

# JEAN MONNET CHAIR EUROPEAN MIGRATION STUDIES

## ECONOMICS OF MIGRATION IN EUROPE (ECMEU)

REPORTS PRESENTATION

COUNTRY:BELGIUM

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## Country Report - Belgium 2010-2020

### Migration in Europe

## I. INTRODUCTION

Belgium is considered one of the smallest countries in northwestern Europe, nonetheless, it is also one of the most densely populated among the other European countries. The country's political framework is characterized by a federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy starting from its independence established in 1830. The head of the state is the King and the one of the Government is the Prime minister. However, during the 1980s and 90s, political efforts were made towards turning the country into a federal state with a separation of powers among the regions of Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels-Capital Region, which are all independent and have equal importance.

The capital of Belgium is Brussels and it is also considered the capital of the European Union, hosting the official seats of the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European Council as well as one of two seats of the European Parliament with the other being Strasbourg. Brussels is also the location of the headquarters of international organizations such as NATO.

From a cultural standpoint, Belgium is presented as a heterogeneous country in which the main influences in terms of language families stem from the Romance and Germanic ones. In fact, the most prominent part of Belgium's population is considered to speak mainly French and Dutch.

## II. STOCK OF TOTAL POPULATION

In 2021, Belgium had the 12th largest population in Europe, putting Belgium one place above Czechia and one below the Netherlands. Russia is the most populated European country with 145.9 million residents, meaning it has about 12.5 times the population of Belgium. The least populated country in Europe other than Vatican City is Gibraltar, with 34,000 inhabitants, meaning it has 0.3 percent of the population of Belgium.

According to forecasts, the population of Belgium was expected to steadily increase from 2022 to 2071. In 2022, the population of Belgium amounted to 11,589,623 million people. The country should notably reach a population of 12 million inhabitants by 2032 and 13 million by 2068.

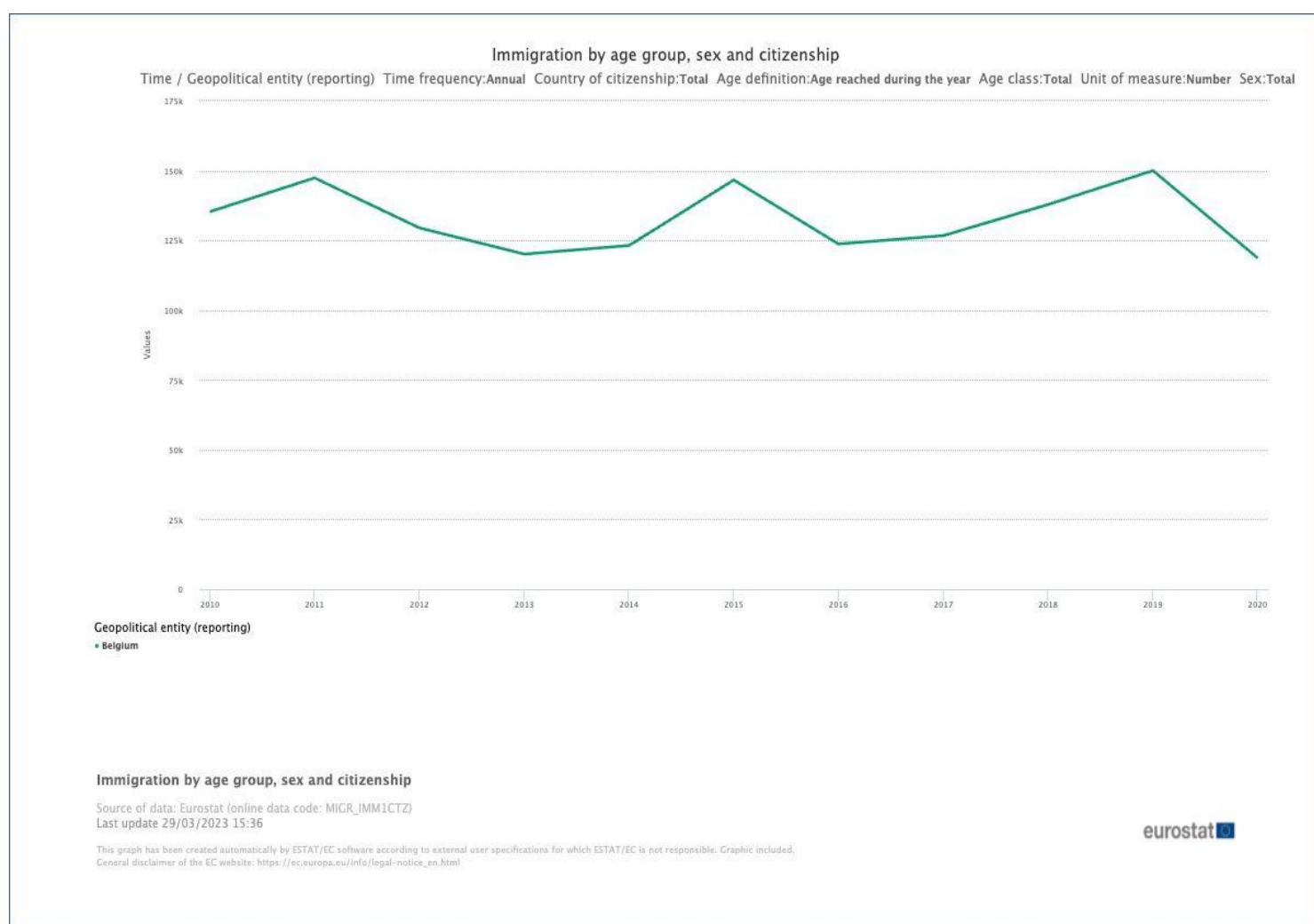
Most of the population concentrated in the northern two-thirds of the country and the southeast is more thinly populated. It is considered to have one of the highest population densities in the world and approximately 97% live in urban areas.

## 1. Stock of Migrants between 2010 and 2020

According to the definition provided by the Department Of Economic and Social Affairs, the Statistics Division of the United Nations, we refer to data provided by the annual international migrant stocks as the estimated balance of the total number of “international migrants present in a given country at a particular point in time”.

Accordingly, the available data reported until 2020 shows, with estimations calculated every five years, a significant increase in the international stock of immigrants in Belgium amounting to **135.281** in 2010 and to **118.683** in 2020.

