



6.18

Characteristics of immigrants in selected OECD countries

Foreign-born population by country of origin									6.18a
Country of residence	Country of birth	% of foreign-born population	Country of residence	Country of birth	% of foreign-born population	Country of residence	Country of birth	% of foreign-born population	
Australia	United Kingdom	26.1	Germany	Former USSR	17.5	Norway	Sweden	9.6	
	New Zealand	8.2		Turkey	15.2		Former Yugoslavia	7.5	
	Italy	5.6		Poland	13.1		Denmark	7.1	
Austria	Former Yugoslavia	34.5	Greece	Albania	33.7	Portugal	Angola	28.4	
	Germany	14.1		Former USSR	18.5		France	14.0	
	Turkey	12.2		Germany	9.1		Mozambique	12.9	
Belgium	France	13.9	Hungary	Romania	49.5	Slovak Republic	Czech Republic	63.2	
	Italy	12.7		Slovak Republic	13.5		Hungary	15.2	
	Morocco	11.2		Former Yugoslavia	11.2		Former USSR	8.1	
Canada	United Kingdom	11.4	Ireland	United Kingdom	62.3	Spain	Morocco	14.5	
	China	5.9		United States	4.4		Ecuador	9.9	
	Italy	5.9		Former USSR	2.9		France	7.8	
Czech Republic	Slovak Republic	63.8	Italy	Switzerland	8.9	Sweden	Finland	18.4	
	Former USSR	11.2		Former Yugoslavia	8.7		Former Yugoslavia	13.1	
	Poland	5.6		Germany	8.3		Iraq	5.7	
Denmark	Turkey	9.1	Japan ^a	Korea ^b	40.9	Switzerland	Former Yugoslavia	16.1	
	Former Yugoslavia	8.5		China	19.9		Italy	15.9	
	Germany	7.8		Brazil	13.8		Germany	12.1	
Finland	Former USSR	33.6	Netherlands	Indonesia	12.5	United Kingdom	Ireland	11.7	
	Sweden	21.9		Turkey	11.2		India	10.1	
	Former Yugoslavia	3.5		Morocco	9.3		Pakistan	6.7	
France	Algeria	21.6	New Zealand	United Kingdom	33.3	United States	Mexico	26.3	
	Morocco	12.3		Samoa	6.9		Philippines	4.3	
	Portugal	10.1		Australia	6.7		Puerto Rico	4.1	

a. Refers to individuals living in Japan not of Japanese nationality because data based on the country of birth are not available. b. Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea combined.

Foreign-born population by gender, educational attainment, occupation, and sector of employment													6.18b
	Gender		Educational attainment			Occupation ^a			Sector of employment				
	% of the foreign-born population ages 15 and older		% of the foreign-born population ages 15 and older			% of the employed foreign-born population ages 15 and older			% of the employed foreign-born population ages 15 and older				
	Male	Female	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Professionals	Technicians	Operators	Agriculture and industry	Distributive services	Personal and social services	Producer services	
Australia	49.4	50.6	41.3	32.8	25.8	31.2	24.2	44.7	26.6	24.6	31.1	17.7	
Austria	47.9	52.1	49.4	39.3	11.3	13.3	19.7	67.1	32.9	21.4	31.9	13.8	
Belgium	48.1	51.9	53.3	23.8	23.0	31.6	22.0	46.4	28.7	21.2	37.0	13.1	
Canada	48.1	51.9	30.1	31.9	38.0	28.8	26.0	45.2	26.9	21.9	32.0	19.3	
Czech Republic	45.5	54.5	38.6	48.7	12.8	18.6	21.4	60.0	44.2	20.8	27.4	7.6	
Denmark	48.6	51.4	36.9	39.2	23.9	16.9	23.3	59.8	22.9	21.1	38.4	17.6	
Finland	49.6	50.4	52.6	28.5	18.9	21.6	20.2	58.1	27.3	19.5	36.3	16.8	
France	49.5	50.5	54.8	27.2	18.1	22.1	22.4	55.5	28.3 ^b	30.5 ^b	36.9 ^b	4.3 ^b	
Germany	50.3	49.7	45.8	39.3	14.9	10.2	20.5	69.3	
Greece	50.1	49.9	42.7	41.4	15.9	11.2	9.0	79.9	49.7	15.4	28.8	6.1	
Hungary	44.1	55.9	41.1	39.1	19.8	31.8	20.1	48.1	33.3	24.5	31.8	10.3	
Ireland	49.6	50.4	29.6	29.3	41.1	38.1	19.9	42.0	28.0	17.9	36.0	18.1	
Italy	45.6	54.4	54.3	33.5	12.2	17.5	19.9	62.6	45.2	15.5	33.3	6.1	
Japan	46.8	53.2	25.9	44.2	30.0	15.6 ^c	8.5 ^c	75.9 ^c	
Netherlands	48.6	51.4	49.2	31.6	19.2	25.3	27.6	47.1	26.2	19.7	35.6	18.5	
New Zealand	48.1	51.9	18.7	50.4	31.0	33.4	25.3	41.3	25.2	23.6	34.2	17.0	
Norway	48.9	51.1	18.3	51.2	30.5	20.9	26.0	53.1	18.8	19.2	47.8	14.2	
Portugal	49.1	50.9	54.7	25.9	19.3	21.3	24.8	53.9	33.1	19.2	36.4	11.3	
Slovak Republic	43.7	56.3	29.3	55.0	15.7	23.8	26.1	50.0	37.4	19.6	34.8	8.2	
Spain	50.3	49.7	56.3	22.6	21.1	15.5	14.0	70.5	37.6	17.8	35.9	8.6	
Sweden	48.6	51.4	29.5	46.2	24.3	19.0	21.2	59.8	25.0	17.5	43.2	14.3	
Switzerland	47.8	52.2	41.6	34.7	23.7	23.1	27.2	49.8	33.0	19.6	32.3	15.1	
United Kingdom	46.7	53.3	40.6	24.5	34.8	34.2	26.0	39.8	16.7	22.2	40.2	20.9	
United States	49.6	50.4	39.2	34.7	26.1	28.9 ^c	11.2 ^c	59.9 ^c	26.9	18.0	43.8	11.2	

a. Excludes armed forces (International Standard Classification of Occupations, ISCO-88, group 0). b. Does not refer to International Standard Industrial Classification revision 3 classifications. c. Does not refer to ISCO-88 classifications.

