Statistics in focus

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 3/2004

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POPULATION AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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Acquisition of citizenship

Acquisitions of citizenship more than doubled in the 1990s

The annual number of acquisitions of European citizenship is rising. In the 19 countries of the European Economic Area and Switzerland the number more than doubled during the 1990s. On the basis of the available data, it is estimated that in 2000 about 611 thousand people acquired the citizenship of one of these countries (*Figure 1*). This is more than double the corresponding number in 1990. Data are available for eight European Union candidate countries. When these countries are taken into account, the number of acquisitions of citizenship amounts to about 645 thousand (*Table 1*).

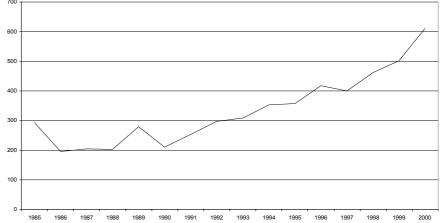
The number of acquisitions of citizenship varies greatly between the 27 countries. Acquisitions of German citizenship account for almost 30 per cent of all acquisitions and about 13 per cent of the total are granted citizenship in the United Kingdom. Although the number for France is not yet available, it is assumed on the basis of earlier years that around 18 per cent of new acquisitions of European citizenship occur in this country. The other 24 countries account for the remaining 40 per cent of acquisitions of citizenship. Of these countries, the highest percentages are recorded for the Netherlands (8%) and Sweden (7%).

Compared with the average number of acquisitions of citizenship in 1985-89, Portugal showed the highest relative increase (*Figure 2*). In 2000, the number of acquisitions of Portuguese citizenship was almost 16 times the average number in 1985-89. In 1995-99 it was 11 times as large. Germany experienced the second largest increase: the number in 2000 was over 12 times as great as the 1985-89 average and in 1995-99 the number was 6.5 times higher than in 1985-89.

In 1990-94 and 1995-99 fewer people acquired citizenship in the United Kingdom than in 1985-89. In 2000, however, the number of acquisitions of UK citizenship exceeded the average for the late 1980s. Luxembourg is the only other country with complete data where the number of acquisitions of citizenship decreased between the late 1980s and late 1990s, but this country accounts for a small proportion of the total number of citizenship acquisitions in the countries considered.

When people acquire a new citizenship this is usually the citizenship of their country of residence. For this reason, statistics on acquisition of citizenship focus on adoption of the citizenship of the country of residence. Losses of citizenship and acquisitions of citizenship other than that of the country of residence cannot be quantified using the available statistics.





Origins: predominantly Turkey, former Yugoslavia and Morocco

In the 27 countries that are considered here, just three groups account for almost 40 per cent of the acquisitions of citizenship: Turks, Moroccans and former Yugoslavs (including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - FYROM). In most of the 27 countries, citizens of these three areas are among the main groups who have been granted citizenship in recent years. In Denmark and Germany, Turks are the largest group, in Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands they are the second largest group. Former Yugoslav citizens comprise the main group in Austria, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden. They make up the second largest group in Germany and Hungary and also in Switzerland where the largest group is citizens from EU countries. Moroccans are the most likely to gain citizenship in Belgium, France, Netherlands and Spain but, perhaps surprisingly, in no country do Moroccans attain second place.

In the 27 countries for which data are available, 43 per cent of all new citizenships are granted to other Europeans (*Table 2*). Asians are the second largest group (24 per cent) and Africans are the third largest (23 per cent). However, each country differs from this general pattern to some extent. For example, one in three persons who acquired Greek citizenship in 1998 were citizens of the former Soviet Union and in Latvia in 2000 the corresponding figure was over 99 per cent. Almost 60 per cent of the people who acquire Spanish citizenship are from South American countries and

Africans comprise a similar proportion of the new French citizens. In Portugal, Africans constitute an even higher proportion of new citizens - 80 per cent - and half the persons in this group are from Cape Verde. In the Czech Republic, 86 per cent of successful citizenship applications are made by former Slovak citizens. Romanians account for over 50 per cent of all acquisitions of Hungarian citizenship.

It is important to bear in mind, however, that in some countries the percentage of unspecified former citizenships is high. In Liechtenstein and Lithuania, the former citizenship is not specified for 78 per cent of cases and in Estonia the figure is even higher - 98 per cent.