The following graph presents the progressive change in the total number of immigrants in Belgium during the period of time going from 2010 until 2020:



## 2. Immigrant Stock by Category (sex, age, country of birth at least Morocco, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iran and reason for migration)

According to the data collected and provided by UNICEF on the Migration Profiles -Global legal instruments related to international migration- in Belgium, we can assert the following statistics in regards to the international migration stock by categorization of sex, age and country of birth in 2013:

The following table represents the number of people from 25 to 65+ years of age that have migrated to Belgium in 2013.

| Age group: | Male   | Female | Stock (2013) |
|------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| 25-29      | 55 985 | 62 041 | 118 026      |
| 30-34      | 63 396 | 63 434 | 126 830      |
| 35-39      | 60 744 | 56 003 | 116 747      |
| 40-44      | 56 744 | 49 922 | 106 696      |
| 45-49      | 48 728 | 41 505 | 90 233       |
| 50-54      | 40 026 | 33 693 | 73 719       |
| 55-59      | 32 542 | 27 576 | 60 118       |
| 60-64      | 26 252 | 25 159 | 51 411       |

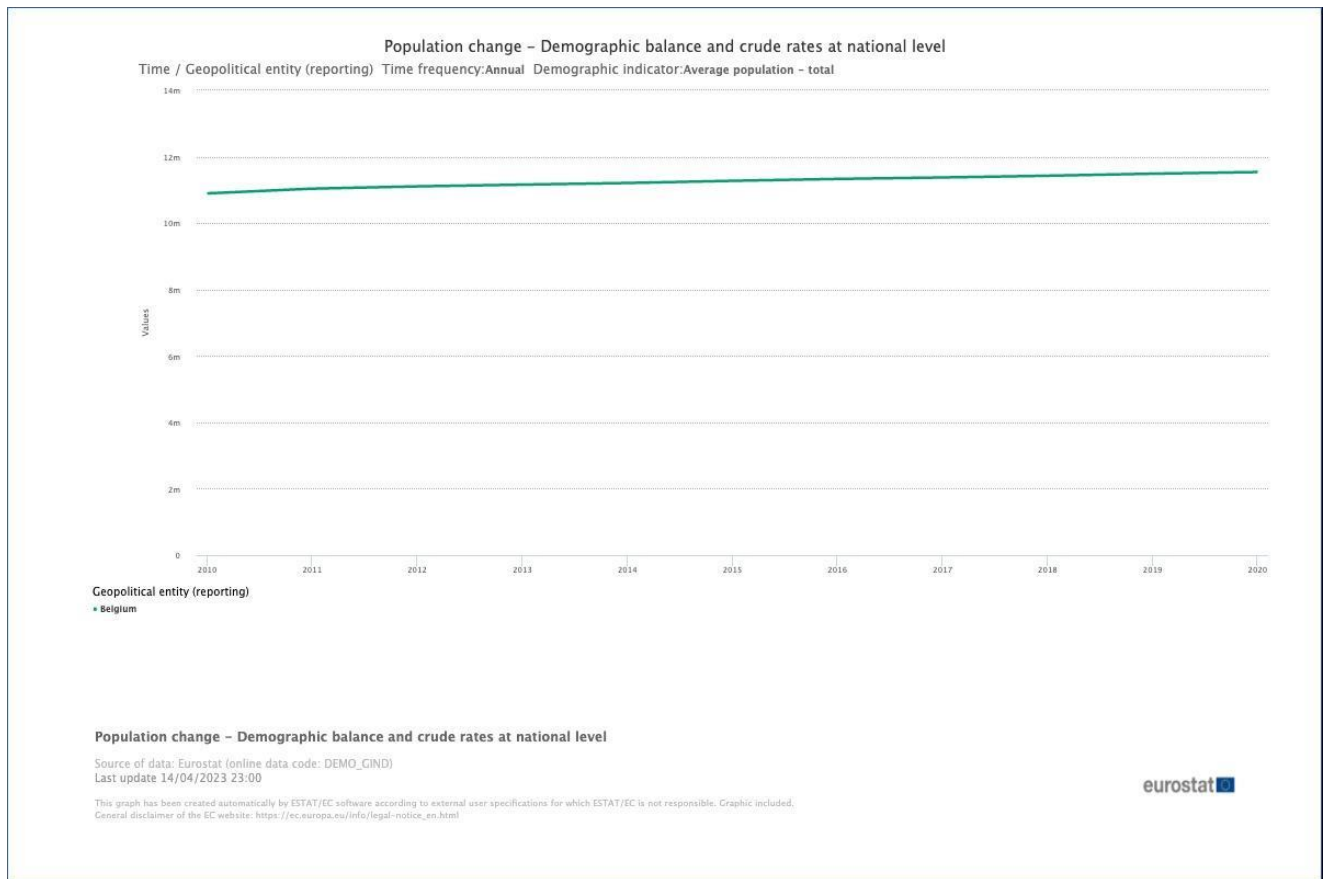
|                     |                |                |                  |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 65+                 | 55 635         | 61 190         | 116 825          |
| <b><u>TOTAL</u></b> | <b>587 500</b> | <b>572 301</b> | <b>1 159 801</b> |

The following table represents the top 5 origin countries of the international migrant stock according to the data reported in 2013:

| <b>Top 5 countries or areas of origin</b> | <b>Total</b>          |
|---|-----------------------|
| Italy                                     | 189 367               |
| France                                    | 155 879               |
| Netherlands                               | 148 440               |
| Morocco                                   | 91 090                |
| Spain                                     | 50 282                |
| <b><u>Total</u></b>                       | <b><u>635 058</u></b> |

