) (Table 3).

The length of the permits varies across Member States. For example, in Poland 65% of TCNs residing on 31 December 2016 held permits valid for less than one year reflecting the large number of permits provided to seasonal workers. The share of permits valid for less than one year was also high in Cyprus and Bulgaria, although that share was much lower in these two countries compared to Poland. In four EU-25 Member States where most TCNs resided on 31 December 2016 (Germany, Italy, France, Spain) almost all of them held permits valid for more than a year.

Table 3. All valid permits by length of validity on 31 December in EU-25 and EU-3 (%), 2016

	Total	Duration (% of total)		
		From 3 to 5 months	From 6 to 11 months	12 months or over
Covered	17,581,444	1.4	8.6	90.0
Belgium	403,001	2.2	0.0	97.8
Bulgaria	36,085	2.7	22.8	74.4
Czech Republic	309,601	0.5	2.0	97.5
Germany	4,061,552	0.4	5.1	94.5
Estonia	191,337	0.0	0.5	99.5
Greece	584,652	0.0	0.0	100.0
Spain	2,574,747	0.2	1.2	98.7
France	2,672,813	0.1	20.0	79.8
Croatia	26,252	1.1	7.7	91.2
Italy	3,712,563	2.4	8.4	89.3
Cyprus	52,029	2.1	29.1	68.8
Latvia	320,962	0.1	4.4	95.5
Lithuania	38,833	0.4	3.5	96.1
Luxembourg	36,779	1.1	7.2	91.7
Hungary	54,814	1.7	17.0	81.2
Malta	20,661	2.7	8.7	88.5
Netherlands	373,490	0.1	1.5	98.3
Austria	471,054	0.1	16.8	83.0
Poland	544,841	19.5	45.1	35.5
Portugal	279,469	0.3	4.5	95.1
Romania	62,882	0.7	3.8	95.4
Slovenia	109,981	0.4	7.3	92.3
Slovakia	39,906	0.9	6.4	92.7
Finland	99,559	1.1	4.8	94.1
Sweden	503,581	1.0	1.7	97.2
Not covered	1,614,945	14.5	5.4	80.1
Denmark	:			
Ireland	110,927	3.9	29.4	66.7
United Kingdom	1,504,018	15.2	3.6	81.1

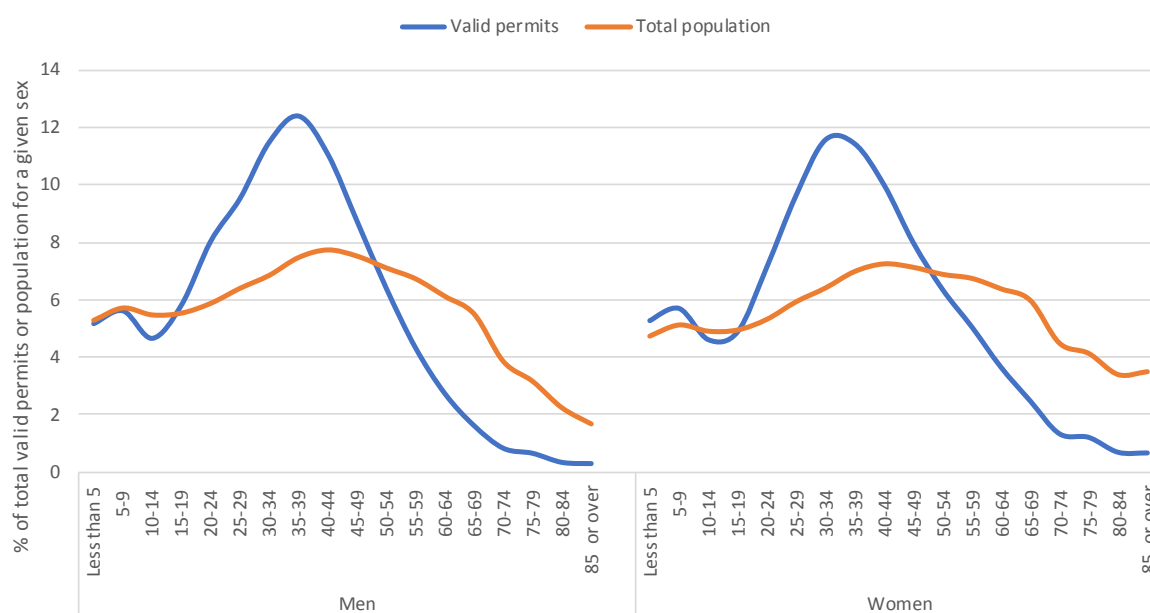
Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

2.1.4 Gender and age of third-country nationals with valid residence permits compared to the rest of the population (EU citizens)

Figure 4 shows the gender and age structure of TCNs and total population in 19 Member States of the EU-25 as of 31 December 2016. The data shows that TCNs with valid permits are on average younger compared to EU citizens. The distribution by age groups shows higher proportions of TCNs of working age than in the total population in these countries. 45% of TCN men and 43% of women are aged 25–44 whilst among the EU citizens only 28% of men and 26% of women are in this age group. Overall, 81% of TCN men and 78% of women are aged 15–64 against 67% of men and 64% of women in the total population in the same age group.

Figure 4. Gender and age structure of third-country nationals with valid permits and total population in the EU-25 (%), 2016



Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; Population on 1 January 2016; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; The EU-25 aggregate excludes Germany, the Netherlands, Malta, Slovakia, Finland, and France due to the lack of data on valid permits broken down by age. Data on population refers to the same countries. France does not report on long-term residence permits below 15 years old. No permits are issued to minors, except for a few cases of workers 16–18 years old. Data on valid permits by gender and age for France are not available for 2016.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvas, migr_pop1ctz)

At the level of EU-25 Member States for which data are available, it can be observed that men holding valid permits were predominant in the majority of them in 2016, with the exception of Belgium, Cyprus, Austria, and Portugal (Table 4). Moreover, the share of women holding valid residence permits was well below the average in Slovenia, Romania, Poland, and Lithuania. For example, in this latter country, women only accounted for 38% of TCNs holding valid permits in 2016, while such share is on average 48% at the level of the selected EU-25 Member States.

With regard the age structure of the TCNs in these Member States during that year, it appears that old third-country nationals with valid permits were markedly represented in Bulgaria, Estonia, and Latvia (Table 4). For instance, they accounted for 33% of all third-country nationals with valid permits in Latvia in 2016, against 5% on average at the level of the selected EU-25 Member States. Concerning third country nationals aged less than 15 years holding valid permits, they were significantly underrepresented in several Eastern European countries, including Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. While their share was 16% on average at the level of the selected EU-25 Member States, it only amounted to less than 4% in Estonia and Latvia.

Table 4. Valid permits by gender and age group in selected Member States in the EU-25, 2016

	Total	% of women	Age group (% of total)		
			less than 15 years	From 15 to 64 years	65 years and over
Covered	5,379,699	47.8	15.6	79.4	5.1
Belgium	200,653	50.2	19.1	75.8	5.0
Bulgaria	19,626	45.6	9.3	76.6	14.1
Czech Republic	167,055	46.0	12.7	83.9	3.4
Estonia	97,145	49.2	3.9	68.8	27.3
Greece	305,992	47.7	16.8	79.6	3.7
Spain	1,345,447	47.7	15.4	81.2	3.4
Croatia	13,833	47.3	5.8	84.9	9.2
Italy	1,910,764	48.5	18.6	77.4	4.0
Cyprus	18,189	65.0	7.8	90.8	1.4
Latvia	152,465	52.5	3.3	63.8	32.9
Lithuania	23,923	38.4	5.8	81.3	12.8
Luxembourg	17,005	53.9	17.3	78.5	4.2
Hungary	30,660	44.1	12.7	85.9	1.5
Austria	232,631	50.6	17.3	77.6	5.0
Poland	331,574	39.1	5.4	93.6	1.0
Portugal	130,576	53.3	9.8	85.7	4.5
Romania	37,964	39.6	8.1	88.1	3.8
Slovenia	72,346	34.2	14.1	82.7	3.2
Sweden	271,851	46.0	20.3	77.2	2.5

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; The EU-25 aggregate excludes Germany, the Netherlands, Malta, Slovakia, Finland, and France due to the lack of data on valid permits broken down by age. Data on population refers to the same countries.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvas)

2.1.5 Education and labour market characteristics of third-country nationals

Education level

In the majority of Member States of the EU-25, a higher proportion of TCNs aged from 15 to 64 years had a low level of educational attainment compared to the total population in that age group in 2016 (Table 5). This was particularly the case in Germany, Austria, Sweden, and France where the share of the population holding a low educational attainment level was higher than 20 percentage points among the TCNs than among the total population. In Germany, for instance, 50% of the TCNs had a low educational level, against only 20% of the total population. This pattern was less apparent among the Member States of the EU-3, particularly in the United Kingdom and Ireland where the share of TCNs with a low education level was lower than that of the total population.

When looking at the population with a high educational attainment level, it appears that the share of TCNs with such an education level was lower than that of the corresponding total population in more than a half of the Member States of the EU-25 for which data are available. The share of TCNs with a high level of education was significantly lower than that of the corresponding total population in Spain, Greece, and Greece. Yet, TCNs with a high educational attainment level were more represented in relative terms than the corresponding total population in seven Member States of the EU-25, especially in Czech Republic, Croatia, and Poland. In this latter

country, the proportion of TCNs with a high education level amounted to 43%, compared to only 25% of the total population. Regarding the Member States of the EU-3, the share of TCNs with a high education level was higher than that of the total population with the same education level in all of them. This was particularly the case in Ireland, where the proportion of TCNs with a high education level was 62%, against 38% of the total population.

Table 5. Educational attainment levels of third-country nationals and total population in EU-25 and EU-3 (%), 2016

	TCN aged from 15 to 64 years			Total population aged from 15 to 64 years		
	Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (levels 0-2) (% of total TCN aged 15-64)	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4) (% of total TCN aged 15-64)	Tertiary education (levels 5-8) (% of total TCN aged 15-64)	Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (levels 0-2) (% of total population aged 15-64)	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4) (% of total population aged 15-64)	Tertiary education (levels 5-8) (% of total population aged 15-64)
Covered	:	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	48.9	28.0	23.1	28.2	38.6	33.2
Bulgaria	:	62.7	:	21.9	53.7	24.4
Czech Republic	13.3	56.9	29.8	12.4	67.1	20.6
Germany	50.0	30.5	19.5	19.8	55.7	24.4
Estonia	13.6	61.1	25.3	16.7	49.3	34.1
Greece	51.8	38.7	9.5	30.0	43.5	26.4
Spain	55.8	27.8	16.5	42.6	24.7	32.7
France	48.0	28.8	23.2	25.5	43.6	30.9
Croatia	22.4	47.9	29.8	20.6	59.4	20.0
Italy	60.2	29.8	10.0	41.6	42.7	15.7
Cyprus	36.0	33.0	31.0	24.0	38.3	37.6
Latvia	10.5	71.3	18.1	14.9	55.6	29.5
Lithuania	:	:	:	12.4	53.5	34.1
Luxembourg	31.2	27.1	41.7	28.2	35.4	36.4
Hungary	19.8	53.9	26.4	21.8	57.6	20.6
Malta	46.1	26.6	27.3	50.6	30.6	18.8
Netherlands	45.7	32.6	21.7	27.9	41.1	31.0
Austria	42.3	36.3	21.4	19.6	51.5	28.9
Poland	:	49.6	43.0	14.6	60.2	25.2
Portugal	44.6	40.5	14.9	52.9	25.6	21.5
Romania	:	:	:	28.0	56.9	15.1
Slovenia	28.5	63.8	7.6	17.2	55.6	27.2
Slovakia	:	51.9	:	14.3	66.0	19.7
Finland	37.4	37.8	24.9	18.6	45.5	35.9
Sweden	48.4	15.6	36.1	21.1	43.6	35.3
Not covered	:	:	:	:	:	:
Denmark	34.2	30.1	35.7	27.0	41.8	31.2
Ireland	7.6	30.1	62.3	24.6	37.7	37.7
United Kingdom	16.4	29.2	54.4	20.4	41.2	38.4

Note: Data extracted on 07/04/2018; 'TCN': population with citizenship other than those of EU-28 countries; Population aged from 15 to 64 years. " ": not available.

Source: Eurostat (edat_ifs_9911)

While the population of third-country nationals was younger than that of the total population in Member States of the EU-25 in 2016, its participation in the labour market was significantly different according to educational attainment level. In the majority of Member States of the EU-25, the activity rate of third-country nationals aged from 15 to 64 years with a tertiary education level was significantly lower than that of the corresponding total population in these countries (Table 6). A similar pattern could be observed in the Member States of the EU-3. The gap in activity rates between these two populations with a tertiary education level was prominently high in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. In these countries, the gap amounted to 20 percentage points or more. Reciprocally, the activity rates of the third country nationals with a low education level was higher for third country nationals than for the total population in all Member States of the EU-25 but Germany. There were particularly high in South European countries, including Cyprus, Greece, Spain, and Portugal. In EU-3, the activity rates of TCNs with a low education level were, however, lower than those of total population with a similar education level.

Table 6. Activity rates of third-country nationals and total population in EU-25 and EU-3 by educational attainment level (%), 2016

	TCN aged from 15 to 64 years			Total population aged from 15 to 64 years		
	Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (levels 0-2)	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4)	Tertiary education (levels 5-8)	Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education (levels 0-2)	Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (levels 3 and 4)	Tertiary education (levels 5-8)
Covered	:	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	45.8	60.4	63.7	42.9	70.1	85.8
Bulgaria	:	:	:	38.2	72.8	87.1
Czech Republic	62.4	82.1	79.3	30.0	80.2	85.0
Germany	49.6	67.5	70.1	52.4	82.0	89.9
Estonia	62.9	79.0	78.6	48.3	80.5	87.4
Greece	73.4	75.5	78.6	53.9	68.0	84.9
Spain	72.0	81.9	82.9	67.0	72.6	88.3
France	49.2	64.3	72.5	47.5	74.0	87.4
Croatia	:	:	58.9	33.4	69.7	86.5
Italy	65.0	75.8	71.9	51.0	71.8	83.3
Cyprus	80.1	62.3	69.8	50.9	73.2	87.9
Latvia	61.4	73.1	77.2	44.9	77.1	90.5
Lithuania	:	:	:	25.9	75.7	93.2
Luxembourg	46.7	68.3	72.2	46.7	70.0	87.2
Hungary	:	61.0	73.6	42.2	75.1	85.9
Malta	59.6	76.3	78.1	59.1	72.2	90.8
Netherlands	47.6	66.1	70.5	64.2	82.4	90.6
Austria	53.3	72.1	67.4	54.4	78.3	87.2
Poland	:	64.3	75.6	27.0	70.6	88.8
Portugal	73.0	86.1	77.8	65.3	77.9	89.4
Romania	:	:	:	44.9	69.5	89.0
Slovenia	59.6	84.0	82.5	38.1	73.3	89.5
Slovakia	:	:	:	29.0	78.1	81.9
Finland	45.3	61.1	75.7	46.8	78.2	88.1
Sweden	60.2	75.9	79.4	57.0	86.6	91.8
Not covered	:	:	:	:	:	:
Denmark	61.3	73.9	80.2	63.8	83.3	90.1
Ireland	36.5	62.4	74.1	44.5	75.4	87.4
United Kingdom	51.2	63.5	74.7	63.8	78.0	87.5

Note: Data extracted on 04/04/2018; "TCN": population with citizenship other than those of EU-28 countries; "activity rate": the activity rate is the percentage of active persons in relation to the comparable total population. The economically active population comprises employed and unemployed persons. Population aged from 15 to 64 years. "-": not available.
Source: Eurostat (lfsa_argaedn)

Labour market participation and performance

Overall, the population of TCNs aged from 15 to 64 years showed significant differences in terms of labour market characteristics compared to the corresponding total population in EU-25 and EU-3 in 2016 (Table 7).

TCNs were significantly less active on the labour market than the total population. The largest gaps in terms of activity rates could be found in Croatia, Germany, the Netherlands, and Finland. In these Member States of the EU-25, the gap amounted to more than 15 percentage points in 2016. Third country nationals participated more

than the total population in only six EU Member States: Czech Republic, Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Slovenia.

With regard to employment rates, TCNs tended to show on average lower performance than the employed from the total population in EU Member States in 2016. In eight Member States of the EU-25, the gap between the two populations accounted for more than 15 percentage points: Germany, France, Croatia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, and Sweden. In this latter country, the employment rate of third-country nationals reached 48% while that of total population was 76%. Concerning the EU-3, the employment rate of the third country nationals was more than 10 percentage points than that of the total population in Denmark and the United Kingdom.

Finally, TCNs had a poorer performance in terms of unemployment compared to the total population in the majority of Member States of the EU-25 and EU-3 in 2016. The unemployment rate of third-country nationals was higher than 10 percentage points in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Austria, Finland, and Sweden. In only the Czech Republic and Cyprus, the unemployment gap was in favour of TCNs. In terms of level, the unemployment rate of TCNs was the lowest in Czech Republic (4.8%), Malta (8%), and the United Kingdom (8%). It peaked to around 30% in Greece, Spain, and Sweden.

Table 7. Activity, employment, and unemployment rates of third-country nationals and total population in EU-25 and EU-3 (%), 2016

	TCN aged from 15 to 64 years			Total population aged from 15 to 64 years		
	Activity rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Activity rate	Employment rate	Unemployment rate
Covered	:	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	54.0	39.3	27.3	67.6	62.3	7.9
Bulgaria	53.8	50.8	:	68.7	63.4	7.7
Czech Republic	78.6	75.6	3.8	75.0	72.0	4.0
Germany	58.5	51.4	12.1	77.9	74.7	4.2
Estonia	76.7	67.2	12.4	77.5	72.1	7.0
Greece	74.7	52.3	30.0	68.2	52.0	23.7
Spain	75.8	53.7	29.1	74.2	59.5	19.7
France	59.0	44.3	24.9	71.4	64.2	10.1
Croatia	33.0	30.3	:	65.6	56.9	13.3
Italy	68.9	57.8	16.1	64.9	57.2	11.9
Cyprus	71.0	63.6	10.5	73.4	63.7	13.2
Latvia	72.6	63.3	12.9	76.3	68.7	9.9
Lithuania	75.1	68.9	:	75.5	69.4	8.1
Luxembourg	63.3	50.2	20.8	70.0	65.6	6.3
Hungary	64.7	62.4	:	70.1	66.5	5.1
Malta	69.1	63.6	8.0	69.1	65.8	4.8
Netherlands	58.1	49.3	15.1	79.7	74.8	6.1
Austria	63.1	52.6	16.6	76.2	71.5	6.1
Poland	68.2	59.4	12.9	68.8	64.5	6.2
Portugal	79.0	64.3	18.6	73.7	65.2	11.5
Romania	:	:	:	65.6	61.6	6.1
Slovenia	76.9	66.7	13.3	71.6	65.8	8.1
Slovakia	64.6	60.3	:	71.9	64.9	9.7
Finland	58.8	44.1	24.9	75.9	69.1	9.0
Sweden	69.3	47.9	30.8	82.1	76.2	7.1
Not covered	:	:	:	:	:	:
Denmark	70.9	59.8	15.7	80.0	74.9	6.3
Ireland	67.3	60.0	10.9	72.7	66.5	8.6
United Kingdom	66.6	61.3	8.0	77.3	73.5	4.9

Note: Data extracted on 04/04/2018; 'TCN': population with citizenship other than those of EU-28 countries; 'activity rate': the activity rate is the percentage of active persons in relation to the comparable total population. The economically active population comprises employed and unemployed persons. 'employment rate': the employment rate is the percentage of employed persons in relation to the comparable total population. For the overall employment rate, the comparison is made with the population of working age (i.e., from 15 to 64 years). 'unemployment rate': The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force. Population aged from 15 to 64 years. "-": not available.

Source: Eurostat (ifsa_argan, ifsa_ergan, ifsa_urgan)

While third country nationals aged from 15 to 64 years had a lower labour market performance than the total population in 2016, there were also significant differences between men and women. In particular, TCN women participated lesser than TCN men in the labour market in many Member States of the EU-25 and in all the Member States of EU-3 (Table 8). For instance, the activity rate of TCN women was lower than 25 percentage points than that of TCN men in Belgium, Greece, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, and Slovenia. During that year, the gap in terms of activity rate between women and men in the total population was less marked within the total population in these countries.

Table 8. Activity rates of third-country nationals and total population in EU-25 and EU-3 by gender (%), 2016

	TCN aged from 15 to 64 years			Total population aged from 15 to 64 years		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Covered	:	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	54.0	68.6	40.5	67.6	72.3	62.9
Bulgaria	53.8	:	:	68.7	72.7	64.6
Czech Republic	78.6	89.4	67.2	75.0	82.2	67.6
Germany	58.5	68.1	48.0	77.9	82.2	73.6
Estonia	76.7	85.1	66.9	77.5	81.9	73.2
Greece	74.7	87.7	60.6	68.2	76.2	60.4
Spain	75.8	84.5	67.9	74.2	79.2	69.2
France	59.0	75.3	44.9	71.4	75.4	67.6
Croatia	33.0	:	37.5	65.6	70.3	60.9
Italy	68.9	82.4	55.8	64.9	74.8	55.2
Cyprus	71.0	69.5	72.0	73.4	78.7	68.5
Latvia	72.6	78.2	67.2	76.3	78.8	74.0
Lithuania	75.1	:	:	75.5	77.1	73.9
Luxembourg	63.3	77.8	49.8	70.0	75.1	64.7
Hungary	64.7	70.5	55.4	70.1	76.9	63.5
Malta	69.1	87.8	50.1	69.1	82.0	55.6
Netherlands	58.1	69.7	47.6	79.7	84.4	75.0
Austria	63.1	73.9	52.7	76.2	80.7	71.7
Poland	68.2	77.0	60.6	68.8	75.7	62.0
Portugal	79.0	86.6	73.3	73.7	77.2	70.5
Romania	:	:	:	65.6	74.8	56.2
Slovenia	76.9	88.4	60.1	71.6	74.5	68.6
Slovakia	64.6	84.4	:	71.9	78.3	65.4
Finland	58.8	69.9	48.8	75.9	77.7	74.1
Sweden	69.3	79.8	58.0	82.1	83.9	80.2
Not covered						
Denmark	70.9	76.3	66.5	80.0	82.6	77.2
Ireland	67.3	77.3	57.3	72.7	79.2	66.3
United Kingdom	66.6	77.8	56.3	77.3	82.5	72.2

Note: Data extracted on 05/04/2018; 'TCN': population with citizenship other than those of EU-28 countries; 'activity rate': the activity rate is the percentage of active persons in relation to the comparable total population. The economically active population comprises employed and unemployed persons. ":": not available.

Source: Eurostat (ifsa_argan)

2.1.6 Origin of third-country nationals with valid residence permits

Table 9 indicates the distribution of TCNs with valid permits in 2016 by citizenship of origin (i.e. aggregated at the continent level) in a selection of the Member States of EU-25 and EU-3. Around a third of TCNs with valid permits originated from European countries other than EU ones. Around a quarter of TCNs with valid permits had the citizenship of the African countries and another one from the Asian countries. Those originating from America accounted for around 11%. Only a few of TCNs with valid permits originated from Oceania.

These aggregate figures hide substantial country differences which reveal several migration pathways in the selected Member States of EU-25. While TCNs with a citizenship of African countries accounted for more than 30% in France (67%), Belgium (44%), Spain (40%), Portugal (32%), and Italy (31%), they only represented

a marginal proportion of TCNs in most of the Eastern European Member States. With values higher than 30%, Spain and Portugal showed in 2016 a disproportionate share of TCNs originating from America compared to the other Member States of the EU-25. Only three countries had shares of TCNs originating from this continent higher than 10% and lower than 30%: Luxembourg, Italy, and the Netherlands. More than 40% of the TCNs with valid permits in Cyprus, Hungary, the Netherlands, Romania, Finland, and Sweden originated from Asian countries. These TCNs accounted for more than a half of TCNs with valid permits in Cyprus, Hungary, and Sweden in 2016. Finally, TCNs with valid permits originated from European countries outside the European Union in 2016 accounted for a large majority of TCNs in several Eastern European countries but also in Greece and Austria. For instance, the share of these TCNs peaked to 95% in Slovenia and 87% in Poland in 2016.

Table 9. Number of valid permits in Member States of the EU-25 and EU-3 by citizenship of origin (%), 2016

	Total	Citizenship of origin (%)					
		Europe	Africa	America	Asia	Oceania	Other
Covered	17,581,444	35.0	27.4	11.0	23.8	0.2	2.6
Belgium	403,001	18.7	43.5	7.8	26.4	0.2	3.3
Bulgaria	36,085	83.5	1.3	2.3	12.2	0.1	0.5
Czech Republic	309,601	59.0	2.0	4.5	33.8	0.3	0.4
Germany	4,061,552	57.6	6.7	4.8	29.5	0.3	1.1
Estonia	191,337	54.2	0.4	0.6	1.7	0.0	43.2
Greece	584,652	78.6	3.5	1.0	16.8	0.1	0.0
Spain	2,574,747	8.0	39.9	35.0	16.8	0.1	0.2
France	2,672,813	11.7	67.5	7.0	13.4	0.2	0.2
Croatia	26,252	84.7	1.6	4.9	7.9	0.5	0.3
Italy	3,712,563	29.0	31.2	10.3	29.4	0.1	0.0
Cyprus	52,029	22.7	4.5	1.8	70.6	0.3	0.0
Latvia	320,962	20.3	0.1	0.2	2.1	0.0	77.2
Lithuania	38,833	76.6	1.3	1.7	11.7	0.1	8.6
Luxembourg	36,779	39.3	20.9	14.8	24.0	0.6	:
Hungary	54,814	24.2	7.2	8.7	59.5	0.3	0.0
Malta	20,661	38.4	18.5	7.6	34.3	1.1	0.0
Netherlands	373,490	18.2	20.0	11.8	42.5	1.2	6.2
Austria	471,054	79.4	4.3	3.7	12.4	0.2	0.0
Poland	544,841	86.8	1.4	1.1	10.6	0.1	0.0
Portugal	279,469	17.5	32.0	32.7	17.8	0.1	0.0
Romania	62,882	38.6	10.1	5.8	44.6	0.3	0.6
Slovenia	109,981	95.0	0.5	1.0	2.5	0.1	0.9
Slovakia	39,906	65.6	3.0	4.5	26.5	0.3	0.2
Finland	99,559	33.7	14.4	6.2	44.3	0.6	0.8
Sweden	503,581	9.8	22.2	6.3	55.2	0.7	5.9
Not covered	1,614,945	4.1	13.5	18.7	57.4	6.2	0.2
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	110,927	5.8	15.7	27.9	48.1	2.4	0.0
United Kingdom	1,504,018	3.9	13.3	18.0	58.1	6.4	0.2

Note: Data extracted on 10/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; 'Europe': this aggregate excludes EU countries during the reference year; 'other': this aggregate includes recognised non-citizens, stateless, and unknown citizenship. " ": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

In the Member States of the EU-3, for which data are available, TCNs with valid permits predominantly originated from Asian countries in 2016. They accounted, for instance, to 58% of the TCNs with valid permits in the United Kingdom during that year, against only 13% and 4% for the TCNs from African countries and European countries other than EU.

2.2 Further insights on valid residence permits by reason

This section provides a more detailed analysis of the evolution by years of those holding a valid permit by reason between 2008 and 2016 (data broken down by reason is not available for previous years). It also provides information on the origin of TCNs with valid permits issued for family, remunerated activities, education, refugee status, and subsidiary protection reasons.

It is nevertheless important to stress that the analysis of all valid permits by reason is possible only to a limited extent, as the majority of valid permits across the EU-25 have been issued for 'other' reasons.⁶ Moreover, the availability of data on valid permits for refugee status and for subsidiary protection is rather limited.

2.2.1 Family reasons

TCNs stock with valid permits and its evolution

The stock of valid permits held for family reasons in all valid permits raised from 27% in 2008 to 39% in 2016 at the EU-25 level (Table 10). The rise was particularly strong from 2009 to 2010. Their share in all valid permits grew in the majority of Member States of the EU-25. Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Portugal, and Slovakia were among the Member States who experienced the strongest growths in the stock of these valid permits in relative terms during that period.

In 2016, the stocks of valid permits held for family reasons in all valid permits were the largest in Belgium (57%), Luxembourg (56%), Italy (50%), Sweden (45%), and Romania (42%). On the contrary, Estonia (4%), Latvia (7%), Poland (8%) and Slovenia (12%) had significant lower shares of valid permits held for family reasons in all valid permits that the other Member States of the EU-25 during that year.

⁶ Other reasons category does not include valid permit issued for the reasons related to refugee status or subsidiary protection status. Persons granted one of these statuses and holding a valid residence permit are primarily reported under the respective category (i.e. 'refugee status' or 'subsidiary protection').

