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# Fact sheets

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Population

## Note

This work is the translation of « La France dans l'Union européenne » published in the *INSEE Références* collection in April 2014.

Unless otherwise stated, the data used are taken from the website of Eurostat, the European Union's statistical office. These data are continually updated. The date of acquisition of the figures is therefore generally indicated below the tables and charts. The data mainly concern the countries of the European Union of 28 (EU of 28), as currently defined. However, for some countries (particularly those that have recently joined the EU), certain figures are not yet available. In such cases the perimeter of the EU is indicated.

On 15 May 2014, the INSEE published the national accounts in the 2010 base: these data are compiled in accordance with the new European System of Accounts (ESA 2010). France is one of the first countries to integrate this change, as most other States are not publishing national accounts data in line with ESA 2010 until September 2014. Prior to that date, only data from the 2005 base can be used to make reliable comparisons. It is this base that is therefore used here. It is likely that the change of base will have little effect on the majority of national accounting aggregates (particularly those presented here) and that it will not alter the hierarchies observed between countries.

## Symbols used

...	Result unavailable
///	No results due to the nature of things
e	Estimate
p	Provisional result
n.s.	Non-significant result
€	Euro
M	Million
Bn	Billion
Ref.	Reference

## 2.1 Demographics

As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, the 28-member European Union is home to 505.7 million people. In the year 2012 the European population expanded by 2.2‰. Population growth in the EU has been slowing continuously since 2007: it was above 4‰ per annum in the period 2002-2008, and just below 3‰ between 2009 and 2011.

The situation varies significantly from country to country: Germany, still the most populous EU member State but with a population in decline since 2003, saw its population increase in 2011 and 2012 (+2.5‰). The strongly positive **migration balance** (+4.9‰ in 2012) more than made up for the deficit in the **natural increase**. With both natural increases and migration balances either negative or zero since the turn of the millennium, the majority of Eastern and Central European nations (with the exception of the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia) have seen their populations decline.

For the first time since 2001, Spain saw a substantial decline in its population in 2012. This stands in marked contrast to the growth rate of over 16‰ recorded between 2002 and 2007: Spain's migration balance was the highest in the EU during this period, at around 15‰. Greece and Portugal have also seen their populations decline in recent years. Up until 2010 these countries were both immigration destinations; they are now experiencing high levels of emigration. Ireland, meanwhile, has seen its migration balance inverted since 2009: the economic crisis caused immigration to slow, and drove a number of residents to leave the country. Nevertheless the birth rate remains high and the population relatively young, and as such the natural increase largely makes up for the negative migration balance. Certain member States, however, remain attractive destinations for immigration. Thus, in spite of a natural increase which is close to zero (Austria) or even below (Belgium, Sweden), the positive

migration balance can cause the population to continue growing. The United Kingdom, which has both a strong natural increase and a highly positive migration balance, saw robust population growth in 2012, although the contribution of immigration to this increase did decrease slightly in that year.

Since 1998, with the exception of 2005 and 2006, when it was surpassed by France, Ireland has held the record for the highest birth rate in the EU (2.03 children per woman in 2011). With 2.01 children per woman in 2012, France and Ireland were neck and neck. The **short-term birth-rate indicator** is at its lowest in Poland and Portugal (1.30 and 1.28 respectively). The overall average birth rate in the EU stopped increasing in 2008: up until 2010 this rate held steady at 1.6 children per woman, falling slightly to 1.57 in 2011.

In 2012, **life expectancy at birth** continued to grow in almost all EU member States, with an average increase of 5 months for men and 4 months for women. France, Spain and Italy have the highest rates of life expectancy for women (around 85 years), with Italy and Sweden topping the table for men (80 years).

The **expected number of healthy life years** at 65 is 8.5 for women and 8.4 for men across the EU as a whole. Sweden is the member State where men and women aged 65 and over can expect to live longest in good health (14 and 15.4 years respectively). The European population continues to age: in the past ten years the proportion of the total population over the age of 65 has increased from 16.0% to 17.8% (as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012). This proportion has seen the biggest increase in Malta and Lithuania (almost 4 points over the past decade), followed by Germany, where it has risen from 17.1% to 20.6% over the same period. In Belgium, Luxembourg and Spain, the proportion of over-65s has risen much more slowly (less than 0.5 points over this same period). ■

### Definitions

**Migration balance, natural increase, short-term birth rate indicator, life expectancy at birth:** see the *Glossary*.  
**Healthy life years:** the number of years that a person of a given age can expect to live without serious or moderate health problems, continuing their everyday activities.