In 2000, the ratio of new acquisitions of citizenship to the number of non-nationals in a country was highest in Sweden (*Figure 3*). For every 1,000 non-Swedish citizens, there were 89 new grants of Swedish citizenship. Netherlands and Denmark had the second and third highest ratios respectively. Luxembourg and Greece show the lowest relative numbers. In these countries there were fewer than 5 cases of newly acquired citizenship per 1,000 non-nationals in the country.

Compared with 1990, in almost every country the ratio of the number of acquisitions of citizenship to the nonnational population has increased. The only exceptions to this general pattern are Finland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg.

Numbers of acquisitions of citizenship determined by personal objectives and circumstantial factors

The number of individuals who acquire citizenship is dependent on several factors. First, there is the decision of an individual to apply for the host country's citizenship. People who do so usually intend to stay in the host country for an extended period of time, perhaps even for the rest of their lives. Furthermore, they would expect some advantage of adopting that citizenship. For instance, gaining the citizenship of one EU country guarantees a continued and unrestricted stay anywhere in the European Union. On the other hand, an individual who adopts a new citizenship might be obliged to give up their former citizenship, and this, in turn, may affect the taxation status of the individual or their family members in the country of original citizenship. Considerations such as these may discourage people from changing citizenship. This weighing up of advantages and disadvantages mainly applies to residents from outside the European Union. In contrast, citizens of EU countries usually have little to gain from adopting the citizenship of another EU Member State.

This is why the number of such acquisitions is limited.

Secondly, the number of acquisitions of citizenship varies with the willingness of the host country to grant citizenship. This may change over time. For example, in the early 1990s, the Netherlands government liberalised the regulations regarding acquisition of Dutch citizenship and this led to an upsurge in applications and grants. A few years later the rules were made stricter, thus leading to a downward trend in acquisitions of citizenship. Other examples where changes in the regulations over time have been reflected in the numbers of citizenship applications include Belgium and the United Kingdom.

A third factor that affects the number of people who acquire citizenship is the total number of non-nationals in the country. For an overview of these populations the reader is referred to the Eurostat publication, *European Social Statistics - Migration* (2002).



Country of birth

For eleven countries, the number of non-nationals can be compared with the number of persons who were born outside of the country (*Figure 4*). Unfortunately, statistics on the foreign-born populations are not available for the other twenty countries. The comparison shows that, for all 11 countries, the number of residents born outside the country is higher than the number of residents whose citizenship is that of another country. In Sweden, the number of persons born abroad is relatively high - 11 per cent of the total population of the country were born outside Sweden. Slovenia, France and the Netherlands are the other countries where more than one in ten inhabitants were born abroad. The smallest percentages of foreign-born are found in Finland (2.6%) and Spain (3.6%).

The difference between the percentage of foreign-born and the percentage of non-nationals is highest in Slovenia. Almost 11 per cent of the population of Slovenia were born abroad, whereas only 2 per cent of the population do not have Slovenian citizenship. In the Netherlands, Sweden and France, the difference between the two figures is between 5 and 6 percentage points. Finland and Spain show the smallest differences (0.9 and 1.4 percentage points respectively).

In the 11 countries with data on both foreign citizens and residents born abroad the larger number of foreignborn citizens results from a combination of factors. The timing of migration flows is important since, in general, the longer foreign citizens are present in a country, the more likely they are to regard their change of residence as permanent and to seek the citizenship of the host country. Secondly, when immigrants adopt the citizenship of their new country of residence the consequence is a reduction in the number of foreign citizens but no concomitant change in the number of people born abroad. Thirdly, the inflow of people who were born abroad and already have the citizenship of their new country of residence increases the number of residents who were born abroad but does not alter the number of residents with foreign citizenship. This latter category includes in particular those people who were born in the overseas territories or former colonies of their new host country.

Table 3 presents the main groups of the foreign-born in those ten countries for which specific country of birth data are available. The table shows that that the distribution by country of birth is far from homogeneous, indeed, 45 different countries are represented. Germany is the only country of birth that appears in all the lists. Former Yugoslavia (including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, FYROM and Slovenia) is the second most common country of birth and occurs seven times. 24 countries appear only once. In many of the latter cases they are neighbouring countries (for example, persons born in Austria resident in Slovenia, and Finland-born residents of Sweden) or former overseas territories (such as Algeria-born

residents of France and India-born residents of the United Kingdom). In other cases, historic links between countries and a common language have encouraged migration flows. A clear illustration of this pattern is Spain which is home to many people who were born in Argentina, Venezuela, Cuba and Peru.