Table 10. Share of valid permits held for family reasons in all valid permits on 31 December in EU-25 (%), 2008–2016

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Covered	26.9	28.9	36.0	35.4	36.5	39.9	40.4	40.0	39.2
Belgium	0.0	0.0	49.3	50.8	52.5	53.9	55.0	55.7	57.4
Bulgaria	34.0	32.2	32.0	34.5	32.3	31.3	33.8	33.5	22.8
Czech Republic	24.6	27.2	33.0	31.9	34.6	34.6	34.5	34.9	34.5
Germany	32.9	36.7	36.5	39.5	40.7	42.2	42.4	42.2	40.5
Estonia	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.0
Greece	41.0	44.4	45.3	47.1	47.6	47.7	44.4	43.3	41.9
Spain	18.4	21.6	30.5	33.1	34.8	36.2	36.9	35.9	36.5
France	38.1	39.1	39.7	39.5	39.3	39.2	39.7	39.8	41.3
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	66.7	72.9	37.5	36.3
Italy	28.8	28.4	45.2	38.5	39.4	50.8	51.5	52.3	49.8
Cyprus	0.3	1.1	2.6	6.0	17.0	14.3	27.9	29.9	27.9
Latvia	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.5	4.0	4.9	6.1	6.4	6.6
Lithuania	13.9	14.6	18.3	6.3	17.1	16.6	16.6	17.8	18.5
Luxembourg	:	62.9	59.5	58.9	58.5	55.0	55.4	55.8	55.6
Hungary	7.3	11.7	19.9	20.9	22.1	25.9	22.7	25.1	23.0
Malta	15.2	13.5	10.7	8.0	5.0	31.7	31.5	31.6	33.0
Netherlands	37.9	36.1	43.1	51.2	50.1	41.1	43.8	39.2	39.6
Austria	0.0	14.0	13.3	14.3	15.2	17.1	16.8	16.8	17.2
Poland	0.0	:	47.0	19.1	18.9	9.6	9.5	6.8	7.7
Portugal	12.4	7.7	5.8	5.7	8.6	12.3	16.7	20.7	25.0
Romania	32.5	39.7	45.6	46.7	44.5	43.3	46.0	43.3	41.9
Slovenia	10.4	12.8	14.1	14.7	13.9	13.4	13.6	13.4	12.3
Slovakia	18.3	22.7	25.3	30.4	36.2	36.4	35.9	36.1	36.8
Finland	37.2	41.9	45.3	0.8	0.9	53.7	39.7	39.1	37.8
Sweden	53.5	53.0	51.6	53.4	55.1	54.1	52.8	50.0	45.4

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; " ": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

Table 11 shows the number of all valid permits held for family reasons in the Member States of the EU-25 and share of valid permits in the total population in the analysed period 2008–2016. During this period, the overall number of those holding a permit for family reasons increased from 4.2 million in 2008 to 6.9 million in 2016. Those holding a permit for family reasons made up only 1% of the total population in 2008 but their share increased to 1.6% in 2016.

The share of valid permits for family reasons in total population grew in nearly all the EU Member States under consideration between 2008 and 2016. Although cross-country comparisons over years may be in part biased because of some methodological and administrative differences due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, it can be observed that valid permits for family

reasons experienced the sharpest rise during this period in Cyprus, Malta, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Italy.

In 2016, EU Member States with the highest number of valid permits for family reasons were Italy, Germany, France, and Spain. All the other countries showed much lower number of valid permits for family reasons. However, when the size of the total population is taken into account, the largest shares of valid permits for family reasons could be found in Luxembourg (3.5%), Italy (3.0%), Greece (2.3%), Sweden (2.3%), and Belgium (2.0%).

Table 11. Number of all valid permits held for family reasons in EU-25 and share of valid permits in total population, 2008–2016

	Valid permits on 31 december of each year (thousands)										% of total population									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	4,191	4,793.0	5,802.6	5,808.1	6,043.1	6,597.5	6,781.9	6,893.2	6,890.2		1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	
Belgium	0.0	0.0	160.3	174.0	178.2	182.7	193.5	204.2	231.5		0.0	0.0	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0	
Bulgaria	3.8	4.0	4.6	4.9	5.4	5.8	13.4	15.2	8.2		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	
Czech Republic	75.5	83.1	88.0	90.2	90.4	95.2	96.9	100.5	106.7		0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	
Germany	1,200.0	1,357.0	1,368.4	1,460.1	1,523.3	1,494.4	1,535.9	1,586.5	1,643.8		1.5	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	
Estonia	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.4	6.5	6.6	7.0	7.5	7.7		0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	
Greece	214.5	251.0	237.3	259.0	230.9	243.3	239.9	245.6	244.8		1.9	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	
Spain	494.2	645.8	817.0	924.8	974.2	980.0	965.4	929.1	940.5		1.1	1.4	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	
France	877.0	889.4	909.8	933.0	961.8	984.2	1,023.5	1,048.0	1,103.5		1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	8.2	8.3	9.0	9.5		:	:	:	:	:	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Italy	873.6	1,017.1	1,594.8	1,400.4	1,486.5	1,972.0	2,030.4	2,046.0	1,849.5		1.5	1.7	2.7	2.4	2.5	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.0	
Cyprus	0.3	1.3	2.9	6.8	8.3	8.0	13.1	14.2	14.5		0.0	0.2	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.7	1.7	
Latvia	11.8	12.0	11.9	12.8	14.1	16.9	20.5	21.2	21.2		0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	
Lithuania	4.0	4.2	5.1	1.8	5.1	5.3	5.9	6.4	7.2		0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Luxembourg	:	15.3	13.6	15.2	16.3	16.4	17.6	19.1	20.5		:	3.1	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.5	
Hungary	7.4	10.8	18.1	18.9	17.0	17.2	9.1	11.4	12.6		0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Malta	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	3.1	4.8	5.9	6.8		0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.5	
Netherlands	158.5	156.4	159.6	164.4	150.4	144.2	149.7	143.1	147.8		1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	
Austria	0.0	62.5	61.6	68.1	75.1	77.1	72.0	76.3	80.8		0.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	
Poland	0.0	:	61.5	27.6	43.0	30.4	34.8	33.8	41.9		0.0	:	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Portugal	44.4	27.8	20.0	18.8	27.4	37.0	49.2	58.6	70.0		0.4	0.3	0.2	0	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	
Romania	19.1	24.5	27.5	28.4	23.9	24.0	26.4	26.6	26.3		0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Slovenia	10.0	11.4	12.1	13.0	11.3	13.2	12.8	13.6	13.6		0.5	0.6	0.6	1	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	
Slovakia	3.7	5.0	6.0	7.1	9.0	9.1	10.3	12.3	14.7		0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	
Finland	39.8	47.3	55.3	1.0	1.2	34.0	36.5	38.3	37.6		0.8	0.9	1.0	0	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	
Sweden	147.4	160.7	160.9	171.1	183.6	189.1	204.9	220.8	228.9		1.6	1.7	1.7	2	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.3	

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid, demo_pjangroup)

TCNs stock with valid permits and its origin

At the EU-25 level, most of the TCNs with valid permits for family reasons in 2016 originated from European countries other than EU ones (34%), Africa (31%), and Asia (22%) (Table 9). Nonetheless, these aggregated shares high substantial differences at the country. In particular, TCNs from African and American countries were much more concentrated in a few EU-25 Member States than those from Asian countries and the rest of Europe.

TCNs originating African countries made up a high share of TCNs with valid permits for family reasons in France (70%), Belgium (49%), and to a lesser extent in Spain (39%) and Italy (31%). Those from American countries were overrepresented in Spain (39%) and Portugal (37%). TCNs originating from Asia were predominant among TCNs with valid permits for family reasons in Hungary (73%) and to a lesser extent in Czech Republic (40%) and Cyprus (43%). Finally, TCNs originating from European countries other than EU ones had high weights in the stocks of TCNs with valid permits for family reasons in several Eastern European countries, Greece, Austria and Germany.

Table 12. Valid permits issued for family reasons in EU-25 and EU-3 by citizenship of origin (%), 2016

	Total	Citizenship of origin (%)					
		Europe	Africa	America	Asia	Oceania	Other
Covered	6,890,180	33.5	30.8	13.0	21.9	0.2	0.6
Belgium	231,505	19.6	48.8	8.2	20.0	0.2	3.2
Bulgaria	8,227	62.6	3.0	4.7	28.9	0.2	0.7
Czech Republic	106,738	49.9	3.7	5.6	39.7	0.5	0.6
Germany	1,643,806	60.7	8.4	6.3	23.4	0.3	0.8
Estonia	7,711	77.4	1.9	4.8	11.2	0.3	4.3
Greece	244,755	81.0	3.2	1.5	14.1	0.1	0.0
Spain	940,494	5.6	39.4	38.9	15.9	0.2	0.1
France	1,103,466	9.4	70.2	8.7	11.4	0.2	0.1
Croatia	9,529	82.7	2.4	6.4	7.6	0.7	0.2
Italy	1,849,496	31.6	31.4	11.4	25.5	0.1	0.0
Cyprus	14,506	47.7	5.5	3.6	42.7	0.6	0.0
Latvia	21,178	83.9	0.7	1.8	12.7	0.2	0.6
Lithuania	7,178	79.3	2.7	3.8	12.9	0.3	0.9
Luxembourg	20,456	34.4	26.1	19.4	19.1	0.6	0.2
Hungary	12,633	17.1	3.0	6.5	73.3	0.2	0.0
Malta	6,826	37.1	24.5	10.5	25.7	2.1	0.1
Netherlands	147,826	27.4	20.2	13.4	33.1	1.0	4.9
Austria	80,833	70.0	7.1	6.1	16.4	0.4	0.0
Poland	41,916	58.7	10.3	5.3	25.1	0.3	0.2
Portugal	69,998	16.4	31.8	37.4	14.2	0.2	0.0
Romania	26,342	45.0	7.1	7.2	39.8	0.4	0.5
Slovenia	13,554	92.9	0.8	2.7	2.6	0.2	0.7
Slovakia	14,700	58.0	5.0	6.3	30.0	0.4	0.2
Finland	37,639	33.3	17.0	7.5	40.2	0.8	1.3
Sweden	228,868	14.2	22.2	9.0	48.2	1.0	5.4
Not covered	546,861	4.9	17.5	14.6	59.4	3.3	0.3
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	27,243	7.8	17.2	31.4	37.5	6.0	0.1
United Kingdom	519,618	4.7	17.5	13.7	60.5	3.2	0.3

Note: Data extracted on 10/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; 'Europe': this aggregate excludes EU countries during the reference year; 'other': this aggregate includes recognised non-citizens, stateless, and unknown citizenship. "–": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

2.2.2 Remunerated activities reasons

TCNs stock with valid permits and its evolution

The stock of valid permits held for remunerated activities in all valid permits went down from 20% in 2008 to 16% in 2016 at the EU-25 level (Table 13). The decline was marked between 2009 and 2010 and between 2012 and 2013. Nevertheless, the Member States of the EU-25 showed different patterns since this stock grew in some of them and decreased in others during the period 2008–2016.

Table 13. Share of valid permits held for remunerated activities reasons in all valid permits on 31 December in EU-25 (%), 2008–2016

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Covered	20.0	21.6	18.6	20.2	19.3	16.5	16.0	16.0	15.7
Belgium	0.0	0.0	8.5	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.2
Bulgaria	2.5	1.9	2.0	5.3	4.1	3.9	1.5	13.5	8.4
Czech Republic	51.0	46.8	35.9	35.7	25.9	22.0	20.5	19.2	19.2
Germany	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.8	3.2	3.6
Estonia	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.8	2.1
Greece	48.9	43.3	35.8	34.5	22.7	19.4	14.5	12.3	11.3
Spain	32.2	32.4	18.8	17.2	14.7	11.0	9.4	8.5	7.3
France	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.8	4.0
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	21.9	15.9	7.1	12.2
Italy	46.4	50.9	50.6	56.8	55.9	44.6	43.6	42.6	41.9
Cyprus	64.6	59.6	64.6	71.3	38.5	61.5	51.4	50.9	48.3
Latvia	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.2
Lithuania	18.0	11.7	9.4	2.2	16.9	21.2	27.8	25.9	29.1
Luxembourg	:	29.3	25.0	21.8	17.3	16.2	15.5	14.9	14.6
Hungary	21.2	18.9	17.4	17.2	18.4	7.8	0.3	0.5	0.4
Malta	50.2	48.7	41.6	45.5	41.6	32.1	30.6	36.5	39.7
Netherlands	5.4	5.6	7.1	9.0	10.4	9.4	13.9	13.6	14.7
Austria	0.0	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4
Poland	0.0	:	20.7	43.0	58.7	41.2	41.2	51.7	66.5
Portugal	17.5	10.9	5.1	4.1	5.0	10.5	13.9	14.3	13.9
Romania	23.3	17.1	12.4	10.9	9.3	8.7	9.4	8.8	8.7
Slovenia	52.5	43.5	35.5	30.1	24.2	16.6	12.0	13.4	15.6
Slovakia	30.0	32.6	30.5	32.2	25.3	30.1	27.9	28.3	30.2
Finland	10.5	8.7	8.6	1.0	1.1	23.8	16.6	16.2	16.5
Sweden	4.2	5.4	4.7	6.4	7.8	7.3	6.8	7.5	6.5

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

The stock of these permits in all valid permits dropped significantly in Hungary, Spain, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, and Czech Republic. It increased substantially in Bulgaria, Germany, Latvia, and the Netherlands. However, these latter countries were among those having the lowest stocks of valid permits held for remunerated activities in all valid permits during that period.

In 2016, the three Member States of the EU-25 with the largest relative stocks of these permits were Poland (66%), Cyprus (48%), and Italy (42%). During the same year, the stock of valid permits held for remunerated activities in all valid permits was below 5% in Germany, France, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, and Austria.

Table 14. Number of all valid permits held for remunerated activities reasons in EU-25 and share of valid permits in total population, 2008–2016

	Valid permits on 31 december of each year (thousands)										% of total population									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	3,111	3,580.6	2,997.7	3,308.8	3,198.9	2,730.0	2,689.3	2,753.3	2,763.1		0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	
Belgium	0.0	0.0	27.6	28.5	28.6	28.0	28.6	28.8	29.1		0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Bulgaria	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	6.1	3.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Czech Republic	156.2	142.8	95.7	101.1	67.7	60.5	57.5	55.2	59.5		1.5	1.4	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	
Germany	70.2	66.0	69.8	73.7	85.0	90.5	102.1	118.6	144.6		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	
Estonia	2.1	2.3	2.5	3.3	3.1	2.4	2.7	3.5	4.1		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	
Greece	255.7	244.6	187.5	189.7	110.4	99.1	78.4	69.7	66.3		2.3	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	
Spain	863.4	970.0	503.6	480.3	410.7	296.4	245.5	220.0	189.2		1.9	2.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	
France	72.0	75.7	80.7	86.8	91.9	90.6	94.4	100.6	106.8		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	2.7	1.8	1.7	3.2		:	:	:	:	:	:	0.0	0.0	0.1	
Italy	1,408.0	1,825.8	1,783.6	2,065.5	2,109.0	1,732.5	1,720.4	1,667.3	1,557.0		2.4	3.1	3.0	3.5	3.6	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	
Cyprus	73.2	69.8	72.3	80.4	18.7	34.5	24.2	24.0	25.1		9.4	8.8	8.8	9.6	2.2	4.0	2.8	2.8	3.0	
Latvia	2.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.1	3.1	3.9		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Lithuania	5.2	3.4	2.6	0.6	5.1	6.7	10.0	9.2	11.3		0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	
Luxembourg	:	7.1	5.7	5.6	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.4		:	1.4	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	
Hungary	21.5	17.5	15.8	15.5	14.2	5.2	0.1	0.2	0.2		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Malta	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.6	2.8	3.2	4.7	6.8	8.2		0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.8	
Netherlands	22.7	24.2	26.2	28.8	31.3	32.8	47.3	49.5	54.9		0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Austria	0.0	5.4	5.6	6.2	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.8	6.7		0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Poland	0.0	:	27.1	62.2	133.2	130.4	150.2	259.0	362.1		0.0	:	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.0	
Portugal	62.7	39.4	17.6	13.4	15.9	31.6	41.0	40.4	38.7		0.6	0.4	0.2	0	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	
Romania	13.7	10.6	7.5	6.6	5.0	4.8	5.4	5.4	5.5		0.1	0.1	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Slovenia	50.5	38.7	30.4	26.6	19.7	16.3	11.3	13.7	17.1		2.5	1.9	1.5	1	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.8	
Slovakia	6.0	7.2	7.2	7.5	6.3	7.5	8.0	9.6	12.0		0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Finland	11.2	9.9	10.6	1.1	1.4	15.0	15.3	15.9	16.4		0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Sweden	11.5	16.4	14.5	20.6	25.9	25.5	26.2	32.9	32.7		0.1	0.2	0.2	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; " ": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid, demo_pjangroup)

Table 14 shows the number of all valid permits held for remunerated activities in the Member States of the EU-25 and the share of valid permits in the total population in the period 2008–2016. The number of TCNs with valid permits for remunerated activities reasons declined during that period, from 3.1 million in 2008 to 2.8 million in 2016. Yet, their share in total population only decreased gently, from 0.7% in 2008 to 0.6% in 2016.

Although cross-country comparisons over time is subject to methodological limitations, the impact of the economic crisis starting in 2009 is obvious. The number of valid permits held for remunerated activities declined significantly from 2009 to 2010 in EU-25. It fell by more than 20% in Portugal, Spain, Greece, Czech Republic, and Romania. Despite a sharp rebound in 2011 at the EU-25 level, the number of valid permits for remunerated activities was lower in the subsequent years. This trend is also reflected in the share of these permits in the total population. At the country

level, such decline in the number of valid permits for remunerated activities was noticeable in Spain, Greece, and Italy notably between 2011 and 2013. Still, a few countries experienced a significant increase in the number of these permits during these years, namely Germany and Poland.

Even though the number of valid permits for remunerated activities at the EU-25 level increased after 2014, it nevertheless did not reach the maximum of 2011. In most Member States, the number of permits held for remunerated activities increased since 2014. In a few Member States, the number of permits decreased after the year. These countries were mainly South European ones, including Greece, Spain, Italy, and Portugal.

In 2016, the EU Member State with the highest number of valid permits for remunerated activities was Italy. All the other countries, including large ones such as France, Germany, and Poland showed much lower number of valid permits for remunerated activities. When the size of the total population is considered, the largest shares of valid permits for remunerated activities were in Cyprus (3.0%), Italy (2.6%), and Malta (1.8%).

TCNs stock with valid permits and its origin

Within the EU-25 Member States, TCNs with valid permits for remunerated activities reasons in 2016 mainly originated from the rest of Europe (37%) and Asia (30%) (Table 15 Those from African countries represented a fifth of the TCNs with valid permits for these reasons while the share of TCNs from American countries was only 12%.

TCNs originating from other European countries than EU ones in 2016 accounted for the majority of TCNs with valid permits for remunerated activities reasons in many Eastern European countries. For instance, their share was above 80% in Estonia, Croatia, Poland, and Slovenia. In this latter country, 96% of the TCNs with valid permits for the above reasons were from the rest of Europe. TCNs originating from the rest of Europe were also overrepresented in Greece since nearly three quarters of TCNs with valid permits for remunerated activities reasons were from these countries.

TCNs originating from African countries made up a substantial share of the TCNs with valid permits for remunerated activities reasons in France since they accounted for more than half of them in 2016. These TCNs from African were also well presented in Italy (27%), Belgium (27%), and to a lesser extent in Portugal (2016). However, their relative weight was small in most of the other EU-25 Member States.

Likewise, TCNs from America accounted for a large share of the TCNs with valid permits for remunerated activities reasons in Spain (51%) and Portugal (36%) in 2016. Their shares in these two countries were well above theirs in the other EU-25 Member States.

On the contrary to those from Africa and America, TCNs from Asian countries were visible among TCNs with valid permits for remunerated activities reasons in many EU-25 Member States. Their shares even reached more than 40% in five of them: Cyprus (86%), Hungary (65%), the Netherlands (56%), and Malta (44%).

Table 15. Valid permits issued for remunerated activities reasons in EU-25 and EU-3 by citizenship of origin (%), 2016

	Total	Citizenship of origin (%)					
		Europe	Africa	America	Asia	Oceania	Other
Covered	2,763,104	37.5	20.7	11.5	30.0	0.3	0.0
Belgium	29,105	21.9	27.0	18.5	31.0	0.7	0.9
Bulgaria	3,039	70.8	2.6	2.5	23.4	0.3	0.4
Czech Republic	59,505	66.9	0.7	4.2	27.8	0.2	0.0
Germany	144,602	28.7	6.2	16.3	46.5	2.1	0.2
Estonia	4,060	80.2	0.9	6.9	11.0	0.8	0.2
Greece	66,316	72.4	5.8	0.7	21.1	0.0	0.0
Spain	189,179	5.3	25.5	51.2	17.8	0.1	0.0
France	106,776	8.0	54.4	11.1	25.7	0.7	0.1
Croatia	3,214	83.2	0.9	4.5	11.0	0.4	0.0
Italy	1,556,974	29.7	27.3	9.1	33.8	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	25,148	10.0	3.7	0.7	85.6	0.1	0.0
Latvia	3,860	82.6	0.7	2.6	13.8	0.2	0.1
Lithuania	11,312	87.8	0.3	1.4	10.4	0.1	0.1
Luxembourg	5,377	27.8	16.7	16.6	37.8	0.8	0.0
Hungary	239	7.9	4.6	20.9	65.3	1.3	0.0
Malta	8,196	44.0	7.7	4.2	43.7	0.3	0.0
Netherlands	54,890	16.5	5.8	19.2	56.3	2.0	0.1
Austria	6,737	34.3	5.9	22.5	35.7	1.6	0.0
Poland	362,139	92.9	0.3	0.5	6.3	0.0	0.0
Portugal	38,719	12.9	19.5	35.6	31.9	0.1	0.0
Romania	5,492	34.1	3.5	3.4	58.3	0.5	0.3
Slovenia	17,104	95.8	0.2	0.9	3.1	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	12,045	58.7	1.6	4.1	35.4	0.2	0.0
Finland	16,387	33.4	9.0	6.2	50.2	0.8	0.4
Sweden	32,689	17.4	7.8	11.6	59.9	2.6	0.7
Not covered	354,321	4.4	7.4	20.0	48.7	19.5	0.0
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	20,973	6.8	10.3	19.9	59.8	3.2	0.0
United Kingdom	333,348	4.2	7.2	20.0	48.0	20.5	0.0

Note: Data extracted on 10/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; 'Europe': this aggregate excludes EU countries during the reference year; 'other': this aggregate includes recognised non-citizens, stateless, and unknown citizenship. "·": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

2.2.3 Education reasons

TCNs stock with valid permits and its evolution

The stock of valid permits held for education reasons in all valid permits remained quite stable between 2008 and 2016, fluctuating around 3% (Table 16).

Yet, the Member States of the EU-25 showed different patterns since this stock rose in some of them and fell in others during the whole period. The stock of these permits in all valid permits fell significantly in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Sweden, and to a lesser extent Cyprus. It increased sharply notably in Latvia, Estonia, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia. Several of these countries were among those having the lowest stocks of valid permits held for education activities in all valid permits during that period.

Table 16. Share of valid permits held for education reasons in all valid permits on 31 December in EU-25 (%), 2008–2016

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Covered	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5
Belgium	0.0	0.0	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.2
Bulgaria	31.1	33.8	32.9	32.7	29.8	24.0	9.7	7.3	4.2
Czech Republic	2.3	2.4	3.1	3.5	4.2	4.9	5.6	6.1	7.3
Germany	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.6	3.9	4.1	3.9
Estonia	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	1.0	1.2
Greece	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.5	0.7	0.4	0.4
Spain	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.0
France	5.7	4.7	4.8	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.7	5.5
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	2.8	5.2	2.7	2.9
Italy	2.9	2.3	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Cyprus	12.5	16.7	15.1	13.2	24.3	6.0	6.3	7.3	8.0
Latvia	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.9
Lithuania	3.6	3.6	3.9	3.2	3.3	4.0	4.1	4.8	5.2
Luxembourg	:	0.8	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.2
Hungary	8.6	8.3	9.2	9.2	10.9	6.1	26.2	24.4	26.9
Malta	5.2	7.3	7.4	6.6	6.4	17.9	19.0	13.8	9.0
Netherlands	3.3	3.8	4.8	5.6	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.3
Austria	0.0	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.4	4.0	4.6	5.0	4.8
Poland	0.0	:	9.9	5.6	5.9	7.0	8.4	8.0	6.4
Portugal	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.9	3.1	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.4
Romania	20.8	20.3	19.5	20.4	20.7	21.2	20.2	23.8	24.7
Slovenia	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.1	1.9	1.3	1.7	1.9
Slovakia	4.0	3.1	3.1	3.8	4.2	6.3	8.0	8.9	9.9
Finland	5.7	5.9	6.3	1.9	2.3	15.2	10.5	10.4	10.5
Sweden	7.0	8.3	8.5	6.1	4.9	3.6	3.6	3.3	2.9

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; " ": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

In 2016, the stocks of valid permits held for education reasons in all valid permits were the largest in Hungary (27%), Romania (25%), Finland (10%), Slovakia (10%), and Malta (9%).

Table 17 shows the total number of valid permits held for education reasons in EU-25 in the period 2008–2016. Most Member States experienced a slight upward trend in the number of permits held for education reasons, although the overall number of permits fluctuated across the period, from 474 thousand in 2008, to around 609 thousand in 2016.⁷ Yet, the number of valid permits held for education reasons in total

⁷ It is important to stress that the United Kingdom accounted for the largest number of valid permits issued for education reasons in the European Union during that period. The number of these permits was 539 thousand in 2010 (data are not available for earlier years) and 507 thousand in 2016.

population in EU-25 accounted for only 0.1% of the total population during that period.

Table 17. Number of all valid permits held for education reasons in EU-25 and share of valid permits in total population, 2008–2016

	Valid permits on 31 december of each year (thousands)										% of total population									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	473.8	473.9	469.5	489.5	501.4	527.0	563.0	600.9	608.7		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Belgium	0.0	0.0	10.9	10.7	11.0	11.5	12.1	12.8	12.9		0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Bulgaria	3.5	4.2	4.7	4.6	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.3	1.5		0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	
Czech Republic	7.0	7.3	8.3	9.8	11.0	13.6	15.6	17.5	22.6		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	
Germany	117.2	116.5	118.4	104.8	115.7	126.6	141.1	156.0	158.5		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Estonia	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.4	1.9	2.3		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	
Greece	6.1	5.8	6.4	7.2	7.2	7.6	3.7	2.4	2.2		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Spain	38.8	42.4	44.6	49.4	40.5	42.2	46.5	47.0	52.0		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
France	130.5	106.9	110.1	143.2	144.5	145.4	145.4	148.8	146.5		0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Croatia						0.3	0.6	0.7	0.8							0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Italy	87.3	81.4	39.8	49.0	50.9	52.3	53.1	50.7	46.2		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Cyprus	14.1	19.6	16.9	14.9	11.8	3.4	2.9	3.5	4.2		1.8	2.5	2.1	1.8	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	
Latvia	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.9	2.5	2.8		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Lithuania	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Luxembourg		0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5			0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Hungary	8.7	7.7	8.3	8.4	8.5	4.0	10.5	11.1	14.7		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Malta	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.8	2.9	2.6	1.9		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.4	
Netherlands	13.9	16.6	17.8	18.0	18.3	21.2	20.3	22.1	23.7		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Austria	0.0	11.7	13.8	15.3	17.0	18.0	19.5	22.5	22.5		0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	
Poland	0.0		12.9	8.1	13.5	22.1	30.7	40.2	34.8		0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Portugal	5.0	4.7	5.7	6.4	9.9	11.3	10.0	8.9	9.5		0.0	0.0	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Romania	12.2	12.5	11.8	12.4	11.1	11.8	11.6	14.6	15.5		0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Slovenia	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.2	1.7	2.1		0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Slovakia	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.6	2.3	3.0	3.9		0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Finland	6.1	6.6	7.7	2.3	2.8	9.6	9.7	10.2	10.4		0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Sweden	19.3	25.2	26.5	19.5	16.3	12.6	14.1	14.7	14.7		0.2	0.3	0.3	0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; "-": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid, demo_pjangroup)

The majority of the Member States of the EU-25 showed an upward trend in the number of permits issued from the beginning of the period to 2016. Particular strong growth could be observed in Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, and Slovakia. Notable exceptions included Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Sweden, and Italy. In the latter, the number of valid permits for education reasons sank from 87 thousand in 2008 to 46 thousand in 2016.

TCNs stock with valid permits and its evolution

More than 40% of the TCNs with valid permits for education reasons in 2016 were from Asian countries (Table 18). TCNs from the rest of Europe accounted for 19% with valid permits for education reasons, slightly above TCNs from America (14%) but below TCNs from Africa (23%).

Table 18. Valid permits issued for education reasons in EU-25 and EU-3 by citizenship of origin (%), 2016

	Total	Citizenship of origin (%)					
		Europe	Africa	America	Asia	Oceania	Other
Covered	608,683	19.0	22.7	14.4	43.3	0.4	0.2
Belgium	12,946	9.6	48.1	12.0	30.0	0.4	0.0
Bulgaria	1,511	73.3	7.7	0.9	17.7	0.2	0.1
Czech Republic	22,601	51.9	4.2	11.3	32.3	0.3	0.0
Germany	158,511	14.5	13.8	11.0	59.6	0.5	0.7
Estonia	2,313	38.0	16.7	7.4	37.5	0.2	0.1
Greece	2,196	49.4	13.4	7.8	29.4	0.0	0.0
Spain	52,049	7.3	8.0	57.4	26.8	0.5	0.0
France	146,477	4.3	53.9	9.9	31.7	0.2	0.0
Croatia	773	60.2	4.4	16.8	18.4	0.3	0.0
Italy	46,157	16.3	13.3	15.5	54.5	0.4	0.0
Cyprus	4,181	6.1	8.5	2.1	82.7	0.6	0.0
Latvia	2,838	25.5	2.7	0.8	70.6	0.1	0.2
Lithuania	2,011	40.0	11.1	1.4	47.0	0.1	0.2
Luxembourg	459	14.2	19.4	27.2	39.2	0.0	0.0
Hungary	14,741	14.1	17.8	7.7	60.1	0.3	0.0
Malta	1,866	16.5	34.1	15.6	33.4	0.4	0.0
Netherlands	23,654	11.2	6.9	18.8	61.9	1.1	0.1
Austria	22,497	56.0	3.9	7.0	32.7	0.4	0.0
Poland	34,763	68.3	2.8	1.8	26.9	0.1	0.1
Portugal	9,478	3.7	60.8	26.4	9.0	0.0	0.0
Romania	15,547	43.2	23.5	1.3	31.9	0.1	0.1
Slovenia	2,060	90.8	0.9	1.1	7.2	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	3,943	68.5	2.7	5.7	23.0	0.1	0.0
Finland	10,412	22.5	8.5	7.3	61.1	0.6	0.0
Sweden	14,699	8.0	7.2	14.0	67.7	2.9	0.1
Not covered	542,433	3.3	8.1	19.4	67.9	1.2	0.1
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	35,323	2.2	8.1	41.8	47.7	0.3	0.0
United Kingdom	507,110	3.3	8.1	17.8	69.4	1.3	0.1

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" : not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

TCNs from Asian countries were particularly overrepresented in Cyprus (83%), Latvia (71%), Sweden (68%), the Netherlands (62%), Finland (61%), Hungary (60%), and Germany (60%). Well distributed across the EU-25 countries, TCNs from Asia were

only marginal of TCNs with valid permits for education reasons in Slovenia (7%) and Portugal (9%).