### 3. Population Growth

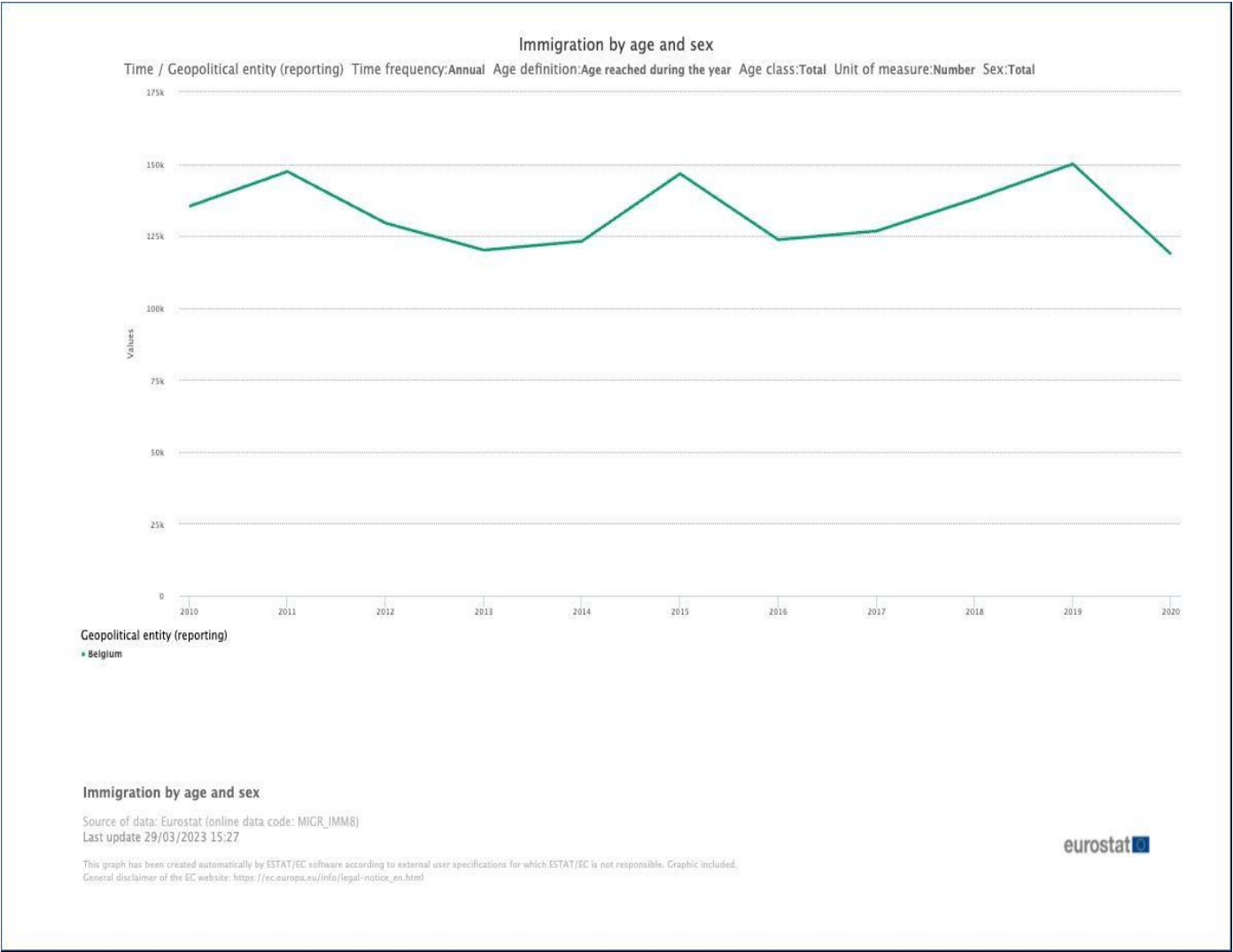
The chart is designed to visualize how a whole is divided into various parts as it shows the population growth over the last 10 years. Each segment of the pie is a particular category within the total data from 2010 to 2020.



#### 4. Flow of Migrant between immigrants and emigrants in the years between 2010 and 2020

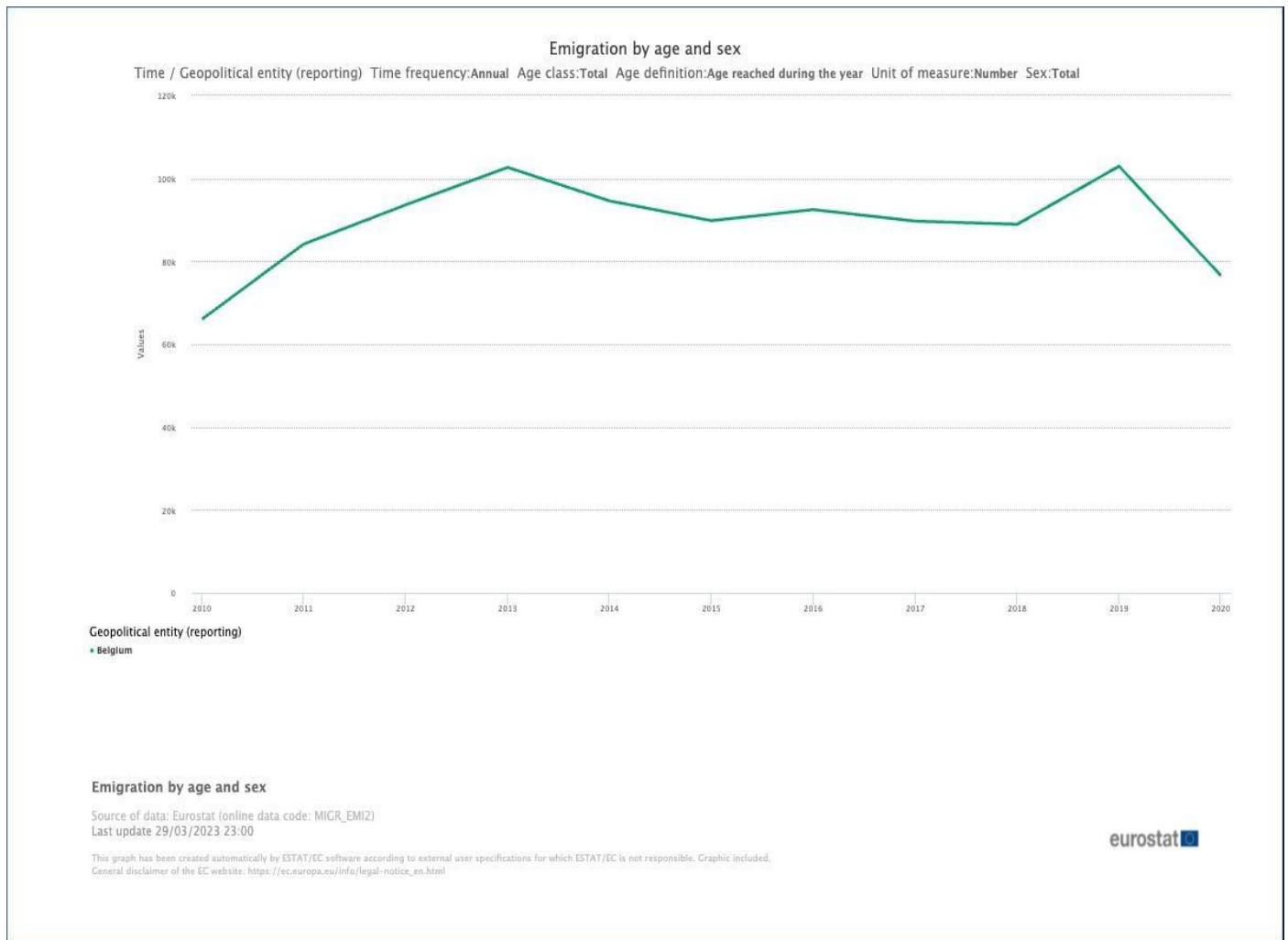
Provided below are two line graphs representing flow of migrants (immigration and emigration) between the years 2010 to 2020, thus, how many people arrive and leave Belgium in the period of time concerned.