### Further Reading

- "Number of healthy life years and life expectancy at the age of 65, by gender", Eurostat Database, updated January 2014.

## 1. EU demographic indicators

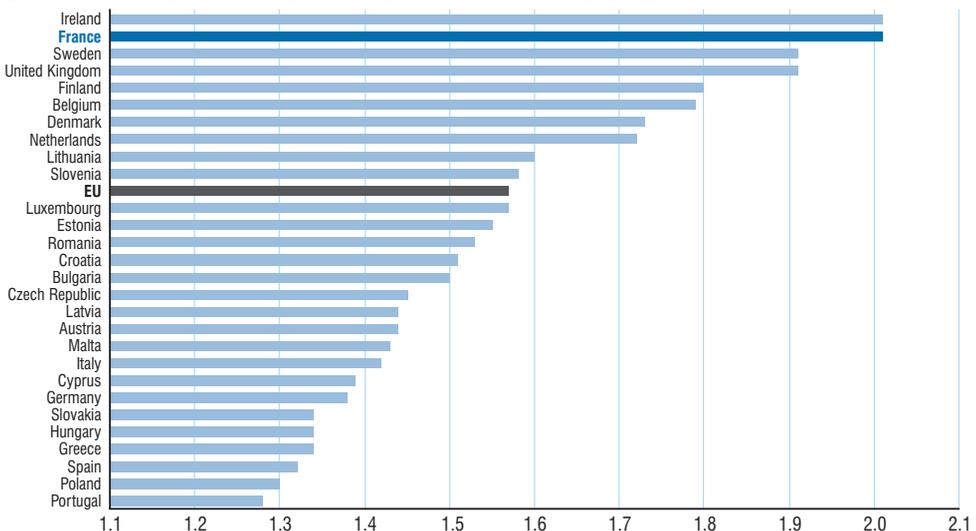
	Population as of 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2013 (in thousands)	Population change 2012 – 2013 (%)			Live births outside of wedlock in 2012 (%)	Proportion of population aged 65+ on 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2012 (%)	Life expectancy at birth 2012 (in years)	
		Natural increase	Result of migrations <sup>1</sup>	Whole			Women	Men
Austria	8,452	-0.1	5.2	5.1	41.5	17.8	83.6	78.4
Belgium	11,162	1.7	4.3	6.0	52.3	17.3	83.1	77.8
Bulgaria	7,285	-5.5	-0.3	-5.8	57.4	18.8	77.9	70.9
Croatia	4,262	-2.3	-0.9	-3.2	15.4	17.3	80.6	73.9
Cyprus	866	5.2	-0.7	4.5	18.6	12.8	83.4	78.9
Czech Republic	10,516	0.0	1.0	1.0	43.4	16.2	81.2	75.1
Denmark	5,603	1.0	3.0	4.0	50.6	17.3	82.1	78.1
Estonia	1,325	-1.0	-5.7	-6.7	58.4	17.2	81.6	71.5
Finland	5,427	1.4	3.3	4.7	41.5	18.1	83.7	77.7
<b>France</b>	<b>65,588</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>78.5</b>
Germany	80,524	-2.4	4.9	2.5	34.5	20.6	83.3	78.6
Greece	11,063	-1.5	-4.0	-5.5	7.6	19.7	83.4	78.0
Hungary	9,909	-3.9	1.6	-2.3	44.5	16.9	78.7	71.6
Ireland	4,591	9.5	-7.6	1.9	35.1	11.9	83.2	78.7
Italy	59,685	-1.3	6.2	4.9	28.0	20.6	85.3	80.1
Latvia	2,024	-4.5	-5.8	-10.3	45.0	18.6	78.9	68.9
Lithuania	2,972	-3.5	-7.1	-10.6	28.8	18.1	79.6	68.4
Luxembourg	537	4.0	18.9	22.9	37.1	14.0	83.8	79.1
Malta	421	1.7	7.4	9.1	25.7	16.5	83.0	78.6
Netherlands	16,780	2.1	0.8	2.9	46.6	16.2	83.0	79.3
Poland	38,533	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	22.3	13.8	81.1	72.7
Portugal	10,487	-1.7	-3.6	-5.3	45.6	19.4	83.6	77.3
Romania	20,020	-2.7	0.8	-1.9	31.0	15.0	78.2	71.1
Slovakia	5,411	0.6	0.6	1.2	35.4	12.8	79.9	72.5
Slovenia	2,059	1.3	0.3	1.6	57.6	16.8	83.3	77.1
Spain	46,704	1.0	-3.5	-2.5	35.5	17.4	85.4	79.5
Sweden	9,556	2.2	5.4	7.6	54.5	18.8	83.6	79.9
United Kingdom	63,896	3.8	2.5	6.3	47.6	16.9	83.0	79.0
<b>European Union</b>	<b>505,656</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>77.4</b>

