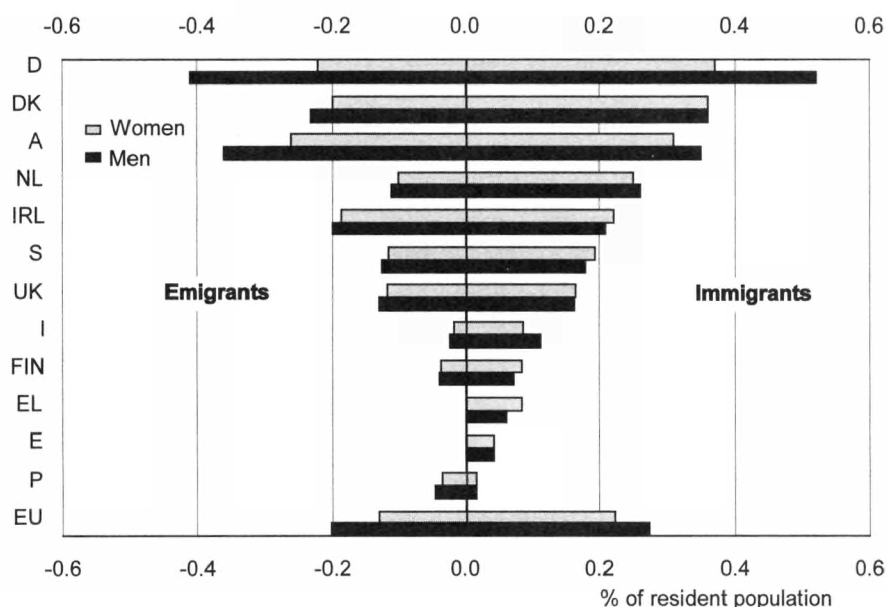


# Women and men migrating to and from the European Union

*David Thorogood & Karin Winqvist*

Immigration into the European Union has been a major source of population growth over the 1990s. Over the period 1995 to 1999, net inward migration added around 0.2% a year to the resident population in the Union (Fig. 1), which was only slightly less than the overall annual increase in population over the period (0.25%). As the growth of working-age population resident in the EU slows down and comes to a halt at the end of the present decade, immigration could assume increasing importance as a means of avoiding a contraction in the EU's labour force in future years. This gives added relevance to examining the scale of migration flows as they affect different Member States and the characteristics of the women and men coming to settle and work in the Union.

**Fig. 1** Immigrants into and emigrants from the EU as a share of resident population, average 1995-1999



*B, F, L: no data; EL, E: no data on emigrants. EU excludes B, EL, E, F, L. See Methodological Notes for years covered for each country.*

Statistics  
in focus

POPULATION AND  
SOCIAL CONDITIONS

THEME 3 – 2/2003

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## Net migration flows into the EU

The average number of immigrants moving into the EU from countries outside amounted to just under 0.5% of resident population a year over the second half of the 1990s, according to the data available. Around 45% of these were women, though women, on average, accounted for almost 50% of those moving into countries other than Germany, where women represented only just over 40% of the total (Fig. 1). (Data on previous country of residence are not available for 3 Member States, Belgium, France and Luxembourg for any of the years and for a number of Member States, for only some years – see Methodological Notes.)

This influx of people was offset to a significant extent by people emigrating from EU Member States to other parts of the world. Around 60% of these were men, though this figure is reduced to 52.5% if Germany is excluded. (Germany accounts for a large proportion of total emigrants; some 64% of those emigrating from Germany were men, many of them non-nationals. Probably most of these emigrants were returning home, but no direct data are available on this). In most EU countries, therefore, net immigration served to increase the number of men and women resident in the Union by much the same proportion.

In overall terms, the net inflow of migrants added under 0.2% a year to the EU population over the second half of the 1990s. Nevertheless, given the low and declining rate of natural increase in population, net migration was responsible for some 80% of the overall population growth over this period in the countries for which data are available. The continued slowdown in the rate of natural increase means that population growth in the Union over the next decade or two is likely to be determined almost entirely by the scale of immigration. This is even more the case in respect of the working-age population. This has particular relevance to the EU's labour force which, on current projections, is set to decline from around 2010 onwards.