The following graph represents the change of immigration flow in Belgium between the years 2010 and 2020



On the other hand, this graph shows the emigration flow in Belgium through the time period of 2010 to 2020:



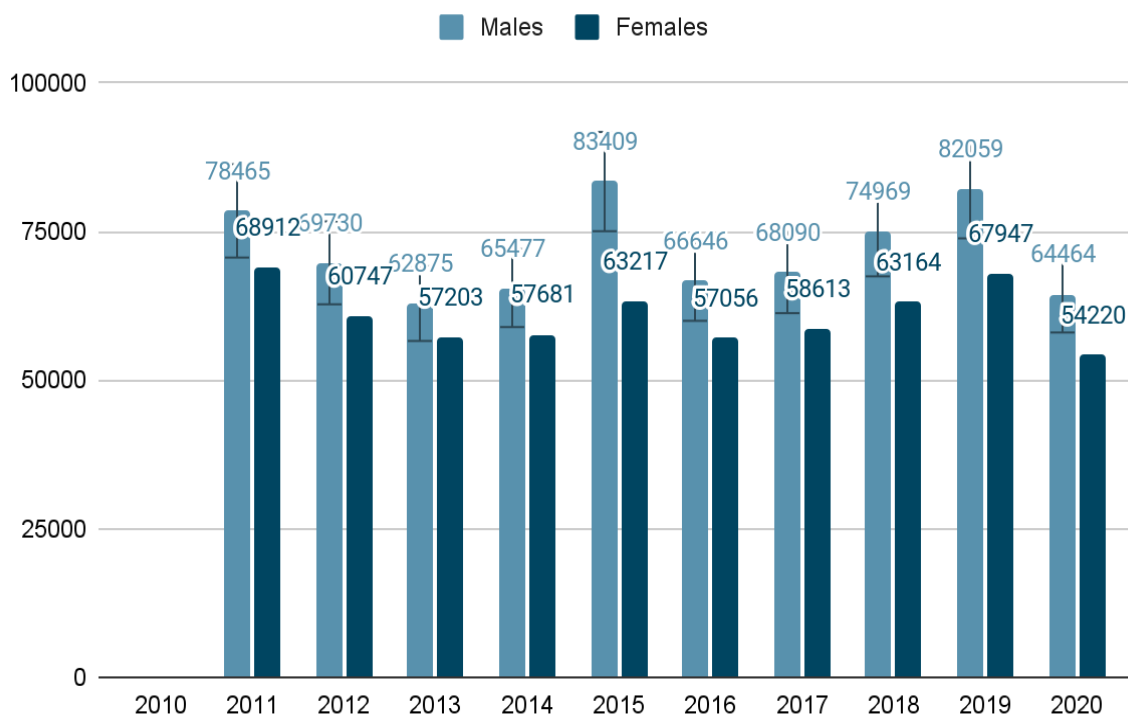


These line graphs show the difference between immigrants and emigrants. Both the number of immigrants and emigrants fluctuate slightly in the period of time concerned. It is important to note the significant fall in the number of immigrants and emigrants in 2020, which could probably be linked to the effects of the pandemic.

## 5. Immigration flow (by sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

### a. Sex

The bar chart illustrates the immigration flow of males and females between the years of 2011 and 2020.



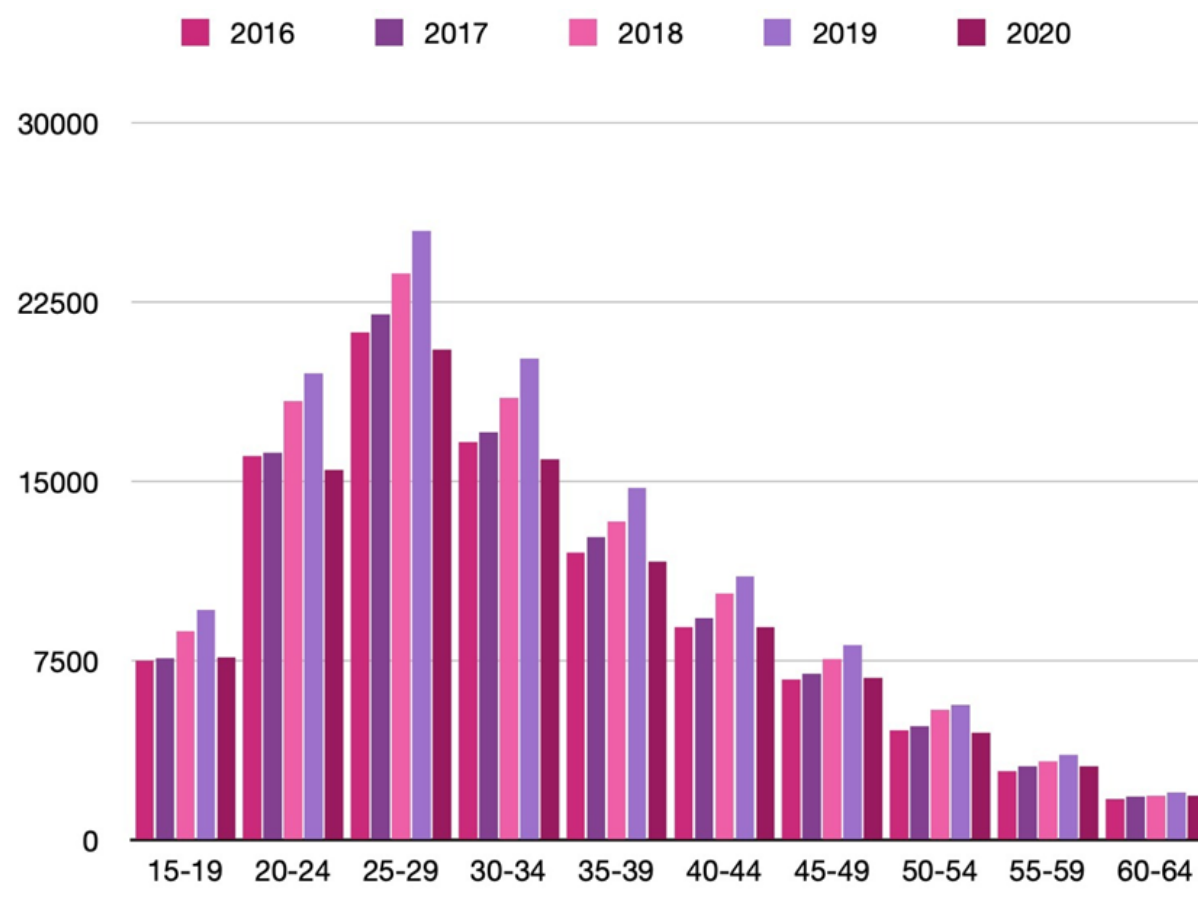
### b. Age

This table represents the number of people from 15 to 64 years that arrived in Belgium considering the time period from 2013 to 2021. The figures for 2012 are not available.