1. Including population adjustments.

N.B.: the overseas territories Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy are included in the figures for France and the 28-member EU given here. These regions are effectively considered to be part of the EU. Italy, UK and EU: 2011 figures.

Source: Eurostat (data retrieved January 2013), except France: INSEE population forecasts. INSEE calculations for EU population totals and developments.

## 2. Short-term birth-rate indicator in EU member States in 2012



Note: Italian figures from the National Institute, UK and EU figures are for 2011.

Source: Eurostat (data retrieved January 2014).

## 2.2 Education

The governments of the European Union (EU) reached an agreement at the 2000 Lisbon Summit to promote a society and an economy which give growing importance to the development of knowledge. Seven priorities were identified for the period up to 2020, translated into detailed objectives: two of these targets feature among the "major objectives" of the "Europe 2020" strategy, the EU's ten-year growth plan.

The expansion of higher education is one of the "major objectives" of Europe 2020. The goal is that by 2020, 40% of all European citizens aged 30 to 34 will have successfully completed higher education, an increase on the figure of 35.7% recorded in 2012. France (43.6%), along with almost half of all member States, has already reached this target, while five countries (Croatia, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Malta) are still below the 25% mark. France's stated objective for 2020 is 50%.

The second "major objective" of Europe 2020 which relates to education is the campaign to bring the rate of **early school leavers** down to below the 10% mark. The EU average was 12.7% in 2012. Ten countries have already met or surpassed the target, with Croatia (4.2%), Slovenia (4.4%), Slovakia (5.3%) and the Czech Republic (5.5%) leading the way. At the other end of the scale, Portugal, Spain and Malta trail far behind (20-25% early school leavers). France is aiming for 9.5% by 2020, while the current rate remains slightly over the 10% mark (11.6% in 2012).

The third objective is to promote lifelong learning. In the year 2020, at least 15% of adults aged 25-64 should have received training of some sort in the four weeks preceding the

survey, be it in educational institutions (high schools, apprenticeship training centres, universities etc.) or elsewhere (town halls, companies, etc.). In 2012 this proportion stood at 9.0% across the EU, and 5.7% in France. The rate is above 20% in the Scandinavian countries, and below 5% in Greece and Central Europe.

Another stated EU objective is to bring the proportion of adolescents with low **basic reading skills** down to below 15% by 2020. In France the rate was 19% in 2012. Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands and Poland have already met this target. There is still much room for improvement in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania and Slovakia.

Another goal is to expand pre-primary education so that it is available to 95% of all children by 2020, between the age of 4 and the age at which compulsory education begins. This objective has already been attained in over half of member States. The lowest rates of pre-primary education are seen in Greece and Finland (74%).

**Employability** is a new objective codified in 2012. The EU target for 2020 is an employment rate of 82% among higher education and high-school graduates shortly after completing their qualifications. Eight countries have already met this target, including Austria and Malta where the rate is over 90%. France is in mid-table, with an employability of 76.5% in 2012. With rates below 60%, Italy, Croatia and Greece have a long way to go to meet this target.

Finally, the seventh objective concerns mobility between different countries for students, and is not yet quantifiable. ■

### Definitions

**Early school leavers:** young people aged 18-24 with no high-school qualifications and who are neither in education nor in training (formal or informal).

