

# Documentation of Eurostat's database on international migration: Population by country of birth

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EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION



THEME 3  
Population  
and social  
conditions

3

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# **DOCUMENTATION OF EUROSTAT'S DATABASE ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH**

## **1. Introduction**

This working paper is one of a series which describes the contents, updating and documentation of the Eurostat database on international migration. The data described here are available on request from Eurostat. (see part 8 for further details about how and from where to request these data together with any or all of the relevant Eurostat publications).

The series of working papers has been produced to help users and providers of the revised database as it becomes available in its entirety on New Cronos, the on-line user interface to the database. Each individual paper describes the contents of one part of the database. This one provides an overview and detailed description of the data on population by country of birth. The text is the documentation provided by the NIDI to accompany the revised dataset on population by country of birth.

The series of research projects for which these texts were produced was carried out jointly by the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) and the Migration Research Unit, University College London.

## **2. Uses of the Data**

The data are available for EU and EFTA member countries. Not all countries were able to provide such information.

The data come from a variety of national sources. Some come from national registers, others from the census or the Labour Force Survey. The reference year also differs depending on the availability.

## **3. Description of the Dataset**

The dataset for the population by country of birth in the European Union and the EFTA contains tables for each of the 15 EU Member States and the 4 EFTA States for which data were available at Eurostat when this project took place: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland.

The first dataset was requested in 1996 referring to data on 1.1.1994. From 1998 onwards, Eurostat started collecting the data annually; this Working Paper however limits itself in the results of the first data collection.

The joint questionnaire of the United Nations Statistical Division, Eurostat and the United Nations Commission for Europe requests since 1998 annual data on population by country of birth. The relevant part of the questionnaire for this project concerns the main characteristics of the population, divided into country of birth, age and sex.

## **4. Data Checking**

The data were checked using “hard criteria” consistency checks, for internal consistency and “soft criteria“ consistency checks using the expertise and knowledge of the research teams. Comparisons were also made with data published by the individual reporting countries and those collected by the OECD.

Further detail on the process of data checking may, if required, be obtained from the Migration Team at Eurostat.

## 5. Compilation of Documentation

The structure of the documentation is common to that of the other parts of the Eurostat database on international migration. It describes, on a country by country basis: the availability of data on population by country of birth; the sources and definitions used in each reporting country; information (where available and relevant) on legislation; methodologies of data collection and processing. This documentation will be translated in French, German and English for users of New Cronos.

## 6. Documentation on Population by Country of Birth by Reporting Country

### 6.1 Belgium (BE)

#### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Institut National de Statistique
- **Data source** National Register

#### Definitions

- **Country of birth** Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age** Completed years on 1 January, 1994

#### Country-specific information for January 1994

- Portugal includes Madeira (total: 4, males: 3, females: 1)
- Djibouti includes Afars and Issas (total: 15, males: 12, females: 3)
- America includes the French Antilles (total: 69, males: 30, females: 39) and the British Antilles (total: 9, males: 3, females: 6)
- Oceania includes the Caroline Archipel (total: 1, males: 1, females: 0), Hawaii (total: 12, males: 5, females: 7) and Tahiti (total: 11, males: 5, females: 6)
- Tuvalu includes the Gilbert Islands (no detailed data available)
- Vanuatu includes New Hebrides (total: 6, males: 1, females: 5)



## 6.3 Finland (FI)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority**                      Statistics Finland
- **Data source**                                      Central Population Register

### Definitions

- **Country of birth**                              Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age**    Completed years on 1 January, 1994

### Country-specific information

- No specific information available

## 6.4 France (FR)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques
- **Data source** Population Census, March 5, 1990

### Definitions

- **Country of birth** Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age** Completed years on date of the census (March 5, 1990)

### Country-specific information for March 1990

- Senegal includes Senegambia (total: 260, males: 12, females: 248)

## 6.5 Ireland (IE)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Central Statistics Office
- **Data sources** Population Census 1991  
Labour Force Survey 1994

### Definitions

- **Country of birth** Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age** Completed years on date of the census/survey

### Country-specific information

- Totals for 1994 do not sum up due to rounding

## 6.6 Luxembourg (LU)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Service Central de la Statistique et des Études Économiques
- **Data source** Population Census, 1991