Inward migration has been accompanied by people moving between Member States within the Union, though on a much smaller scale. Over the second half of the 1990s, an average of only just over one in 1,000 of those resident in the EU moved from one Member State to another each year. Of these, some 42% were women (47% in countries other than Germany, where only 36% of those entering from other Member States over this period were women).

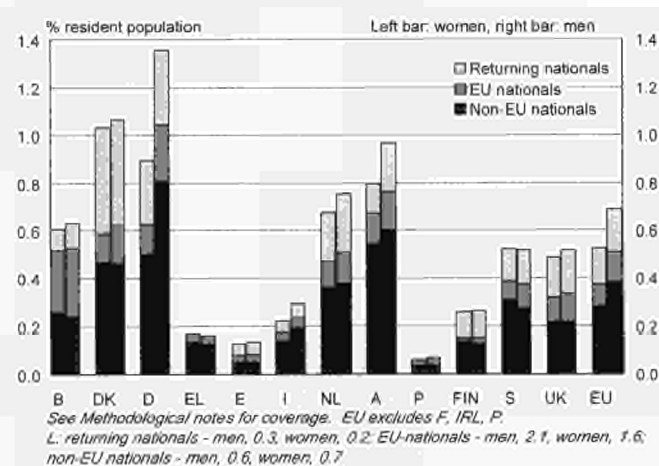
In total, therefore, immigration into EU Member States, including those coming from other Union countries, amounted on average to just over 0.6% of resident population a year over the period 1995 to 1999. This was slightly less than over the earlier years of the decade (0.7%).

## Immigrants by nationality

More complete data are available on the nationality of immigrants into the EU, nationality here being defined in legal terms as those who are officially citizens of a particular country. Indeed, France is the only country for which data are not available for any of the years 1995 to 1999, though data are incomplete for Greece and Portugal, where they exclude returning nationals. On average over the period 1995 to 1999, some 18% of all those moving into EU Member States (17% of women and 19% of men), whether from outside the Union or inside, were citizens of other EU countries, 27% (29% of women and 26% of men) were nationals returning from a spell abroad and 54% (53% of women and 54% of men) citizens of non-EU countries. The focus here is largely on this last group, non-EU nationals, 44% of whom were women (50% if Germany is excluded), who added just over 0.3% a year, on average, to the population of the fourteen Member States for which these data are available.

The scale of immigration of non-EU nationals varied significantly between countries over the second half of the 1990s. In relation to population, Germany experienced the highest level of immigration during this period, with around 0.7% of resident population per year. Germany was the destination for a substantial proportion of non-EU nationals moving into the Union (58% of men and 48% of women). By contrast, immigration amounted to only just over 0.1% of resident population a year in Greece and Finland, and well below 0.1% a year in Spain and Portugal (Fig. 2). In all Member States apart from Germany, where 60% of immigrants were men, women represented around half of immigrants of non-EU nationality over the period.

Fig. 2 Immigrants by nationality as a share of resident population, average 1995-1999



**Table 1: Average contribution of non-EU nationals to total population, 1995-1999**

		% resident population															
		B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU
15-64	Women	0.16	0.27	0.31	0.12	0.03	:	:	0.09	0.40	0.21	0.34	0.02	0.08	0.18	0.17	0.17
	Men	0.14	0.25	0.52	0.08	0.03	:	:	0.12	0.32	0.21	0.36	0.02	0.06	0.15	0.15	0.20
20-29	Women	0.35	0.58	0.75	0.27	0.05	:	:	0.21	1.02	0.43	0.71	0.03	0.16	0.38	0.49	0.38
	Men	0.30	0.51	1.07	0.12	0.04	:	:	0.27	0.61	0.38	0.63	0.02	0.13	0.27	0.40	0.40
30-39	Women	0.17	0.27	0.25	0.12	0.04	:	:	0.11	0.38	0.23	0.27	0.02	0.09	0.23	0.12	0.16
	Men	0.17	0.28	0.61	0.12	0.04	:	:	0.18	0.37	0.27	0.39	0.02	0.07	0.22	0.13	0.25
40-64	Women	0.05	0.08	0.12	0.05	0.01	:	:	0.02	0.13	0.06	0.17	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.03	0.06
	Men	0.05	0.09	0.24	0.06	0.01	:	:	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.20	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.08

Note: EU excludes F and IRL.