**Basic reading skills:** a measurement based on a simple text requiring some general knowledge. See the *Glossary*.

**Employability:** Evaluated by the rate of employment of secondary school or higher education graduates who are no longer studying and who earned their qualification within the last three years.

### Further Reading

- See the special report, "Reducing the number of early school leavers: a key objective of the "Education and Training 2020" programme".
- *L'état de l'École*, DEPP, 2013 edition.
- *Repères et références statistiques sur les enseignements et la formation*, DEPP, 2013 edition.
- "Education and Training Monitor 2012", European Commission, 2012.

## 1. Situation of countries in relation to the Lisbon objectives targeting education and vocational training in 2020

	2012				2011
	Graduates in higher education	Early school leavers	Lifelong learning	Employability	Pre-primary education
Austria	26.3	7.6	14.1	91.2	94.3
Belgium	43.9	12.0	6.6	80.9	98.1
Bulgaria	26.9	12.5	1.5	67.3	86.6
Croatia	23.7	4.2	2.4	58.7	70.6
Cyprus	49.9	11.4	7.4	73.0	85.0
Czech Republic	25.6	5.5	10.8	82.3	87.8
Denmark	43.0	9.1	31.6	84.1	98.3
Estonia	39.1	10.5	12.9	75.1	89.1
Finland	45.8	8.9	24.5	80.7	74.0
<b>France</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Germany	31.9	10.5	7.9	87.3	96.4
Greece	30.9	11.4	2.9	42.9	74.6
Hungary	29.9	11.5	2.8	73.4	94.5
Ireland	51.1	9.7	7.1	69.3	99.7
Italy	21.7	17.6	6.6	54.3	96.8
Latvia	37.0	10.5	7.0	74.2	92.7
Lithuania	48.7	6.5	5.2	76.0	84.2
Luxembourg	49.6	8.1	13.9	84.6	95.6
Malta	22.4	22.6	7.0	91.9	100.0 <sup>1</sup>
Netherlands	42.3	8.8	16.5 <i>p</i>	89.3	99.6
Poland	39.1	5.7	4.5 <i>p</i>	73.3	78.4
Portugal	27.2	20.8	10.6	67.9	95.4
Romania	21.8	17.4	1.4	69.4	82.0
Slovakia	23.7	5.3	3.1	68.6	76.9
Slovenia	39.2	4.4	13.8	73.2	92.9
Spain	40.1	24.9	10.7	62.4	100.0
Sweden	47.9	7.5	26.7	83.2	95.3
United Kingdom	47.1	13.5	15.8	81.5	97.0
<b>EU28</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>75.7</b>	<b>93.2<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Objective 2020</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>95.0</b>

1. Break in data series. 2. EU27.

Source: Eurostat, labour force surveys and school population statistics.

## 2. Proportion of young people under the age of 15 with low basic reading skills in 2012



Source: MEN-MESR DEPP / OECD, data from the international programme for monitoring pupils' skill levels (PISA).

as a %

## 2.3 Old age

The ageing of Europe's population continues: over a ten-year period ending 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over increased from 16.2% to 18.2%. This phenomenon was most noticeable in Malta (an increase of over 4 points in ten years), followed by Finland where the proportion of over-65s grew from 15.3% to 18.8% over the same period. In Luxembourg, Belgium and Spain, the proportion has risen much more slowly (less than one point over the same period).

Given the disparity in life expectancy between men and women, this ageing has mostly affected women. In 2013, across the 28 EU member States, women accounted for 57.6% of the population aged 65 and over and 65.1% of the population aged 80 and over. Within member States, the extent of the over-representation of women in the older age groups depends on the gap between the respective life expectancies for the two sexes: this gender imbalance is significant in the Baltic nations and Hungary, where the difference in life expectancy between men and women is very pronounced. On the other hand, the elderly population is more evenly balanced in Ireland, Cyprus and Sweden, where women account for around 54% of those aged 65 and over. France is close to the European average, with women representing 58% of over-65s.