### Definitions

- **Country of birth** Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age** Completed years on date of the census

### Country-specific information

- No specific information available



## 6.8 Norway (NO)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Statistisk Sentralbyrå, Statistics Norway
- **Data source** Central Population Register

### Definitions

- **Country of birth** In principle defined as the mother's country of residence at the delivery; however, it is not known to what extent this principle is used in daily practice
- **Age** Completed years on 1 January, 1994

### Country-specific information

- No specific information available

## 6.9 Portugal (PT)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Instituto Nacional de Estatística
- **Data source** Population Census, April 15, 1991

### Definitions

- **Country of birth** Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age** Completed years on date of the census (April 15, 1991)

### Country-specific information

- No specific information available

## 6.10 Spain (ES)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Instituto Nacional de Estadística
- **Data source** Population Census, 1991

### Definitions

- **Country of birth** Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age** Not applicable

### Country-specific information

- Tables by age are not available

## 6.11 Switzerland (CH)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Bundesamt für Statistik
- **Data source** Population Census, December 1, 1990

### Definitions

- **Country of birth** Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age** Completed years on date of the census (December 1, 1990)

### Country-specific information

- The answers to the questions in the census about the place of birth have not been cross-checked; therefore the quality of the data might not be beyond doubt
- China includes Tibet (total: 968, males: 538, females: 430). December 1990

## 6.12 United Kingdom (UK)

### Sources

- **Transmitting authority** Office of Population Censuses & Surveys
- **Data source** Labour Force Survey, spring 1994

### Definitions

- **Country of birth** Country in which the person concerned was actually born
- **Age** Completed years on date of the survey

### Country-specific information for 1994

- An estimate of 3500 is based on only a sample of approximately 10 respondents and should therefore be used with caution
- Up to 1984 Caribbean is defined as Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago. From 1985 the former 'Associated States' of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are excluded and appear under 'Other New Commonwealth'
- Other New Commonwealth includes those Commonwealth countries in Africa and the Caribbean for which separate statistics are not kept
- African Commonwealth is defined as Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and, from 1985, Mauritius
- America includes:
  - Other Caribbean Common Wealth (total: 46520, males: 21574, females: 24946)
  - West Indies associated states (total: 14498, males: 7284, females: 7214)
  - West Indies 'unknown' (total: 6306, males: 3652, females: 2654)
- OTHER includes Other New Commonwealth (total: 7068, males: 4411, females: 2657)

## **7. Access to Eurostat data on international migration**

### **Eurostat Data Shop network**

Journalists, researchers, teachers, students, government employees, members of professional organisations, decision-makers in public and private enterprises... in order to provide the greatest possible number of people with access to high-quality statistical information, Eurostat has developed an extensive European network of Eurostat Data Shops.

Already established in 11 of the 15 Member States of the European Union, and currently being set up in Greece, Austria, Finland and Ireland, these Data Shops provide a wide range of tailor-made services:

- Immediate information searches undertaken by a team of experts specialising in European statistics;
- Rapid and personalised response that takes account of the specified search requirements and intended use;
- A choice of data carrier depending on the type of information required: electronic files transmitted by e-mail, diskette, CD-ROM, paper file sent by fax or mail, printed publications sent by mail.

Advice on statistical searches and information on the use of Eurostat's databases also form part of the services provided by the Data Shops.

### **Immediate access to harmonised statistical data**

The role of Eurostat Data Shops in the European countries in which they are established is to meet the demand for statistical data at European level.

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Fax : (32-2)-234 67 51  
E-mail : [datashop@planistat.be](mailto:datashop@planistat.be)

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Fax : (45-39) 17 30 03  
E-mail : [bib@dst.dk](mailto:bib@dst.dk)

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DA, EN

**DEUTSCHLAND**

**STATISTISCHES BUNDESAMT  
Eurostat Data Shop Berlin**  
Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72  
D – 10178 BERLIN  
Tel : (49-30)-2324 6427/28  
Fax : (49-30)-2324 6430  
E-mail : [datashop@statistik-bund.de](mailto:datashop@statistik-bund.de)

Languages spoken:  
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Fax : (34-91)-579 71 20  
E-mail : [datashop.eurostat@ine.es](mailto:datashop.eurostat@ine.es)  
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Languages spoken:  
ES, EN, FR