TCNs from America accounted for a substantial share of TCNs with valid permits for education reasons in Spain (57%), and to a lesser extent in Luxembourg (27%), and Portugal (26%). On the contrary to TCNs originating from Asia, their shares did not exceed 15% in many EU-25 countries.

A rather similar concentration pattern can be observed for TCNs originating from African countries. These TCNs were strongly represented among TCNs with valid permits for education reasons in France (70%), Belgium (49%), Spain (39%), Portugal (32%), and Italy (31%). Nonetheless, these TCNs were marginal in many other EU-25 countries in 2016.

Lastly, TCNs originating from the rest of Europe made up more than 50% of the TCNs with valid permits for education reasons in 11 EU-25 Member States in 2016. Their shares were at the highest levels in Slovenia (93%), Latvia (84%), and Croatia (83%). Their shares were minimal only France (9%) and Spain (5%).

2.2.4 Refugees status and subsidiary protection reasons

TCNs stock with valid permits and its evolution

Available data on valid permits for refugee status, on the one hand, and for subsidiary protection, on the other hand, are not comprehensive across time and countries. Many countries do not report on these two categories. Moreover, the available data on these permits indicate that they accounted for a negligible share of the total population at the EU-25 level.

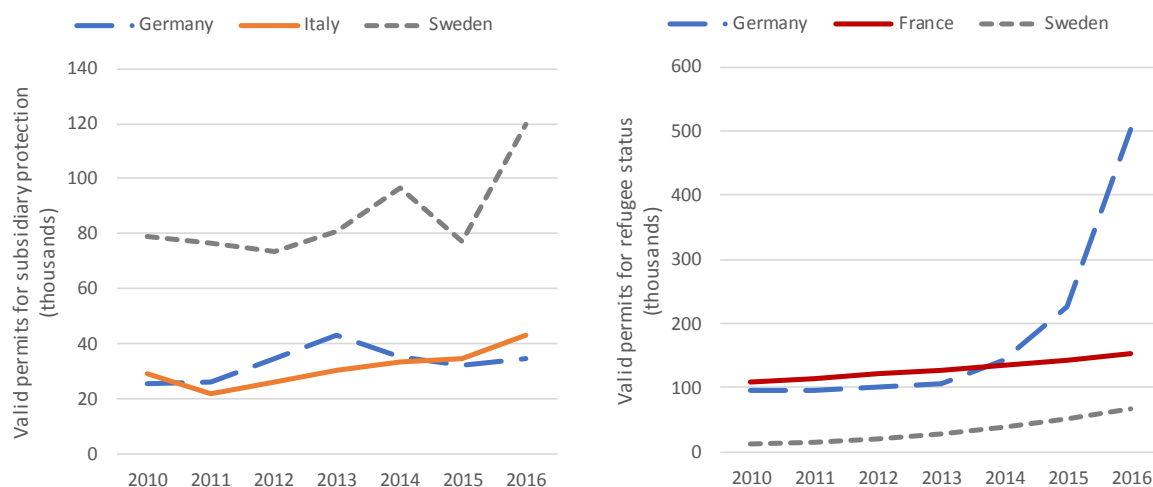
Figure 5 shows the number of valid permits issued for refugee status and subsidiary protection in the EU Member States of EU-25 having the highest numbers of these permits in 2016.⁸

Sweden was the EU-25 country for which data is available having the highest number of valid permits for subsidiary protection between 2010 and 2016, followed by Italy and Germany. These three countries experienced an increase in the number of these permits over the period under consideration. In 2016, Sweden had 119 thousand valid permits for subsidiary protection, against 43 and 35 thousand for Italy and Germany, respectively.

With respect to valid permits for refugee status, Germany was the EU-25 Member State characterised by the largest number in 2016. The number of these permits reached 504 thousand in 2016, well above France (154 thousand) and Sweden (66 thousand). All the three countries showed an upward trend in the number of valid permits for refugee status. The growth of these permits was particularly high in Germany from 2014.

⁸ It is not possible to include the Netherlands in the selection since the data are merged for the categories. The 'refugee status' category is included in the 'subsidiary protection' category.

Figure 5. Number of all valid permits held for refugee status and subsidiary protection in selected Member States of the EU-25 and share of valid permits in total population, 2010–2016



Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; "-": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid, demo_pjangroup)

TCNs stock with valid permits and its evolution

Based on available data in the EU-25 Member States reporting on valid permits for refugee status and subsidiary protection in 2016 by citizenship of origin, it can be observed that most of the TCNs holding such permits originated from Asian countries and to a much lesser extent from African countries and the rest of Europe (Table 19).

Differences can be underlined among the countries with the highest number of valid permits for refugee status and subsidiary protection reasons.

TCNs from Asian countries made up the bulk of the TCNs with valid permits for refugee status in Germany (84%). TCNs from Asian and African countries had more comparable weights among these TCNs in France and Sweden.

TCNs from African countries holding valid permits accounted for more than half of the TCNs holding valid permits for subsidiary protection reasons in Italy (53%), while their shares were slightly below 20% in Germany and Sweden, where TCNs from Asia had a higher relative weight.

Table 19. Valid permits issued for refugees status and subsidiary protection reasons in selected Member States of the EU-25 by citizenship of origin (%), 2016

	Total	Citizenship of origin (%)					
		Europe	Africa	America	Asia	Oceania	Other
Refugees status (EU-25)	838,397	8.5	17.0	0.9	69.1	0.0	4.5
Germany	503,610	4.8	7.3	0.1	84.4	0.0	3.5
France	154,060	23.3	30.4	2.0	42.6	0.0	1.6
Sweden	66,316	2.1	43.1	1.3	40.8	0.0	12.6
Subsidiary protection (EU-25)	280,566	5.8	25.5	0.5	64.6	0.0	3.7
Germany	34,612	18.9	17.2	0.2	62.2	0.0	1.5
Italy	42,672	4.4	52.8	0.5	42.2	0.0	0.0
Sweden	119,472	0.5	16.3	0.1	77.8	0.0	5.3

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'valid permits': all valid permits at the end of the reference period, including first permits, change of status or reason to stay permits and renewed permits; Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years. The EU-25 total is only a simple sum of the valid permits held by TCNs in EU-25 Member States reporting statistics. This number is limited.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid)

2.3 Main characteristics of long-term residence permits and their holders

2.3.1 Number of third-country nationals with long-term resident status

Directive 2003/109/EC gives the right to third country nationals to be granted EU Long term residency status after 5 years residence in a Member State. Member States may, however, retain national permanent residency schemes if these are more favourable compared to the EU Long Term residency scheme. The Directive had to be transposed by 23 January 2006. 2006 would be the first year for which permits had to be issued. The Directive is implemented by EU-25 Member States.

Eurostat data on long-term residence is available since 2008, and data is broken down into either 'Long-term resident status: EU Directive', or 'Long-term resident status: National legislation'. Before presenting these detailed data, broad trends regarding the share of long-term residents among all non-EU citizens holding resident permits is examined.

On average, the share of long-term residents among all TCNs holding residence permits amounted to more than 40% in the Member States of the EU-25 in 2016. During that year, countries showing the highest shares were Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, and France (Table 20). In these countries, long-term residents made up more than three quarters of all non-EU citizens holding residence permits. These residents accounted for than 20% of all non-EU citizens holding residence permits in only a few Member States in 2016, namely, Malta, Portugal, Romania, and Finland.

The share of long-term residents among all TCNs holding residence permits followed an upward trend between 2008 and 2016 in the majority of Member States of the EU-25 or it remained high in countries having high shares at the beginning of the period. For instance, the share of these residents in Czech Republic jumped from 16% in 2008 to 62% in 2016. Noticeable increases could also be observed in Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, and Slovenia.

Table 20. Long-term residents among all non-EU citizens holding residence permits on 31 December of each year in EU-25, 2008–2016 (%)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Covered	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Belgium	0.3	0.5	38.8	33.2	30.1	28.2	28.1	28.2	49.9
Bulgaria	1.7	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	0.8	2.5	30.2	44.9
Czech Republic	15.7	16.1	19.4	19.6	57.3	61.8	63.2	63.8	61.8
Germany	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	56.1
Estonia	88.4	88.0	88.1	88.7	88.3	88.4	87.8	87.1	86.7
Greece	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	20.7	28.2	32.0	32.1
Spain	0.3	0.7	43.6	44.0	45.9	48.0	48.6	50.4	50.4
France	0.0	0.1	77.6	75.8	75.3	75.4	74.9	74.6	75.0
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	49.2	45.2
Italy	23.6	28.1	34.7	52.1	54.9	56.4	58.2	60.9	60.8
Cyprus	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.9	2.6	8.7	14.6	22.5
Latvia	0.0	0.1	0.1	97.4	96.5	95.1	93.1	92.3	92.0
Lithuania	62.5	68.6	69.8	65.1	63.2	58.6	51.5	51.2	47.0
Luxembourg	:	:	8.1	16.3	23.3	29.8	32.0	34.4	34.8
Hungary	3.3	3.8	45.9	45.5	36.8	34.2	25.5	30.9	39.0
Malta	2.2	3.6	2.4	2.6	2.8	11.0	7.2	6.0	5.6
Netherlands	3.2	4.5	25.4	25.6	32.7	19.7	26.1	24.1	37.6
Austria	36.1	37.4	40.0	67.4	66.2	61.9	61.1	60.8	60.5
Poland	4.0	5.2	37.0	31.7	21.5	18.3	17.6	14.9	15.5
Portugal	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
Romania	14.6	15.7	16.7	17.1	19.0	19.8	20.8	19.8	19.6
Slovenia	24.0	29.0	44.2	47.4	50.2	54.3	54.8	50.8	47.2
Slovakia	5.3	6.4	18.7	48.7	41.8	43.8	41.2	37.5	34.3
Finland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7
Sweden	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	76.4	75.8

Note: Data extracted on 05/04/2018; 'long-term residents': long-term resident status refers to permits issued under Council Directive 2003/109/EC. This is based on a total duration of legal residence of 5 years or longer, combined with a series of other conditions that must be met to qualify for this status. Moreover, Member States may also issue national long-term resident statuses with similar conditions being applied. This category of permits covers EU long-term resident status (EU Directive) and national long-term resident status (National legislation); Due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resshare)

2.3.2 Long-term residence permits: EU Directive and National legislation

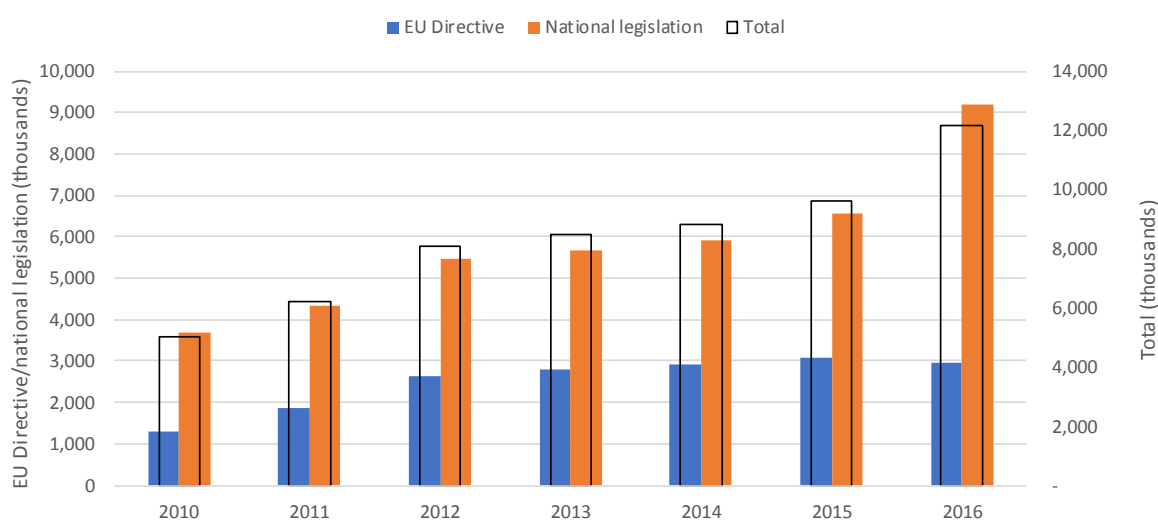
Figure 6 illustrates the overall trends in the stock of long-term residents broken in the two categories, namely EU Directive and national legislation, in the period 2010–2016 at the EU-28. In 2016, the stock of long-term residents was approximately 12.1 million, compared to 5.0 million in 2010.

The growth in the stock of TCNs holding long-term resident status during that period was fuelled by both the stocks of long-term residents under the EU Directive and National legislation at the EU-28 level. Nonetheless, the stock of long-term residents

under national legislation represented around three quarters of the total stock of long-term residents in 2016. This share was relatively stable between 2010 and 2016, despite a little decline in the middle of the period.

The stock of long-term residents under national legislation peaked at 9.2 million in 2016, nearly triple the stock of such residents in 2010 (3.6 million). Yet, it is important to note that some large countries started to report on long-term residence permits only at the end of the period, contributing to the sharp rise in the stock of long-term residents under National Legislation in 2016. Regarding the TCNs holding long-term status under the EU Directive, their stock rose from 1.3 million in 2010 to 3.0 million in 2016.

Figure 6. Long-term residents by citizenship on 31 December of each year in EU-28, 2010–2016



Note: Data extracted on 05/04/2018. 'long-term residents': long-term resident status refers to permits issued under Council Directive 2003/109/EC. This is based on a total duration of legal residence of 5 years or longer, combined with a series of other conditions that must be met to qualify for this status. Moreover, Member States may also issue national long-term resident statuses with similar conditions being applied. This category of permits covers EU long-term resident status (EU Directive) and national long-term resident status (National legislation); Missing data on total long-term residents: Denmark from 2010 to 2016, Croatia from 2010 to 2014, United Kingdom from 2010 to 2011; Missing data on EU directive: Denmark from 2010 to 2016, Ireland in 2010, Croatia from 2010 to 2014, United Kingdom from 2010 to 2011 and from 2015 to 2016; Missing data on National legislation: Denmark from 2010 to 2016, Ireland in 2010, Croatia from 2010 to 2014, United Kingdom from 2010 to 2011 and from 2015 to 2016.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reslong)

EU Member States covered by the EU Directives differ in terms of their preference of providing long-term permits under EU Directive rather than under national law. This variation is illustrated in the shares of long-term residents under the EU Directive in the total stock of TCNs holding long-term status in the period 2010–2016 (Table 21). In some Member States of the EU-25, over 80% of long-term residents held an EU residence permit in 2016. These countries were Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Austria, Romania, Slovenia, and Finland. For most of these countries, the shares were already high since the beginning of the period. Reciprocally, in other Member States such as Belgium, Spain, France, Hungary, and Portugal, these shares were markedly low over the whole period.

Finally, the drop in the stock of TCNs holding long-term status under the EU Directive in Germany and Sweden at the end of the period can be explained by the fact that

these countries started to report on the size of the stock of TCNs holding long-term status under national legislation only recently.

Table 21. Long-term residents under EU Directive as a share of long-term residents by citizenship on 31 December of each year in EU-25 (%), 2010–2016

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Covered	26.3	30.1	39.9	41.0	41.8	40.6	29.9
Belgium	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9	0.1	0.3	0.3
Bulgaria	100.0	84.1	85.6	72.0	52.9	4.2	3.3
Czech Republic	0.0	100.0	41.0	45.2	47.5	48.1	48.4
Germany	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.4
Estonia	100.0	99.1	99.1	99.1	99.1	99.1	99.1
Greece	90.5	89.6	88.4	1.3	6.3	8.6	10.1
Spain	2.4	3.2	4.1	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.6
France	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.6	2.0	2.5
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	12.2	20.5
Italy	65.9	67.8	97.1	97.1	96.9	96.8	96.4
Cyprus	44.7	91.4	6.7	2.2	5.9	3.1	1.9
Latvia	100.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Lithuania	91.8	92.1	92.7	93.2	92.0	90.7	89.0
Luxembourg	100.0	63.5	67.4	68.2	63.9	61.2	58.0
Hungary	12.2	1.4	1.7	4.7	4.9	4.1	3.0
Malta	100.0	100.0	100.0	46.3	47.0	47.9	48.1
Netherlands	22.8	21.4	17.1	35.3	17.9	18.0	15.5
Austria	100.0	60.8	61.2	70.5	77.3	87.9	91.1
Poland	11.8	14.2	11.7	16.4	17.2	17.4	17.4
Portugal	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8
Romania	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Slovenia	77.7	80.2	81.2	85.5	88.3	88.7	89.2
Slovakia	30.6	20.4	23.8	30.4	34.3	37.2	39.6
Finland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sweden	98.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.1

Note: Data extracted on 05/04/2018. 'long-term residents': long-term resident status refers to permits issued under Council Directive 2003/109/EC. This is based on a total duration of legal residence of 5 years or longer, combined with a series of other conditions that must be met to qualify for this status. Moreover, Member States may also issue national long-term resident statuses with similar conditions being applied. This category of permits covers EU long-term resident status (EU Directive) and national long-term resident status (National legislation); missing data on total long-term residents: Denmark from 2010 to 2016, Croatia from 2010 to 2014, United Kingdom from 2010 to 2011; Missing data on EU directive: Denmark from 2010 to 2016, Ireland in 2010, Croatia from 2010 to 2014, United Kingdom from 2010 to 2011 and from 2015 to 2016; Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data ; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reslong)

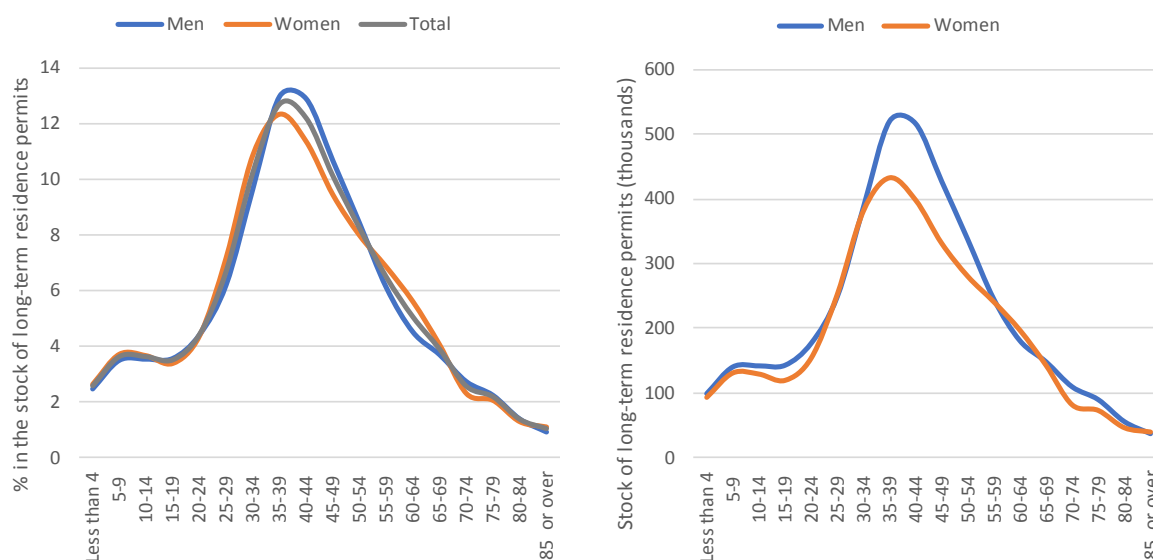
2.3.3 Gender and age of third-country nationals with long-term resident status

Figure 7 illustrates the gender and age of TCNs holding long-term resident status in the Member States of the EU-25 in 2016. The data does not distinguish whether the TCN in question holds a long-term residence permit under EU Directive or National legislation.

Among the Member States where data was available, the distribution of the stock of long-term residence permits by age was rather similar for men and women in 2016. Middle-aged women (in particular, ages 35–49 years) holding a long-term resident status were slightly less represented than middle-aged men in relative terms in the stock of long-term residence permits.

In absolute figures, the stock of men holding long-term resident status was higher than that of women in 2016. It accounted for 4.0 million, compared to 3.5 million for women. The difference between these two populations was more marked for the middle-aged group.

Figure 7. Gender and age of third-country nationals holding long-term resident status on 31 December of each year in selected Member States in the EU-25, 2016



Note: Data extracted on 06/04/2018; Population on 1 January 2016; 'long-term residents': long-term resident status refers to permits issued under Council Directive 2003/109/EC. This is based on a total duration of legal residence of 5 years or longer, combined with a series of other conditions that must be met to qualify for this status. Moreover, Member States may also issue national long-term resident statuses with similar conditions being applied. This category of permits covers EU long-term resident status (EU Directive) and national long-term resident status (National legislation). EU Directive and National legislation; The EU-25 aggregate excludes Germany, Slovakia, the Netherlands, Malta, and Finland due to the lack of data on long-term residence permits broken down by age. France does not report on long-term residence permits below 15 years old. No permits are issued to minors, except for a few cases of workers 16–18 years old.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reslas)

As illustrated in Table 22, the age profile of TCNs holding long-term resident status differed across selected Member States covered by the EU Directives in 2016. While the TCNs holding long-term residence permits aged between 15 and 64 years amounted to 79%, this share was much lower in Latvia (54%) and Estonia (59%). These two countries showed the highest shares of TCNs holding long-term residence permits aged 65 years and over. Moreover, TCNs holding long-term residence permits aged

less than 15 years were overrepresented in Hungary (28%), Sweden (23%), Cyprus (22%), and Italy (20%). They only accounted for 10% of TCNs holding long-term residence permits in the Member States under consideration.

Table 22. Long-term residence permits by gender and age group in selected Member States in the EU-25, 2016

	Total	Women (% of total)	Age group (% of total)		
			less than 15 years	From 15 to 64 years	65 years and over
Covered	7,509,892	46.9	10.0	79.3	10.8
Belgium	201,195	47.8	9.2	80.0	10.8
Bulgaria	16,205	43.9	16.3	77.9	5.8
Czech Republic	191,292	47.0	17.5	77.7	4.8
Estonia	165,924	50.9	3.1	58.8	38.0
Greece	187,515	35.8	0.0	96.9	3.1
Spain	1,296,525	40.0	4.1	92.3	3.7
France	2,003,737	47.4	0.0	83.6	16.4
Croatia	11,856	43.2	5.8	76.4	17.8
Italy	2,257,224	50.5	20.0	74.3	5.6
Cyprus	11,688	50.2	22.2	71.9	5.8
Latvia	295,158	53.3	2.0	53.8	44.2
Lithuania	18,238	46.5	4.6	71.9	23.5
Luxembourg	12,910	55.6	9.6	84.7	5.7
Hungary	21,376	49.6	27.7	71.3	1.0
Austria	285,104	49.2	13.0	79.7	7.3
Poland	84,666	49.9	11.2	87.3	1.5
Portugal	3,240	28.2	5.4	93.4	1.2
Romania	12,338	30.1	12.3	80.7	6.9
Slovenia	51,954	20.6	11.1	81.4	7.5
Sweden	381,747	45.7	23.0	73.8	3.1

Note: Data extracted on 06/04/2018; 'long-term residents': long-term resident status refers to permits issued under Council Directive 2003/109/EC. This is based on a total duration of legal residence of 5 years or longer, combined with a series of other conditions that must be met to qualify for this status. Moreover, Member States may also issue national long-term resident statuses with similar conditions being applied. This category of permits covers EU long-term resident status (EU Directive) and national long-term resident status (National legislation); Germany, Slovakia, the Netherlands, Malta, and Finland are not represented due to the lack of data on long-term residence permits broken down by age. France does not report on long-term residence permits below 15 years old. No permits are issued to minors, except for a few cases of workers 16–18 years old.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reslas)

The same figure also reveals that nearly 47% of TCNs holding long-term residence permits were women in the selected Member States of the EU-25 in 2016. However, they were underrepresented in Slovenia (21%), Portugal (28%), Romania (30%), and Greece (36%).

2.3.4 Origin of third-country nationals with long-term resident status

Table 23 below shows the distribution of the stock of long-term residence permits (EU Directive and National legislation) in the Member States of the EU-25 by the continent of origin (i.e., citizenship) of the TCNs in 2016.

During that year, the bulk of stock of these permits was granted to TCNs originated from European countries other than EU-28 Member States (38%) and Africa (31%),

followed by Asia (18%) and America (9%). TCNs from Oceania only made up a marginal share of these permits.

Table 23. Long-term residents holding valid permits in EU-25 by citizenship of origin (%), 2016

	Total	Citizenship of origin (%)					
		Africa	America	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Other
Covered	9,942,063	30.9	8.7	18.3	38.1	0.1	3.8
Belgium	201,195	45.7	5.3	23.4	22.1	0.1	3.4
Bulgaria	16,205	1.9	2.6	18.7	75.5	0.2	1.2
Czech Republic	191,292	1.7	2.5	35.0	60.1	0.2	0.5
Germany	2,276,486	4.6	4.0	15.1	75.7	0.2	0.4
Estonia	165,924	0.0	0.1	0.4	54.2	0.0	45.3
Greece	187,515	2.5	0.1	17.0	80.4	0.0	0.0
Spain	1,296,525	45.5	30.2	16.8	7.3	0.0	0.0
France	2,003,737	71.5	5.3	10.6	12.3	0.1	0.1
Croatia	11,856	0.7	3.0	6.1	89.2	0.5	0.5
Italy	2,257,224	30.9	9.7	25.7	33.7	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	11,688	4.8	1.1	57.7	36.3	0.1	0.0
Latvia	295,158	0.0	0.1	0.3	15.6	0.0	83.9
Lithuania	18,238	0.4	1.2	8.1	72.4	0.1	17.9
Luxembourg	12,793	18.4	13.1	17.1	50.5	0.6	0.4
Hungary	21,376	4.6	1.1	80.3	13.9	0.0	0.1
Malta	1,152	15.5	5.6	37.1	40.5	1.2	0.0
Netherlands	140,286	27.8	6.8	17.8	43.4	1.0	3.2
Austria	285,104	2.9	2.6	7.9	86.5	0.1	0.0
Poland	84,666	4.4	2.3	21.1	71.9	0.1	0.2
Portugal	3,240	3.3	9.7	32.1	54.9	0.0	0.0
Romania	12,338	3.8	2.7	58.6	33.6	0.1	1.3
Slovenia	51,954	0.1	0.4	1.8	97.5	0.1	0.2
Slovakia	13,690	3.5	5.1	33.3	57.4	0.4	0.3
Finland	674	15.6	8.9	55.3	18.4	1.2	0.6
Sweden	381,747	25.1	5.0	53.8	8.9	0.4	6.9

Note: Data extracted on 06/04/2018; 'long-term residents': long-term resident status refers to permits issued under Council Directive 2003/109/EC. This is based on a total duration of legal residence of 5 years or longer, combined with a series of other conditions that must be met to qualify for this status. Moreover, Member States may also issue national long-term resident statuses with similar conditions being applied. This category of permits covers EU long-term resident status (EU Directive) and national long-term resident status (National legislation). This category of permits cover EU long-term resident status (EU directive) and national long-term resident status (National legislation); 'Europe': this aggregate excludes EU countries during the reference year; 'other': this aggregate includes recognised non-citizens, stateless, and unknown citizenship.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reslong)

TCNs from African countries accounted for a large share of the TCNs with long-term residence permits in France (71%), Belgium (46%), and Spain (46%). TCNs from America also represented a much higher share of the TCNs with long-term residence permits in Spain compared to the situation of the other EU Member States under consideration. In 2016, this share amounted to 30%. TCNs originating from Asian countries made up more than 50% of the stock of long-term residence permits in Hungary (80%), Romania (59%), Cyprus (58%), Finland (55%), and Sweden (54%). Finally, TCNs from European countries other than EU-28 Member States were particularly overrepresented in the stock of long-term residence permits in Slovenia

(96%), Croatia (89%), Austria (86%), Greece (80%), Germany (76%), Bulgaria (75%), and Lithuania (72%).

3 Flow of third-country national migrants

This section provides an overview of the flows of third country migrants in 2016 and its evolution between 2008 and 2016. It begins with an analysis of the main characteristics of first residence permits and the migrants to whom they were issued, providing detailed statistics on the number of third-country migrants with first permits, first residence permits by main immigration reason, first permits by length of validity, the gender and age of third-country nationals with first residence permits, and the origin of third-country migrants with first residence permits.

Then, the section focuses more in detail on first permits held for different immigration reason (i.e., family, remunerated activities, education, other reasons⁹), given insights on their evolution over the period and, at some points, on the origin on third-country migrants.

The section subsequently concentrates on status change/reason to stay permits, examining the transitions from one immigration reason (i.e., family, education, remunerated activities, and other reasons) to the others.

Lastly, the section considers single residence permits, analysing their evolution over the period by decision (i.e., status change, renewal, and first single permit) and the immigration reasons for issuing them,

3.1 Main characteristics of first residence permits and their holders

This section describes the total number of first permits issued between 1999 and 2016 in aggregate terms as well as (for the years 2008–2016) by reason, distinguishing between family reasons, remunerated activities, education and 'other' reasons. The section also provides information on the duration of the permits as well as on the characteristics of the third-country nationals receiving them (age group, gender, continent of origin). Finally, information is presented on changes in the status of the permits (for example from education to remuneration reasons).

3.1.1 Total number of first permits

This section uses Eurostat data to describe the total number of first resident permits issued in the EU-25 for the years 2008–2016¹⁰.

The section will compare the total number of permits issued for the different reasons in the countries covered by the legal migration Directives and those which are not covered (Ireland, Denmark, and the United Kingdom).