The majority of older citizens are not in activity: in 2012, among people aged 65 and over residing in the EU, 95% were not in activity. Remaining in activity beyond the age of 65 is more common in Portugal, Romania and Estonia, where over 10% of older people are active. At the other end of the scale, in Hungary, Spain, France and Slovakia it is rare for older citizens to remain active (around 2%). Remaining in activity after the age of 65 is more common among men: across the EU 7% of men and 3% of women over the age of 65 are in activity. The disparity in the rates of

activity among older men and women is very high in Ireland, Portugal and Cyprus (above 9 points).

In 2011, spending on **pensions** stood at 12.9% of total GDP in the 28 EU member States. With the exception of Ireland, where this proportion was at its lowest (7.1%), the lowest rates of spending on pensions were generally observed in the Baltic and Eastern European member States. Pensions account for the greatest share of GDP in the Southern European nations (Portugal, Greece and Italy). Pension spending in France is above the EU average (14.5%). In the majority of member States, spending on pensions increased as a share of GDP between 2000 and 2011.

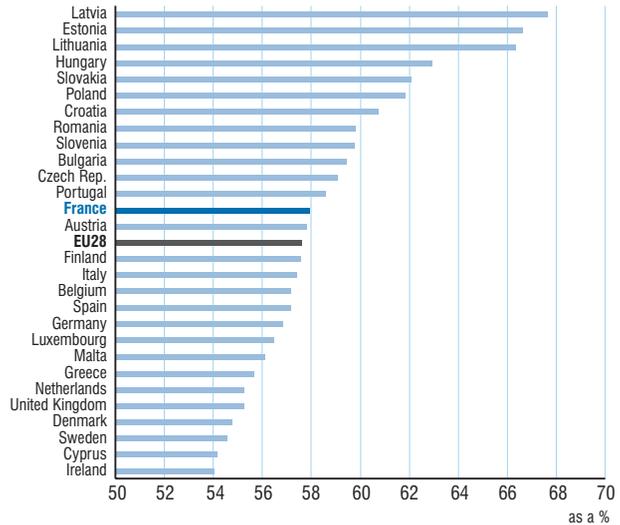
The increase in the proportion of people aged 65 and over has brought with it new challenges, particularly in the form of increased demand for healthcare and personal care services. To receive the care they need, elderly people may turn to their friends and family or else have recourse to **home care and services**. In Germany in 2007, 38% of citizens aged 60 and over received aid from a member of their family not residing with them, a friend or a neighbour, in the form of personal assistance, household work or help with administrative tasks. In Spain the proportion was 20%. In many European nations, including France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Sweden, 'friend and family' assistance was predominantly provided by the children of the elderly people in question. Women are more likely to receive help from their family or friends than men of the same age, almost certainly because they are more likely to be widowed. This asymmetry is particularly obvious in France and Greece (17 points), and less so in Spain (7 points). Elderly people may also receive care and assistance from professionals; here also, women are more often the recipients of care than men of the same age. The gap broadens even further beyond the age of 80. ■

### Definitions

**Pensions** in this context include disability pensions, pre-retirement pensions, old-age pensions and provisions for surviving dependents.

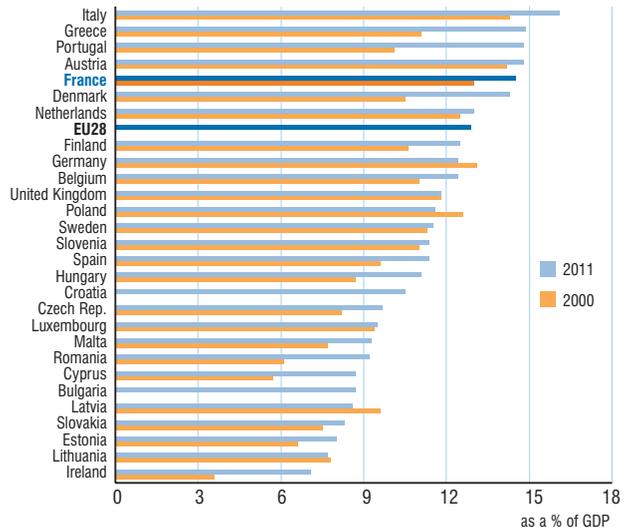
**Home care and services:** these include nursing or personal care, for consideration or performed by a professional, home help for domestic chores that the subjects cannot do by themselves due to health problems, and meals brought to homes.