The differences between the numbers of foreign-born persons and the numbers of non-nationals are summarised by the country of birth/citizenship ratios which are also shown in *Table 3*. In a number of cases, the differences are striking. For the Netherlands, the ratio of 22 for Suriname indicates that the number of people who were born in Suriname is over 20 times larger than the number of people of Surinamese citizenship. The reason for this is that until 1975, Suriname was part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Persons who were born there were allowed to retain Dutch citizenship. Similar historical links explain the relatively large numbers of Indonesia-born residents in the Netherlands and Kenya-born residents in the United Kingdom (ratios of 18 and 9 respectively).

		n of citizer	10111p, 1000	2000		(1 000
	1985/89	1990/94	1995/99	1998	1999	2000
EU-15	219,7	268,1	:	:	:	:
в	24,0	21,2	28,1	34,0	24,2	:
DK	3,5	4,9	8,1	10,3	12,4	18,8
D	15,3	38,2	98,3	106,8	143,3	186,7
EL	1,6	1,1	:	0,8	:	:
E	6,4	6,4	10,8	12,6	16,4	16,7
F	44,8	62,2	77,9	81,9	94,0	:
IRL ²⁾	1,1	0,9	1,2	1,5	1,4	1,1
I	3,0	5,3	:	:	:	:
L	0,8	0,7	0,5	0,6	0,5	0,7
NL	22,1	34,1	67,0	59,2	62,1	50,0
A	7,3	12,2	:	17,8	:	24,3
Р	0,1	0,1	0,7	0,5 ³⁾	0,9	1,1
FIN	1,2	0,9	2,4	4,0	4,7	3,0
S	19,4	30,3	34,1	46,5	37,8	43,5
UK	69,2	49,6	45,9	53,9	54,9	82,2
IS	0,1	0,2	0,3	0,4	0,3	0,3
LI	0,1	0,1	:	:	:	:
NO	3,1	5,9	10,7	9,2	8,0	9,5
EEA	223,1	274,2	:	:	:	:
СН	12,6	11,0	19,4	21,3	20,4	28,7
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:
CY	:	:	:	:	0,1	0,3
CZ	:	:	:	:	7,3	:
EE	:	:	:	10,0	4,5	3,4
HU	:	:	:	6,2	6,1	5,4
LV	:	:	:	:	12,9	13,5
LT	:	:	:	0,6	0,6	0,5
MT	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	:	:	:	:	:	:
RO	:	:	:	:	0,2	:
SK	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	:	:	:	3,3	2,3	2,1

¹⁾ Annual averages for the periods 1985-89, 1990-94, 1995-99

²⁾ From 1997 naturalisation includes post-nuptial citizenship (certs. issued to Irish and foreign residents)