| year  | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   | 2021   |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 15-19 | 7.589  | 7.296  | 10.962 | 7.492  | 7.623  | 8.743  | 9.637  | 7.647  | 10.550 |
| 20-24 | 17.255 | 16.985 | 21.339 | 16.070 | 16.221 | 18.364 | 19.547 | 15.482 | 20.189 |
| 25-29 | 21.339 | 21.828 | 25.526 | 21.245 | 22.004 | 23.697 | 25.489 | 20.531 | 23.709 |
| 30-34 | 16.004 | 16.504 | 18.978 | 16.659 | 17.077 | 18.497 | 20.151 | 15.938 | 17.514 |
| 35-39 | 11.696 | 12.059 | 13.623 | 12.023 | 12.676 | 13.334 | 14.730 | 11.668 | 13.214 |
| 40-44 | 8.473  | 8.967  | 10.103 | 8.926  | 9.280  | 10.307 | 11.049 | 8.906  | 10.012 |

|              |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>45-49</b> | 6.029 | 6.628 | 7.407 | 6.705 | 6.949 | 7.566 | 8.160 | 6.802 | 7.556 |
| <b>50-54</b> | 4.149 | 4.414 | 4.830 | 4.596 | 4.751 | 5.465 | 5.660 | 4.481 | 5.385 |
| <b>55-59</b> | 2.633 | 2.754 | 3.115 | 2.867 | 3.077 | 3.295 | 3.567 | 3.105 | 3.449 |
| <b>60-64</b> | 1.491 | 1.600 | 1.824 | 1.718 | 1.813 | 1.873 | 2.007 | 1.840 | 2.084 |

The bar chart illustrates the migration flow in Belgium, from 2016 to 2020, considering age groups (15 - 64 years).



As we can see the increase in migration from 2016 to 2019 in all the groups. In 2020, it occurred a drop of immigration, probably due to the covid-19.

Age groups from 20 to 34 years are those in which people emigrate more if compared with other groups. While, the age group 60-64 is that on which there are less people that leave.

**c. Country of Birth**

The table represents the number of people that emigrated from different areas of the world to Belgium, from 2012 to 2019. The figures for 2020 and 2021 are not yet available.

|                         | <b>2012</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>EUROPE</b>           | 82.802      | 79.210      | 81.104      | 80.157      | 76.429      | 77.250      | 82.292      | 88.544      |
| <b>NORTH AFRICA</b>     | 9.923       | 8.247       | 8.892       | 8.637       | 8.414       | 8.488       | 9.629       | 10.738      |
| <b>EASTERN AFRICA</b>   | 2.165       | 2.030       | 2.641       | 4.108       | 3.035       | 3.223       | 3.665       | 4.782       |
| <b>WESTERN ASIA</b>     | 2.698       | 2.775       | 5.095       | 19.941      | 7.606       | 9.064       | 8.799       | 8.024       |
| <b>EASTERN ASIA</b>     | 3.123       | 2.990       | 2.597       | 2.721       | 2.703       | 2.658       | 3.096       | 3.183       |
| <b>NORTHERN AMERICA</b> | 2.951       | 3.054       | 2.572       | 2.770       | 2.589       | 2.470       | 2.741       | 2.551       |
| <b>CENTRAL AMERICA</b>  | 528         | 479         | 433         | 457         | 578         | 686         | 956         | 2.018       |
| <b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>    | 3.966       | 3.382       | 3.164       | 3.326       | 3.483       | 4.081       | 4.996       | 5.659       |
| <b>UNKNOWN</b>          | 392         | 492         | 666         | 1.238       | 769         | 569         | 976         | 1.127       |

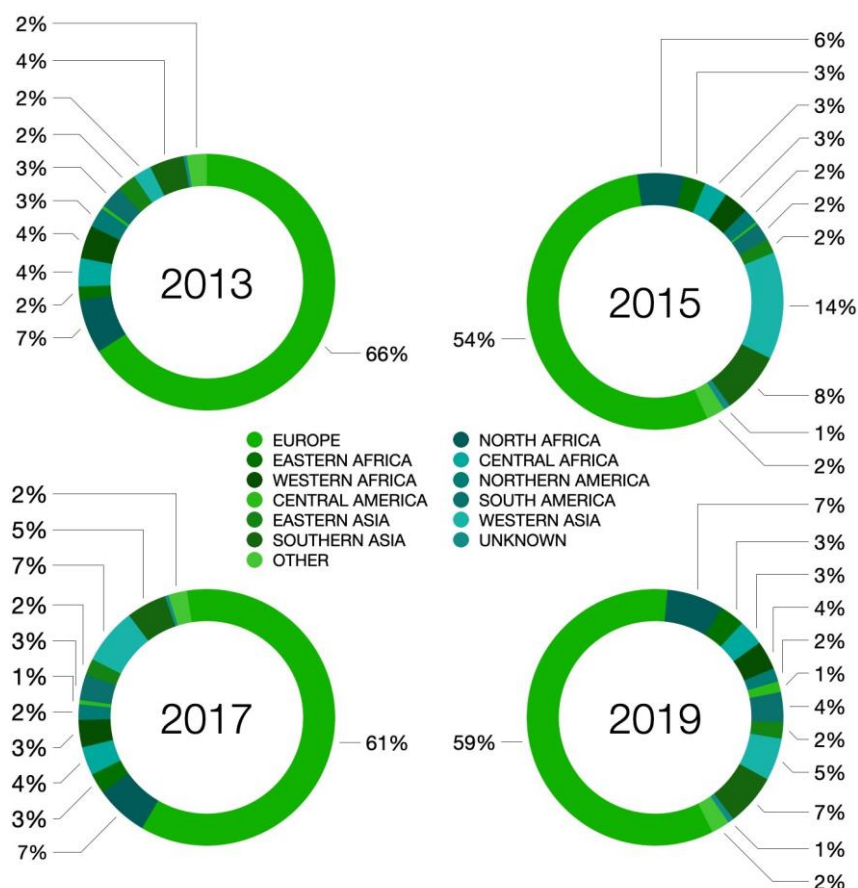
The countries of birth of migrants to Belgium are mostly located in Europe (France, Italy), which is followed by North Africa.

In the period of time concerned, some areas such as Europe, north and eastern Africa and south America have fluctuated considerably.