### Immigrants by age

A disproportionate number of non-EU nationals migrating into the Union are young people under 30. Most of these are in their 20s, coming to study as well as seek employment. On average, over the 5 years 1995 to 1999, 38% of all men and 42% of all women immigrants of non-EU nationality were aged 20 to 29. (In the UK, the proportion was over 50% for both men and women.) 25% of men and 18% of women were in their 30s. By contrast, only around 15% of men and women of non-EU nationality immigrating into the Union were 40 or over (Fig. 3). A similar pattern is evident for EU-nationals moving between Member States. Of these, around 37.5% of men and 43.5% of women were in their 20s.

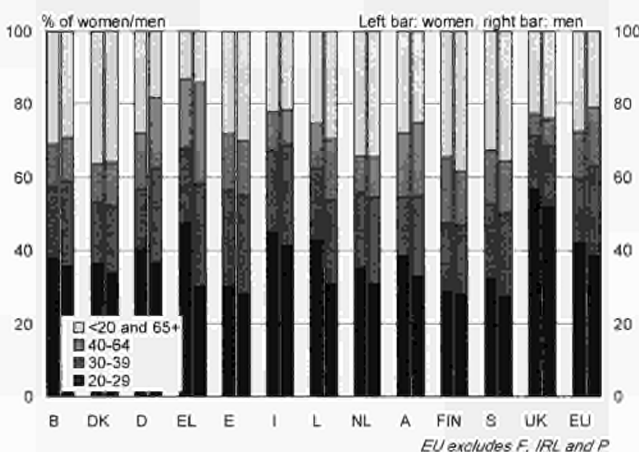
The relatively low average age of immigrants tends to offset, even if only slightly, the increasing average age of the population in Member States and, more especially, of the average age of the working age population. Immigration of non-EU nationals added almost 1% a year to the resident population of those in their 20s in the Union over the second half of the 1990s. This is made all the more significant by the fact that resident population in this age group was declining markedly. Between 1994 and 1998, the population of men and women in their 20s declined by around 2% a

year in the Union, increasing only in Ireland, Portugal, Greece and Spain, though in the last two countries, only marginally.

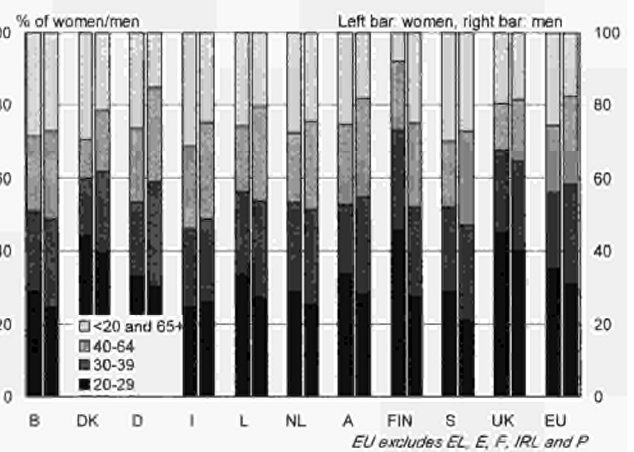
At the same time, immigration into the Union of men and women of relatively young age is somewhat offset by emigration also tending to be concentrated among the young. Some 31% of the men emigrating from the Union over the second half of the 1990s and 35% of the women (here including all nationalities) were in their 20s. In addition, 27% of men and 21% of women were in their 30s and a further 24% of men and 18% of women were between 40 and 64 (Fig. 4). In net terms, therefore, migration flows added more to the resident population of young people in their 20s than to that of older age groups.

Interestingly (though it must be borne in mind that the data for emigrants are less complete than for immigrants), over half of the men (53%) and almost 45% of the women emigrating from the Union appear to have been non-EU nationals. A significant proportion of these may well have been returning home after a spell of work and/or study in the EU, though some may have been moving to another EU Member State (Fig. 5). It should be noted again that there are no direct data on the number of non-EU nationals returning to their country of origin. A large proportion of these emigrants,