³⁾ Including only acquisition of citizenship by naturalisation



|--|

ntry of former citizenship	Belgium (1999)	Denmark	Republic of Germany	Greece (1998)	Spain	France (1999)	Ireland	Italy (1995)	Luxembourg N	venienanus	Austria	Portugal	Finland
al	24196	18811	186688	807	16743	94002	1143	7442	684	49968	24320	1143	3 29
Europe	8450	5865	120050	510	1347	20056	:	3405	559	12240	19339	28	3 14
Bulgaria	80	39		67	31			117		54	385		
European Union	2353	721	4435	43	865			410		1848	138		
Former Czechoslovakia	17	15		10	23			142		91	540		
Former Soviet Union 1)	180	243		219	125			438		775			3 11
Former Yugoslavia ²⁾	757	1523	18088	15	87			404		3809	7557		
Poland	253	201	1604	31	59			313		587	545		
Romania	203	130	2008	75	53			577		161	2682		-
Turkey	4402	2787	82861	33	33			92		4708	6720		
Africa	13159	2371	12096	56	3825	56193	:	1199	53	18100	1366	903	3 5
Algeria	520	60	487	0	89		:	52	1	119	16	6 0)
Congo, the Dem. Rep. of the	1541	16		7	13			:	2	277	9		
Egypt	43	33		17	36			223		443	657)
Ghana	106	68		0	17			10		348	144		
Morocco	9133	485	5008	6	2822		:	333	12	13471	32	2 1	
Nigeria	66	15	438	5	46	127	:	42	0	143	186	; O)
Somalia	18	1189		0	0			41	0	1634	12	2 0) 3
South Africa	10	8		6	7			65		102			
Sudan	7	11	174	2	7	30	:	3		158	7		2
Tunisia	301	79			19		:	126		148	157		
America	444	308	1916	83	9846	4302	:	1680	11	3593	297	180)
Brazil	36	47	199	8	411	392	:	191	1	231	31	152	2
Chile	59	35	152	5	359	247	:	61	1	52	17	3	3
Colombia	59	23	204	4	848	246	:	138	0	382	23	2	2
Dominican Republic	31	4	122	9	2126	61	:	390	4	200	66	6 0)
Peru	35	38	205	1	2322	200	:	134	1	64	29) 3	3
Suriname	11	0		0	0	40	:	0	0	2008	0) 0)
United States	53	38	166	23	112	494	:	145	1	160	16	6 6	6
Asia	1673	7879		147	1678		:	1144		8601	3161		
Afghanistan	20	276		0	0			3		945	70		
Bangladesh	23	18		0	22		:	3		50	69		
Cambodia (Kingdom of)	28	15		0	0			25		12			·
China (including Hong Kong)	157	228		0	268			75		1079	553		
India	172	120		3	287			45		242			
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	161	1105		4	112			131		1375	481		
Iraq	44	2210		5	49			22		2403			
Lebanon	149	1099		18	62			93		35			
Pakistan	131	545		9	89			9		237	100		
Philippines	190	188		21	554			177		300			
Sri Lanka	1	819		0	4		:	25		272			
Syrian Arab Republic	139	155		19	69		:	38		99	30		
Thailand	106	214	327	2	8		:	86		277	4		
Vietnam	141	647	4489	0	11	1976	:	243	2	203	8	8 0) 1
Oceania	6	16	33	5	3	57	:	8	0	34	11	2	<u>'</u>
Other/Stateless/Unknown	464	2372	3183	6	44	653	:	6	17	7400	146	6 1	I 1

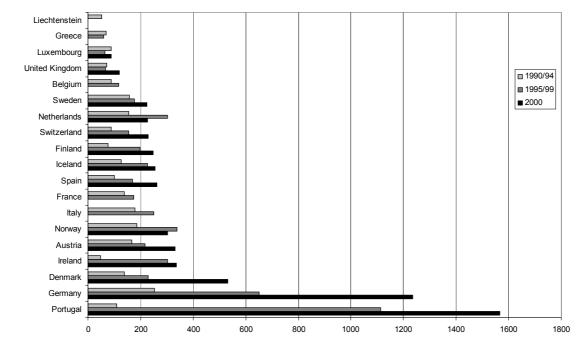


Figure 2. Changes in acquisitions of citizenship over time (average acquisitions 1985-89 = 100)



	United Kingdom	Iceland	Liechtenstein (1999)	Norway	Switzerland	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Estonia	Hungary	Lithuania		Romania (1999)		est available year (indicated Country of former citizenship
	0		. ,				(1999)					. ,		
43474	82210	328	567	9474	28700	296	7309	3425	5393	490	13482	247	2102	Tota
23444	11017	146	115	4067	21975	107	6970	68	5239	94	13446	59	2088	Europe
148	185	4		21	98	13	85	0	45	0	0	0	1	Bulgaria
2126	1668	56	0	725	11316	76	52	0	53	0	0	58	11	European Unior
37	144	3	0	0	201	C	6278	0	169	0	0	0	3	Former Czechoslovakia
646	920	16	114	255	306	7	395	68	797	90	13446	0	36	Former Soviet Union ¹
18105	1039	13	0	2213	6209	5	80	0	1168	0	0	0	2032	Former Yugoslavia ²
264	787					Ċ		0						Polanc
266	279					4		0						Romania
1398	4875					1		0						Turkey
4634	21923					51		0						Africa
59	629					1		0						Algeria
80	155					C		0						Congo, the Dem. Rep. of the
78	487					44		0					0	Egyp
56	2935					C		0						Ghana
197	721					1		0						Morocco
47	5594					C		0						Nigeria
2843	2586					C		0						Somalia
15	1635					C		0						South Africa
43	1785					3		0		0				Sudar
121	125	0	C) 11	193	C	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	Tunisia
1893	6967					6		0			0		4	America
78	331					1		0						Brazi
687	92					C		0						Chile
198	381					C		0						Colombia
9	17 117					ι (0						Dominican Republic
332 0	4							0						Peru Suriname
33	1613					2								United States
11267	37969	119	10	4173	2981	131	231	2	102	11	0	169	5	Asia
395	313							0						Afghanistar
146	5380					C		0						Bangladesh
20	22					C		0						Cambodia (Kingdom of
447	1966	4		156	227	1	2	0	2	0	0			China (including Hong Kong
173	8135					5								India
2798	1904					7		0						Iran (Islamic Republic of
4181	2340				40	8	8	0			0	27	1	Irac
366	1013	0			196	54		0			0			Lebanor
98	8631	1				2		0						Pakistar
283	1361					1		0						Philippines
149	2656					C		0						Sri Lanka
693	192					26		0						Syrian Arab Republic
525 580	687 1116					C		0						Thailand Vietnam
											-			
6	1671					1								Oceania
2230	2663	0	442	49	16	C	8	3355	0	384	36	1	4	Other/Stateless/Unknowr