There is a minor flow of people that came from Central Africa if compared with other areas, even if in the last 8 years the number of people that emigrated from Central Africa are four-fold.

As we can see, there has been an increase of people that came from western Asia; in the period of time concerned, migrants grew from about 2600 in 2012 to about 8000 in 2019.

The pie charts illustrate how the composition of people that emigrated from different areas of the world to Belgium changed in the period from 2013 to 2019.



The table represents a focus on some countries of birth of migrants, who arrived in Belgium between the period of time 2012 - 2019.

|             | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| NETHERLANDS | 6.060  | 5.922  | 5.986  | 6.058  | 5.851  | 5.721  | 5.838  | 5.958  |
| FRANCE      | 11.754 | 12.046 | 11.411 | 11.418 | 10.809 | 10.662 | 11.181 | 11.655 |

|             |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| AFGHANISTAN | 2.018 | 1.193 | 1.185 | 7.111 | 2.590 | 1.626 | 2.287 | 3.839 |
| IRAN        | 654   | 303   | 268   | 393   | 390   | 461   | 800   | 1.087 |
| MOROCCO     | 7.507 | 6.145 | 6.498 | 6.271 | 6.162 | 6.099 | 6.686 | 7.849 |
| GERMANY     | 2.715 | 2.641 | 2.541 | 2.580 | 2.471 | 2.612 | 2.669 | 2.720 |
| ITALY       | 3.938 | 4.319 | 4.484 | 4.324 | 4.044 | 4.021 | 4.473 | 4.550 |
| POLAND      | 7.641 | 6.559 | 5.755 | 5.294 | 4.558 | 4.324 | 4.156 | 4.288 |

Belgium's immigrants are mostly coming from Europe (Italy and France) and North Africa. Countries such as Germany, France, Netherlands and Morocco had a fairly linear trend over the period of time considered. While, other countries, such as Iran and Afghanistan, have fluctuated considerably. As we can see, the number of people from Germany declined from 2012 to 2019. Meanwhile, there has been an escalation of people from Italy.

### Reasons for Migration

As the number of immigrants increases by the year, the patterns and factors involved become harder to analyze and evaluate. With the dynamic change and demands that immigration brings, it is important to take a look at some of the reasons why different groups of people choose to immigrate.

- **To escape poverty:** Perhaps the most commonly assumed reason for immigration.
- **To seek superior healthcare:** living in a country with limited access to healthcare when you're suffering from serious health problems
- **To offer more opportunities to children:** Parents sometimes make the difficult decision to migrate so their children can benefit from things like superior education, and plentiful job opportunities.
- **Family reunification:** is a recognized reason for immigration in many countries because of the presence of one or more family members in a certain country, therefore, enables the rest of the divided family or only specific members of the family to emigrate to that country as well.
- **For educational purposes:** Shout out to all of the adventurous students. Some study abroad to seek out better educational opportunities than are available in their own countries, while others simply want the thrill of living in an exciting, new place.

- **For job and business opportunities:** In some cases, people migrate with the knowledge or hope that more opportunities will be available to them in their particular field than at home. Others migrate after employment has already been offered to them.
- **Marriage:** In today's globalized world, long-distance dating is all the rage. But, for couples ready to take the next step down the aisle, migrating to be together is the obvious choice.
- **Just 'cus:** At Global Citizen, they are people from far more interested in places to live in and they may have other reasons.

### III. ASYLUM

According to the UNHCR Asylum is defined as 'the granting by a State of protection on its territory to individuals from another State who are fleeing persecution or serious danger'. Asylum encompasses a variety of elements, including non-refoulement, permission to remain on the territory of the asylum country and humane standards of treatment. An asylum seeker is an individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which the claim is submitted. Not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee was initially an asylum seeker.

Asylum seekers as defined in the international context are persons who are seeking protection from persecution or serious harms in a country other than their own, in the EU however, the Asylum system is unique to the European Union's nature as an international entity. an Asylum seeker in the EU Asylum system is a third country national, or a stateless person who has made an application for protection under the Geneva refugee convention and protocol in respect of which a final decision has not been taken yet. According to EU regulations, Asylum is a fundamental right and an international obligation for countries. The area of the EU is special for its shared values and joint approaches to guaranteeing high standards of protection for asylum seekers.

The EU deals with Asylum seekers through a Common European Asylum System which was established in 1999, and is constantly trying to maintain a high guarantee of protection as well as develop the EU Asylum system. The three main pillars followed in the Asylum policy are: efficient asylum and return procedures; solidarity and fair share of responsibility; and strengthened partnerships with third countries. These three pillars are maintained through the application of the five legislative instruments established by the Common European Asylum System; Asylum Procedure Directive; Reception Conditions Directive; Qualification Directive; Dublin Regulation; EURODAC Regulation; and European Union Agency of Asylum.

In better understanding the situation of Asylum in the European context, it is important to refer to the Eurostat database; the website has a data navigation mechanism in which each EU member state has a structured profile clarifying the population and migration state of each EU country. and in investigating the status of Belgium in regards to Asylum; the Eurostat database provided us with a unique distinction explaining the stages of Asylum; the difference of procedure, numbers and status according to age, sex, origin, temporary protection, application, decisions and resettlement. We started by investigating the numbers from the Temporary protection through the different types of applications, the decisions connected to them.