The general observations that could be made based on this data are:

- Post 2008 (table below), the growth in new permits is largely driven by
 - 'seasonal workers' permits a 9-fold increase from 56 thousand in 2008 to 458 thousand, largely due to seasonal workers in Poland (Table 40).
 - 'students' – from 157 thousand permits in 2008 to 244 thousand permits in 2016 (Table 36).
- The migration trends for family reasons reason remained largely unaffected by the financial crisis, so much so that in 2011 the migration for family reason reached a high of 41% of all first permits (see Number of first permits issued for family reasons and share in all first permits in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–

⁹ Other reasons include: international protection status, refugee status and subsidiary protection, humanitarian reasons, residence only, unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking in human beings, others (reason not specified).

¹⁰ Eurostat defines a 'first permit' as a residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit.

2016Table 26). The growth from 560 thousand to 658 thousand has been driven by new permits of TCNs joining EU citizens (Table 33).

Overall, the number of all first permits issued in the Member States of the EU-25 and EU-3 steeply increased between 2008 and 2016. While 1.8 million first permits were issued in 2008 at the EU-25 level, such number peaked to 2.4 million in 2016. At the level of EU-3, the number of first permits issued increased from 694 thousand to 949 thousand in 2016. A deeper look at these trends reveals that the growth of first permits was very strong in 2015 and 2016 at the EU-25 level and in 2016 at the EU-3 level. Moreover, there was a significant decrease in the number of first permits issued at the EU-25 level in 2011 and 2012. A similar decrease could be observed at the EU-3 level in 2012.

Within the Member States of the EU-25, the growth of the number of first permits issued was substantial between 2008 and 2016, especially in Poland, Germany, and Austria, and Bulgaria Table 24). Nonetheless, not all Member States experienced a rise in the number of first permits issued during that period. Such number followed a downward trend in Spain, Italy, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia.

Table 24. Number of all first permits issued in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	1,840,920	1,621,561	1,689,998	1,425,910	1,413,053	1,568,112	1,685,557	1,904,419	2,411,946	
Belgium	46,201	58,939	57,855	55,449	47,278	42,463	43,823	50,085	53,096	
Bulgaria	3,933	4,383	4,051	5,030	6,418	6,436	8,795	9,595	7,942	
Czech Republic	61,350	27,539	34,653	20,978	42,123	45,544	35,458	68,804	80,070	
Germany	114,289	121,954	117,202	110,349	184,070	199,925	237,627	194,813	504,849	
Estonia	3,884	3,777	2,647	3,408	2,530	2,496	3,222	3,984	4,308	
Greece	40,411	45,148	33,623	21,269	16,252	18,299	22,451	37,464	44,072	
Spain	399,827	290,813	258,309	282,763	223,318	196,244	189,481	192,931	211,533	
France	188,723	200,649	204,321	199,581	199,500	214,346	220,599	228,687	237,218	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	3,320	3,334	3,433	5,315	
Italy	550,226	506,833	589,988	331,083	246,760	243,954	204,335	178,884	222,398	
Cyprus	25,156	25,638	19,139	15,645	11,715	11,455	13,841	15,569	16,970	
Latvia	7,706	2,304	2,329	3,982	5,620	7,615	9,857	6,357	6,037	
Lithuania	5,298	2,659	1,861	2,429	3,696	4,601	7,252	5,178	6,750	
Luxembourg	:	2,969	2,366	2,698	3,804	4,169	4,289	4,918	5,627	
Hungary	37,486	14,289	14,601	14,893	13,282	16,833	21,188	20,751	22,842	
Malta	4,836	3,547	2,763	3,484	4,526	6,795	9,895	9,984	8,995	
Netherlands	62,589	56,488	54,473	55,074	51,162	64,739	69,569	86,691	95,753	
Austria	21,783	28,035	30,596	35,442	37,852	34,308	40,062	51,282	50,066	
Poland	40,896	33,427	101,574	108,036	146,619	273,886	355,521	541,583	585,969	
Portugal	63,715	46,324	37,010	35,172	32,590	26,593	29,764	29,021	30,993	
Romania	19,354	15,380	10,218	9,740	10,125	11,160	10,294	11,289	11,867	
Slovenia	29,215	15,759	7,537	9,800	9,092	8,271	9,891	11,417	13,517	
Slovakia	8,025	5,336	4,373	3,641	4,210	4,416	5,510	9,279	10,227	
Finland	21,873	18,034	19,210	20,230	20,263	21,122	21,552	21,797	28,792	
Sweden	84,144	91,337	79,299	75,734	90,248	99,122	107,947	110,623	146,740	
Not covered	693,751	723,242	783,020	750,934	683,570	788,339	640,420	717,603	948,613	
Denmark	31,655	26,409	28,577	24,707	24,812	31,311	35,886	46,153	41,440	
Ireland	28,926	25,509	22,235	24,570	26,818	32,780	36,728	38,433	41,279	
United Kingdom	633,170	671,324	732,208	701,657	631,940	724,248	567,806	633,017	865,894	

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'residence permit': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

3.1.2 First residence permits by main reason

In 2016, the Member States of the EU-25 which issued the highest numbers of first permits were Poland (586 thousand), Germany (505 thousand), and to a lesser extent France (237 thousand) and Italy (222 thousand) (Table 25). However, the United Kingdom was by far the country who issued the highest number of first permits during

that year, when all EU Member States are considered. In 2016, it issued 866 thousand first permits.

During that year, the first permits issued at the EU-25 level were for remunerated activities (30%), family reasons (28%), and other reasons (30%) (i.e. international protection status, refugee status and subsidiary protection, humanitarian reasons, residence only, and other reasons not specified) than education ones. First permits delivered for education reasons accounted for 12% of all first permits issued during that year. At the EU-3 level, the patterns were different since 42% of first permits were issued for education reasons.

Table 25. First permits issued by main reason in EU-25 and EU-3, 2016

	Total	Main reason (% of total)			
		Family reasons	Education reasons	Remunerated activities reasons	Other
Covered	2,411,946	27.9	12.3	29.8	29.9
Belgium	53,096	49.6	11.9	9.8	28.8
Bulgaria	7,942	40.8	13.4	3.5	42.3
Czech Republic	80,070	30.7	21.4	28.8	19.1
Germany	504,849	27.1	9.1	7.8	55.9
Estonia	4,308	33.1	25.9	31.1	10.0
Greece	44,072	53.5	2.0	4.8	39.6
Spain	211,533	54.4	16.8	18.0	10.7
France	237,218	39.8	31.1	9.8	19.3
Croatia	5,315	31.5	9.9	49.6	9.1
Italy	222,398	45.5	7.6	4.2	42.7
Cyprus	16,970	13.7	19.5	43.5	23.2
Latvia	6,037	36.4	21.8	28.8	13.1
Lithuania	6,750	17.4	13.7	60.5	8.4
Luxembourg	5,627	52.5	7.5	23.8	16.3
Hungary	22,842	20.7	34.5	25.6	19.2
Malta	8,995	19.1	20.5	33.8	26.6
Netherlands	95,753	26.1	17.0	15.3	41.6
Austria	50,066	31.2	11.5	6.7	50.6
Poland	585,969	1.4	5.6	84.3	8.7
Portugal	30,993	47.9	12.4	19.2	20.5
Romania	11,867	32.6	39.0	14.9	13.5
Slovenia	13,517	34.0	13.3	51.0	1.7
Slovakia	10,227	25.2	16.8	35.1	22.8
Finland	28,792	27.2	21.7	18.7	32.4
Sweden	146,740	32.5	6.0	10.7	50.8
Not covered	948,613	11.2	41.9	14.2	32.7
Denmark	41,440	31.1	25.3	24.6	19.0
Ireland	41,279	9.9	51.9	19.0	19.2
United Kingdom	865,894	10.3	42.2	13.5	34.0

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'residence permit': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit; The 'other' category covers international protection status, refugee status and subsidiary protection, humanitarian reasons, residence only, and other reasons not specified. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; "(": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

A look at the distribution of first permits issued by main reason at the level of the Member States reveals different patterns across them in 2016.

First permits issued for family reasons accounted for more than 50% of all first permits issued in Spain (54%), Greece (54%), and Luxembourg (52%). On the contrary, these permits represented only a small fraction of all first permits in Lithuania (17%), Cyprus (14%), Poland (1%), and the Member States of the EU-3, namely the United Kingdom (10%) and Ireland (10%).

The share of first permits issued for education reasons in all first permits delivered in 2016 was noticeably high in Hungary (34%) and Croatia (31%) among the Member States of EU-25. However, it was even higher two countries of the EU-3: Ireland (52%) and the United Kingdom (42%). Conversely, the share of first permits issued for education reasons in all first permits was particularly low in Greece (2%), Poland (6%), and Sweden (6%).

First permits issued for remunerated activities accounted for more than 40% of all first permits issued in 2016 in Austria (84%), Latvia (64%), France (50%), and Italy (44%). This share was below 10% in Belgium (3%), Croatia (4%), Estonia (5%), and the Netherlands (7%), and Spain (10%).

First permits delivered for other reasons than those specified above made up more than 40% of all first permits issues in 2016 in Germany (56%), Austria (51%), Italy (43%), Bulgaria (42%), and Bulgaria (41%). Subsequent development in the section will provide further insights on this category of first permits.

In terms of evolution, the share of first permits delivered for family reasons in all first permits issued went down from 2008 to 2016 in EU-25, although the first half of the period was mark by an upward trend (Table 26). At the EU-3 level, such decrease was also observable. Among the Member States of the EU-25, the declining share of these first permits in 2016 compared to 2008 was particularly noticeable in Poland, Austria, and Germany among the Member States of the EU-25. In Austria, for instance, such share dropped from 66% in 2008 to 31% in 2016. Among the Member States of the EU-3, the sharp decline was obvious only in the United Kingdom.

Table 26. Number of first permits issued for family reasons and share in all first permits in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

	First permits for family reasons										% of all first permits									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	560,243	533,052	639,031	592,630	571,846	565,434	571,022	650,890	674,105		30.4	32.9	37.8	41.6	40.5	36.1	33.9	34.2	27.9	
Belgium	20,320	28,523	30,546	30,438	25,060	22,266	23,114	26,206	26,325		44.0	48.4	52.8	54.9	53.0	52.4	52.7	52.3	49.6	
Bulgaria	1,546	1,539	1,779	1,915	2,241	2,242	2,591	2,906	3,240		39.3	35.1	43.9	38.1	34.9	34.8	29.5	30.3	40.8	
Czech Rep.	10,699	9,283	14,851	10,013	9,630	10,311	10,687	21,265	24,568		17.4	33.7	42.9	47.7	22.9	22.6	30.1	30.9	30.7	
Germany	49,642	54,139	52,172	46,782	75,928	82,492	91,661	133,893	136,982		43.4	44.4	44.5	42.4	41.2	41.3	38.6	68.7	27.1	
Estonia	1,402	1,148	972	1,289	1,150	1,103	1,263	1,351	1,424		36.1	30.4	36.7	37.8	45.5	44.2	39.2	33.9	33.1	
Greece	21,855	22,637	16,547	12,724	11,835	10,852	12,647	19,175	23,598		54.1	50.1	49.2	59.8	72.8	59.3	56.3	51.2	53.5	
Spain	150,101	125,288	141,891	148,061	119,863	107,051	101,025	102,454	115,143		37.5	43.1	54.9	52.4	53.7	54.5	53.3	53.1	54.4	
France	85,475	87,786	85,593	80,284	84,747	91,707	92,272	99,312	94,345		45.3	43.8	41.9	40.2	42.5	42.8	41.8	43.4	39.8	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	2,154	1,928	1,852	1,673		:	:	:	:	:	64.9	57.8	53.9	31.5	
Italy	76,764	75,153	180,391	141,403	119,745	108,358	99,051	109,328	101,269		14.0	14.8	30.6	42.7	48.5	44.4	48.5	61.1	45.5	
Cyprus	183	640	1,850	1,740	1,440	1,230	2,111	2,580	2,332		0.7	2.5	9.7	11.1	12.3	10.7	15.3	16.6	13.7	
Latvia	2,464	759	776	1,761	2,091	3,521	4,903	2,553	2,197		32.0	32.9	33.3	44.2	37.2	46.2	49.7	40.2	36.4	
Lithuania	659	788	717	764	883	988	1,473	1,273	1,173		12.4	29.6	38.5	31.5	23.9	21.5	20.3	24.6	17.4	
Luxembourg	:	2,065	1,786	1,681	2,387	2,153	2,470	2,806	2,952		:	69.6	75.5	62.3	62.7	51.6	57.6	57.1	52.5	
Hungary	8,405	1,753	3,376	4,165	2,883	4,058	6,736	5,715	4,730		22.4	12.3	23.1	28.0	21.7	24.1	31.8	27.5	20.7	
Malta	954	391	389	348	360	1,514	2,077	2,143	1,719		19.7	11.0	14.1	10.0	8.0	22.3	21.0	21.5	19.1	
Netherlands	24,092	23,077	21,560	22,327	21,160	25,376	22,115	21,683	24,962		38.5	40.9	39.6	40.5	41.4	39.2	31.8	25.0	26.1	
Austria	14,400	14,572	14,559	13,729	13,134	12,652	13,394	15,529	15,635		66.1	52.0	47.6	38.7	34.7	36.9	33.4	30.3	31.2	
Poland	8,921	8,699	2,567	2,662	3,062	2,628	1,188	1,010	8,416		21.8	26.0	2.5	2.5	2.1	1.0	0.3	0.2	1.4	
Portugal	27,270	19,964	17,478	18,229	14,654	12,224	13,846	12,916	14,847		42.8	43.1	47.2	51.8	45.0	46.0	46.5	44.5	47.9	
Romania	6,109	6,043	4,642	3,920	3,899	4,155	3,331	3,770	3,871		31.6	39.3	45.4	40.2	38.5	37.2	32.4	33.4	32.6	
Slovenia	3,962	3,116	3,169	4,022	3,377	3,923	5,099	4,593	4,592		13.6	19.8	42.0	41.0	37.1	47.4	51.6	40.2	34.0	
Slovakia	1,224	1,156	1,162	1,042	1,138	1,411	1,735	2,541	2,582		15.3	21.7	26.6	28.6	27.0	32.0	31.5	27.4	25.2	
Finland	7,170	6,643	6,706	7,397	7,180	7,909	8,043	7,682	7,833		32.8	36.8	34.9	36.6	35.4	37.4	37.3	35.2	27.2	
Sweden	36,626	37,890	33,552	35,934	43,999	43,156	46,262	46,354	47,697		43.5	41.5	42.3	47.4	48.8	43.5	42.9	41.9	32.5	
Not covered	124,681	128,556	135,488	126,735	99,209	106,138	109,366	109,341	106,324		18.0	17.8	17.3	16.9	14.5	13.5	17.1	15.2	11.2	
Denmark	4,231	4,680	8,098	6,061	6,436	9,068	10,339	15,961	12,883		13.4	17.7	28.3	24.5	25.9	29.0	28.8	34.6	31.1	
Ireland	3,409	2,608	2,030	1,994	1,894	2,042	2,526	3,444	4,100		11.8	10.2	9.1	8.1	7.1	6.2	6.9	9.0	9.9	
United King.	117,041	121,268	125,360	118,680	90,879	95,028	96,501	89,936	89,341		18.5	18.1	17.1	16.9	14.4	13.1	17.0	14.2	10.3	

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'residence permit': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

Despite the downward trend at the EU-25 level, several Member States experienced an increase in the share of first permits delivered for family reasons in all the first permits issued during the 2008–2016. Such increase was remarkable in Cyprus, Italy, and the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. In Czech Republic, for example, the share jumped from 17% in 2008 to 30% in 2016.

Family members of EU Blue Cards holders were also admitted through this specific permit category. In 2016, 13 thousand family members of EU Blue Cards holders were admitted through a granted decision and nearly 2 thousand through a renewal

decision in the Member States of the EU-25. These numbers were well above those that prevailed in 2012 (Table 27).

Germany accounted for the majority of family members of EU Blue Cards holders admitted by means of a granted decision in 2016 while Luxembourg made up a slightly less than a half of the majority of family members of EU Blue Cards holders admitted through a renewal decision.

Table 27. Admitted family members of EU Blue Cards holders by type of decision in EU-25, 2012–2016

	Granted						Renewed					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	1,107	3,821	6,683	9,596	13,062		108	571	891	1,633	1,829	
Belgium	0	4	9	26	22		0	0	9	16	26	
Bulgaria	5	4	0	6	7		0	4	10	4	7	
Czech Rep.	35	21	64	102	101		0	0	10	25	44	
Germany	270	2,998	5,099	8,171	11,544		0	0	0	0	0	
Estonia	18	2	14	12	14		0	0	13	6	21	
Greece	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
Spain	385	358	60	14	16		82	354	326	229	192	
France	:	:	44	336	368		:	:	12	468	241	
Croatia	:	:	0	10	9		:	:	2	8	4	
Italy	:	5	1	4	1		:	0	0	4	0	
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
Latvia	8	2	23	38	88		0	11	13	29	136	
Lithuania	:	0	:	0	86		:	0	:	0	24	
Luxembourg	223	207	245	324	355		0	118	395	609	728	
Hungary	0	0	:	6	3		0	0	:	0	0	
Malta	:	10	4	0	10		:	0	10	6	4	
Netherlands	0	0	8	0	36		0	0	0	0	16	
Austria	155	136	174	188	197		25	79	91	111	160	
Poland	0	0	778	192	:		0	0	0	0	:	
Portugal	0	0	3	0	0		:	0	0	5	0	
Romania	0	65	135	128	145		0	0	0	105	208	
Slovenia	3	1	12	9	30		1	1	0	5	11	
Slovakia	5	8	10	9	5		0	0	0	3	5	
Finland	:	:	:	21	19		:	4	:	0	0	
Sweden	0	0	0	0	6		0	0	0	0	2	

Note: Data extracted on 08/05/2018.

Source: migr_resbc2

The share of first permits issued for education reasons in all first permits issued increased at the EU-25 level and EU-3 level in 2016 compared to its level in 2008 (Table 28). At the EU-25 level, it was 10.9% at the beginning of the period; it amounted to 12.3% at the end of the period. This trend was not continuous during the period since the share reached 16.4% in 2012. The growth was rather comparable at the EU-3 level since the share rose from 36.7% in 2008 to 41.9% in 2016, after decreasing significantly notably in 2013. The rise in the share of the first permits issued for education reasons was observable in the majority of the Member States of

the EU-25. This rise was rather strong in Czech Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Latvia, Malta, and Estonia. For instance, while it amounted only to 7% in Czech Republic in 2008, it reached 21% in 2016.

Notwithstanding this growing trend at the EU-25 level, few countries were marked by noticeable declining shares, namely Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, and Sweden. In Sweden, for instance, the share decreased from 14% in 2008 to 6% in 2016. In the EU-3, only Denmark experienced a declining share. It dropped from 61% in 2008 to 25% in 2016.

Table 28. Number of first permits issued for education reasons and share in all first permits in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

	First permits for education reasons										% of all first permits									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	201,174	217,209	219,505	224,700	232,156	251,889	267,780	265,438	296,930		10.9	13.4	13.0	15.8	16.4	16.1	15.9	13.9	12.3	
Belgium	6,743	7,222	5,899	5,834	5,813	5,902	6,286	6,345	6,303		14.6	12.3	10.2	10.5	12.3	13.9	14.3	12.7	11.9	
Bulgaria	1,168	1,623	1,492	1,058	1,396	935	911	874	1,067		29.7	37.0	36.8	21.0	21.8	14.5	10.4	9.1	13.4	
Czech Rep.	4,220	4,142	5,153	4,988	6,381	6,215	6,030	13,658	17,099		6.9	15.0	14.9	23.8	15.1	13.6	17.0	19.9	21.4	
Germany	29,985	31,345	30,035	27,568	40,479	45,955	49,406	16,683	46,083		26.2	25.7	25.6	25.0	22.0	23.0	20.8	8.6	9.1	
Estonia	339	383	399	395	424	498	777	986	1,114		8.7	10.1	15.1	11.6	16.8	20.0	24.1	24.7	25.9	
Greece	1,449	1,489	1,323	1,297	842	1,074	835	871	902		3.6	3.3	3.9	6.1	5.2	5.9	3.7	2.3	2.0	
Spain	21,665	22,068	24,864	35,037	27,114	26,416	29,668	33,096	35,636		5.4	7.6	9.6	12.4	12.1	13.5	15.7	17.2	16.8	
France	52,226	58,738	65,538	65,145	59,045	62,988	65,201	70,250	73,865		27.7	29.3	32.1	32.6	29.6	29.4	29.6	30.7	31.1	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	185	418	387	526		:	:	:	:	:	5.6	12.5	11.3	9.9	
Italy	28,609	32,634	25,676	30,260	30,631	27,083	24,373	22,870	16,847		5.2	6.4	4.4	9.1	12.4	11.1	11.9	12.8	7.6	
Cyprus	4,023	5,407	2,698	1,907	1,433	1,397	1,444	2,226	3,313		16.0	21.1	14.1	12.2	12.2	12.2	10.4	14.3	19.5	
Latvia	346	212	296	459	674	808	1,050	1,117	1,314		4.5	9.2	12.7	11.5	12.0	10.6	10.7	17.6	21.8	
Lithuania	447	422	422	297	385	603	666	743	928		8.4	15.9	22.7	12.2	10.4	13.1	9.2	14.3	13.7	
Luxembourg	:	96	150	291	410	404	456	442	420		:	3.2	6.3	10.8	10.8	9.7	10.6	9.0	7.5	
Hungary	7,760	4,234	3,995	4,067	4,411	5,515	5,168	5,876	7,874		20.7	29.6	27.4	27.3	33.2	32.8	24.4	28.3	34.5	
Malta	202	191	157	136	195	1,849	2,924	2,346	1,848		4.2	5.4	5.7	3.9	4.3	27.2	29.6	23.5	20.5	
Netherlands	8,850	9,944	10,510	10,701	10,747	12,878	12,746	15,263	16,317		14.1	17.6	19.3	19.4	21.0	19.9	18.3	17.6	17.0	
Austria	2,853	3,233	3,735	5,031	6,298	5,538	6,350	7,063	5,770		13.1	11.5	12.2	14.2	16.6	16.1	15.9	13.8	11.5	
Poland	6,145	7,066	9,098	6,995	9,614	23,007	29,825	39,308	32,676		15.0	21.1	9.0	6.5	6.6	8.4	8.4	7.3	5.6	
Portugal	4,344	4,302	5,414	6,478	8,410	4,734	3,407	3,139	3,837		6.8	9.3	14.6	18.4	25.8	17.8	11.4	10.8	12.4	
Romania	2,969	3,541	3,265	3,179	3,429	3,692	3,535	4,374	4,631		15.3	23.0	32.0	32.6	33.9	33.1	34.3	38.7	39.0	
Slovenia	246	666	628	1,038	1,073	596	500	1,315	1,799		0.8	4.2	8.3	10.6	11.8	7.2	5.1	11.5	13.3	
Slovakia	449	334	353	403	562	829	1,082	1,475	1,723		5.6	6.3	8.1	11.1	13.3	18.8	19.6	15.9	16.8	
Finland	4,441	3,949	4,433	5,370	5,405	5,314	5,528	5,756	6,235		20.3	21.9	23.1	26.5	26.7	25.2	25.6	26.4	21.7	
Sweden	11,695	13,968	13,972	6,766	6,985	7,474	9,194	8,975	8,803		13.9	15.3	17.6	8.9	7.7	7.5	8.5	8.1	6.0	
Not covered	254,528	287,175	290,994	268,238	222,143	212,054	209,065	260,420	397,357		36.7	39.7	37.2	35.7	32.5	26.9	32.6	36.3	41.9	
Denmark	19,279	6,406	6,068	6,115	6,535	7,463	8,101	9,248	10,481		60.9	24.3	21.2	24.8	26.3	23.8	22.6	20.0	25.3	
Ireland	12,538	12,263	13,653	15,131	16,828	21,394	23,730	22,075	21,421		43.3	48.1	61.4	61.6	62.7	65.3	64.6	57.4	51.9	
United King.	222,711	268,506	271,273	246,992	198,780	183,197	177,234	229,097	365,455		35.2	40.0	37.0	35.2	31.5	25.3	31.2	36.2	42.2	

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'residence permit': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

The share of first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons at the EU-25 level decreased between 2008 and 2016 (Table 29). In 2016, it amounted to 29.8% against 34.4% in 2008. A deeper look at the trend over the period reveals that this share peaked at 38.7% in 2010 after a strong increase but went down sharply in the subsequent years. It rebounded from 2015, without, however, reaching its level at the beginning of the period. The share of first residence permits also followed a downward trend at the EU-3 level. It diminished by around 6 percentage points from 2008 to 2016. Yet the decline was particularly marked at the end of the period.

In all Member States of the EU-25 but Estonia, Latvia, Malta, and Poland, the share of first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons went down. This share fell remarkably in Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, and Romania. While it amounted to 47% in Romania in 2008, it dropped to 15% in 2016. Among the Member States of the EU-23, Ireland and the United Kingdom were also characterised by diminishing shares in 2016 compared to their level in 2008. In the latter country, the share sank from 22.1% in 2008 to 13.5% in 2016. The decline was particularly important in 2016.

Table 29. Number of first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons and share in all first permits in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

	First permits for remunerated activities reasons										% of all first permits									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	633,931	515,980	654,714	402,047	361,816	410,960	440,521	573,773	719,589		34.4	31.8	38.7	28.2	25.6	26.2	26.1	30.1	29.8	
Belgium	7,097	5,391	4,347	4,705	4,647	4,347	4,768	4,948	5,181		15.4	9.1	7.5	8.5	9.8	10.2	10.9	9.9	9.8	
Bulgaria	776	767	299	281	339	334	304	2,261	276		19.7	17.5	7.4	5.6	5.3	5.2	3.5	23.6	3.5	
Czech Rep.	43,282	11,312	11,606	3,315	17,888	18,263	11,083	19,931	23,097		70.5	41.1	33.5	15.8	42.5	40.1	31.3	29.0	28.8	
Germany	20,297	16,667	16,540	18,659	27,338	27,788	29,275	13,451	39,552		17.8	13.7	14.1	16.9	14.9	13.9	12.3	6.9	7.8	
Estonia	967	1,135	769	1,258	608	579	882	1,279	1,339		24.9	30.1	29.1	36.9	24.0	23.2	27.4	32.1	31.1	
Greece	15,609	16,383	9,692	5,568	1,037	1,226	2,190	1,111	2,133		38.6	36.3	28.8	26.2	6.4	6.7	9.8	3.0	4.8	
Spain	96,319	102,736	79,315	86,468	63,713	49,525	42,873	41,566	38,154		24.1	35.3	30.7	30.6	28.5	25.2	22.6	21.5	18.0	
France	21,784	20,635	18,799	18,335	15,827	18,244	19,428	21,003	23,275		11.5	10.3	9.2	9.2	7.9	8.5	8.8	9.2	9.8	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	599	609	790	2,634		:	:	:	:	:	18.0	18.3	23.0	49.6	
Italy	272,791	235,966	359,051	119,342	66,742	80,726	53,327	17,370	9,389		49.6	46.6	60.9	36.0	27.0	33.1	26.1	9.7	4.2	
Cyprus	13,884	13,762	11,917	9,897	6,889	6,613	7,989	7,337	7,385		55.2	53.7	62.3	63.3	58.8	57.7	57.7	47.1	43.5	
Latvia	1,823	464	397	519	767	793	971	1,639	1,736		23.7	20.1	17.0	13.0	13.6	10.4	9.9	25.8	28.8	
Lithuania	4,140	1,358	589	1,189	2,163	2,822	4,800	2,789	4,082		78.1	51.1	31.6	49.0	58.5	61.3	66.2	53.9	60.5	
Luxembourg	:	353	278	530	629	1,272	965	1,257	1,340		:	11.9	11.7	19.6	16.5	30.5	22.5	25.6	23.8	
Hungary	17,759	5,326	4,229	3,785	3,687	3,561	3,733	4,209	5,851		47.4	37.3	29.0	25.4	27.8	21.2	17.6	20.3	25.6	
Malta	797	534	463	760	877	1,230	2,044	2,782	3,036		16.5	15.1	16.8	21.8	19.4	18.1	20.7	27.9	33.8	
Netherlands	11,613	10,433	10,448	10,961	10,921	12,673	11,780	13,308	14,621		18.6	18.5	19.2	19.9	21.3	19.6	16.9	15.4	15.3	
Austria	3,096	2,692	2,923	3,244	3,721	3,555	3,442	3,598	3,337		14.2	9.6	9.6	9.2	9.8	10.4	8.6	7.0	6.7	
Poland	18,653	11,123	86,839	76,525	97,031	141,668	206,279	375,342	493,960		45.6	33.3	85.5	70.8	66.2	51.7	58.0	69.3	84.3	
Portugal	25,286	18,275	10,869	7,276	5,917	6,394	6,409	6,805	5,948		39.7	39.5	29.4	20.7	18.2	24.0	21.5	23.4	19.2	
Romania	9,039	4,724	1,700	1,971	1,656	1,542	1,803	1,680	1,766		46.7	30.7	16.6	20.2	16.4	13.8	17.5	14.9	14.9	
Slovenia	24,954	11,910	3,659	4,659	4,532	3,674	4,183	5,423	6,894		85.4	75.6	48.5	47.5	49.8	44.4	42.3	47.5	51.0	
Slovakia	3,984	2,302	1,776	1,321	1,719	1,624	1,741	3,142	3,590		49.6	43.1	40.6	36.3	40.8	36.8	31.6	33.9	35.1	
Finland	5,722	2,754	2,936	5,024	4,648	4,719	4,786	5,026	5,381		26.2	15.3	15.3	24.8	22.9	22.3	22.2	23.1	18.7	
Sweden	14,259	18,978	15,273	16,455	18,520	17,189	14,857	15,726	15,632		16.9	20.8	19.3	21.7	20.5	17.3	13.8	14.2	10.7	
Not covered	152,961	132,608	136,747	121,815	119,142	123,254	132,800	133,859	135,126		22.0	18.3	17.5	16.2	17.4	15.6	20.7	18.7	14.2	
Denmark	7,420	11,113	12,153	10,203	9,132	10,684	10,954	9,706	10,208		23.4	42.1	42.5	41.3	36.8	34.1	30.5	21.0	24.6	
Ireland	5,808	4,827	3,208	3,425	3,720	4,018	5,139	6,073	7,842		20.1	18.9	14.4	13.9	13.9	12.3	14.0	15.8	19.0	
United King.	139,733	116,668	121,386	108,187	106,290	108,552	116,707	118,080	117,076		22.1	17.4	16.6	15.4	16.8	15.0	20.6	18.7	13.5	

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'residence permit': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; " ": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

3.1.3 First residence permits by length of validity

Available statistics across the Member States of the EU-25 and EU-3 provide information on the length of validity of the first permits issued. However, the duration of the permits should not be interpreted as a proxy for eventual duration of stay as third-country nationals granted relatively short duration first permits often stay longer due to the renewal of their permits.