¹⁾ Including Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldava, Russian Federation, Ukraine and unspecified (other) former Soviet Union. ²⁾ Including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, FYROM and Slovenia.

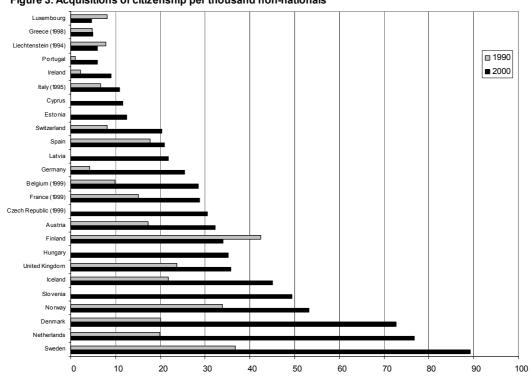


Figure 3. Acquisitions of citizenship per thousand non-nationals



As suggested earlier, the ratio between the number of residents who were born in a specific country and the number of residents who are citizens of that country may be influenced by, among other factors, the duration of stay in the host country. In most countries the numbers of residents born in Iran or Vietnam are high when compared with the numbers of residents with Iranian or Vietnamese citizenship. Most Vietnamese and Iranians arrived as refugees during the 1970s and 1980s respectively. These people have therefore had many years to acquire the citizenship of their host country. In particular, large numbers of Vietnamese citizens have adopted the citizenship of their new country of residence. For France and Norway, the country of birth/citizenship ratios are both greater than five. In the case of France, as Vietnam was under

French rule until 1954, a number of Vietnam-born residents may have been French citizens from birth.

Refugees who left their country more recently, such as those from Iraq and Somalia, have had a shorter period of time in which to acquire the citizenship of their country of refuge. For almost all countries in *Table 3*, the country of birth/citizenship ratios for Iraq and Somalia are smaller that those for Iran and Vietnam. In Denmark, the country of birth/citizenship ratio for Somalia is less than one, that is the number of Somali citizens is larger than the number of people who were born in Somalia. This arises because of the relatively large number of children born to Somali citizens after the latter had left Somalia but before they have acquired a new citizenship.

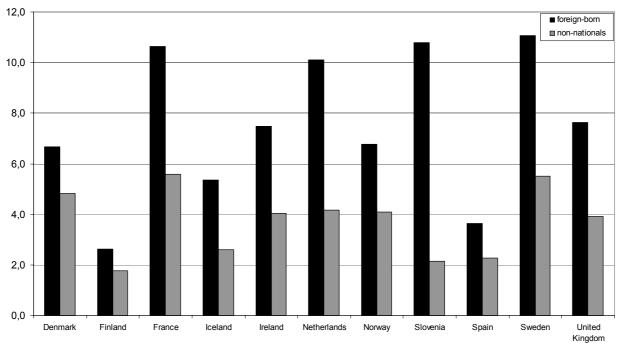


Figure 4. Non-nationals and foreign-born persons per hundred total population



Table 3. Main groups of foreign-born persons and non-nationals in 10 European countries