About the data

International migration has become an important element of global integration over the last 20 years. Many countries have adopted policies that encourage the entrance of foreign labor. At the same time remittances—transfers of gifts, wages, and salaries earned by migrants working abroad—have fueled private financing in developing countries. And demographic trends in developing and high-income economies are likely to influence future migration patterns. Despite the importance of international migration, the quality and comparability of data remain limited, in part because of differing national definitions of who is an immigrant. Many countries define immigrants as people with foreign nationality, but others focus on birthplace, considering all those born abroad as immigrants. The lack of comparable data hinders the design and implementation of sound migration policies by both receiving and sending countries. Systematic recording of immigration stock is difficult, especially for poor countries and countries affected by civil disorder and natural disasters.

The table presents the main characteristics of immigrants in selected Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, using data from the Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries, the OECD's effort, in cooperation with national statistical offices, to compile internationally comparable data on foreign-born populations in OECD countries. The database provides comprehensive information on many demographic and labor market characteristics of OECD immigrants. Its main sources of data are population censuses (for 22 countries), population registers (for Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden), and labor force surveys (Germany and the Netherlands). The database includes information on demographic characteristics (age and gender), duration of stay, labor market outcomes (employment status, occupations, sectors of activity), fields of study, educational attainment, and place of birth. The database provides comparable data on foreign-born population for around 2000; time series data are not available. Other national sources that contain time series data use different definitions of immigrant, making comparability across countries difficult.

Although the database includes data on all OECD countries except Iceland and the Republic of Korea, the table presents selected data only for high-income OECD countries with populations of more than 1 million. More data are available from the original source. Though OECD countries are believed to receive the largest number of migrant workers, Gulf countries

and Southern African countries also have a significant share of migrant workers in their labor force.

Census and population register data generally are the most relevant sources for small population groups, but the data are subject to two limitations. First, to ensure international comparability, immigrants are identified as people whose place of birth differs from their current country of residence. Thus, nationals born abroad may be included in the immigrant population. This could be an issue for countries with large repatriated communities (such as France and Portugal) or with large expatriate communities (such as Germany and the United Kingdom). Second, coverage of undocumented migrants, short-term migrants, and asylum seekers may be incomplete.

Table 6.18a presents the top three countries of birth along with their share of the foreign-born population in the reporting country. Because censuses of different countries apply different rules when addressing countries that split, recomposed, or are newly constituted, the coding from the national data collection were maintained. For some countries people born in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or the Republic of Korea could not be distinguished. In many OECD country censuses countries of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) are grouped under the name "former USSR." The same applies to the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

Table 6.18b presents the main characteristics of the foreign-born population by gender, educational attainment, occupation, and sector of employment. The database tries to harmonize the classification of variables that are not systematically collected according to international classifications. For example, occupations based on national classifications were mapped to International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-88) classifications, generally with help from national statistical offices. Details of the mapping are in OECD's *A Profile of Immigrant Populations in the 21st Century: Data from OECD Countries* (2008).

Because the database does not provide mapping for Japan and the United States, their data were mapped for the table. For Japan *professionals* refer to managers and officials and professional and technical workers; *technicians* refer to clerical and related workers; *operators* refer to agricultural, forestry, and fisheries workers; production process workers and laborers; protective service workers; sales workers; service workers; and workers in transport and communications. For the United States *professionals* refer to management occupations; business and financial operations occupations; computer and mathematical

science occupations; architecture and engineering occupations; life, physical, and social science occupations; community and social services occupations; legal occupations; education, training, and library occupations; arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations; and healthcare practitioner and technical occupations; *technicians* refer to office and administrative support occupations; *operators* refer to healthcare support occupations; protective service occupations; food preparation and servicing occupations; building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations; personal care and service occupations; sales and related occupations; farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; construction and extraction occupations; installation, maintenance, and repair occupations; production occupations; and transportation and material moving occupations.

Definitions

- **Foreign-born population** is the population ages 15 and older who were born in a country other than the country of residence when the census data were collected.
- **Primary education** refers to International Standard Classification of Education 1997 (ISCED) levels 0–2.
- **Secondary education** refers to ISCED levels 3–4.
- **Tertiary education** refers to ISCED 5–6.
- **Professionals** refer to ISCO major groups 1 and 2.
- **Technicians** refer to ISCO major groups 3 and 4.
- **Operators** refer to ISCO major groups 5–9.
- **Agriculture and industry** refer to International Standard Industrial Classification revision 3 (ISIC) major groups A–F.
- **Producer services** refer to ISIC major groups J and K.
- **Distributive services** refer to ISIC major groups G and I.
- **Personal and social services** refer to ISIC major groups H and L–Q.

Data sources

Data on characteristics of migrants in OECD countries are from OECD's Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries. The methodology of data collection and compilation and the summary report can be found in OECD's *A Profile of Immigrant Populations in the 21st Century: Data from OECD Countries* (2008).