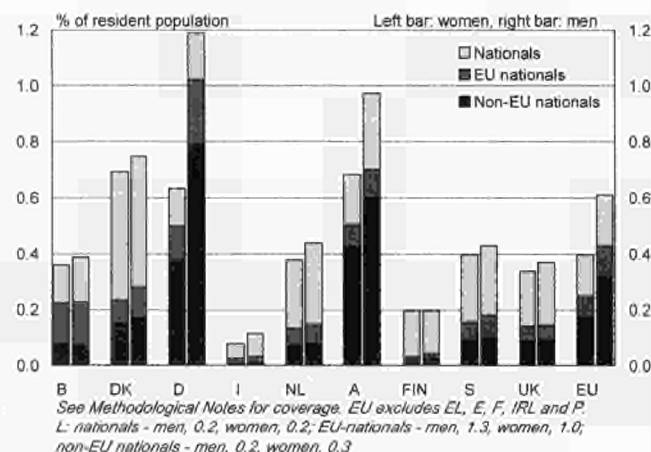
**Fig. 3 Distribution of immigrants of non-EU nationality by age, average 1995-1999**



**Fig. 4 Distribution of total emigrants by age, average 1994-1998**



**Fig. 5 Emigrants by nationality as a share of resident population, average 1995-1998**



however, were leaving Germany, emphasising this country's importance as a destination for men and women coming to work in the Union for a period. In Member States apart from Germany and Austria, non-EU nationals accounted for just under 30% of the total number of men and women who emigrated over this period.

In line with other emigrants, the men and women of non-EU nationality emigrating from the Union tended to be somewhat older than those immigrating, as would be expected. Nevertheless, perhaps reflecting their relatively short stay, especially in Germany, the number of non-EU nationals in their 20s emigrating from the EU over the three years 1996 to 1998 amounted on average to over half of those immigrating in the same age group in the case of men and to over 40% in the case of women. The proportions, however, are reduced to only 27% and 31%, respectively, if Germany is

excluded (Table 2). Perhaps reflecting the relatively large proportion of immigrants who return home after spending a period in the EU, the number of non-EU nationals of 40 and over emigrating over these three years amounted to some 97% of immigrants in the same age group in the case of men and around 71% in the case of women. The figures are reduced to around 55% if Germany is excluded.

### Non-nationals resident in the Union

Although there are no data relating directly to the characteristics and employment status of immigrants, the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS), which records information on the nationality of those surveyed, gives an insight into these. It should be emphasised, however, that the link between immigration and those of non-EU nationality living in the Union is not straight-forward. Some immigrants may have acquired citizenship of the country into which they have moved, while some non-nationals might be the children of immigrants even though they were born in the Member State concerned. The latter point can be allowed for in the analysis by using the data in the LFS on country of birth (though it should be noted that these are not available in all cases) to exclude those born in the Member State in question from the figures for non-nationals. The former point is more difficult to take account of because those born outside their country of citizenship are not necessarily all former immigrants. The analysis below focuses on those in their 20s and 30s who are most likely to have entered the EU comparatively recently.

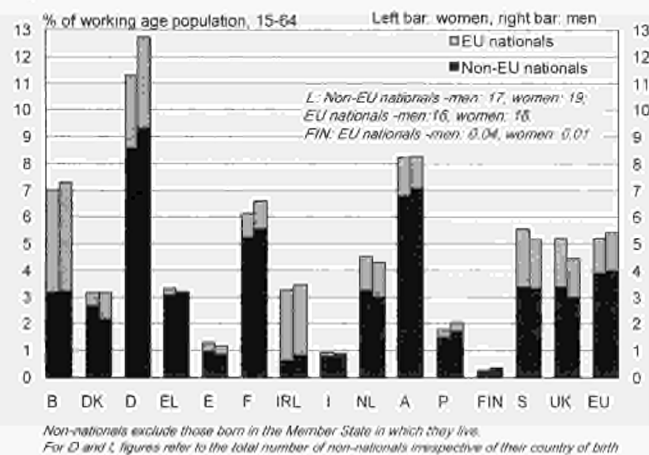
Men and women of non-EU nationality represented around 4% of men and women living in the EU in 2000, while those of EU-nationality living in another Member State accounted, on average, for a further 1½%. (Fig. 6).