At the EU-25 level, around 56% of the first permits issued in 2016 had a length of validity of 12 months and over. At the EU-3 level, this share was much higher, amounting to 69% (Table 30).

The first permits with a length of validity of 12 months and over represented the majority of first permits delivered in most of the Member States of the EU-25 in 2016. In only a few of them, these first permits made up less than 50% of the first permits issued during that year, namely Austria (45%), Cyprus (44%), Italy (35%), Latvia (18%), and Poland (8%). Among the EU-3 Member States, the share of first permits with a length of validity of 12 months or more was below 50% only in Ireland (34%).

First permits with a length of validity from 6 to 11 months accounted for the second-largest category of first permits delivered at the EU-25 level (27%). However, shorter first permits were more common among the first permits issued at the EU-3 level since their share was 17%, against 14% for the first permits with a validity from 6 to 11 months. The share of these first permits was well above the EU-25 average in Member States where longer first permits made up less than 50% in 2016. The only exception during that year was Italy. In the latter, the first permits issued with a length of validity from 6 to 11 months accounted for 29% of all first permits delivered during that year. Among the EU-3 Member States, these permits represented nearly half of all the first permits issued in 2016.

Finally, first permits with a length of validity from 3 to 5 months represented 17% of all the first permits delivered at the EU-25 level in 2016. A similar share was observable at the EU-3 during that year. Among the EU Member States of the EU-25, three countries had shares of first permits with a length of validity from 3 to 5 months well above the EU-25 average: Poland (42%), Italy (36%), and Belgium (29%).

Table 30. First permits by length of validity in EU-25 and EU-3 (%), 2016

	Total	Duration (% of total)		
		From 3 to 5 months	From 6 to 11 months	12 months or over
Covered	2,411,946	17.0	27.0	56.1
Belgium	53,096	29.3	4.5	66.2
Bulgaria	7,942	7.3	36.6	56.1
Czech Republic	80,070	11.4	10.7	78.0
Germany	504,849	3.1	26.6	70.3
Estonia	4,308	2.5	9.2	88.3
Greece	44,072	0.0	0.0	100.0
Spain	211,533	3.8	15.9	80.2
France	237,218	1.0	7.8	91.2
Croatia	5,315	10.2	23.0	66.8
Italy	222,398	36.1	29.2	34.8
Cyprus	16,970	10.7	45.1	44.1
Latvia	6,037	3.7	78.1	18.2
Lithuania	6,750	1.5	12.7	85.8
Luxembourg	5,627	6.2	32.1	61.7
Hungary	22,842	10.9	33.4	55.7
Malta	8,995	13.9	13.5	72.6
Netherlands	95,753	1.5	10.7	87.8
Austria	50,066	1.3	54.1	44.6
Poland	585,969	42.4	49.9	7.6
Portugal	30,993	1.5	24.6	73.9
Romania	11,867	8.2	14.8	77.0
Slovenia	13,517	7.8	37.7	54.5
Slovakia	10,227	11.3	16.5	72.2
Finland	28,792	10.2	12.9	76.9
Sweden	146,740	9.3	6.5	84.2
Not covered	948,613	16.8	13.4	69.7
Denmark	41,440	12.7	25.4	62.0
Ireland	41,279	17.0	48.7	34.3
United Kingdom	865,894	17.0	11.2	71.8

Note: Data extracted on 02/04/2018; 'residence permit': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; "-": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

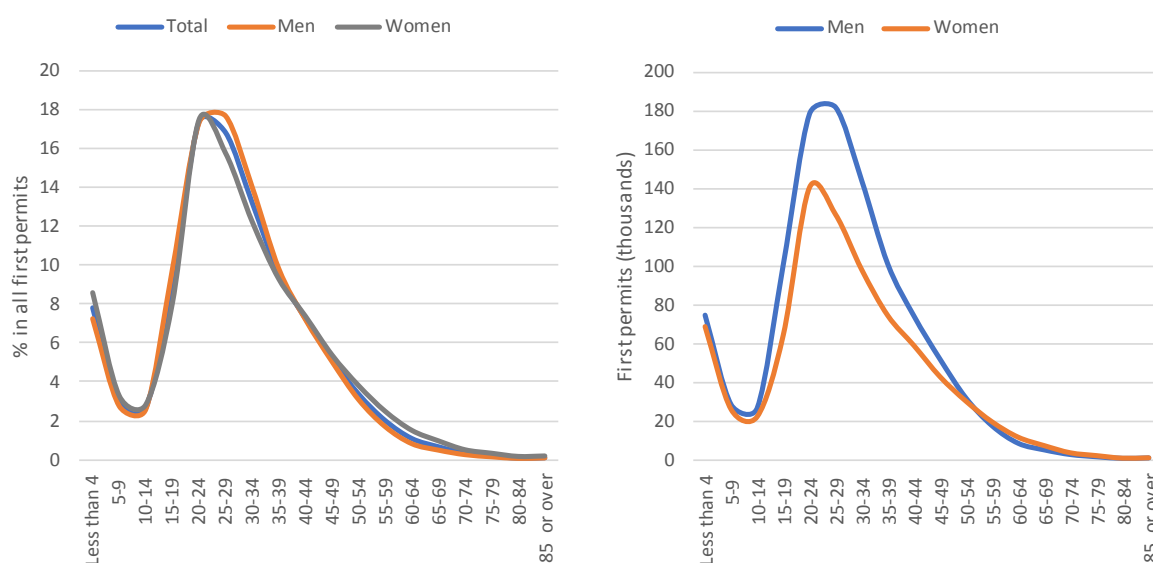
3.1.4 Gender and age of third-country nationals with first permits

The gender distribution of the TCNs who were issued first permits in a selection of EU-25 Member States in 2016 was comparable for men and women across ages (Figure 8). Nevertheless, in absolute terms, significantly more first permits were issued in

these countries to young and middle-aged men than to women in the same age groups. Such feature difference was particularly obvious for the age groups ranging from 20 to 39 years.

A look at the age distribution of the TCNs who were delivered first permits during that year in the selected EU-25 Member States reveals that this population was relatively young. Nearly 80% of the first permits delivered in these countries during that year targeted TCNs aged less than 40 years. Another interesting feature in 2016 was the large share of third-country nationals aged less than 4 years who were issued first permits. Nearly 8% of the first permits issued during that year were delivered to these third-country nationals.

Figure 8. Gender and age of third-country nationals delivered first permits in selected Member States in the EU-25, 2016



Note: Data extracted on 07/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. The EU-25 aggregate excludes Germany, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Malta, and Finland due to the lack of data on first permits broken down by age; France does not report on first permits below 15 years old. No permits are issued to minors, except for a few cases of workers 16–18 years old.

Source: Eurostat (migr_refas)

A look at the gender distribution of TCNs who were issued a first permit in 2016 in selected EU-25 Member States for which data are available reveals that TCN women were particularly underrepresented in Estonia (38%), Poland (37%), Croatia (33%), Slovenia (32%), and Lithuania (25%) (Table 29).

Regarding the distribution of TCNs who were delivered first permits during that year, it appears that the bulk of them were issued to TCNs aged from 15 to 64 years in these countries in 2016. Their share on average was 85%. The TCNs aged 65 years and more only accounted for a marginal share of the first permits issued during that year in these countries except for Czech Republic where their share was 9%. TCNs who aged less than 15 years made up on average 13% of the first permits issued in these countries in 2016. The number of first permits issued to young TCNs in all first permits delivered during that year was markedly high in Belgium (33%), Austria (28%), Greece (28%), Sweden (27%), and Spain (26%).

Table 31. First permits issued by gender and age group in selected Member States in the EU-25, 2016

	Total	% of women	Age group (% of total)		
			less than 15 years	From 15 to 64 years	65 years and over
Covered	1,834,310	43.9	13.5	85.0	1.5
Belgium	53,096	49.9	32.7	66.6	0.7
Bulgaria	7,942	47.4	11.9	79.2	8.9
Czech Republic	62,971	46.4	20.0	78.1	1.9
Estonia	4,308	37.7	11.1	86.3	2.6
Greece	44,072	49.2	28.1	68.5	3.4
Spain	211,533	53.5	26.1	72.1	1.9
France	235,011	51.3	0.0	98.0	2.0
Croatia	5,315	33.2	5.5	90.5	4.0
Italy	222,398	40.0	20.3	77.0	2.7
Cyprus	16,970	52.0	10.4	88.3	1.3
Latvia	6,037	35.5	15.4	81.0	3.7
Lithuania	6,750	25.4	8.2	89.9	1.9
Hungary	22,842	44.7	8.7	89.4	1.9
Netherlands	95,753	49.1	21.9	77.6	0.5
Austria	50,226	44.9	28.0	71.2	0.8
Poland	585,969	36.6	2.5	96.9	0.6
Portugal	30,993	52.6	15.5	81.2	3.3
Romania	11,867	43.8	10.0	87.9	2.1
Slovenia	13,517	32.4	13.4	86.1	0.5
Sweden	146,740	44.3	27.4	71.0	1.6

Note: Data extracted on 07/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. The EU-25 aggregate excludes Germany, Slovakia, Luxembourg, Malta, and Finland due to the lack of data on first permits broken down by age; France does not report on first permits below 15 years old. No permits are issued to minors, except for a few cases of workers 16–18 years old; ".": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas)

3.1.5 Origin of third-country nationals with first permits

More than 40% of the first permits issued in 2016 were delivered to TCNs originating from European countries other than the EU-28 ones (Table 32). A fourth of these permits were granted to TCNs from Asian countries. Nearly 19% of TCNs who were delivered a first permit during that year originated from African countries and 11% of them from American countries.

TCNs with first permits originating from European countries other than EU Member States accounted for more than three quarters of the TCNs who were issued first permits in 2016 in Poland (95%), Slovenia (91%), Bulgaria (80%), Italy (79%), Luxembourg (77%), and Spain (77%). Those originating from Asian countries were noticeably overrepresented in Latvia (71%), Sweden (67%), Estonia (60%), and the Netherlands (57%). First permits issued to TCNs from American countries amounted to 46% and 36% of first permits issued in France and Portugal, well above the EU-25 average. TCNs from African countries well prominently presented among TCNs who

were issued first permits in Croatia (55%), Cyprus (43%), and to a lesser extent Belgium (30%) and France (27%).

Table 32. First permits issued to third country nationals in selected Member States of the EU-25 by citizenship of origin (%), 2016

	Total	Citizenship of origin (%)					
		Africa	America	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Other
Covered	1,875,750	18.9	11.2	25.5	42.8	0.4	1.2
Belgium	53,096	30.7	11.3	40.9	11.3	0.5	5.3
Bulgaria	7,942	3.0	3.5	13.4	79.6	0.1	0.3
Czech Republic	62,971	2.1	7.2	33.4	56.8	0.4	0.1
Estonia	41,440	7.1	17.8	60.3	10.2	2.2	2.4
Greece	4,308	6.1	6.7	20.8	62.3	0.5	3.8
Spain	44,072	3.8	1.9	16.8	77.3	0.1	0.0
France	211,533	26.9	45.7	20.1	6.5	0.3	0.5
Croatia	235,011	55.0	11.9	24.2	8.3	0.5	0.2
Italy	5,315	1.7	8.6	9.7	79.2	0.7	0.1
Cyprus	222,398	42.5	10.9	28.9	17.4	0.2	0.0
Latvia	16,970	6.1	1.9	70.9	20.9	0.2	0.0
Lithuania	6,037	2.3	3.9	30.6	60.9	0.3	2.1
Luxembourg	6,750	1.8	1.9	18.2	77.4	0.1	0.6
Hungary	22,842	8.5	15.6	47.2	28.2	0.5	0.0
Netherlands	95,753	13.5	13.3	57.0	9.1	2.0	5.1
Austria	50,226	7.3	5.8	41.6	42.0	0.4	2.9
Poland	585,969	0.3	0.4	3.9	95.3	0.0	0.0
Portugal	30,993	24.7	35.7	29.3	10.0	0.3	0.0
Romania	11,867	8.9	7.5	42.3	40.2	0.5	0.6
Slovenia	13,517	0.8	1.7	5.8	91.1	0.1	0.5
Sweden	146,740	14.1	4.6	66.7	6.8	0.8	7.0

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'Europe': this aggregate excludes EU countries during the reference year; 'other': this aggregate includes recognised non-citizens, stateless, and unknown citizenship. The data on first permits by citizenship of origin are not available for Germany, Ireland, Denmark, Malta, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Finland, the United Kingdom.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas)

3.2 First permits by detailed reason

This section provides a more detailed analysis of the evolution of TCN flows by detail reason between 2008 and 2016. It aims to identify whether any significant changes occurred to the flows over time, and if so, whether the changes occurred since the transposition deadline of the relevant EU legal migration Directives. It also aims to identify whether certain Member States covered by the Directives were particularly affected by the flows in absolute figures. However, for reasons of data availability, the relationship between the flows and the transposition of the legal migration Directives can only be explored in the case of permits issued for reasons of remunerated activities as the legal migration Directives relevant to the flow of third-country national family members, long-term residents, third-country national students and researchers were adopted before 2008 (first year for which there is harmonised Eurostat data on residence permits)¹¹.

¹¹ However, in view of the transposition times of later Directives (the 2004 Students and the 2005 Researchers) the effect is still likely to have been captured by the 2008 data and onwards.

3.2.1 Family reasons

Third country nationals are issued residence permits when they join or accompany either another third country national or an EU citizen. Generally, the movement of third-country nationals is regulated by the Family Reunification Directive (Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification). The Directive was to be transposed by Member States by 3 October 2005. The scope of the directive is limited only to third country nationals joining other third-country nationals. Third-country nationals who join mobile EU citizens are regulated by more favourable rules of Directive 2004/38. These more favourable rules do not apply to TCNs joining EU citizens residing in their country of citizenship. In recent years the rights of family members to join or accompany family members have also been covered in the Blue Card Directive, the ICT Directive, the Revised Directive on Students and Researchers. Of these, only data on family members of Blue Card holders is available, while others are supposed to be available after 2017. The main focus of the Fitness Check is the category of family members of third-country nationals, which are covered by the directives in focus, but in the context of the analysis of gaps in migration acquis, TCNs joining EU citizens (either non-mobile or mobile ones), some data are presented here as well.

Eurostat provides statistics on the number of first permits issued for family reasons, desegregating them by detailed reason. It distinguishes between first permits issued to TCNs joining an EU citizen (including spouse/partner joining an EU citizen, child joining an EU citizen, other family member joining an EU citizen) and first permits delivered to TCNs joining a non-EU citizen (including spouse/partner joining a non-EU citizen, child joining a non-EU citizen, other family member joining a non-EU citizen)¹².

First permits delivered to TCNs joining an EU citizen

The number of first permits delivered to TCNs joining an EU citizen increased from 214 thousand in 2008 to 277 thousand in 2016 at the EU-25 level (Table 33). It grew faster at the EU-3 level, jumping from 18 thousand in 2008 to 33 thousand at the end of the period. The rise in the number of first permits delivered to TCNs joining an EU citizen at the EU-25 level should nevertheless be nuanced since the share of these permits in all the first permits issued for family reasons only grew slowly in 2016 compared to its level in 2008. Its share amounted to 41% in 2016, against 38% in 2008. A deeper look at the trend revealed a strong decrease in this share in 2010, followed a rebound afterwards, reaching its highest level in 2015. At the EU-3 level, the share of these permits in all first permits issued more than doubled during the period. It reached 31% in 2016, against only 14% in 2008.

The growth of the share of first permits delivered to TCNs joining an EU citizen over that period was quite different across the Member States of the EU-25. Admittedly, the analysis of the trends is strongly affected by methodological and administrative issues surrounding the collection of these detailed statistics in many countries. Yet, it can be observed that the EU-25 Member States having delivered the highest number of first permits delivered to TCNs joining an EU citizen in 2016 experienced different patterns. The share of these first permits increased in Italy and Spain while it went down in France, Germany, and Belgium. Among the Member States of the EU-3, the United Kingdom delivered the highest number of first permits issued to TCNs joining

¹² Family members who are the subject of a family formation/reunification residence permit and who also receive the right to work are included only in the statistics under the first permits issued for family reasons table and not under the first permits issued for remunerated activities table. Only family members granted an independent work permit (not linked to the sponsor) are recorded in the first permits issued for remunerated activities table.

an EU citizen in 2016¹³. The share of these first permits in the first permits delivered for family reasons markedly rose during the period.

¹³ According to Eurostat, these figures are the initial recognition of rights to reside by non-EEA nationals. The figures reflect persons issued documents under the 2004/38/EC/Directive as initial recognition of right to reside as a family member of a EEA national; standard practice is that all grants of this permission to stay are for a period of 5 years. Other documents may be used for the same purpose, so this data will exclude those who choose not to apply. Those people aged under 18 have been estimated as being children.

from 62% in 2008 to 59% in 2008, after having peaked at 68% in 2010. At the EU-3 level, the share of these permits in all first permits issued diminished over the period. It amounted to 86% in 2008 while it was only 69% in 2016.

Table 34. Number of first permits issued to TCNs joining a non-EU citizen reasons and share in first permits issued for family reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

	First permits for TCNs joining a non-EU citizen										% of all first permits for family reasons									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	345,763	337,057	434,284	380,910	367,551	364,725	361,931	367,641	397,509		61.7	63.2	68.0	64.3	64.3	64.5	63.4	56.5	59.0	
Belgium	7,333	8,596	13,406	14,944	14,041	12,576	13,353	15,745	16,067		36.1	30.1	43.9	49.1	56.0	56.5	57.8	60.1	61.0	
Bulgaria	1,480	1,482	1,725	917	1,129	1,178	1,404	1,549	1,637		95.7	96.3	97.0	47.9	50.4	52.5	54.2	53.3	50.5	
Czech Rep.	9,712	8,281	13,398	9,077	8,600	9,325	9,599	19,159	22,343		90.8	89.2	90.2	90.7	89.3	90.4	89.8	90.1	90.9	
Germany	29,215	29,761	28,200	24,810	40,031	43,081	47,496	74,982	87,469		58.9	55.0	54.1	53.0	52.7	52.2	51.8	56.0	63.9	
Estonia	:	:	:	904	711	653	752	842	866		:	:	:	70.1	61.8	59.2	59.5	62.3	60.8	
Greece	18,684	19,570	13,398	9,783	7,619	5,396	6,541	14,211	19,563		85.5	86.5	81.0	76.9	64.4	49.7	51.7	74.1	82.9	
Spain	103,640	82,521	98,358	92,891	75,146	66,605	61,996	61,772	67,048		69.0	65.9	69.3	62.7	62.7	62.2	61.4	60.3	58.2	
France	32,333	29,626	29,898	26,146	27,195	37,199	37,325	44,465	41,847		37.8	33.7	34.9	32.6	32.1	40.6	40.5	44.8	44.4	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	0	0	472	427		:	:	:	:	:	0.0	0.0	25.5	25.5	
Italy	60,134	70,904	160,200	119,756	99,493	89,035	80,470	36,794	32,765		78.3	94.3	88.8	84.7	83.1	82.2	81.2	33.7	32.4	
Cyprus	1	1	741	402	436	307	1,540	1,807	1,664		0.5	0.2	40.1	23.1	30.3	25.0	73.0	70.0	71.4	
Latvia	1,498	414	413	1,333	1,620	2,959	4,212	1,894	1,570		60.8	54.5	53.2	75.7	77.5	84.0	85.9	74.2	71.5	
Lithuania	641	764	691	738	844	946	1,399	1,179	1,062		97.3	97.0	96.4	96.6	95.6	95.7	95.0	92.6	90.5	
Luxembourg	:	300	340	679	1,133	1,072	1,303	1,544	1,521		:	14.5	19.0	40.4	47.5	49.8	52.8	55.0	51.5	
Hungary	5,337	1,144	1,349	2,487	1,143	2,247	4,896	3,937	2,809		63.5	65.3	40.0	59.7	39.6	55.4	72.7	68.9	59.4	
Malta	172	61	30	25	20	806	1,433	1,392	868		18.0	15.6	7.7	7.2	5.6	53.2	69.0	65.0	50.5	
Netherlands	:	11,756	11,404	12,563	20,002	23,835	14,284	13,428	17,311		:	50.9	52.9	56.3	94.5	93.9	64.6	61.9	69.3	
Austria	7,891	7,651	7,838	7,107	5,737	5,916	6,381	6,692	6,593		54.8	52.5	53.8	51.8	43.7	46.8	47.6	43.1	42.2	
Poland	8,805	8,549	598	714	1,182	787	657	755	7,237		98.7	98.3	23.3	26.8	38.6	29.9	55.3	74.8	86.0	
Portugal	17,087	11,036	11,967	11,931	9,274	7,821	9,608	8,138	9,384		62.7	55.3	68.5	65.5	63.3	64.0	69.4	63.0	63.2	
Romania	1,216	1,261	910	1,103	1,362	1,478	1,303	1,463	1,533		19.9	20.9	19.6	28.1	34.9	35.6	39.1	38.8	39.6	
Slovenia	:	2,110	2,231	2,841	2,346	2,987	4,192	3,492	3,556		:	67.7	70.4	70.6	69.5	76.1	82.2	76.0	77.4	
Slovakia	619	640	697	631	799	1,038	1,337	2,011	2,017		50.6	55.4	60.0	60.6	70.2	73.6	77.1	79.1	78.1	
Finland	4,915	4,304	4,302	4,828	4,892	5,422	5,426	5,126	5,318		68.5	64.8	64.2	65.3	68.1	68.6	67.5	66.7	67.9	
Sweden	35,050	36,325	32,190	34,300	42,796	42,056	45,024	44,792	45,034		95.7	95.9	95.9	95.5	97.3	97.5	97.3	96.6	94.4	
Not covered	106,994	98,319	108,069	96,520	78,289	78,021	71,710	81,154	73,382		85.8	76.5	79.8	76.2	78.9	73.5	65.6	74.2	69.0	
Denmark	:	1,410	4,582	4,177	4,359	6,091	1,351	13,507	10,648		:	30.1	56.6	68.9	67.7	67.2	13.1	84.6	82.7	
Ireland	456	568	300	296	286	117	186	162	312		13.4	21.8	14.8	14.8	15.1	5.7	7.4	4.7	7.6	
United King.	106,538	96,341	103,187	92,047	73,644	71,813	70,173	67,485	62,422		91.0	79.4	82.3	77.6	81.0	75.6	72.7	75.0	69.9	

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" : not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfam)

EU-25 Member States having issued the largest number of first permits delivered to TCNs joining a non-EU citizen over that period showed contrasted trends in relative terms. The share of these permits in all first permits issued for family reasons declined

slowly in Sweden but strongly in Italy and Spain. Conversely, it followed an upward trend in Germany and France. Among the Member States of the EU-3, the United Kingdom delivered the highest number of first permits issued to TCNs joining a non-EU citizen in 2016. The share of these first permits in the first permits delivered for family reasons decreased substantially during the period.

Table 35. Share of first permits for the persons joining a non-EU citizen and an EU citizen by type of person joining, 2016

	Person joining a non-EU citizen				Person joining an EU citizen			
	Total	Spouse/partner joining a non-EU citizen (% of total)	Child joining a non-EU citizen (% of total)	Other family member joining a non-EU citizen (% of total)	Total	Spouse/partner joining an EU citizen (% of total)	Child joining an EU citizen (% of total)	Other family member joining an EU citizen (% of total)
Covered	397,509	33.0	53.6	13.4	276,596	56.4	19.9	23.7
Belgium	16,067	22.6	77.1	0.2	10,258	54.1	36.6	9.3
Bulgaria	1,637	30.3	55.2	14.5	1,603	94.2	5.8	0.0
Czech Republic	22,343	27.1	44.3	28.6	2,225	87.6	6.3	6.1
Germany	87,469	34.3	62.6	3.1	49,513	46.6	3.1	50.3
Estonia	866	44.6	48.2	7.3	558	83.0	0.5	16.5
Greece	19,563	26.4	73.6	0.0	4,035	79.6	10.2	10.3
Spain	67,048	20.9	78.5	0.6	48,095	61.5	30.6	7.9
France	41,847	33.6	3.5	62.9	52,498	75.8	1.4	22.7
Croatia	427	41.2	53.9	4.9	1,246	82.6	5.2	12.2
Italy	32,765	33.4	53.1	13.5	68,504	34.7	44.6	20.7
Cyprus	1,664	53.5	32.6	13.9	668	0.0	0.0	100.0
Latvia	1,570	38.9	55.5	5.6	627	82.8	3.2	14.0
Lithuania	1,062	45.2	35.4	19.4	111	0.0	0.0	100.0
Luxembourg	1,521	40.2	37.5	22.4	1,431	73.5	22.6	3.9
Hungary	2,809	37.0	49.5	13.6	1,921	64.1	16.0	19.9
Malta	868	24.9	75.1	0.0	851	84.1	12.5	3.4
Netherlands	17,311	34.9	58.4	6.8	7,651	85.6	6.5	7.9
Austria	6,593	100.0	0.0	0.0	9,042	100.0	0.0	0.0
Poland	7,237	28.7	13.7	57.5	1,179	0.1	20.0	79.9
Portugal	9,384	27.8	22.6	49.6	5,463	0.1	0.0	99.9
Romania	1,533	32.6	31.6	35.8	2,338	74.6	7.1	18.3
Slovenia	3,556	46.6	52.9	0.4	1,036	75.8	19.8	4.4
Slovakia	2,017	37.9	53.0	9.1	565	87.4	8.0	4.6
Finland	5,318	33.8	65.3	0.9	2,515	91.3	6.6	2.1
Sweden	45,034	45.3	53.8	0.8	2,663	61.9	37.1	1.0
Not covered	73,382	60.8	38.7	0.5	32,942	77.7	19.1	3.2
Denmark	10,648	42.5	57.4	0.1	2,235	97.3	2.7	0.0
Ireland	312	39.7	7.7	52.6	3,788	74.7	20.3	5.0
United Kingdom	62,422	64.0	35.7	0.3	26,919	76.5	20.3	3.2

Note: Data extracted on 10/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; "-": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfam)

At the EU-25 level, more than half of the persons joining non-EU citizens were children in 2016, while the latter represented a fifth of the persons joining EU citizens during that year (Table 35). Spouses/partners joining non-EU citizen accounted for 33% of all the first permits issued to the persons joining non-EU citizens in EU-25 Member States, against more than a half for those joining EU citizens. Other family members joining non-EU citizens made up only 13% of the first permits issued the persons joining these citizens, compared to 24% for those joining EU citizens.

Within the EU-25, the first permits issued to child joining non-EU citizens in 2016 accounted for more than 60% of the first permits delivered to the persons joining these citizens in Spain (79%), Belgium (77%), Greece (74%), Finland (65%), and Germany (62%). Excluding Austria who did not report on the different types of person, the share of first permits issued to spouses/partners joining non-EU citizens were the highest in Cyprus (54%), Slovenia (46%), Sweden (45%), and Lithuania (45%). Finally, other family members joining non-EU citizens represented 63%, 58%, and 50% of the first permits issued to persons joining these citizens in France, Poland, and Portugal. These shares were above those of the other EU-25 countries.

3.2.2 Education reasons

First permits are issued for education reasons, including study¹⁴ and other education reasons, including school pupils¹⁵, unremunerated trainees¹⁶, and volunteers¹⁷. Eurostat provides statistics on the number of first permits issued for student reasons, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, for other education reasons as a whole (including school pupils, unremunerated trainees, and volunteers).

First permits issued for study reasons

The number of first permits issued to TCNs for study reasons increased from 156 thousand in 2008 to 248 thousand in 2016 at the EU-25 level (Table 36). From 2008 to 2016, the share these permits in all first permits issued for education reasons grew from 78.4% to 83.5%. It should, however, be noted that this relatively high share may be overestimated by the fact that France (and Bulgaria) does not provide a detailed breakdown of first permits for students and other educational reasons. All first permits issued for education reasons are reported under the study category. Moreover, the trends may be biased because statistics are not available for the first half of the period for a number of EU-25 Member States, including Bulgaria, Estonia, Croatia, Lithuania, and Slovenia. Hence, the growth of these permits in absolute terms over the whole period may be overestimated. The statistics are available for all EU-25 Member States since 2013. Taking this year as a base year reveals that the number of first permits delivered for study reasons has still followed an upward trend until 2016. In 2013, 214 thousand first permits were delivered for study reasons, 34 thousand

¹⁴ In accordance with Article 2(b) of the Council Directive 2004/114/EC, a student is defined as a third-country national accepted by an establishment of higher education and admitted to the territory of a Member State to pursue as his/her main activity a full-time course of study leading to a higher education qualification recognised by the Member State, including diplomas, certificates or doctoral degrees in an establishment of higher education, which may cover a preparatory course prior to such education according to its national legislation.

¹⁵ A school pupil (Article 2(c) of the Council Directive 2004/114) is a third-country national admitted to the territory of a Member State to follow a recognised programme of secondary education in the context of an exchange scheme operated by an organisation recognised for that purpose by the Member State in accordance with its national legislation or administrative practice; this also includes boarding school pupils who would be admitted under national legislation.