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Eurostat Data Shop**  
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Tel : (33-1)-53 17 88 44  
Fax : (33-1)-53 17 88 22

Languages spoken:  
FR

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**Eurostat Data Shop Lisboa**  
**INE / Serviço de Difusão**  
Av. António José de Almeida, 2  
P - 1000-043 LISBOA  
Tel : (351 21) 842 61 00  
Fax : (351 21) 842 63 64  
E-mail : [data.shop@ine.pt](mailto:data.shop@ine.pt)

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**Tilastokirjasto**  
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Työpajakatu 13 B, 2 krs, Helsinki  
Tel.: (358 9)-1734 2221  
Fax: (358 9)-1734 2279  
E-mail: [datashop.tilastokeskus@tilastokeskus.fi](mailto:datashop.tilastokeskus@tilastokeskus.fi)  
Internet:  
<http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/tk/kk/datashop.html>

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**STATISTICS SWEDEN**  
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Fax : (46-8)-5069 48 99  
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**R. CADE**  
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University of Durham

EN, FR

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Tel. (44-191) 374 7350  
Fax: (44-191) 384 4971  
E-mail: [r-cade@dur.ac.uk](mailto:r-cade@dur.ac.uk)  
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**SCHWEIZ/ SUISSE/  
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**Statistisches Amt des Kantons Zürich**  
**Eurostat Data Shop**  
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Fax: (41 1) 225 12 99  
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Languages spoken:  
DE, EN

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**Eurostat Data shop**  
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New York, NY 10165  
Tel : 1 212 986 9300  
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E-mail : [eurodata@haver.com](mailto:eurodata@haver.com)

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Disseminated domains: All data included in [New Cronos](#)

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**DSI**

**Data Service and Information GmbH**

Kaiserstege 4

D-47495 Rheinberg 1

Tel. (49-2843) 32 20

Fax (49-2843) 32 30

[dsi@dsidata.com](mailto:dsi@dsidata.com)

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### **Statistisches Landesamt**

#### **Baden-Württemberg**

Böblingerstrabe 68

D-70199 Stuttgart

Tel. (49-711) 641-0

Fax (49-711) 641 24 40

[stala.bw@t-online.de](mailto:stala.bw@t-online.de)

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Tel. (1-781) 860 6674

Fax (1-781) 860 6525

[jbarry@dri.mcgraw-hill.com](mailto:jbarry@dri.mcgraw-hill.com)

### **Business and Trade Statistics**

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Morelane

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Information about Eurostat may be accessed online from the Internet:

**<http://europa.eu.int/eurostat.html>**

## **8. Relevant Publications**

### **A) Statistics in Focus and Rapid Reports**

**1993/6**

Population by citizenship in the EC - 1.1. 1991

**1993/8**

Female population by citizenship in the European Community

**1993/12**

International migration flows in selected EC countries - 1991

**1994/1**

Asylum-seekers in the EU: better data needed

**1994/7**

Non-nationals form over 4% of total population in the European Union – 1.1.1992

**1995/3**

International migration in the EU Member States - 1992

**1995/11**

Acquisition of citizenship by naturalisation in the EU - 1993

**1996/1**

Asylum-seekers in Europe 1985-1995

**1996/2**

Non-nationals make up less than 5% of the population of the EU on 1.1. 1993

**1998/3**

Migration between the Mediterranean Basin and the EU in 1995

**1998/10**

The population of selected European countries by country of birth

### **B) Working Papers**

E4/1997-1

Comparing data sources for measuring international migration in Central and Eastern Europe

Michel Poulain - Université Catholique de Louvain

E4/1997-2

La mesure des courants de migration internationale entre la Belgique, d'une part, le Danemark et la Suède, d'autre part  
Ingvar Johannesson, Statistics Sweden, Örebro  
Anita Lange, Danmarks Statistics, Copenhagen