**Table 2: Emigrants as a share of immigrants, average 1996-1998**

		% Immigrants																
		B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU	EU ex.D
<b>Non-EU nationals</b>	20-29 Women	25.3	41.1	56.2	:	:	:	:	2.7	53.9	15.1	69.1	:	9.9	19.6	48.3	43.3	31.2
	20-29 Men	17.8	50.5	73.8	:	:	:	:	1.8	48.5	12.5	87.0	:	15.8	23.4	46.9	53.0	27.3
30-39	Women	39.9	40.3	68.0	:	:	:	:	6.1	54.5	21.9	80.3	:	18.1	36.8	56.0	49.2	32.6
	Men	39.5	53.4	96.5	:	:	:	:	4.0	52.3	22.4	113.0	:	23.9	43.6	62.0	71.1	32.8
40+	Women	54.6	45.9	83.0	:	:	:	:	12.0	47.6	36.8	102.8	:	9.2	50.2	90.2	71.3	53.3
	Men	73.1	60.0	114.2	:	:	:	:	11.9	66.0	49.6	128.1	:	20.7	62.3	43.9	97.4	55.1
15-64	Women	34.2	41.3	61.0	:	:	:	:	4.9	51.0	19.3	76.5	:	11.8	28.5	45.8	46.7	32.5
	Men	34.2	51.2	87.2	:	:	:	:	3.5	52.7	20.1	101.3	:	19.0	36.6	46.2	64.7	31.5
All	Women	35.6	38.2	61.3	:	:	:	:	5.2	48.5	19.0	77.5	:	17.2	30.3	44.3	46.8	32.1
	Men	35.8	45.4	84.7	:	:	:	:	3.8	48.8	19.6	97.9	:	24.6	35.4	45.1	62.7	31.4
<b>Total</b>	20-29 Women	52.4	76.3	61.6	:	:	:	:	16.9	54.1	45.2	78.4	:	92.6	73.8	69.4	59.3	57.5
	20-29 Men	51.1	82.3	72.6	:	:	:	:	17.0	53.3	45.4	92.8	:	78.5	71.1	67.3	63.9	53.9
30-39	Women	68.0	72.0	68.8	:	:	:	:	28.9	71.8	61.4	93.1	:	84.2	87.8	96.5	70.6	72.1
	Men	69.3	83.7	90.7	:	:	:	:	23.4	71.5	62.7	111.7	:	83.9	93.7	98.3	80.6	67.1
40+	Women	85.2	70.4	70.9	:	:	:	:	45.6	78.1	77.8	104.4	:	53.9	92.5	79.9	72.9	75.7
	Men	86.3	82.9	96.4	:	:	:	:	53.6	88.8	96.7	116.8	:	76.2	114.2	98.2	93.3	88.1
15-64	Women	61.4	75.6	62.3	:	:	:	:	25.3	61.8	53.5	85.2	:	80.9	79.2	69.9	61.8	61.4
	Men	64.1	81.4	81.6	:	:	:	:	25.2	66.3	57.3	103.2	:	78.9	87.3	75.3	73.7	63.3
All	Women	63.3	72.1	60.6	:	:	:	:	28.3	62.3	53.4	85.5	:	76.5	79.7	70.3	61.3	61.9
	Men	65.4	76.7	77.3	:	:	:	:	27.1	65.7	56.7	100.4	:	76.7	85.6	75.1	71.3	63.4

Note: EU excludes EL, E, F, IRL and P for which data are not available. EU ex. D excludes D.

**Fig. 6 The share of non-nationals in working age population, 2000**



In both cases, these figures exclude, where possible, non-nationals born inside the Member State concerned, though in most countries, the number involved is relatively small. The main exception is Finland where around 75% of non-EU nationals aged 25 to 39 were born in the country; in all other Member States for which data are available, the figure was less than 10%.

The importance of non-nationals, however, varies significantly across the Union. Non-EU nationals represented around 9% of men and women resident in Germany (this figure includes those born in Germany) and around 7% in Austria, while in Spain, Italy, Ireland and Finland, they accounted for under 1% of the total resident population. (These figures will understate the true proportions of non-EU nationals to the extent that

the LFS under-records those who have recently moved and, in any event, is unlikely to cover a representative sample of those resident in the EU illegally.)

Some 24% of men of non-EU nationality living in the Union in 2000 and 27% of women came from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (Table 3). These, however, were very much concentrated in Member States bordering the countries concerned – in Greece, where they represented over 80% of both men and women non-EU nationals living in the country, Finland, where they represented 60% of men and 71% of women, and Austria, where the figures were around two-thirds for both. At the same time, around 25% of men and 22% of women came from the other three candidate countries for EU membership, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, predominantly from the last; the proportion being particularly high in Germany. For the rest, men and women from Africa accounted for around a quarter of non-EU nationals living in the Union, and for over two-thirds in France and Portugal. In the UK, Asians and those of Caribbean origin accounted for almost half of men and women of non-EU nationality.