¹⁶ An unremunerated trainee (Article 2(d) of the Council Directive 2004/114): an unremunerated trainee is a third-country national who has been admitted to the territory of a Member State for a training period without remuneration in accordance with its national legislation.

¹⁷ A volunteer (Article 2(f) of the Council Directive 2004/114) is a beneficiary of a voluntary service programme, that is a programme of activities of practical solidarity, based on a State or a Union scheme, pursuing objectives of general interest. This category does not include researchers covered by the first permits issued for remunerated activities.

less than in 2016. However, their share in all first permits delivered for education decreased slightly.

The five EU-25 Member States (excluding France) who issued the largest number of first permits for study reasons in 2016 were Germany (37 thousand), Spain (34 thousand), Poland (21 thousand), the Netherlands (16 thousand), and Italy (9 thousand). The number of first permits issued for student reasons increased in Germany between 2008 and 2016; their share in all first permits issued for education reasons also rose during that period. A different pattern could be observed in Poland: the number of first permits issued for student reasons grew during that period but their share dropped.

At the EU-3 level, the analysis of the trends over the whole period is not possible due to the missing statistics from the United Kingdom. Available statistics for all the Member States over the second half of the period nevertheless show a rise in the number of first permits issued in these countries. This number grew from 199 thousand in 2013 to 385 thousand. The share of these permits in all first permits issued for education reasons increased from 94% in 2013 to 97%. Yet, this high share can be explained by the fact that UK statistics do not distinguish between first permits for students and those issued for other related educational reasons. Indeed, the UK accounted for the majority of first permits issued for education reasons at the EU-3 level.

Table 36. Number of first permits issued for study reasons and share in first permits issued for education reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

	First permits for study reasons										% of all first permits for education reasons									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	157,677	188,155	191,159	198,583	197,657	214,134	228,434	225,851	247,989		78.4	86.6	87.1	88.4	85.1	85.0	85.3	85.1	83.5	
Belgium	6,383	6,772	5,184	5,199	5,266	5,468	5,794	5,840	5,718		94.7	93.8	87.9	89.1	90.6	92.6	92.2	92.0	90.7	
Bulgaria	:	:	:	1,058	1,396	935	911	874	1,067		:	:	:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Czech Rep.	1,424	1,202	1,399	1,020	1,867	2,294	2,516	5,484	5,668		33.7	29.0	27.1	20.4	29.3	36.9	41.7	40.2	33.1	
Germany	22,159	24,200	23,497	21,172	32,305	36,862	40,388	13,475	37,297		73.9	77.2	78.2	76.8	79.8	80.2	81.7	80.8	80.9	
Estonia	:	:	:	339	349	434	698	846	946		:	:	:	85.8	82.3	87.1	89.8	85.8	84.9	
Greece	1,411	1,453	1,288	1,261	779	953	353	281	297		97.4	97.6	97.4	97.2	92.5	88.7	42.3	32.3	32.9	
Spain	:	20,056	22,882	32,769	26,344	25,863	27,924	31,170	33,700		:	90.9	92.0	93.5	97.2	97.9	94.1	94.2	94.6	
France	52,226	58,738	65,538	65,145	59,045	62,988	65,201	70,250	73,865		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	179	308	296	416		:	:	:	:	:	96.8	73.7	76.5	79.1	
Italy	25,098	24,219	17,559	24,066	18,484	16,201	15,042	14,195	8,542		87.7	74.2	68.4	79.5	60.3	59.8	61.7	62.1	50.7	
Cyprus	3,761	5,022	2,311	1,434	959	846	806	1,703	3,228		93.5	92.9	85.7	75.2	66.9	60.6	55.8	76.5	97.4	
Latvia	256	142	280	440	647	772	1,030	1,095	1,287		74.0	67.0	94.6	95.9	96.0	95.5	98.1	98.0	97.9	
Lithuania	:	:	:	0	362	542	607	678	850		:	:	:	0.0	94.0	89.9	91.1	91.3	91.6	
Luxembourg	:	83	94	173	148	153	209	214	205		:	86.5	62.7	59.5	36.1	37.9	45.8	48.4	48.8	
Hungary	7,760	4,167	3,951	3,666	3,936	5,448	5,139	5,807	7,821		100.0	98.4	98.9	90.1	89.2	98.8	99.4	98.8	99.3	
Malta	202	191	157	136	195	170	174	117	256		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	9.2	6.0	5.0	13.9	
Netherlands	8,850	9,944	10,510	10,701	10,747	12,507	12,347	14,925	15,950		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.1	96.9	97.8	97.8	
Austria	2,313	2,615	3,058	4,213	5,312	4,604	5,359	6,009	4,875		81.1	80.9	81.9	83.7	84.3	83.1	84.4	85.1	84.5	
Poland	4,464	5,329	7,324	3,880	6,035	16,853	22,862	29,764	21,256		72.6	75.4	80.5	55.5	62.8	73.3	76.7	75.7	65.1	
Portugal	3,508	4,043	5,288	6,322	7,877	3,971	2,823	2,727	3,353		80.8	94.0	97.7	97.6	93.7	83.9	82.9	86.9	87.4	
Romania	2,274	2,604	2,478	2,623	2,989	3,303	3,145	3,788	3,967		76.6	73.5	75.9	82.5	87.2	89.5	89.0	86.6	85.7	
Slovenia	:	:	:	618	564	300	500	910	1,318		:	:	:	59.5	52.6	50.3	100.0	69.2	73.3	
Slovakia	267	304	299	312	466	694	947	1,294	1,509		59.5	91.0	84.7	77.4	82.9	83.7	87.5	87.7	87.6	
Finland	4,441	3,949	4,433	5,370	5,405	5,314	5,528	5,756	6,235		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Sweden	10,880	13,122	13,629	6,666	6,180	6,480	7,823	8,353	8,363		93.0	93.9	97.5	98.5	88.5	86.7	85.1	93.1	95.0	
Not covered	6,329	12,105	12,505	11,926	211,825	198,544	194,217	244,405	384,908		2.5	4.2	4.3	4.4	95.4	93.6	92.9	93.9	96.9	
Denmark	:	5,064	4,991	4,975	5,331	6,022	6,330	7,307	8,111		:	79.1	82.3	81.4	81.6	80.7	78.1	79.0	77.4	
Ireland	6,329	7,041	7,514	6,951	7,714	9,325	10,653	8,001	11,342		50.5	57.4	55.0	45.9	45.8	43.6	44.9	36.2	52.9	
United King.	:	:	:	:	198,780	183,197	177,234	229,097	365,455		:	:	:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resedu)

First permits issued for other education reasons

The number of first permits for other education purposes amounted to 49 thousand in the EU-25 Member States, compared to 20 thousand in 2008 and 38 thousand in 2013 (Table 37). Their share in all first permits delivered for education reasons rose from 10% in 2008 to 16% in 2016. In 2013, it was 15%. These trends and levels at the EU-25 level should nevertheless be interpreted with caution given the methodological and administrative issues, surrounding the collection of these data, as underlined above.

The five EU-25 Member States which issued the largest number of first permits for other education reasons in 2016 were Czech Republic (11 thousand), Poland (11

thousand), Germany (9 thousand), and Italy (8 thousand). The first two of them enjoyed both an increase in the number of first permits issued for other education purposes and in their share. All other EU-25 Member States for which data are available were lagging far behind these four countries in 2016.

Table 37. Number of first permits issued for other education reasons and share in first permits issued for education reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

	First permits for other education reasons										% of all first permits for education reasons									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	19,632	25,960	25,405	26,117	34,499	37,755	39,346	39,587	48,941		9.8	12.0	11.6	11.6	14.9	15.0	14.7	14.9	16.5	
Belgium	360	450	715	635	547	434	492	505	585		5.3	6.2	12.1	10.9	9.4	7.4	7.8	8.0	9.3	
Bulgaria	:	:	:	0	0	0	0	0	0		:	:	:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Czech Rep.	2,796	2,940	3,754	3,968	4,514	3,921	3,514	8,174	11,431		66.3	71.0	72.9	79.6	70.7	63.1	58.3	59.8	66.9	
Germany	7,826	7,145	6,538	6,396	8,174	9,093	9,018	3,208	8,786		26.1	22.8	21.8	23.2	20.2	19.8	18.3	19.2	19.1	
Estonia	:	:	:	56	75	64	79	140	168		:	:	:	14.2	17.7	12.9	10.2	14.2	15.1	
Greece	38	36	35	36	63	121	482	590	605		2.6	2.4	2.6	2.8	7.5	11.3	57.7	67.7	67.1	
Spain	:	2,012	1,982	2,268	770	553	1,744	1,926	1,936		:	9.1	8.0	6.5	2.8	2.1	5.9	5.8	5.4	
France	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0.0	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	6	110	91	110		:	:	:	:	:	3.2	26.3	23.5	20.9	
Italy	3,511	8,415	8,117	6,194	12,147	10,882	9,331	8,675	8,305		12.3	25.8	31.6	20.5	39.7	40.2	38.3	37.9	49.3	
Cyprus	262	385	387	473	474	551	638	523	85		6.5	7.1	14.3	24.8	33.1	39.4	44.2	23.5	2.6	
Latvia	90	70	16	19	27	36	20	22	27		26.0	33.0	5.4	4.1	4.0	4.5	1.9	2.0	2.1	
Lithuania	:	:	:	297	23	61	59	65	78		:	:	:	100.0	6.0	10.1	8.9	8.7	8.4	
Luxembourg	:	13	56	118	262	251	247	228	215		:	13.5	37.3	40.5	63.9	62.1	54.2	51.6	51.2	
Hungary	0	67	44	401	475	67	29	69	53		0.0	1.6	1.1	9.9	10.8	1.2	0.6	1.2	0.7	
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	1,679	2,750	2,229	1,592		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.8	94.0	95.0	86.1	
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	371	399	338	367		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	3.1	2.2	2.2	
Austria	540	618	677	818	986	934	991	1,054	895		18.9	19.1	18.1	16.3	15.7	16.9	15.6	14.9	15.5	
Poland	1,681	1,737	1,774	3,115	3,579	6,154	6,963	9,544	11,420		27.4	24.6	19.5	44.5	37.2	26.7	23.3	24.3	34.9	
Portugal	836	259	126	156	533	763	584	412	484		19.2	6.0	2.3	2.4	6.3	16.1	17.1	13.1	12.6	
Romania	695	937	787	556	440	389	390	586	664		23.4	26.5	24.1	17.5	12.8	10.5	11.0	13.4	14.3	
Slovenia	:	:	:	420	509	296	0	405	481		:	:	:	40.5	47.4	49.7	0.0	30.8	26.7	
Slovakia	182	30	54	91	96	135	135	181	214		40.5	9.0	15.3	22.6	17.1	16.3	12.5	12.3	12.4	
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sweden	815	846	343	100	805	994	1,371	622	440		7.0	6.1	2.5	1.5	11.5	13.3	14.9	6.9	5.0	
Not covered	6,209	6,564	7,216	9,320	10,318	13,510	14,848	16,015	12,449		2.4	2.3	2.5	3.5	4.6	6.4	7.1	6.1	3.1	
Denmark	:	1,342	1,077	1,140	1,204	1,441	1,771	1,941	2,370		:	20.9	17.7	18.6	18.4	19.3	21.9	21.0	22.6	
Ireland	6,209	5,222	6,139	8,180	9,114	12,069	13,077	14,074	10,079		49.5	42.6	45.0	54.1	54.2	56.4	55.1	63.8	47.1	
United King.	:	:	:	:	0	0	0	0	0		:	:	:	:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resedu)

3.2.3 Remunerated activities reasons

First permits are issued for a variety of remunerated activities reasons. Eurostat provides statistics on the first permits issued for the different remunerated activities

under different categories: highly skilled workers¹⁸, EU Blue Card¹⁹, researchers²⁰, seasonal workers²¹, and other remunerated activities²² with are not included in the previous categories. The following developments provide further insights on the first four “well-identified” detailed categories.

First permits issued for highly skilled workers

The number of first permits for highly skilled workers increased from 16 thousand in 2008 to 25 thousand in 2016 in the Member States of the EU-25, where such schemes existed during the period (Table 38). This concerned half of the Member States of the EU-25. The share of these permits in all first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons grew from 2.5% to 3.5% during that period in the Member States under consideration. The number of these first permits also increased in the Member States of the EU-3, rising from 8 thousand in 2008 to 11 thousand in 2016. Their share in all the first permits delivered for remunerated activities reasons expanded from 5% at the beginning of the period to 8% in 2016.

Among the Member States of the EU-25, three of them had a number of first permits delivered for highly skilled workers in 2016 well above the other countries where such schemes existed. These countries were the Netherlands, Sweden, and Spain. In all these countries, the share of first permits for highly skilled workers in all first permits increased between 2008 and 2016. Yet, it was noticeably high only in the Netherlands (62%) and Sweden (34%).

With EU-3, Denmark and Ireland were the countries that issued the highest numbers of first permits for highly skilled workers in 2016. These numbers increased throughout the period under consideration. In addition, these permits represented a commensurate share in their first permits for remunerated activities reasons in 2016. During that year, these shares amounted respectively to 56% and 45%, above their levels in 2008.

¹⁸ ‘Highly skilled workers’ refers to the first residence permits issued to third-country nationals admitted under national programmes facilitating the admission of highly skilled workers.

¹⁹ ‘EU Blue Card’ refers to the first residence permits issued to persons granted such authorisation to reside. ‘EU Blue Cards’ means a permit as defined in Article 2(c) of the Council Directive 2009/50/EC i.e. the authorisation bearing the term ‘EU Blue Card’ entitling its holder to reside and work in the territory of a Member State under the terms of this Directive.

²⁰ ‘Researchers’ refers to the first residence permits issued to persons granted such authorisation to reside. A researcher is defined by Council Directive 2005/71/EC as a third-country national holding an appropriate higher education qualification, which gives access to doctoral programmes, who is selected by a research organisation for carrying out a research project for which the above qualification is normally required.

²¹ In the absence of the common European legislative framework and common definition of the ‘seasonal workers’, this category include all third-country nationals, who retain their legal domicile in a third country but reside temporarily for the purposes of employment in the territory of a Member State in a sector of activity dependent on the passing of the seasons, under one or more fixed-term work contracts concluded directly between the third country national and the employer established in a Member State.

²² ‘Other remunerated activities’ includes first residence permits issued to persons granted authorisation to work not covered by the other categories above. This would include employed and self-employed persons, remunerated trainees, and remunerated au pairs.

Table 38. Number of first permits issued for highly skilled workers and share in first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

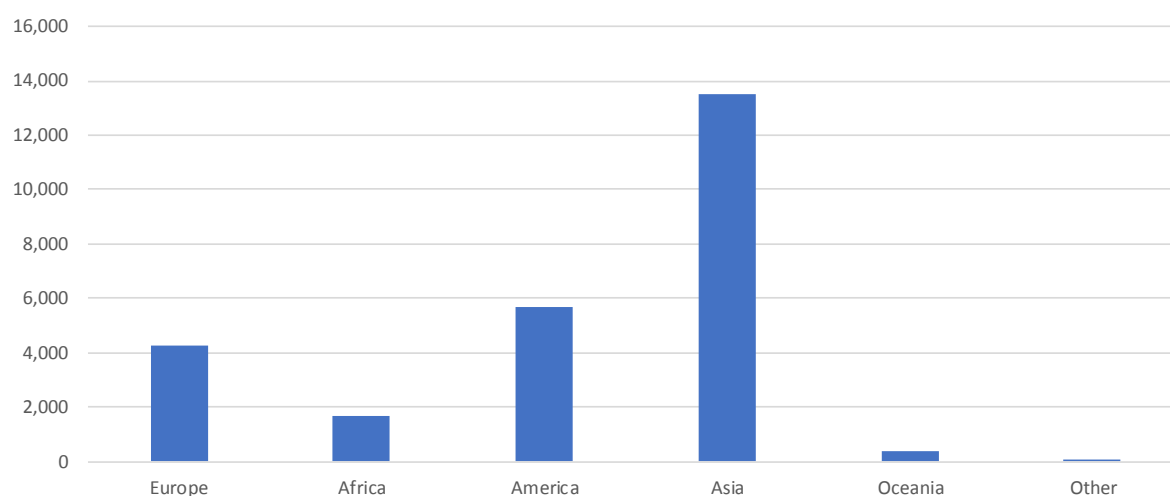
	First permits for highly skilled workers										% of all first permits for remunerated activities reasons									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	16,157	14,980	17,053	19,751	19,755	21,940	24,922	25,818	25,446		2.5	2.9	2.6	4.9	5.5	5.3	5.7	4.5	3.5	
Belgium	3,577	1,202	101	137	95	73	2,484	2,679	:		50.4	22.3	2.3	2.9	2.0	1.7	52.1	54.1	:	
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Czech Rep.	0	18	0	0	69	69	46	45	4		0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.0	
Germany	96	119	122	177	210	11	13	11	11		0.5	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Spain	2,884	2,071	1,441	1,690	1,231	1,480	2,137	2,547	3,211		3.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	3.0	5.0	6.1	8.4	
France	1,681	2,366	2,554	3,148	3,037	2,667	2,567	2,551	2,198		7.7	11.5	13.6	17.2	19.2	14.6	13.2	12.1	9.4	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	565	0	0	0		:	:	:	:	:	94.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Italy	0	0	1,984	1,563	1,695	1,543	1,066	1,006	709		0.0	0.0	0.6	1.3	2.5	1.9	2.0	5.8	7.6	
Cyprus	393	436	634	551	600	385	469	662	718		2.8	3.2	5.3	5.6	8.7	5.8	5.9	9.0	9.7	
Latvia	0	85	114	97	106	82	122	143	144		0.0	18.3	28.7	18.7	13.8	10.3	12.6	8.7	8.3	
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Luxembourg	:	96	74	102	21	0	0	0	0		:	27.2	26.6	19.2	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Netherlands	6,411	4,895	5,531	5,594	5,514	7,046	7,123	7,909	9,084		55.2	46.9	52.9	51.0	50.5	55.6	60.5	59.4	62.1	
Austria	827	575	668	868	1,158	1,228	1,083	1,173	1,124		26.7	21.4	22.9	26.8	31.1	34.5	31.5	32.6	33.7	
Poland	0	0	12	275	206	387	691	570	1,184		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	
Portugal	288	307	342	282	313	767	989	896	814		1.1	1.7	3.1	3.9	5.3	12.0	15.4	13.2	13.7	
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Finland	0	0	0	861	749	971	1,120	959	957		0.0	0.0	0.0	17.1	16.1	20.6	23.4	19.1	17.8	
Sweden	0	2,810	3,476	4,406	4,751	4,666	5,012	4,527	5,288		0.0	14.8	22.8	26.8	25.7	27.1	33.7	28.8	33.8	
Not covered	7,825	24,008	22,824	17,176	13,566	10,518	10,614	9,460	10,515		5.1	18.1	16.7	14.1	11.4	8.5	8.0	7.1	7.8	
Denmark	0	3,594	5,392	4,157	4,088	5,730	5,698	5,457	5,762		0.0	32.3	44.4	40.7	44.8	53.6	52.0	56.2	56.4	
Ireland	1,925	1,483	992	1,340	1,408	1,707	2,438	2,376	3,508		33.1	30.7	30.9	39.1	37.8	42.5	47.4	39.1	44.7	
United King.	5,900	18,931	16,440	11,679	8,070	3,081	2,478	1,627	1,245		4.2	16.2	13.5	10.8	7.6	2.8	2.1	1.4	1.1	

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

A deeper look at the first permits delivered for highly skilled workers in the reporting EU-25 countries in 2016 reveals that the majority of them were delivered to TCNs with citizenship of Asian countries (13,494), and to a lesser extent to TCNs from American countries (5,676) and European countries other than the European Union (4,236) (Figure 9).

Figure 9. First permits issued for highly skilled workers in the reporting EU-25 Member States in 2016 by citizenship of origin



Note: Data extracted on 11/04/2018; 'Europe': this aggregate excludes EU countries during the reference year; 'other': this aggregate includes recognised non-citizens, stateless, and unknown citizenship.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

First permits issued for researchers

First permits issued for researchers rose significantly in the EU Member States between 2008 and 2016. The Council Directive 2005/71/EC certainly contributed to this expansion. In the EU-25 level, more countries gradually reported first permits under this category during that period (Table 39). Moreover, many of those who already reported these first permits in 2008 increased issues afterwards. While in 2008 the number of first permits issued for researchers was 4 thousand, it was more than the double in 2016, reaching 9 thousand. Although the share of these permits in all first permits delivered for remunerated activities reasons remained small in 2016, amounting to 1.4%, it was only 0.7% in 2008. Yet, such share peaked at 2.2% in 2012 and 2013 but diminished in the subsequent years.

With the EU-25, two countries issued first permits for researchers at levels well above the others in 2016. These countries were France and the Netherlands, which issued an increasing number of these permits during that period. The shares of these permits in all the first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons in these two countries were considerably higher than those of the other EU-25 Member States at the end of the period. In 2016, they amounted to 17% in the Netherlands and 14% in France. Five other countries issued more than 300 first permits for researchers during that year, without nevertheless reaching 500: Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and Spain. In all these countries but Spain, the number of first permits for researchers rose between 2008 and 2016.

At the EU-3 level, the number of first permits issued for researchers was rather limited in 2016. With slightly more than 500 first permits issued for researchers, Denmark issued a higher number of these permits than the United Kingdom and Ireland during that year. The share of these first permits in all first permits delivered for remunerated activities was less than 1% at the EU-3 level in 2016 but reached 5% in Denmark.

Table 39. Number of first permits issued for researchers and share in first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

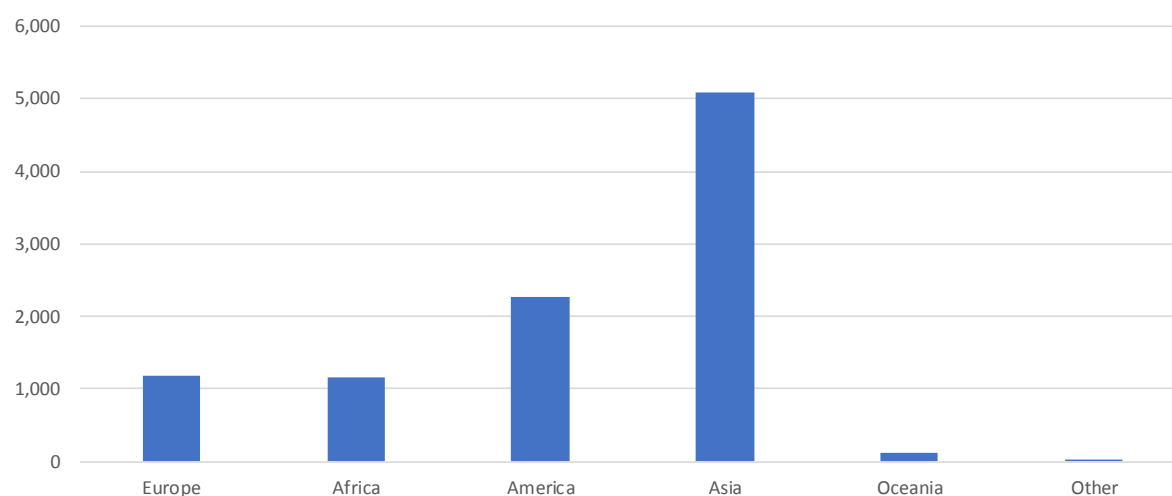
	First permits for researchers										% of all first permits for remunerated activities reasons									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	4,220	5,293	6,059	6,545	7,943	8,957	9,307	9,819	9,826		0.7	1.0	0.9	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.4	
Belgium	96	0	152	192	242	223	242	283	301		1.4	0.0	3.5	4.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.8	
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	1		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.4	
Czech Rep.	45	61	0	0	162	241	184	365	434		0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.3	1.7	1.8	1.9	
Germany	39	94	129	167	290	369	328	111	370		0.2	0.6	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.9	
Estonia	7	15	15	18	25	21	21	15	24		0.7	1.3	2.0	1.4	4.1	3.6	2.4	1.2	1.8	
Greece	16	31	23	28	22	27	46	18	14		0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.6	0.7	
Spain	501	390	442	447	379	370	385	398	440		0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.2	
France	1,925	2,243	2,271	2,073	2,689	3,046	3,271	3,765	3,316		8.8	10.9	12.1	11.3	17.0	16.7	16.8	17.9	14.2	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	3	9	8	17		:	:	:	:	:	0.5	1.5	1.0	0.6	
Italy	35	118	336	353	388	272	351	334	325		0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.7	1.9	3.5	
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	4		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Latvia	3	1	7	3	0	5	6	3	5		0.2	0.2	1.8	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.3	
Lithuania	1	2	5	0	2	3	8	17	14		0.0	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3	
Luxembourg	:	14	15	26	38	46	40	46	44		:	4.0	5.4	4.9	6.0	3.6	4.1	3.7	3.3	
Hungary	33	35	34	22	29	33	24	35	38		0.2	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.6	
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Netherlands	864	1,305	1,485	1,616	1,689	2,363	2,310	2,418	2,519		7.4	12.5	14.2	14.7	15.5	18.6	19.6	18.2	17.2	
Austria	151	143	228	184	250	229	248	266	296		4.9	5.3	7.8	5.7	6.7	6.4	7.2	7.4	8.9	
Poland	11	11	69	55	66	96	111	119	250		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Romania	0	0	12	8	4	5	6	11	16		0.0	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.9	
Slovenia	5	8	8	17	12	7	22	11	11		0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	
Slovakia	10	10	5	9	4	10	6	8	12		0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Finland	0	0	0	510	526	559	586	639	588		0.0	0.0	0.0	10.2	11.3	11.8	12.2	12.7	10.9	
Sweden	478	812	823	817	1,126	1,027	1,091	945	787		3.4	4.3	5.4	5.0	6.1	6.0	7.3	6.0	5.0	
Not covered	169	949	949	848	4,737	1,463	889	1,074	1,095		0.1	0.7	0.7	0.7	4.0	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.8	
Denmark	0	783	860	737	644	567	652	575	555		0.0	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.1	5.3	6.0	5.9	5.4	
Ireland	169	166	89	111	164	88	146	141	183		2.9	3.4	2.8	3.2	4.4	2.2	2.8	2.3	2.3	
United King.	0	0	0	0	3,929	808	91	358	357		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.3	

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

Half of the first permits issued for researchers in the reporting EU-25 Member States in 2016 were delivered to TCNs originating from Asian countries (5,091) (Figure 10). TCNs from American accounted for slightly less than a fourth of these first permits (2,261) while a little more than a fifth were in rather similar magnitude from the rest of Europe (1,171) and Africa (1,163).

Figure 10. First permits issued for researchers in the reporting EU-25 Member States in 2016 by citizenship of origin



Note: Data extracted on 11/04/2018; 'Europe': this aggregate excludes EU countries during the reference year; 'other': this aggregate includes recognised non-citizens, stateless, and unknown citizenship.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

First permits issued for seasonal workers

First permits for seasonal workers is a category of permits that existed only in a minority of EU-25 Member States during the period under consideration. However, new statistics on seasonal workers with 2017 as the first reference period are in the preparation phase to be released through the Seasonal Workers data collection under Article 26 of Directive 2014/36/EU. Until now, the reporting on this category of first permits is voluntary.

In 2016, the number of first permits issued for seasonal workers amounted to 458 thousand, representing nearly 64% of the first permits delivered for remunerated activities reasons during that year (Table 40).

These high levels are mainly explained by Poland since it issued 447 thousand of these permits in 2016. These permits accounted for 90% of the first permits issued for remunerated activities in Poland. The other EU-25 Member States reporting on these permits only showed marginal numbers in 2016 compared to those of Poland. Yet, first permits for seasonal workers made up 37% of all first permits delivered for remunerated activities in Italy and around 7% in Spain and France in 2016.

Table 40. Number of first permits issued for seasonal workers and share in first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

	First permits for seasonal workers										% of all first permits for remunerated activities reasons									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	56,042	54,972	119,664	27,951	20,323	17,092	188,152	333,362	458,191		8.8	10.7	18.3	7.0	5.6	4.2	42.7	58.1	63.7	
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Czech Rep.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Greece	13,345	13,835	7,937	4,126	16	0	0	0	0		85.5	84.4	81.9	74.1	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Spain	18,254	5,314	8,741	4,507	3,780	3,127	3,075	2,900	2,841		19.0	5.2	11.0	5.2	5.9	6.3	7.2	7.0	7.4	
France	3,860	2,236	1,061	1,059	1,115	1,000	1,205	1,539	1,651		17.7	10.8	5.6	5.8	7.0	5.5	6.2	7.3	7.1	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	27	9	11	13		:	:	:	:	:	4.5	1.5	1.4	0.5	
Italy	8,423	23,034	22,345	15,204	9,715	7,560	4,805	3,570	3,520		3.1	9.8	6.2	12.7	14.6	9.4	9.0	20.6	37.5	
Cyprus	1,412	1,256	1,241	0	0	0	6	3	4		10.2	9.1	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Luxembourg	:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		:	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Hungary	884	791	439	244	0	31	15	9	11		5.0	14.9	10.4	6.4	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Poland	0	0	73,156	0	0	0	176,122	321,014	446,779		0.0	0.0	84.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	85.4	85.5	90.4	
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Slovenia	6,125	1,627	360	366	348	367	253	307	63		24.5	13.7	9.8	7.9	7.7	10.0	6.0	5.7	0.9	
Slovakia	0	0	11	3	0	0	0	1	0		0.0	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Sweden	3,739	6,879	4,373	2,442	5,349	4,980	2,662	4,008	3,309		26.2	36.2	28.6	14.8	28.9	29.0	17.9	25.5	21.2	
Not covered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
United King.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

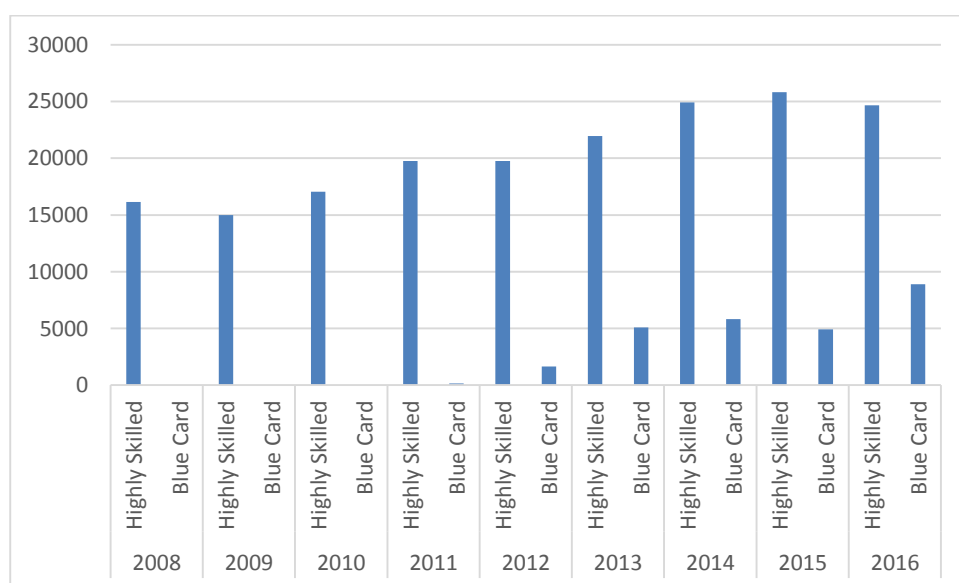
First permits related to Blue Cards

Statistics on first permits for Blue Card are available only from 2011 onwards in the Member States of the EU-25. They grew from 156 in 2011, to nearly 6 thousand in 2014, to 9 thousand in 2016, with 22 out of 25 Member States of the EU-25 reporting the issuance of such first permits (Table 41). In 2016, the share of these first permits in all first permits for remunerated activities in the EU-25 was 1.2%, a rebound compared to the 2015 level.