- E0/1997-3 Michel Poulain, Institut National de Statistique, Bruxelles  
Living conditions and inequality in the European Union, 1994  
Joachim Vogel, Statistics Sweden
- E4/1997-4 Birth expectations and their use in fertility forecasting  
W. Van Hoorn, Statistics Netherlands  
N. Keilman, Statistics Norway
- E4/1997-5 Long-term internal migration scenarios for the countries of the  
European Union  
Nicole Van Der Gaag, Evert Van Imhoff, Leo VanWissen, NIDI
- E4/1997-6 Long-term international migration scenarios for the European Economic  
Area  
Andries De Jong, Harry Visser, Statistics Netherlands
- E4/1997-7 Now-casts of live births and deaths for 15 countries of the European  
Economic Area  
J. De Beer, K. Koldijk
- E4/1997-8 Improved migration statistics - An evaluation  
Ingrid Melin - Statistics Sweden
- 3/1998/E/n°1 Indicators of migration between the Republic of Ireland and the  
United Kingdom  
Central Statistics Office, Ireland  
Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom
- 3/1998/E/n°2 Swiss-Swedish joint study on cohort-based asylum statistics  
Torsten Torstensson, Krister Isaksson, Swedish Immigration Board  
Stéphane Cotter, Marcel Heiniger, Swiss Federal Statistical Office Bern
- 3/1998/E/n°3 Analysis and projection of mortality by gender, age/generation, and main  
causes of death for France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Norway  
E. Tabeau, P. Ekamper, C. Huisman, A. Bosch  
NIDI
- 3/1998/E/n°4 Stock de migrants et population d'origine étrangère – Comparaison des  
concepts dans les pays de l'UE  
B. Krekels, M. Poulain
- 3/1998/E/n°5 ESSPROS
- 3/1998/E/n°6 Household Budget Surveys – Methodology 1997
- 3/1998/E/n°7 La mesure de la migration clandestine en Europe  
D. Delaunay, G. Tapinos

3/1998/E/n°8	Long-term mortality scenarios for the countries of the European Economic Area W. van Hoorn, J. de Beer
3/1998/E/n°9	Méthodes de collecte des statistiques de morbidité
3/1998/E/n°10	Couverture des questions de santé publique par les enquêtes menées au sein de l'UE
3/1998/E/n°12	International Migration Statistics in the Mediterranean Countries: current data sources and statistics available from international organisations D. Pearce
3/1998/E/n°13	Developing a comprehensive framework for health care statistics
3/1998/E/n°15	Documentation of Eurostat's database on international Migration: Central European Countries, Cyprus and Malta J. Bowman, J. Clarke, E. van Dam, V. Eidukiene, A. Herm, H. Prophet, I. Salt, A. Singleton, U. Usackis
3/1998/E/n°16	Documentation of Eurostat's database on International Migration: Labour Data. J. Clarke, M. Clarke, E. Van Dam, I. Salt, G. Cantisani, H. Eding, A. Singleton
3/1998/E/n°17	Long-term fertility scenarios for the countries of the European Economic Area. A. de Jong – Statistics Netherlands
3/1998/E/n°18	Draft manual on statistics of Asylum-seekers and refugees R. van der Erf
3/1998/E/n°19	Asylum-Seekers and Refugees a statistical report Volume 3: Central European Countries R. van der Erf, E. van Dam, NIDI
3/1998/E/n°20	International Migration Statistics in the Mediterranean countries: current data sources and statistics available in the countries Revised version D. Pearce, D. Rotolone
3/1998/E/n°21	International Migration Statistics in the Mediterranean Countries: Report on the legal situation Revised version C. Hein
3/1999/E/n°1	Final report on automated coding in Member States

- 3/1999/E/n°2 European Statistics on occupational diseases “evaluation of the 1995 pilot data”
- 3/1999/E/n°3 Investigation of the methods of estimating migrant totals  
Sharon Bruce, Dave Elliot
- 3/1999/E/n°4 La fiabilité de la mesure des courants de migration internationale entre la Belgique et l’Italie  
E. Bisogno, M. Poulain
- 3/1999/E/n°5 Confrontation des statistiques de migration intra-européennes : Vers une matrice complète ?  
Michel Poulain
- 3/1999/E/n°6 Links between Stocks and Flows of the Foreign Population in Germany  
Manfred Bretz
- 3/1999/E/n°7 Now-casts on international migration  
Part 1: creation of an information database  
Aarno Sprangers, Hans Sanders. Statistics Netherlands
- 3/1999/E/n°8 National and Regional Population Trends in the European Union  
N. van der Gaag, L. van Wissen, E. van Imhoff, C. Huisman, NIDI
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