Like immigrants, non-EU nationals living in Member States tend to be younger on average than the rest of the resident population. Men and women of non-EU nationality aged 25 to 39, therefore, represented over 5% of all those in this age group in the Union in 2000 – 11-12% in Germany and 9% in Austria – while those aged 55 to 64 represented only 2-3% of men and women of this age in the EU (much the same in Germany and Austria).

**Table 3: Non-EU nationals living in the Union by citizenship, 2000**

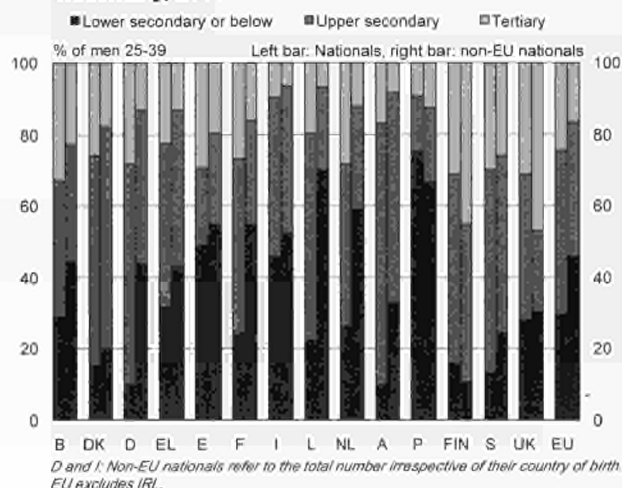
	% non-EU nationals															
	B	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK	EU
<b>Women</b>																
CE Europe plus ex-USSR	11.8	27.5	37.5	82.3	7.2	8.0	16.2	26.9	52.1	12.2	66.4	5.5	71.3	37.9	8.6	27.1
Turkey, Malta, Cyprus	19.8	13.9	40.4	7.0	0.2	8.0	10.5	0.1	0.9	27.4	21.1	0.0	1.4	3.9	2.8	21.8
Other Europe	0.5	13.2	1.2	0.4	1.8	1.0	0.0	0.8	4.6	2.3	0.9	0.0	3.5	12.8	1.6	1.8
Africa	48.7	10.8	3.3	1.7	32.9	67.7	0.0	28.3	13.6	27.9	1.0	70.3	6.1	8.0	18.1	22.1
Others	19.2	34.5	17.6	8.5	57.9	15.3	73.3	44.1	28.8	30.1	10.5	24.2	17.7	37.5	68.9	27.4
<b>Men</b>																
CE Europe plus ex-USSR	7.7	26.8	31.7	81.0	9.9	6.8	28.8	23.3	56.4	7.4	63.7	6.8	59.1	28.3	6.7	23.9
Turkey, Malta, Cyprus	17.5	11.7	44.5	2.9	0.2	8.9	3.5	0.5	0.0	31.0	23.3	0.0	6.2	7.2	5.4	25.3
Other Europe	0.8	15.6	0.8	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.8	4.3	2.0	1.2	0.4	0.9	13.4	1.1	1.3
Africa	57.1	6.5	5.8	4.6	43.0	89.5	0.0	40.5	13.7	34.5	1.7	70.0	13.5	7.9	18.1	24.3
Others	16.9	39.3	17.2	11.4	48.8	14.0	87.7	34.9	25.6	25.1	10.3	22.9	20.2	43.2	68.7	25.2