In 2016, around three quarters of all Blue Card first permits issued in the EU-25 were reported by Germany. The number of these permits issued was much smaller in the other countries which reported on them. Despite these small numbers, they accounted for 36% and 25% of all first permits delivered for remunerated activities in Bulgaria and Luxembourg during that year.

The majority of EU-25 Member States that had a national 'highly skilled workers' schemes and, were already reporting on the number of these first permits issued under these schemes in 2008, continued to issue them, and none of them seemed to increase substantially the number of first Blue Card permits issued. With the exception of Germany, all other national Member States continued to report higher numbers of permits granted to highly skilled workers under their national schemes, not under the Blue Card Directive. In 2016, these 12 MS (CZ, EL, ES, FR, IT, CY, LV, NL, AT, PL, FI, SE) issued over 24 thousand high skilled workers permits compared to only 2011 Blue Card permits. However, the number of Blue Cards issued rose from 8% in 2012 of all highly skilled workers permits, to 27% in 2016.

Figure 11. Comparison of number of Highly Skilled Workers and EU Blue Card holders, EU-25, 2008-2016



Note: The aggregate covered by the Fitness Check (EU-25) includes all EU-28 countries but Denmark, Ireland, and United Kingdom. The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between countries and years. However, due to the recent implementation of the Residence Permits Data Collection, some methodological and administrative differences still exist between the Member States. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

Table 41. Number of first permits issued for Blue Card and share in first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2008–2016

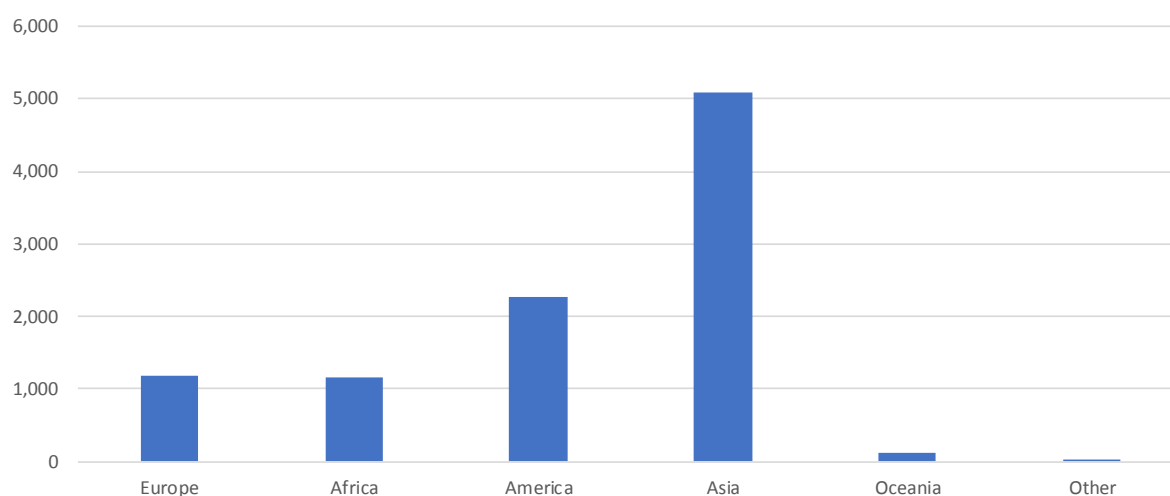
	First permits for Blue Card							% of all first permits for remunerated activities reasons						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	156	1,646	5,096	5,825	4,908	8,988		0.0	0.5	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.2	
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Bulgaria	2	7	2	10	52	99		0.7	2.1	0.6	3.3	2.3	35.9	
Czech Rep.	0	68	67	101	160	214		0.0	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.9	
Germany	0	700	3,776	4,197	2,642	6,189		0.0	2.6	13.6	14.3	19.6	15.6	
Estonia	0	12	12	12	16	12		0.0	2.0	2.1	1.4	1.3	0.9	
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Spain	107	443	303	37	2	10		0.1	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	
France	0	126	371	604	657	498		0.0	0.8	2.0	3.1	3.1	2.1	
Croatia	:	:	4	8	27	22		:	:	0.7	1.3	3.4	0.8	
Italy	0	6	84	164	237	254		0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	1.4	2.7	
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Latvia	3	5	11	32	71	113		0.6	0.7	1.4	3.3	4.3	6.5	
Lithuania	0	0	17	71	128	127		0.0	0.0	0.6	1.5	4.6	3.1	
Luxembourg	0	96	236	262	336	333		0.0	15.3	18.6	27.2	26.7	24.9	
Hungary	1	1	4	5	15	5		0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	2		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	
Netherlands	0	1	3	8	20	42		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	
Austria	42	120	102	121	132	150		1.3	3.2	2.9	3.5	3.7	4.5	
Poland	0	0	17	26	322	673		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Portugal	0	2	4	3	57	89		0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.8	1.5	
Romania	0	46	71	148	0	92		0.0	2.8	4.6	8.2	0.0	5.2	
Slovenia	1	7	2	7	11	17		0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Slovakia	0	4	5	3	4	4		0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Finland	0	2	5	5	17	33		0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	
Sweden	0	0	0	1	2	10		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

In the reporting EU-25 Member States, the first Blue Card permits issued in 2016 were predominantly delivered to TCNs from Asian countries (3,492) and European countries other than EU ones (3,366) (Figure 12). TCNs from these two geographic blocks made up respectively 39% and 37% of the first Blue Card permits issued during that year. 1,313 first Blue Card permits were delivered to TCNs from American countries and 694 to TCNs from African countries.

Figure 12. First Blue Card permits issued in the reporting EU-25 Member States in 2016 by citizenship of origin



Note: Data extracted on 11/04/2018; 'Europe': this aggregate excludes EU countries during the reference year; 'other': this aggregate includes recognised non-citizens, stateless, and unknown citizenship.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

All in all, the above categories of first permits represented nearly 70% of all first permits delivered for remunerated reasons in 2016 in the Member States of the EU-25 against less than 15% in 2008, the remaining share being classified as other remunerated activities reasons.

3.2.4 Other reasons

Other reasons why first permits are delivered are classified by Eurostat in several categories: refugee status and subsidiary protection²³, subsidiary protection²⁴,

²³ 'Refugee status and subsidiary protection' relates to first residence permits issued to persons granted such status. Refugee status means a status as defined in Article 2(d) of Directive 2004/83/EC within the meaning of Article 1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967. In accordance with Article 2(d) 'Refugee status' means the recognition by a Member State of a third country national or a stateless person as a refugee.

²⁴ Subsidiary protection means a status as defined in Article 2(f) of Directive 2004/83/EC. In accordance with Article 2(f) 'Subsidiary protection status' means the recognition by a Member State of a third country national or a stateless person as a person eligible for subsidiary protection.

humanitarian reasons²⁵, unaccompanied minors²⁶, victims of trafficking in human beings²⁷, residence only²⁸, and other reasons not specified category²⁹.

The statistics related to these categories of first permits are meaningfully detailed since 2009. At the EU-25 level, first permits issued for refugee status and subsidiary protection was the main reason why these permits were delivered in 2016 (Figure 12). They accounted for 57% of all first permits delivered for other reasons during that year. The second and third categories were those of other reasons not specified (27%) and residence only (8%).

²⁵ 'Humanitarian reasons' relates to first residence permits issued to persons granted such status which is granted under national law, as opposed to the two statuses mentioned in the paragraph above which have been harmonised by Directive 2004/83/EC. A residence permit granted for humanitarian reasons could be the outcome of an asylum procedure, when there are no grounds to grant international protection but there's still a need to allow the person concerned to remain in the Member State; or it could be granted without any link to an asylum procedure, in non-asylum contexts.

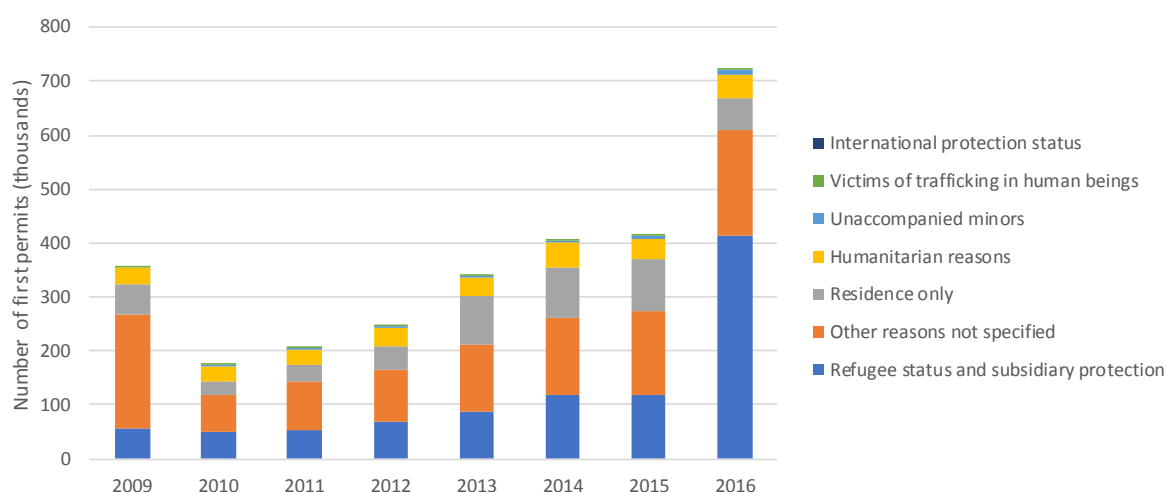
²⁶ 'Unaccompanied minors' relates to first residence permits issued to minors considered to be unaccompanied minor as defined in Article 2(i) of Directive 2004/83/EC (non-asylum-related). In accordance with Article 2(i) 'Unaccompanied minors' means third-country nationals or stateless persons below the age of 18, who arrive on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them either by law or custom, and for as long as they are not effectively taken into the care of such a person; it includes minors who are left unaccompanied after they have entered the territory of the Member States. This category does not include unaccompanied minors granted residence permits who are a subject of an asylum application or received refugee status/subsidiary protection or who were granted residence permit for victims of trafficking in human beings. Such unaccompanied minors are primarily reported under the respective category (i.e. 'Refugee status and subsidiary protection', or 'Victims of trafficking in human beings').

²⁷ Victims of trafficking in human beings relates to the first residence permits issued to persons in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2004/81/EC. The residence permits issued under this Directive refer to third-country nationals who are, or have been victims of offences related to the trafficking in human beings, even if they have illegally entered the territory of the Member States. Member States may apply this Directive to the third-country nationals who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration. This Directive applies to the third-country nationals concerned having reached the age of majority set out by the law of the Member State concerned. By way of derogation, Member States may decide to apply this Directive to minors under the conditions laid down in their national law.

²⁸ 'Residence only' relates to the first permits issued for the reasons of residence only. However, in the absence of the common European legislative framework and common definition of the 'Residence only' this category includes permits issued for such purpose on the basis of the national legislation and administrative practices. An example of such permit may be the permit issued to the pensioner with no intention to undertake employment, study or family formation or reunification.

²⁹ 'Other reasons not specified' includes all other reasons why first residence permits may be issued and which are not covered by the tables: first permits issued for family reasons, first permits issued for education reason, first permits issued for remunerated activities; and any of the other categories from the table 'first permits issued for other reasons'.

Figure 13. First permits issues for other reasons in the EU-25, 2009–2016



Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; ‘residence permits’: any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; ‘first permit’: Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. The EU-25 aggregate excludes Croatia from 2009 to 2012 due to the lack of data on first permits broken down by reason.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

First permits issued for refugee status and subsidiary protection in the Member States of the EU-25 rose from nearly 58 thousand in 2009 to 414 thousand in 2016. Their share in all first permits issued for other reasons more than tripled during that period. In 2016, the EU-25 Member States which issued the highest numbers of these permits were Germany (254 thousand), followed by Sweden (65 thousand), France (23 thousand), the Netherlands (22 thousand), and Austria (17 thousand) (Table 42). All these countries experienced a rise in the number of first permits for refugee status and subsidiary during the period. The rise was paramount in Germany in 2016 since the number of these permits was only 16 thousand a year earlier. In terms of share in all permits issued for other reasons in these countries during that year, they accounted respectively to 90%, 87%, 51%, 55%, and 67%.

Table 42. Number of first permits issued for refugee status and subsidiary protection share in first permits issued for other reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2009–2016

	First permits for refugee status and subsidiary protection									% of all first permits for other reasons								
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	57,515	50,537	52,794	68,072	85,836	117,221	117,688	413,922		16.2	28.6	25.6	27.5	25.3	28.9	28.4	57.4	
Belgium	3,175	2,059	2,984	3,737	3,918	4,306	7,031	9,192		17.8	12.1	20.6	31.8	39.4	44.6	55.9	60.1	
Bulgaria	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Czech Rep.	95	224	359	202	334	360	830	932		3.4	7.4	13.5	2.5	3.1	4.7	5.9	6.1	
Germany	7,699	7,377	7,149	17,018	20,181	29,817	16,413	254,584		38.9	40.0	41.2	42.2	46.2	44.3	53.3	90.2	
Estonia	4	17	10	13	7	21	78	154		0.4	3.4	2.1	3.7	2.2	7.0	21.2	35.7	
Greece	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Spain	176	333	958	519	556	1,469	982	6,237		0.4	2.7	7.3	4.1	4.2	9.2	6.2	27.6	
France	12,687	12,032	11,533	12,160	12,030	14,031	16,459	23,139		37.9	35.0	32.2	30.5	29.1	32.1	43.2	50.6	
Croatia	:	:	:	:	25	26	39	86		:	:	:	:	6.5	6.9	9.7	17.8	
Italy	5,726	3,373	3,671	3,772	4,967	5,205	2,889	2,841		3.5	13.6	9.2	12.7	17.9	18.9	9.9	3.0	
Cyprus	1,336	401	39	89	157	581	1,931	1,975		22.9	15.0	1.9	4.6	7.1	25.3	56.4	50.1	
Latvia	9	25	23	35	33	23	27	130		1.0	2.9	1.9	1.7	1.3	0.8	2.6	16.5	
Lithuania	33	13	21	50	60	62	80	192		36.3	9.8	11.7	18.9	31.9	19.8	21.4	33.9	
Luxembourg	278	52	42	94	161	235	198	731		61.1	34.2	21.4	24.9	47.4	59.0	47.9	79.9	
Hungary	234	189	191	68	356	0	0	0		7.9	6.3	6.6	3.0	9.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Malta	1,681	222	884	1,433	1,490	1,092	1,176	1,137		69.1	12.7	39.5	46.3	67.7	38.3	43.3	47.5	
Netherlands	4,473	5,301	6,039	4,314	4,696	12,466	16,896	21,988		34.3	44.3	54.5	51.8	34.0	54.4	46.4	55.2	
Austria	4,993	5,102	5,625	5,800	5,830	10,484	17,030	17,036		66.2	54.4	41.9	39.5	46.4	62.1	67.9	67.3	
Poland	2,525	277	197	1	303	170	286	195		38.6	9.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	
Portugal	43	84	124	244	135	129	362	449		1.1	2.6	3.9	6.8	4.2	2.1	5.9	7.1	
Romania	0	106	104	265	974	729	575	756		0.0	17.3	15.5	23.2	55.0	44.9	39.2	47.3	
Slovenia	20	23	24	34	37	44	45	170		29.9	28.4	29.6	30.9	47.4	40.4	52.3	73.3	
Slovakia	67	77	45	124	48	102	47	169		4.3	7.1	5.1	15.7	8.7	10.7	2.2	7.2	
Finland	1,949	2,024	1,499	1,944	1,921	2,055	2,511	6,557		41.6	39.4	61.5	64.2	60.4	64.3	75.3	70.2	
Sweden	10,255	11,226	11,273	16,156	27,617	33,814	31,803	65,272		50.0	68.0	68.0	77.9	88.2	89.8	80.4	87.5	
Not covered	8,188	7,166	8,545	7,819	10,516	14,413	22,232	8,016		4.7	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.0	7.6	10.4	2.6	
Denmark	1,279	1,961	2,057	2,453	3,806	6,031	10,783	7,415		30.4	86.8	88.4	90.6	92.9	92.9	96.0	94.2	
Ireland	394	117	117	139	39	369	587	478		6.8	3.5	2.9	3.2	0.7	6.9	8.6	6.0	
United King.	6,515	5,088	6,371	5,227	6,671	8,013	10,862	123		4.0	2.4	2.8	2.2	2.0	4.5	5.5	0.0	

Note: Data extracted on 08/04/2018; 'residence permits': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': Residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonisation with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ":" not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

The number of first permits delivered for refugee protection and subsidiary protection at the EU-3 was 8 thousand, a level comparable to that of the beginning of the period. However, a look at the trend throughout the period reveals that the number of these permits increased substantially from 2012 to 2015, reaching 22 thousand during that latter year. The share of these first permits decreased from 5% in 2009 to 3% in 2016, after rising to 10% in 2015. Denmark made up most of the first permits delivered for refugee status and subsidiary protection in 2016. These permits represented 94% of its first permits delivered for other reasons during that year. The

United Kingdom issued a marginal number of these first permits in 2016, in sharp contrast with the previous years since it delivered 11 thousand of them a year earlier.

3.3 Change of immigration status/reason to stay permits

One issue that should be taken into account when interpreting the data on all permits issued is that not all of the permits issued necessarily represent 'migrant inflow'. In addition to first permits, there are status/reasons changes from one status/reasons to another. Changes of immigration status permits are recorded when the period between the expiry of the old permit and the start of validation of the new permit is less than 6 months since such changes imply some degree of continuity of residence. Otherwise this permit will be recorded as a new permit³⁰.

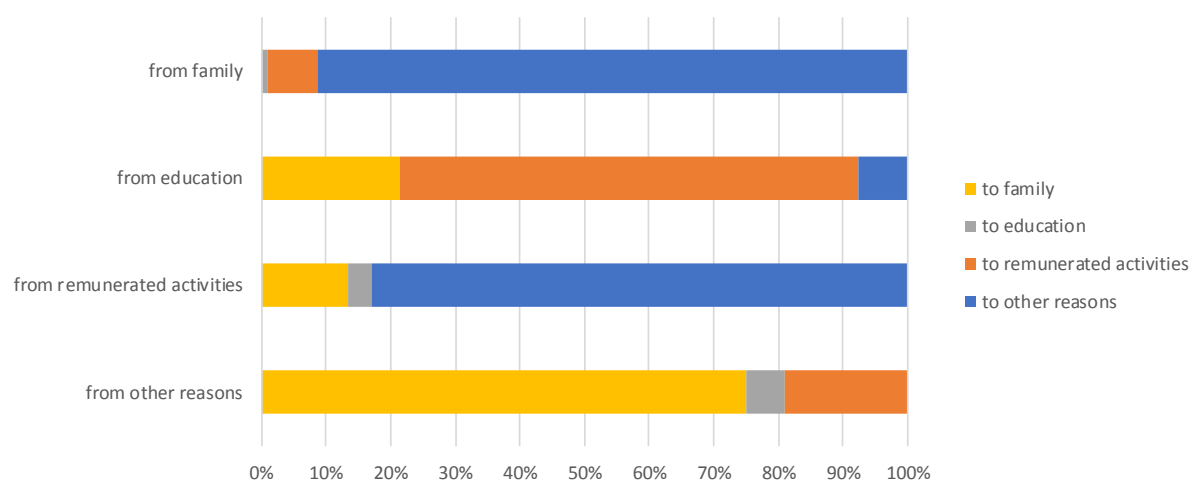
The Eurostat data presented in this section provide information on the changes from the previous main status/reason (i.e., family, education, remunerated activities, and other reasons) to the main new status/reason to stay (i.e., family, education, remunerated activities, and other reasons). There are no available data providing information on the changes at a more desegregated level. It is not clear from the dataset to which of these subcategories of "other" the migrant moves to, but it is more likely that the former students, family members and workers move to permanent residence status than to the other categories, although it cannot be completely excluded. On the other hand, when the migrant moves from the "other status", this may be more cases a move from a protection to another, but the data does not provide this detail.

At the EU-25 level, around 118 thousand changes of status permits from remunerated reasons were recorded in 2016, above those from family reasons (89 thousand), education reasons (57 thousand), and other reasons (45 thousand).

In the Member States of the EU-25, more than 90% of the status changes from family reasons were for other reasons not specified in 2016 (Figure 14). Changes from family reasons for remunerated activities reasons accounted for less than 10% of the changes from this category. Most of the status changes from education reasons were for remunerated activities reasons. A fifth of the changes recorded from education reasons were recorded for family reasons. More than 80% of the status changes from remunerated activities reasons were for other reasons not specified. Family reasons accounted for more than 10% of the status changes from remunerated activities. Finally, around three quarters of status changes from other reasons were for family reasons and nearly 20% of them to remunerated activities reasons.

³⁰ For instance, if the person had left the Member States at the end of their studies and was returning as an employee several years later, this will be counted under the 'first permits issued for remunerated activities', and not as a change of status.

Figure 14. Transition from an immigration status permit to another one in EU-25 (%), 2016

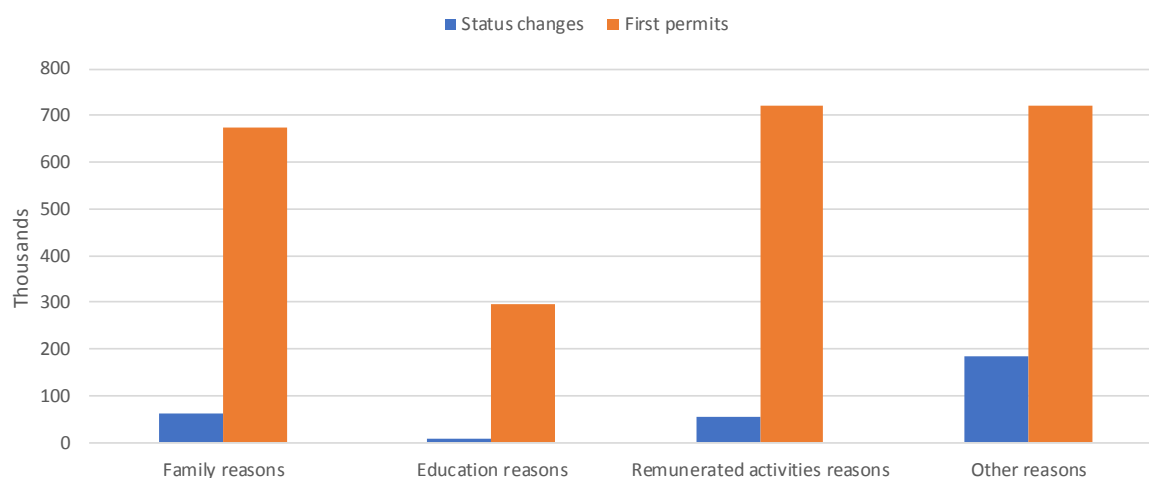


Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. Changes of immigration status permits are recorded when the period between the expiry of the old permit and the start of validation of the new permit is less than 6 months since such changes imply some degree of continuity of residence. Otherwise this permit will be recorded as a new permit. The EU-25 aggregate excludes Cyprus due to the lack of data. Data for Portugal are incomplete concerning the changes from family reasons.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reschange)

Compared to the first permits issued by main reason, records of status changes for each of the main reason (family, education, remunerated activities, and other reasons not specified) were relatively minor in 2016 (Figure 15). The ratio of records of status changes to first permits was small for all the main reasons but the other reasons not specified.

Figure 15. Comparison of the total number of first permits and permits issued due to status change by main reason in EU-25, 2016



Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. The numbers related to status changes are all the records of status changes towards each main reason (i.e., family, education, remunerated activities, and other reasons). Changes of immigration status permits are recorded when the period between the expiry of the old permit and the start of validation of the new permit is less than 6 months since such changes imply some degree of continuity of residence. Otherwise this permit will be recorded as a new permit. The EU-25 aggregate for status changes excludes Cyprus due to the lack of data. Data for Portugal are incomplete concerning the changes from family reasons.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reschange, migr_resfirst)

3.3.1 Change from family reasons

In most of the Member States of the EU-25 and EU-3, status changes from family reasons were predominantly towards other reasons not specified in 2016. The notable exceptions included Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia. In all these countries but Romania more than half of the share changes from family reasons were recorded towards remunerated activities. Romania reported more changes to education reasons than to remunerated activities reasons and other reasons not specified.

Among all the Member States of the EU-25 and EU-3, France (38 thousand), followed by Spain (18 thousand), Greece (11 thousand), and Germany (10 thousand) reported the largest numbers of status changes from family reasons in 2016. These numbers were well above those of the other EU countries (Table 43).

Table 43. Status changes from family reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2016

	Total	Status changes (number of records)			Status changes (%)		
		To education reasons	To remunerated activities reasons	To other reasons	To education reasons	To remunerated activities reasons	To other reasons
Covered	89,203	937	6,861	81,405	1.1	7.7	91.3
Belgium	563	31	108	424	5.5	19.2	75.3
Bulgaria	287	5	58	224	1.7	20.2	78.0
Czech Republic	3,633	33	414	3,186	0.9	11.4	87.7
Germany	10,202	143	668	9,391	1.4	6.5	92.1
Estonia	359	12	14	333	3.3	3.9	92.8
Greece	10,948	4	175	10,769	0.0	1.6	98.4
Spain	17,575	40	2,803	14,732	0.2	15.9	83.8
France	37,803	193	795	36,815	0.5	2.1	97.4
Croatia	981	9	17	955	0.9	1.7	97.3
Italy	311	5	252	54	1.6	81.0	17.4
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Latvia	465	39	30	396	8.4	6.5	85.2
Lithuania	301	49	194	58	16.3	64.5	19.3
Luxembourg	19	0	9	10	0.0	47.4	52.6
Hungary	164	17	107	40	10.4	65.2	24.4
Malta	369	76	85	208	20.6	23.0	56.4
Netherlands	2,093	24	311	1,758	1.1	14.9	84.0
Austria	11	0	0	11	0.0	0.0	100.0
Poland	1,067	108	408	551	10.1	38.2	51.6
Portugal	0	:	:	:	:	:	:
Romania	95	43	26	26	45.3	27.4	27.4
Slovenia	98	33	62	3	33.7	63.3	3.1
Slovakia	144	35	74	35	24.3	51.4	24.3
Finland	301	22	129	150	7.3	42.9	49.8
Sweden	1,414	16	122	1,276	1.1	8.6	90.2
Not Covered	740	14	106	620	1.9	14.3	83.8
Denmark	376	4	11	361	1.1	2.9	96.0
Ireland	37	8	11	18	21.6	29.7	48.6
United Kingdom	327	2	84	241	0.6	25.7	73.7

Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. Changes of immigration status permits are recorded when the period between the expiry of the old permit and the start of validation of the new permit is less than 6 months since such changes imply some degree of continuity of residence. Otherwise this permit will be recorded as a new permit.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reschange)

3.3.2 Change from education reasons

In most of the Member States of the EU-25 and EU-3, status changes from education reasons were largely towards remunerated activities in 2016 (Table 44). The share of the changes to remunerated activities reasons in the EU-25 was markedly high notably in Poland (100%), the Netherlands (93%), Luxembourg (85%), and France (81%). Among the Member States of the EU-3, Denmark recorded the highest share of changes to remunerated activities reasons.

Still, some EU-25 Member States recorded more than a half of the changes towards other reasons in 2016. This concerned Bulgaria (58%), Greece (56%), and Malta (53%). Moreover, this category was predominant among all the changes from

education reasons in Estonia (49%). Among the EU-3, this share was also the largest in Ireland (47%). The two other countries of the UK-3 showed very low shares in this category. This explains the low average of the status changes recorded towards this category in all changes from education reasons at the EU-3 level in 2016.

