

## The Year of Worker Mobility

# Around 25 million non-nationals living in EU25 Member States in 2004

The total number of non-nationals - persons who are not citizens of the country in which they reside - living in the **EU25** in 2004 was around 25 million, according to the latest estimates published<sup>1</sup> by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**. This represents just under 5.5% of the total population of the **EU25**.

Due to various differences in concepts, definitions and data sources, and varying rules on the acquisition of citizenship, the international comparability of figures on non-nationals is limited to some extent. However, some observations may be made on the basis of available data.

### **The majority of non-nationals are from non-EU countries**

In 2004, **Luxembourg** (38.6%) had by far the highest proportion of non-nationals, followed by **Latvia**<sup>2</sup> (22.2%) and **Estonia**<sup>2</sup> (20.0%). In no other Member State was the proportion of non-nationals more than 10%. In twelve Member States non-nationals were less than 5% of the population.

The majority of non-nationals living in Member States were citizens of non-EU countries. However, in **Luxembourg** (with Portuguese the largest group), **Belgium** (Italians the largest group), **Ireland** (British the largest group) and **Cyprus** (Greeks the largest group), non-nationals were predominantly citizens of other EU Member States.

The proportion of non-nationals grew in almost all Member States. The most significant increases between 1990 and 2004 were observed in **Luxembourg** (from 28.7% to 38.6%), **Greece** (from 1.4% to 8.1%), **Spain** (from 1.0% to 6.6%), **Cyprus** (from 4.2% in 1992 to 9.4% in 2002), **Ireland** (from 2.3% to 7.1% in 2002) and **Austria** (from 5.7% to 9.4%). The percentage of non-nationals fell over the same period in **Belgium** (from 8.9% to 8.3%), while **Latvia** (from 27.3% to 22.2%) recorded a significant decrease of non-nationals between 1998 and 2004.

### **Non-nationals tend to be younger than nationals**

The non-national population in the **EU25** was dominated by young adults, with 41% between the ages of 20 and 39, compared to 28% of nationals. The proportions of children and adolescents do not differ significantly: 20% of non-nationals were under 20, compared to 23% of nationals. Only 9% of non-nationals were aged 65 or over, compared to 17% of nationals, with the result that immigrant populations tend in the short term to rejuvenate the total population. However, this rejuvenation is limited, as the percentage of non-nationals in the total population is small in most Member States.

## Non-national population in the EU Member States, 1990 and 2004

	% Non-nationals, 1990*	% Non-nationals, 2004**	Citizenship of largest group of non-nationals
Belgium	8.9	8.3	<i>Italy</i>
Czech Republic	0.3	1.9	<i>Ukraine</i>
Denmark	2.9	5.0	<i>Turkey</i>
Germany	6.1	8.9	<i>Turkey</i>
Estonia	:	20.0	<i>Russia</i> <sup>2</sup>
Greece	1.4	8.1e	<i>Albania</i>
Spain	1.0	6.6	<i>Ecuador</i>
France	6.3	5.6	<i>Portugal</i>
Ireland	2.3	7.1	<i>United Kingdom</i>
Italy	0.6	3.4	<i>Albania</i>
Cyprus	4.2	9.4	<i>Greece</i>
Latvia	27.3	22.2	<i>Russia</i> <sup>2</sup>
Lithuania	:	1.0	<i>Russia</i>
Luxembourg	28.7	38.6	<i>Portugal</i>
Hungary	1.3	1.3	<i>Romania</i>
Malta	1.6	2.8	<i>United Kingdom</i>
Netherlands	4.3	4.3	<i>Turkey</i>
Austria	5.7	9.4	<i>Serbia &amp; Montenegro</i>
Poland	:	1.8	<i>Germany</i>
Portugal	1.0	2.3p	<i>Cape Verde</i>
Slovenia	2.4	2.3	<i>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</i>
Slovakia	:	0.6	<i>Czech Republic</i>
Finland	0.4	2.0	<i>Russia</i>
Sweden	5.3	5.3	<i>Finland</i>
United Kingdom	4.2	4.7	<i>Ireland</i>

\* Cyprus - 1992; Hungary, Slovenia - 1995; Latvia - 1998

\*\* France - 1999; Estonia - 2000; Lithuania - 2001; Ireland, Cyprus, Poland - 2002; Portugal, United Kingdom - 2003

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1. Eurostat, Statistics in focus, Population and social conditions, 8/2006, "**Non-national populations in the EU Member States**".
2. In these two Member States, most non-nationals are citizens of the former Soviet Union who reside permanently in these countries but who have not taken the citizenship of the host or any other country after the break up of the Soviet Union. In these two countries, Russians are in second place amongst non nationals. In addition the official figures for some Central and Eastern European countries underestimate the stocks of foreigners by including permanent residents only.

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