### Educational attainment levels of non-EU nationals

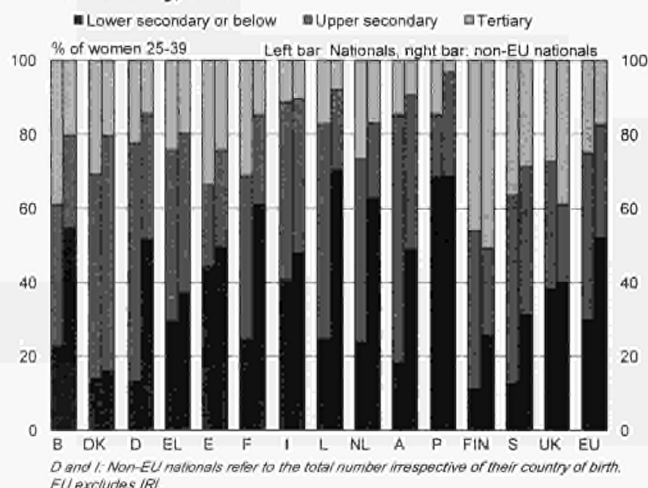
Non-EU nationals living in the Union have, on average, lower levels of educational attainment than nationals and, indeed, of EU nationals living in another EU country. This is particularly so for men and women aged 25 to 39. In 2000, 46% of men of non-EU nationality in this age group had no educational qualifications beyond compulsory schooling as compared with only 29% of nationals. Only 17% of non-EU nationals had tertiary, or university, level education as against 24½% of nationals (Fig. 7).

For women, the differences were even more marked. Whereas 30% of nationals had not progressed beyond compulsory schooling, the proportion in the case of non-EU nationals was over half. Similarly, only around 17% of non-EU nationals had tertiary level education as opposed to 25% of nationals (Fig. 8).

**Fig. 7 Educational attainment levels of men aged 25-39 by nationality, 2000**



**Fig. 8 Educational attainment levels of women aged 25-39 by nationality, 2000**



### Employment rates of non-EU nationals

The lower levels of educational attainment of non-EU nationals living in the Union are reflected in their relative employment rates. In 2000, only just over 73% of men of non-EU nationality aged 25 to 39 living in the Union were employed as against 88% of nationals (Fig. 9). Moreover, their unemployment rate averaged just over 15% as against 6½% for nationals in this age group.

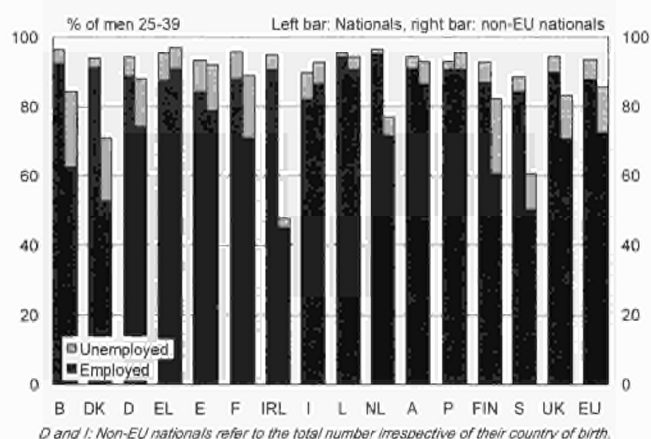
For women, the differences were even more pronounced. Whereas 68% of nationals in the Union aged 25 to 39 were employed, the figure for non-EU nationals was only around 44% (Fig. 10). At the same time, the unemployment rate for the latter averaged 19% as opposed to 10% for nationals.

Although a larger proportion of women of non-EU-nationality in this age group with tertiary (ie university or equivalent) education were employed than those with lower qualifications, only around half of these were in work as against 83% of nationals with a similar level of education. Equally, only around a third of women of

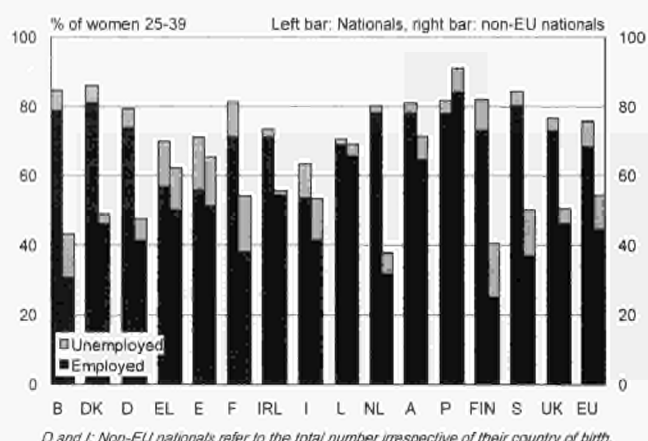
non-EU nationality with low levels of education were employed as opposed to just over half of nationals. For men, the differences in employment rates were smaller, but, over the Union as a whole, the proportion of non-EU nationals with a given level of educational attainment in work was still some 10 percentage points below that of nationals.