	country of birth	country of citizenship	ratio ¹⁾		country of birth	country of citizenship	ratio ¹⁾
	(x 1,000)	(x 1,000)			(x 1,000)	(x 1,000)	
Denmark 2001				Netherlands 2001			
Former Yugoslavia 2)	33.5	35.0	1.0	Suriname	186.5	8.5	22.0
Turkey	29.7			Turkey	181.9		1.8
Germany	23.7			Indonesia	165.8		
Sweden	19.0			Morocco	155.8		1.4
Norway	16.5				123.1	54.8	2.2
				Germany Netherlands Antilles and Aruba ⁴⁾			Ζ.,
Iraq	15.1			Nethenands / Indices and / Indea	83.9		
United Kingdom	13.7			Former Yugoslavia ²⁾	53.9		
Lebanon	12.1	2.5		Belgium	46.0		1.
Somalia	11.7			United Kingdom	45.7		1.
Iran	11.3	5.0	2.3	Iraq	33.7	8.6	3.
Spain 2001				Norway 2001			
Morocco	236.5	173.2	1.4	Sweden	33.3	25.2	1.
France	155.2			Former Yugoslavia ²⁾	27.0		
Germany	142.6			Denmark	27.0		
United Kingdom	142.6			United States of America	22.0 14.7		
-	70.5			United Kingdom	14.7		1.
Argentina	70.5 58.4			5	14.2		
Portugal				Pakistan			2.0
Venezuela	54.7		4.5	Germany	11.8		1.
Switzerland	52.3			Iraq	11.3		
Cuba	40.6			Vietnam	11.3		
Peru	37.5	27.4	1.4	Iran	9.3	3.8	2.
Finland 2001				Slovenia 2000			
Former Soviet Union 3)	44.1	36.0	1.2	Former Yugoslavia excl. Sovenia 5)	181.4	38.9	4.
Sweden	28.0	7.9	3.6	Germany	12.4	0.4	34.3
Former Yugoslavia 2)	4.8			Austria	5.7		
Somalia	4.1			Italy	4.8		
Germany	3.6			France	1.7		17.3
Iraq	3.2			Switzerland	1.7		
•							
United States of America	2.9			Former Soviet Union ³⁾	1.2		
Vietnam	2.9			United States of America	0.7		
United Kingdom Turkey	2.7 2.2			Czech Republic Sweden	0.5 0.4		
Turkey	2.2	1.0	1.2	oweden	0.4	0.0	22.1
France 1999				Sweden 2000			
Algeria	1246.7	477.5	2.6	Finland	197.0		2.0
Morocco	709.5	504.1	1.4	Former Yugoslavia ²⁾	128.7	22.7	5.
Portugal	579.5	553.7	1.0	Iran	50.5	16.1	3.
Italy	409.2	201.7	2.0	Iraq	43.1	30.2	1.4
Spain	342.1	161.8	2.1	Norway	41.8	30.9	1.4
Tunisia	340.8	154.4	2.2	Poland	39.9	16.3	2.4
Germany	215.2	78.4	2.7	Denmark	37.9	25.0	1.
Turkey	179.4	208.0	0.9	Germany	37.4	15.5	2.
Belgium	124.7	66.7	1.9	Turkey	31.4	16.4	1.9
Vietnam	114.1	21.2	5.4	Chile	26.6	10.8	2.
Iceland 2000				United Kingdom 2000			
Denmark	2.7	0.9	2.8	Irish Republic	519	412	1.
Sweden	1.6			India	429		
United States of America	1.0			Pakistan	429		
Poland	1.4			Germany	202		
	1.3			-	239		
Germany				Bangladesh			
Norway	0.8			United States of America	161		
United Kingdom	0.7			Kenya	135		
Philippines	0.5			Jamaica	130		
Former Yugoslavia ²⁾	0.5			South Africa	126		
Thailand	0.5	0.4	1.3	Australia	105	74	1.

¹⁾ Number of foreign-born to number of non-nationals.

²⁾ Including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, FYROM and Slovenia.

³⁾ Including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldava, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

⁴⁾ The Netherlands' Antilles and Aruba are still parts of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Netherlands' Antilles and Aruban citizenships do not exist.

⁵⁾ Including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and FYROM.



Further information:

> Databases

New Cronos, Theme 3

To obtain information or to order publications, databases and special sets of data, please contact the Data Shop network:

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