## 1. Women as a proportion of people aged 65 and over in 2013



Source: Eurostat, data retrieved February 2014.

## 2. Spending on pensions in 2000 and 2011



Source: Eurostat.

## 3. Family assistance and home care and services for elderly people in a selection of European member States

	Receiving aid from a non-resident family member, friend or neighbour within the past 12 months			Receiving home care or services at least once within the past 12 months		
	Women	Men	Whole	Women	Men	Whole
Austria	33	18	27	14	3	9
Belgium	40	24	33	24	14	20
Czech Republic	46	34	42	7	4	6
Denmark	36	25	32	18	10	14
<b>France</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>
Germany	45	29	38	12	3	8
Greece	35	18	28	5	2	3
Italy	28	17	24	9	6	8
Netherlands	34	26	31	23	11	18
Spain	22	15	20	8	6	7
Sweden	37	22	30	10	5	8

Scope: household population, people aged 60 and over.  
Source: Share survey, round 2 (2006-2007).

## 2.4 Foreign-born population

In 2012, the EU of 27 was home to 35 million **foreigners**, accounting for just under 7% of the population. The foreign-born population as a share of total population varies significantly from country to country. This proportion is at its highest in Luxembourg (almost 44%), a rate significantly higher than the EU average which makes the Grand Duchy an anomaly. The proportion of foreigners is above 20% in Cyprus, and above 15% in Estonia and Latvia. The latter countries are home to significant numbers of Russian citizens. On the other hand, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria have virtually no foreign-born populations (below 0.5%). France (5.9%) is just above the European average, with similar figures seen in Denmark and Sweden. The differences between countries can be partly explained by differences in policy regarding the naturalisation of foreign residents. All other things being equal, the more difficult the naturalisation process is in a given country, the higher the proportion of foreigners.

Between 2003 and 2012, the number of foreigners increased in all EU nations with the exception of Latvia. The increase was particularly pronounced in Italy and Spain (over 3 million new residents) and the UK (2 million). In Germany, meanwhile, the number of foreigners remained virtually stable (+60,000) and the proportion of foreigners in the total population decreased.

Geographical proximity is a determining factor in the provenance of these foreigners. For example, almost half of all foreigners living in Greece are Albanians, while just below half of those residing in Austria originate from the former Yugoslavia. Over a third of foreigners

living in Finland come from Russia or Estonia, while a third of Italy's foreign-born population comes from Albania and Romania. Finally, over a quarter of foreigners living in Ireland are British. Colonial and linguistic ties are also deciding factors. Hence the three most strongly-represented foreign nationalities in France are the Portuguese, the Moroccans and the Algerians. A significant proportion of Spain's foreign-born population comes from South America.

Since the Amsterdam Treaty came into force in 1999, the right to asylum has been managed at EU level. In 2009 the European Parliament adopted a series of measures aimed at improving the asylum system and reinforcing the rights of asylum seekers. These measures included rules making it possible to harmonise the various national systems in place.

In 2012, the European Union processed 336,000 requests for asylum. The largest number of requests came in Germany (78,000), France (61,000), Sweden (44,000), the United Kingdom (29,000) and Belgium (28,000). Taken together these five countries account for over 70% of asylum requests. The total number of people seeking asylum in the EU fell continuously between 2003 and 2006 (falling by 43%). Since 2006, applications have risen significantly (increasing by around 70% between 2006 and 2012), with the exception of a slight dip in 2010. This trend has been particularly visible in Germany and France. In France the number of requests for asylum has doubled since 2006, while in Germany it has almost quadrupled over the same period. ■