## 1. Temporary Protection

### a. Decisions granting Temporary Protection 2022

**Total (male and female): 63,355**

less than 14 years: 16,555

14-17: 4625

less than 18: 21,180

18 to 34: 17,170

35 to 64: 21,815

65 and over: 3,190

**Total (male): 24,550**

less than 14 years: 8435

14-17: 2,425

less than 18: 10,860

18 to 34: 5,775

35 to 64: 7,040

65 and over: 875

**Total (Female): 38,775**

less than 14 years: 8,115

14-17: 2,200

less than 18: 10,310

18 to 34: 11,390

35 to 64: 14,770

65 and over: 2,310

### b. Decisions granting temporary protection for unaccompanied minors

**Total (male and female): 1,180**

less than 14: 355

14- 17 :825



less than 18: 1,180

**total for male: 655**

less than 14: 175

14- 17 : 480

less than 18: 655

**total for female: 525**

less than 14: 180

14- 17 : 345

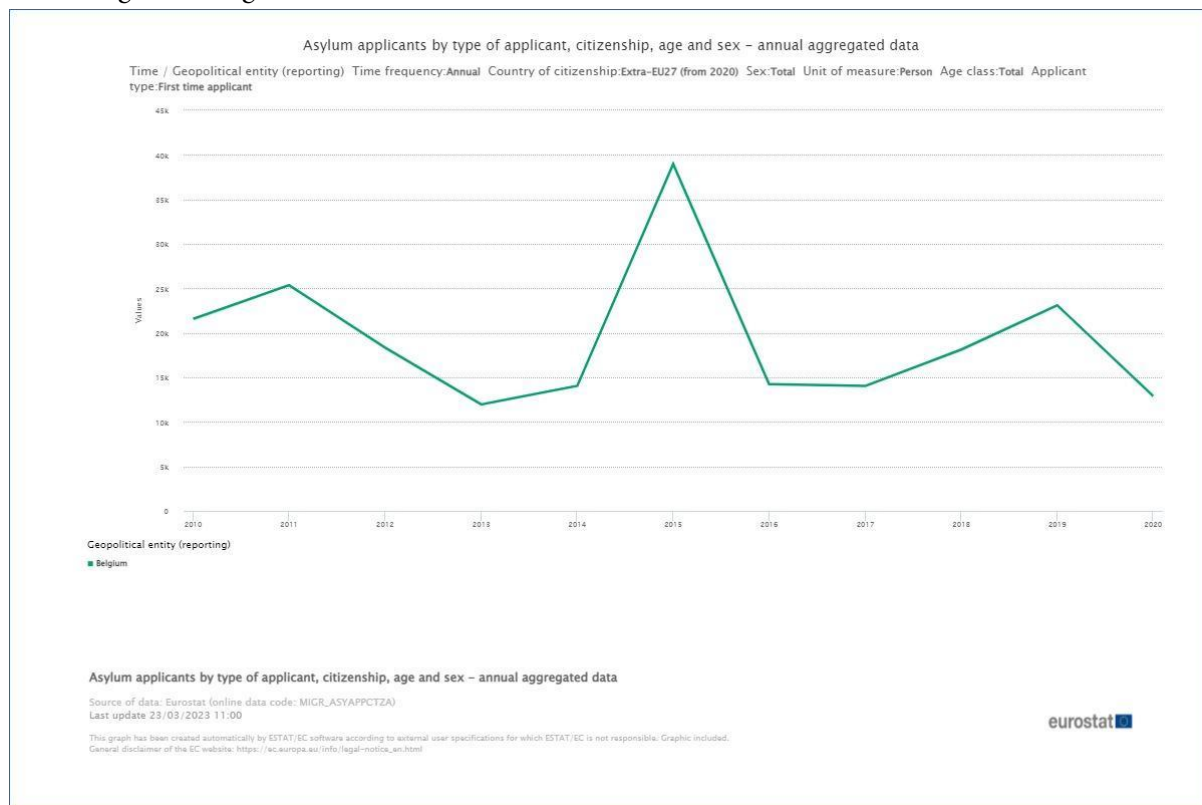
less than 18: 525

## 2. Applications - Belgium

### a. First Time Asylum Applicants 2010-2020

Sex: total

age: all categories



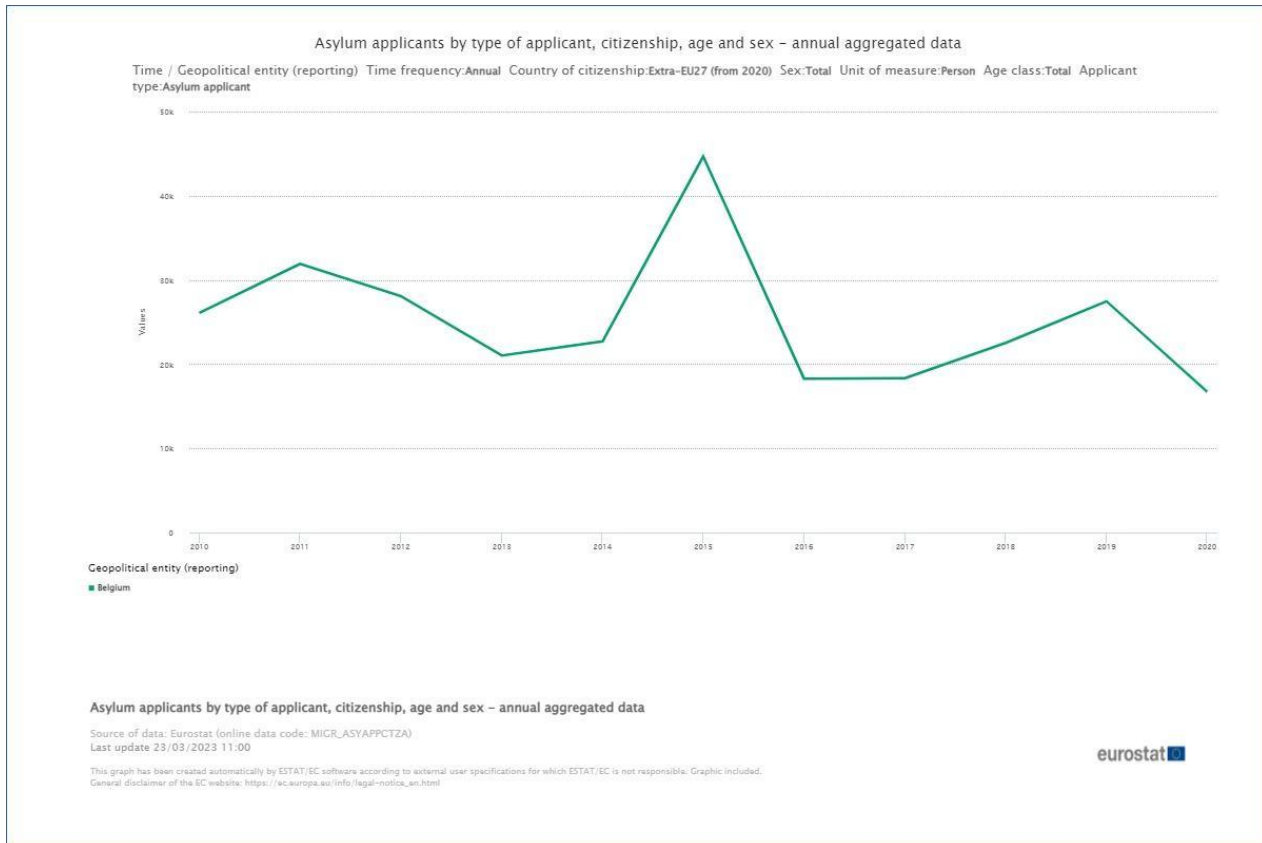
|       | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 21.565 | 25.355 | 18.335 | 11.965 | 14.045 | 38.990 | 14.250 | 14.053 | 18.130 | 23.105 | 12.905 |