Table 44. Status changes from education reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2016

	Total	Status changes (number of records)			Status changes (%)		
		To family reasons	To remunerated activities reasons	To other reasons	To family reasons	To remunerated activities reasons	To other reasons
Covered	57,011	12,258	40,408	4,345	21.5	70.9	7.6
Belgium	1,464	680	678	106	46.4	46.3	7.2
Bulgaria	255	51	60	144	20.0	23.5	56.5
Czech Republic	3,023	286	1,721	1,016	9.5	56.9	33.6
Germany	15,316	4,594	9,960	762	30.0	65.0	5.0
Estonia	220	42	70	108	19.1	31.8	49.1
Greece	150	30	36	84	20.0	24.0	56.0
Spain	3,931	1,687	2,074	170	42.9	52.8	4.3
France	22,149	3,559	17,929	661	16.1	80.9	3.0
Croatia	43	17	13	13	39.5	30.2	30.2
Italy	184	34	143	7	18.5	77.7	3.8
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Latvia	97	49	34	14	50.5	35.1	14.4
Lithuania	33	11	20	2	33.3	60.6	6.1
Luxembourg	13	2	11	0	15.4	84.6	0.0
Hungary	466	10	192	264	2.1	41.2	56.7
Malta	323	50	102	171	15.5	31.6	52.9
Netherlands	2,845	198	2,639	8	7.0	92.8	0.3
Austria	12	5	7	0	41.7	58.3	0.0
Poland	3,004	153	2,216	635	5.1	73.8	21.1
Portugal	417	0	417	0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Romania	20	17	3	0	85.0	15.0	0.0
Slovenia	290	182	108	0	62.8	37.2	0.0
Slovakia	246	60	170	16	24.4	69.1	6.5
Finland	1,699	227	1,381	91	13.4	81.3	5.4
Sweden	811	314	424	73	38.7	52.3	9.0
Not Covered	13,649	3,335	8,326	1,988	24.4	61.0	14.6
Denmark	1,662	272	1,379	11	16.4	83.0	0.7
Ireland	3,401	752	1,060	1,589	22.1	31.2	46.7
United Kingdom	8,586	2,311	5,887	388	26.9	68.6	4.5

Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. Changes of immigration status permits are recorded when the period between the expiry of the old permit and the start of validation of the new permit is less than 6 months since such changes imply some degree of continuity of residence. Otherwise this permit will be recorded as a new permit.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reschange)

During that year, three EU-25 Member States recorded more than a half of the changes towards family reasons (Table 44): Romania (85%), Slovenia (63%), and Latvia (51%). This category was also the biggest among all the changes from

education reasons in Belgium (46%), even though less than 50% of the status changes from education reasons were recorded in this category.

Among all the Member States of the EU-25 and EU-3, France (38 thousand), followed by Spain (18 thousand), Greece (11 thousand), and Germany (10 thousand) reported the largest numbers of status changes from family reasons in 2016. These numbers were well above those of the other EU countries.

Within the EU-25 and the EU-3, two countries recorded a number of records from education reasons in 2016 largely above the others, namely France (22 thousand) and Germany (15 thousand). Spain came third with nearly 4 thousand records.

3.3.3 Change from remunerated activities reasons

While more than 80% of the status changes from remunerated activities reasons were to the category of other reasons not specified at the EU-25 level in 2016, this category accounted for less than 15% of the status changes recorded from remunerated activities at the level of the EU-3 (Table 45). Status changes from remunerated activities reasons were mainly directed towards family reasons at the EU-3 level.

Within the EU-25, the category of other reasons not specified made up less than a fourth of the status changes from remunerated activities in Bulgaria (20%), Italy (17%), Belgium (11%), Lithuania (9%), Slovenia (8%), Finland (4%), Austria (1%), Poland (0%). The high share of this category at the EU-25 was mainly due to Spain and Portugal. These two countries recorded three quarters of the EU-25 status changes from remunerated activities reasons in 2016 and most of these changes were directed towards the category of other reasons not specified.

Table 45. Status changes from remunerated activities reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2016

	Total	Status changes (number of records)			Status changes (%)		
		To family reasons	To education reasons	To other reasons	To family reasons	To education reasons	To other reasons
Covered	118,352	15,981	4,073	98,298	13.5	3.4	83.1
Belgium	415	256	115	44	61.7	27.7	10.6
Bulgaria	99	74	5	20	74.7	5.1	20.2
Czech Republic	8,878	643	62	8,173	7.2	0.7	92.1
Germany	5,807	1,537	2,583	1,687	26.5	44.5	29.1
Estonia	243	41	11	191	16.9	4.5	78.6
Greece	6,225	623	2	5,600	10.0	0.0	90.0
Spain	54,398	2,657	24	51,717	4.9	0.0	95.1
France	12,426	8,383	666	3,377	67.5	5.4	27.2
Croatia	193	31	2	160	16.1	1.0	82.9
Italy	34	24	4	6	70.6	11.8	17.6
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Latvia	108	40	5	63	37.0	4.6	58.3
Lithuania	92	24	60	8	26.1	65.2	8.7
Luxembourg	6	4	0	2	66.7	0.0	33.3
Hungary	83	35	6	42	42.2	7.2	50.6
Malta	283	85	6	192	30.0	2.1	67.8
Netherlands	804	698	99	7	86.8	12.3	0.9
Austria	1	0	1	0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Poland	1,931	257	201	1,473	13.3	10.4	76.3
Portugal	24,948	0	0	24,948	0.0	0.0	100.0
Romania	65	10	29	26	15.4	44.6	40.0
Slovenia	88	76	5	7	86.4	5.7	8.0
Slovakia	181	65	9	107	35.9	5.0	59.1
Finland	337	231	94	12	68.5	27.9	3.6
Sweden	707	187	84	436	26.4	11.9	61.7
Not Covered	4,329	2,868	847	614	66.3	19.6	14.2
Denmark	581	363	193	25	62.5	33.2	4.3
Ireland	956	236	281	439	24.7	29.4	45.9
United Kingdom	2,792	2,269	373	150	81.3	13.4	5.4

Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. Changes of immigration status permits are recorded when the period between the expiry of the old permit and the start of validation of the new permit is less than 6 months since such changes imply some degree of continuity of residence. Otherwise this permit will be recorded as a new permit.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reschange)

In six countries of the EU-25, the share of the status changes to education reasons in all the status changes recorded from remunerated activities reasons was well above the average in 2016 (Table 45). These countries were Belgium (28%), Germany (44%), Lithuania (65%), Austria (100%), Romania (45%), and Finland (28%). This category of status changes accounted for nearly a third of the status changes from remunerated activities in Denmark (33%) and Ireland (29%).

The share of status to family reasons in all the recorded status changes from remunerated activities was higher than 50% in eight EU-25 Member States in 2016. For instance, it amounted to 87% in the Netherlands and 86% in Slovenia. Yet,

compared to Spain and Portugal, these countries represented only small share of all the status changes from remunerated activities during that year. Because Portugal and Spain recorded less than 5% of their status changes from remunerated activities to this specific category, they contributed to lowering significantly the EU-25 average. Concerning the EU-3 Member States, both Denmark and the United Kingdom showed large shares of this category in all the recorded status changes from remunerated activities.

3.3.4 Change from other reasons

Like at the EU-25 level, most of the status changes from other reasons were recorded towards family reasons at the EU-3 level in 2016 (Table 46). In more than a half of the EU-25 Member States and in all the EU-3 Member States, the share of family reasons in all status changes from other reasons was higher than 50%. Among the three EU-Member States which recorded the largest numbers of status changes from other reasons, namely France (19 thousand), Spain (8 thousand), and Greece (4 thousand), only the latter had a share lower than 40%.

Table 46. Status changes from other reasons in EU-25 and EU-3, 2016

	Total	Status changes (number of records)			Status changes (%)		
		To family reasons	To education reasons	To remunerated activities reasons	To family reasons	To education reasons	To remunerated activities reasons
Covered	44,939	33,690	2,743	8,506	75.0	6.1	18.9
Belgium	539	432	49	58	80.1	9.1	10.8
Bulgaria	58	52	2	4	89.7	3.4	6.9
Czech Republic	2,910	1,109	1,274	527	38.1	43.8	18.1
Germany	5,987	5,447	127	413	91.0	2.1	6.9
Estonia	5	4	1	0	80.0	20.0	0.0
Greece	3,713	1,293	11	2,409	34.8	0.3	64.9
Spain	8,121	6,244	41	1,836	76.9	0.5	22.6
France	19,487	17,465	397	1,625	89.6	2.0	8.3
Croatia	84	56	20	8	66.7	23.8	9.5
Italy	922	457	41	424	49.6	4.4	46.0
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Latvia	107	80	5	22	74.8	4.7	20.6
Lithuania	510	365	19	126	71.6	3.7	24.7
Luxembourg	13	7	0	6	53.8	0.0	46.2
Hungary	720	32	519	169	4.4	72.1	23.5
Malta	135	52	36	47	38.5	26.7	34.8
Netherlands	165	94	13	58	57.0	7.9	35.2
Austria	0	0	0	0	:	:	:
Poland	850	172	156	522	20.2	18.4	61.4
Portugal	109	0	0	109	0.0	0.0	100.0
Romania	22	7	3	12	31.8	13.6	54.5
Slovenia	32	9	3	20	28.1	9.4	62.5
Slovakia	56	40	5	11	71.4	8.9	19.6
Finland	137	73	7	57	53.3	5.1	41.6
Sweden	257	200	14	43	77.8	5.4	16.7
Not Covered	15,725	15,118	162	445	96.1	1.0	2.8
Denmark	33	33	0	0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Ireland	1,478	902	160	416	61.0	10.8	28.1
United Kingdom	14,214	14,183	2	29	99.8	0.0	0.2

Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. Changes of immigration status permits are recorded when the period between the expiry of the old permit and the start of validation of the new permit is less than 6 months since such changes imply some degree of continuity of residence.

Source: Eurostat (migr_reschange)

Despite the large share of family reasons in all the status changes from other reasons recorded at the EU-25 level and at the EU-3 level, the share of education reasons in all these changes was higher than that of family reasons in Czech Republic and Hungary. In the latter country, for instance, the share of education reasons in all these status changes amounted to 72%, compared to 4% for family reasons. The share of remunerated activities reasons in all the status changes from other reasons recorded was also greater than that of family reasons in Greece, Malta, Poland, Romania, and Slovenia.

3.4 Single permits

The single permit is a residence permit issued by the authorities of a Member State within a simplified procedure that allows a third-country national to 'reside legally in its territory for the purpose of work' (Article 2(c) Directive 2011/98/EU). As far as the reporting of statistics is concerned the 'Single Permit' is understood as a residence permit that includes both those that reside for the purpose of work and those admitted for other reasons, but have the right to work. The following categories of TCNs are eligible to obtain a single permit:

- Third-country nationals who apply to reside in a Member State to work and third-country national who have already been admitted to a Member State for the purpose of work (Permits issued in accordance with Article 6 SPD),
- Third-country national who have already been admitted to a Member State for purposes other than work and who are allowed to work (for e.g. family members of migrant workers, students and researchers) (permits issued in accordance with Article 7).
- Excluded from its scope are applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection, family members of EU citizens, long-term residents, posted workers and intra-corporate transferees, seasonal workers, and self-employed workers.

Directive 2011/98/EU, introducing the permit, set a deadline 2013 for the implementation and data on permits issued by Member States commences after 2013.

Due to their recent implementation, statistics on single permits have been undergoing developments in most of the reporting countries. In particular, early years of reporting should be interpreted with caution.

3.4.1 Single permits by type decision

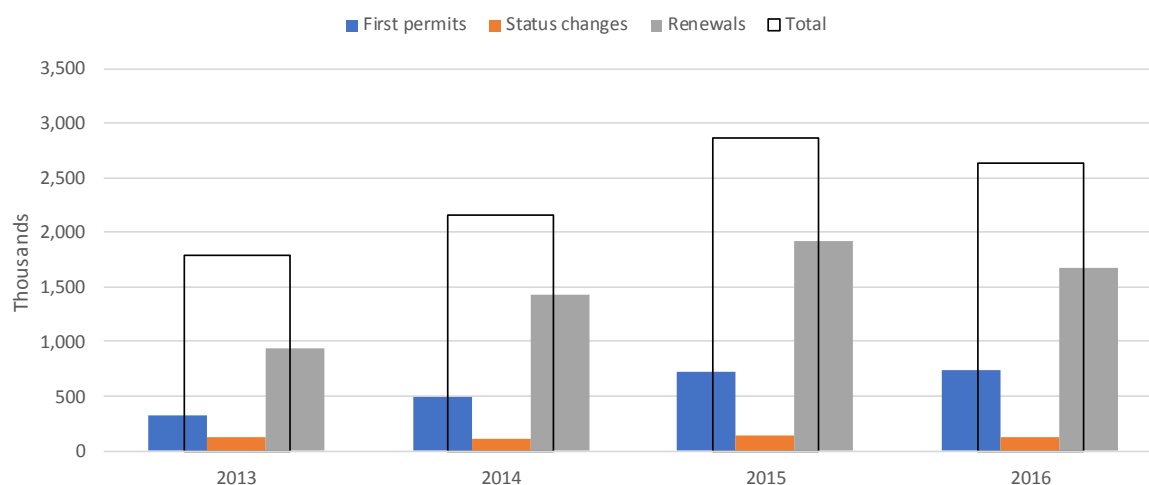
Between 2013 and 2016, a growing number of EU-25 Member States reported on the issuance of single permits. In 2013, only 11 EU-25 Member States issued single permits. In 2016, most of them reported on single permits. Data on the total number of single permits are now available for all the EU-25 Member States but Belgium and Greece. The latter do not report in data on single permits during the period.

Data on single permits for all the types of decision (i.e., first permit, renewal, and status change) during the whole period are not available for Belgium, Greece and Austria. In addition, 16 other countries do not provide details of the issuance of single permits by decision type in 2013. Finally, several countries do not report for certain types of decision during the whole period or specific years. 16 countries provide statistics for the three types of decision for 2016.

Keeping in mind these important limitations, it can be observed that the total number of single permits issued in 2016 was 2.6 million at the EU-25 level, a gentle decline compared to its level in 2015 where it peaked at 2.8 million. Yet, the total number of single permits increased by 840 thousand from 2013 to 2016 and 482 thousand from 2014 to 2016 (Figure 15).

The rise of recorded single permits was mainly fuelled by renewal decisions during the period 2013–2016, and to lesser extent by first single permits decisions (Figure 16). Status changes accounted for only a minor share of single permits during that period. In 2016, renewals amounted to 1674 thousand, against 744 thousand for first permits and 131 thousand for status changes.

Figure 16. Single permits issued by type of decision in selected Member States of the EU-25, 2013–2016



Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. 'single permits': a single permit means a residence permit issued by the authorities of a Member State within a simplified procedure that allows a third-country national to 'reside legally in its territory for the purpose of work' (Article 2(c) Directive 2011/98/EU); If the time gap between the expiry of the previous permit and the start of the validity of the new permit is shorter than 6 months, the new permit should be regarded as a renewal or as a change of status permit; 'renewal': renewal is considered when the residence permit is issued in maximum 6 months from the time when the previous permit expires and the main reason for immigration status is the same as in the previous residence permit (a new permit was issued with the same immigration reason); if the immigration reason changes during that period, it is considered as a status change; The EU-25 aggregate excludes Belgium and Greece due to the lack of available data over the period and it is based on the simple sum of all available statistics at the level of EU-25 Member States for the total number of single permits and the different decision types; Due to their recent implementation, statistics on single permits have been undergoing developments in most of the reporting countries. In particular, early years of reporting should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Eurostat (migr_ressing)

At the country level, 70% of the single permits in 2016 were recorded by three EU Member States, namely France (988 thousand), Italy (574 thousand), and Spain (276 thousand). Other important issuers of single permits in 2016 included Germany (180 thousand), Sweden (149 thousand) and to a lesser extent Portugal (107 thousand). These six countries accounted for more than 85% of the single permits issued during that year.

Among these countries, Germany considerably reduced the number of single permits issued in 2016 compared to 2013 (Table 47). The number of single permits also noticeably diminished in Spain and Portugal over the period. Conversely, the number of single permits issued in France and Sweden followed an upward trend between 2013 and 2016. The evolution of the number of single permits in Italy was more contrasted. Italy started to report on single permits in 2014. The number of single permits increased a lot between 2014 and 2015. It fell afterwards without nevertheless reaching a level below that of 2014.

Table 47. Single permits issued in the EU-25 Member States, 2013–2016

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Covered	1,794,762	2,153,231	2,860,902	2,635,381
Belgium	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	0	96	189	267
Czech Republic	:	2,293	13,574	10,923
Germany	392,610	97,954	162,627	179,726
Estonia	4,123	8,148	11,155	11,009
Greece	:	:	0	0
Spain	365,481	317,183	316,671	276,477
France	810,029	844,277	962,360	987,995
Croatia	11,975	8,033	5,323	6,842
Italy	:	423,749	842,992	574,355
Cyprus	:	27,492	26,774	30,009
Latvia	:	29,685	32,931	27,397
Lithuania	:	:	2,753	6,017
Luxembourg	1,219	2,168	1,638	1,968
Hungary	:	5,214	8,234	10,395
Malta	:	653	6,310	8,452
Netherlands	:	1,290	2,353	2,362
Austria	:	78,590	87,332	86,365
Poland	9,821	41,436	41,472	76,674
Portugal	135,796	124,443	112,633	107,149
Romania	1,312	1,948	8,164	13,967
Slovenia	:	:	5,442	12,805
Slovakia	7,126	8,498	12,936	12,794
Finland	:	70,468	42,108	42,110
Sweden	55,270	59,613	154,931	149,323

Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. 'single permits': a single permit means a residence permit issued by the authorities of a Member State within a simplified procedure that allows a third-country national to 'reside legally in its territory for the purpose of work' (Article 2(c) Directive 2011/98/EU); If the time gap between the expiry of the previous permit and the start of the validity of the new permit is shorter than 6 months, the new permit should be regarded as a renewal or as a change of status permit; 'renewal': renewal is considered when the residence permit is issued in maximum 6 months from the time when the previous permit expires and the main reason for immigration status is the same as in the previous residence permit (a new permit was issued with the same immigration reason); if the immigration reason changes during that period, it is considered as a status change. The EU-25 aggregate is based on the simple sum of all available statistics at the level of EU-25 Member States for the total number of single permits; Due to their recent implementation, statistics on single permits have been undergoing developments in most of the reporting countries. In particular, early years of reporting should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Eurostat (migr_ressing)

In the EU-25 Member States as a whole, the number of first permits issued more than doubled over the period, jumping from 319 thousand in 2013 to 744 thousand in 2016 (Table 48). This growth should nonetheless be nuanced since several countries, including Germany, did not report a breakdown of the records of single permits in 2013. Still, there was a sharp rise in the number of first permits issued at the EU-25 level from 2014 to 2016.

In 2016, four EU-25 Member States issued first single permits at levels much higher than the other countries, namely France (201 thousand), Germany (150 thousand),

Sweden (119 thousand), and Spain (98 thousand). These four countries made up around three quarters of the first permits issued in 2016. Among these countries, France, Germany, and Sweden substantially increased the number of first permits issued over the period while such number fluctuated around 100 thousand in Spain.

In the EU-25 Member States as a whole, the number of recorded renewals also followed an upward trend over the period. In 2016, it reached 1.7 million against 1.4 million in 2014 and 930 thousand in 2013, although the latter figure is probably underestimated due the data limitations underlined above and the absence of reporting from Germany for this type of decision.

Two Member States made up almost 80% of the renewals at the EU-25 level in 2016: France (787 thousand) and Italy (528 thousand). Only one another other country records more than 100 thousand renewals in 2016, namely Spain (108 thousand). The share of renewals in all the single permits issued during that year in these countries was markedly high in Italy (92%) and France (80%) but it amounted to only 39% in Spain.

Table 48. First permits, renewals, and status changes in EU-25 Member States, 2013–2016

	First permits					Renewals					Status changes				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend	2013	2014	2015	2016	Trend
Covered	318,556	499,194	718,474	744,011		930,802	1,423,351	1,918,298	1,673,519		131,162	110,660	136,798	131,486	
Belgium	:	:	:	:		:	:	:	:		:	:	:	:	
Bulgaria	0	12	94	139		0	84	45	6		0	0	50	122	
Czech Rep.	:	530	3,245	5,631		:	1,763	10,329	5,292		:	0	0	0	
Germany	:	79,336	144,338	150,009		:	0	0	0		:	18,618	18,289	29,717	
Estonia	2,348	3,222	3,846	4,308		1,570	4,725	7,042	5,874		205	201	267	827	
Greece	:	:	0	0		:	:	0	0		:	:	0	0	
Spain	103,834	97,607	94,899	98,060		139,655	137,023	127,103	107,550		121,992	82,553	94,669	70,867	
France	171,545	177,609	199,375	200,601		638,484	666,668	762,985	787,394		0	0	0	0	
Croatia	:	2,829	2,609	4,410		:	3,008	2,370	2,148		:	2,196	344	284	
Italy	:	51,686	71,440	44,538		:	372,026	769,449	528,417		:	37	2,103	1,400	
Cyprus	:	9,065	9,299	10,700		:	18,427	17,475	19,309		:	0	0	0	
Latvia	:	7,456	6,267	5,388		:	21,792	26,200	21,529		:	437	464	480	
Lithuania	:	:	812	3,000		:	:	1,941	3,017		:	:	0	0	
Luxembourg	:	419	530	650		:	1,615	982	1,183		:	134	126	135	
Hungary	:	2,414	3,958	5,742		:	2,596	3,930	2,155		:	204	346	2,498	
Malta	:	180	3,033	3,032		:	0	633	5,210		:	473	2,644	210	
Netherlands	:	595	1,146	933		:	681	1,191	1,394		:	14	16	35	
Austria	:	:	0	:		:	:	0	:		:	:	0	:	
Poland	4,161	0	23,724	40,774		0	0	6,639	15,657		5,660	0	11,109	20,243	
Portugal	9,326	10,261	9,828	9,865		125,291	112,953	101,617	96,076		1,179	1,229	1,188	1,208	
Romania	0	1,876	6,257	7,532		0	0	1,035	6,355		0	72	872	80	
Slovenia	:	:	2,187	7,005		:	:	3,145	5,612		:	:	110	188	
Slovakia	:	4,268	5,247	6,335		:	3,877	6,829	5,958		:	353	860	501	
Finland	:	18,998	15,717	16,762		:	49,083	26,391	25,348		:	2,387	0	0	
Sweden	27,342	30,831	110,623	118,597		25,802	27,030	40,967	28,035		2,126	1,752	3,341	2,691	

Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. 'single permits': a single permit means a residence permit issued by the authorities of a Member State within a simplified procedure that allows a third-country national to 'reside legally in its territory for the purpose of work' (Article 2(c) Directive 2011/98/EU); If the time gap between the expiry of the previous permit and the start of the validity of the new permit is shorter than 6 months, the new permit should be regarded as a renewal or as a change of status permit; 'renewal': renewal is considered when the residence permit is issued in maximum 6 months from the time when the previous permit expires and the main reason for immigration status is the same as in the previous residence permit (a new permit was issued with the same immigration reason); if the immigration reason changes during that period, it is considered as a status change. The EU-25 aggregate is based on the simple sum of all available statistics at the level of EU-25 Member States for the different decision types; Due to their recent implementation, statistics on single permits have been undergoing developments in most of the reporting countries. In particular, early years of reporting should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Eurostat (migr_ressing)

Regarding status changes, 131 thousand were recorded in the EU-25 Member States in 2016, a level comparable to 2013. In 2016, three countries reported status changes at levels well above all the other the EU-25 Member States. These countries were Spain (71 thousand), which recorded more than half of status changes at the EU-25 level, followed by Germany (30 thousand) and Poland (20 thousand). Despite its leading position Spain drastically cut the number of recorded status changes since

2013. In 2016, like in Poland, status changes still accounted for 26% of all single permits issued in Spain, while such share was 17% in Germany.

3.4.2 Reasons for issuing single permits

The majority of single permits issued in accordance with Directive 2011/98/EU were for family reasons (35%) and remunerated activities reasons (31%) in the EU-25 Member States in 2016 (Table 49). The share of these two main reasons reached 38% and 26% in the first single permits delivered in these countries during that year.

Table 49. All single permits and first permits by reason in EU-25 Member States (%), 2016

	All single permits				First permits			
	Family reasons (% of single permits)	Education reasons (% of single permits)	Remunerated activities reasons (% of single permits)	Other reasons (% of single permits)	Family reasons (% of first permits)	Education reasons (% of first permits)	Remunerated activities reasons (% of first permits)	Other reasons (% of first permits)
Covered	35.5	10.2	31.4	22.9	38.3	18.6	25.8	17.3
Belgium	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bulgaria	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Czech Rep.	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Germany	30.0	24.3	26.6	19.2	29.8	27.3	25.1	17.8
Estonia	36.7	19.1	21.5	22.7	33.1	25.9	31.1	10.0
Greece	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spain	32.6	0.0	38.9	28.5	59.3	.	33.5	7.2
France	42.4	18.3	10.8	28.6	41.4	36.8	10.4	11.4
Croatia	32.4	12.5	49.0	6.1	31.4	11.1	54.9	2.5
Italy	37.4	0.0	62.6	0.0	93.4	0.0	6.6	0.0
Cyprus	6.1	19.3	74.3	0.3	2.1	30.2	67.6	0.1
Latvia	24.1	12.4	15.2	48.4	20.9	24.7	32.1	22.3
Lithuania	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Luxembourg	6.3	0.0	90.6	3.1	2.2	0.0	96.5	1.4
Hungary	0.4	0.0	99.2	0.5	0.1	0.0	99.4	0.5
Malta	0.6	0.0	99.4	0.0	0.7	0.0	99.3	0.0
Netherlands	0.0	15.7	84.2	0.0	0.0	35.6	64.3	0.1
Austria	54.4	0.0	8.3	37.3	.	.	.	.
Poland	14.8	13.8	59.2	12.3	6.9	13.3	79.4	0.4
Portugal	5.3	0.5	26.3	67.8	33.6	0.4	50.5	15.4
Romania	30.4	37.3	32.3	0.0	28.1	53.7	18.1	0.0
Slovenia	0.7	0.1	99.2	0.0	1.3	0.1	98.5	0.1
Slovakia	40.5	18.1	27.2	14.3	23.0	24.0	29.2	23.8
Finland	24.3	29.4	29.0	17.3	26.6	37.2	32.5	3.7
Sweden	39.2	0.8	13.8	46.2	32.9	0.0	11.4	55.7

Note: Data extracted on 09/04/2018. 'single permits': a single permit means a residence permit issued by the authorities of a Member State within a simplified procedure that allows a third-country national to reside legally in its territory for the purpose of work (Article 2(c) Directive 2011/98/EU); If the time gap between the expiry of the previous permit and the start of the validity of the new permit is shorter than 6 months, the new permit should be regarded as a renewal or as a change of status permit; 'renewal': renewal is considered when the residence permit is issued in maximum 6 months from the time when the previous permit expires and the main reason for immigration status is the same as in the previous residence permit (a new permit was issued with the same immigration reason); if the immigration reason changes during that period, it is considered as a status change. The EU-25 aggregate is based on the simple sum of all available statistics at the level of EU-25 Member States for the different decision types; Due to their recent implementation, statistics on single permits have been undergoing developments in most of the reporting countries. In particular, early years of reporting should be interpreted with caution.

Source: Eurostat (migr_ressing)

Among the countries having the highest number of all single permits issued in 2016, these permits were predominantly delivered for family reasons in France (42%) and Germany (30%). Single permits were issued in higher proportion for remunerated activities reasons in Italy (63%) and Spain (39%) and for other reasons not specified in Sweden where these permits were delivered largely for other reasons not specified (46%).

Among the countries having the highest number of first single permits delivered in 2016, these permits were principally issued for family reasons in Spain (59%), France (41%), and Germany (30%) and for other reasons not specified in Sweden (57%).

As with all first permits, the **duration of single permits** depends on the reason for which the permit was provided. In 2016, TCNs with permits for other (96.6%) or family reasons (91%) were more likely to receive a single permit for more than 12 months than those with permits for employment (77%) or education reasons (79%).

Table 50. Single Permits Duration (total for all reasons)

	Total	Duration (% of total)		
		From 3 to 5 months	From 6 to 11 months	12 months or over
Covered	2,411,946	17.0	27.0	56.1
Belgium	53,096	29.3	4.5	66.2
Bulgaria	7,942	7.3	36.6	56.1
Czech Republic	80,070	11.4	10.7	78.0
Germany	504,849	3.1	26.6	70.3
Estonia	4,308	2.5	9.2	88.3
Greece	44,072	0.0	0.0	100.0
Spain	211,533	3.8	15.9	80.2
France	237,218	1.0	7.8	91.2
Croatia	5,315	10.2	23.0	66.8
Italy	222,398	36.1	29.2	34.8
Cyprus	16,970	10.7	45.1	44.1
Latvia	6,037	3.7	78.1	18.2
Lithuania	6,750	1.5	12.7	85.8
Luxembourg	5,627	6.2	32.1	61.7
Hungary	22,842	10.9	33.4	55.7
Malta	8,995	13.9	13.5	72.6
Netherlands	95,753	1.5	10.7	87.8
Austria	50,066	1.3	54.1	44.6
Poland	585,969	42.4	49.9	7.6
Portugal	30,993	1.5	24.6	73.9
Romania	11,867	8.2	14.8	77.0
Slovenia	13,517	7.8	37.7	54.5
Slovakia	10,227	11.3	16.5	72.2
Finland	28,792	10.2	12.9	76.9
Sweden	146,740	9.3	6.5	84.2
Not covered	948,613	16.8	13.4	69.7
Denmark	41,440	12.7	25.4	62.0
Ireland	41,279	17.0	48.7	34.3
United Kingdom	865,894	17.0	11.2	71.8

Note: Data extracted on 16/04/2018; 'residence permit': any authorisation valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of a Member State allowing a third country national to stay legally on its territory; 'first permit': residence permit issued to a person for the first time. A residence permit is considered as a first permit also if the time gap between expiry of the old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least 6 months, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit. Some countries are in the process of harmonization with the definitions, reducing conceptual disparities and changing data availability and completeness status for some categories of data; The residence permit statistics should be compiled based on same methodology and the outputs should be comparable between years. Due to the ongoing methodological improvements which may occur at different reference periods, for some categories of permits Member States may apply different rules for the same years; ".": not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

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