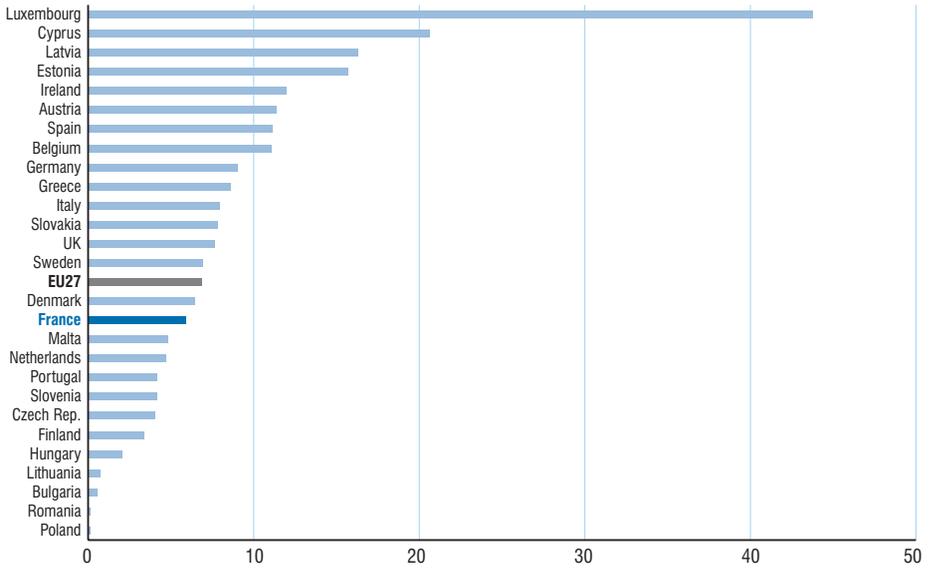
### Definitions

**Foreigner:** a personally usually residing in the reporting country who is a citizen of another country, whether or not that country is a EU member State.

### Further Reading

- « Immigrés et descendants d'immigrés en France », *INSEE Références* coll., 2012 edition.
- « Le nombre et la part des immigrés dans la population : comparaisons internationales », *Population et Sociétés* n° 4723, INED, November 2010.

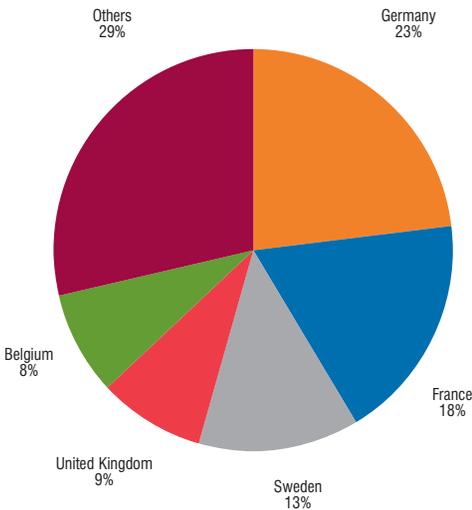
## 1. Proportion of foreigners in 2012



Source: Eurostat, data retrieved February 2014.

as a %

## 2. Distribution of requests for asylum in 2012



Source: Eurostat, data retrieved February 2014.

## 3. Number of foreigners in 2012

	in thousands		
	2003	2012	Variation 2003/2012
Austria	746.8	959.3	212.5
Belgium	850.1	1,228.0	377.9
Bulgaria	...	39.5	...
Cyprus	72.5	178.0	105.5
Czech Republic	179.2	423.0	243.8
Denmark	265.4	358.9	93.4
Estonia	...	207.1	...
Finland	103.7	183.1	79.5
France	3,263.2	3,858.3	595.1
Germany	7,348.0	7,409.8	61.8
Greece	...	975.4	...
Hungary	115.9	207.6	91.7
Ireland	329.7	548.9	219.2
Italy	1,549.4	4,860.2	3,310.9
Latvia	534.5	332.9	-201.6
Lithuania	...	22.8	...
Luxembourg	170.7	229.9	59.2
Malta	10.4	20.3	9.9
Netherlands	700.0	786.1	86.1
Poland	41.7	66.2	24.6
Portugal	238.7	439.1	200.4
Romania	...	36.8	...
Slovakia	29.9	424.1	394.2
Slovenia	44.7	85.6	40.9
Spain	2,189.2	5,236.0	3,046.8
Sweden	474.1	655.1	181.0
United Kingdom	2,760.0	4,827.0	2,067.0
<b>Whole excluding Bulgaria.</b>			
<b>Estonia. Greece. Lithuania.</b>	<b>22,018.0</b>	<b>33,317.3</b>	<b>11,299.3</b>
<b>Romania</b>			
<b>EU27</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>34,598.9</b>	<b>...</b>

Source: Eurostat, data retrieved February 2014.