It must be emphasised that these large differences in respect of employment and unemployment rates, should not be seen as indicating a greater reluctance of those with non-EU nationality to work than nationals. The possibly higher participation of the latter in full-time education or training might explain part of the difference in participation in the labour force, but this, together with the higher unemployment of non-EU nationals almost certainly reflects problems of access to jobs. In the case of women, cultural differences may also play a role, as might a lack of affordable childcare facilities in a situation where many non-nationals could well have less possibility of support from social and family networks than nationals.

**Fig. 9 Participation rates of men aged 25-39 by nationality, 2000**



**Fig. 10 Participation rates of women aged 25-39 by nationality, 2000**



## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

**Abbreviations:** : not available . not applicable 0 negligible – nil

Eurostat's international migration statistics are based on data supplied by national statistical institutes. A variety of administrative and survey sources are used to produce these national data. Eurostat aims to collect and disseminate migration statistics according to the definitions contained in the United Nations Recommendations for Statistics on International Migration (Revision 1). Under these definitions, a person is counted as a long-term migrant when they change their country of usual residence for 12 months or more. However, it should be noted that some Member States are not able to produce statistics based on this definition. In some cases, migration is defined in terms of an administrative act such as registration as a resident, or by a stay in the country for a period other than 12 months. These differences between Member States in terms of data sources and definitions reduce the comparability of the statistics produced.

These statistics are available on NewCronos. They are broken down by country of previous/next residence and by citizenship, as well as by sex and age group.

*Immigration by country of previous residence:* For most countries, these data **are available** only for some of the years 1995 to 1999. No data on this basis are available for any of the years for Belgium, France and Luxembourg. Data are available for Ireland only for 1999; for Italy, for 1995 and 1996, for Austria, for 1996 to 1998, for Sweden, for 1996 to 1999 and for Denmark, Greece and Spain for 1995 to 1998. In each case, the data for the years available have been used to calculate the average for the period.

*Emigrants by country of next residence:* Data are less complete than for immigration. No data are available for the years 1995 to 1999 for Greece and Spain as well as France. Data are available for Belgium and Luxembourg for 1999, but have not been included in the analysis. No data for any of the countries are available for 1997 except Italy. Data for Ireland are available only for 1999, for Portugal, only for 1998, for Austria, 1996 and 1998, for Denmark 1995, 1996 and 1998, for Italy, 1995 to 1997, for Sweden 1996, 1998 and 1999 and for Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, for 1995, 1996, 1998 and 1999. As for immigrants, averages for the period have been calculated from the data available.

The EU average for immigrants and emigrants in Fig.1 is calculated only for the countries for which data are available for both.

*Immigrants by citizenship:* No data are available for France and data for Portugal and Greece exclude returning nationals. For Greece, data on returning nationals for 1993 is included in the EU averages for the years 1995 to 1999 in order to increase the coverage. Data for Ireland are available only for 1999 and are excluded from the analysis. The calculation of the EU average for particular years includes data for the nearest year in respect of countries for which data are missing in order to maintain consistency of the average between years. In a few cases where only the total is available (from data on immigration by previous residence), the breakdown by broad nationality is estimated from the data on this for the nearest year.

The EU average in Fig.2 excludes Portugal for which there are no data on returning nationals.

*Emigrants by citizenship:* Data are available only up to 1998. No data are available for Greece, France, Spain, Ireland and Portugal for any of the years 1995 to 1998.

Data on non-nationals resident in the EU come from the EU Labour Force Survey for 2000. These where possible have been adjusted to exclude those born in the Member State in which they live. No data on country of birth are available for Germany and Spain (the question is an optional one in the LFS). The data on educational attainment levels presented in Figs. 7 and 8 are aggregated according to the ISCED 97 classification. Lower secondary education or below covers ISCED 1 and 2, upper secondary education, ISCED 3 and 4 and tertiary education, ISCED 5 and 6. For the UK, to improve comparability with other Member States, data recorded in the LFS under ISCED 3c is included as part of lower secondary rather than upper secondary education since they relate largely to those acquiring qualifications at the end of compulsory schooling. No data for educational attainment level are available for Ireland.

# Further information:

## ➤ Databases

NewCronos, Domain: LFS, Migrat

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