|         |        |        |        |       |       |        |       |       |        |        |       |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| <14     | 5.080  | 4.950  | 3.255  | 2.255 | 2.950 | 7.390  | 3.195 | 3.275 | 4.095  | 4.795  | 2.457 |
| 14 -17  | 1.730  | 2.610  | 1.645  | 920   | 1.130 | 4.710  | 1.760 | 1.435 | 1.760  | 2.375  | 2.090 |
| <18     | 6.810  | 7.560  | 4.905  | 3.175 | 4.080 | 12.100 | 4.955 | 4.710 | 5.850  | 7.175  | 4.570 |
| 18 - 34 | 10.315 | 12.555 | 9.830  | 6.250 | 6.890 | 19.800 | 6.325 | 6.315 | 8.250  | 10.910 | 5.700 |
| 35 - 64 | 4.300  | 5.085  | 3.480  | 2.435 | 2.920 | 6.820  | 2.800 | 2.860 | 3.840  | 4.840  | 2.540 |
| 65 +    | 140    | 155    | 125    | 110   | 160   | 270    | 170   | 150   | 185    | 180    | 100   |
| Male    | 13.506 | 16.580 | 11.985 | 7.405 | 8.925 | 27.960 | 8.990 | 8.735 | 11.620 | 15.170 | 8.730 |
| <14     | 2.630  | 2.514  | 1.655  | 1.165 | 1.500 | 3.975  | 1.685 | 1.650 | 2.120  | 2.465  | 1.285 |
| 14 -17  | 1.175  | 1.975  | 1.190  | 590   | 755   | 3.960  | 1.405 | 1.085 | 1.295  | 1.885  | 1.800 |
| <18     | 3.805  | 4.510  | 2.845  | 1.755 | 2.255 | 7.935  | 3.090 | 2.735 | 3.415  | 4.345  | 3.085 |
| 18 - 34 | 7.045  | 8.845  | 6.900  | 4.125 | 4.690 | 15.300 | 4.205 | 4.260 | 5.760  | 7.735  | 4.040 |
| 35 - 64 | 2.645  | 3.155  | 2.185  | 1.470 | 1.915 | 4.595  | 1.625 | 1.680 | 2.365  | 3.010  | 1.565 |
| 65 +    | 65     | 65     | 55     | 50    | 65    | 135    | 70    | 60    | 80     | 80     | 40    |
| Female  | 8.005  | 8.775  | 6.350  | 4.560 | 5.120 | 11.030 | 5.260 | 5.300 | 6.510  | 7.935  | 4.175 |
| <14     | 2.450  | 2.415  | 1.605  | 1.090 | 1.450 | 3.415  | 1.510 | 1.625 | 1.970  | 2.330  | 1.190 |
| 14 -17  | 555    | 635    | 455    | 330   | 375   | 750    | 355   | 350   | 465    | 495    | 295   |
| <18     | 3.005  | 3.050  | 2.060  | 1.420 | 1.825 | 4.170  | 1.865 | 1.975 | 2.440  | 2.825  | 1.485 |
| 18 - 34 | 3.270  | 3.710  | 2.930  | 2.120 | 2.200 | 4.500  | 2.120 | 2.060 | 2.490  | 3.175  | 1.660 |
| 35 - 64 | 1.655  | 1.925  | 1.295  | 960   | 1.005 | 2.230  | 1.180 | 1.180 | 1.475  | 1.835  | 975   |
| 65 +    | 75     | 90     | 65     | 60    | 90    | 135    | 95    | 90    | 105    | 100    | 60    |

## b. Asylum applicants - 2010-2020

sex: total

age: all categories

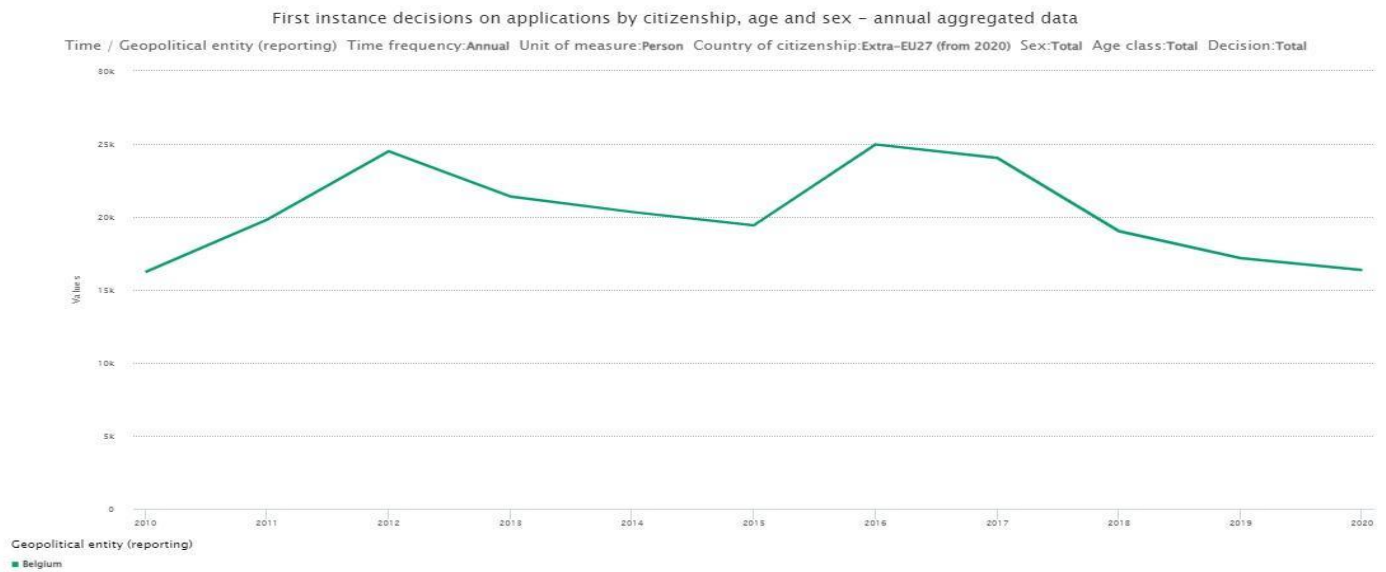


|        |       |       |       |       |       |        |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <14    | 6.165 | 6.640 | 5.950 | 4.730 | 5.150 | 8.670  | 3.790 | 3.895 | 4.705 | 5.310 | 2.915 |
| <14    | 3.215 | 3.475 | 3.050 | 2.465 | 2.670 | 4.635  | 2.005 | 1.975 | 2.440 | 2.730 | 1.530 |
| <14    | 2.950 | 3.165 | 2.905 | 2.265 | 2.480 | 4.035  | 1785  | 1.920 | 2.265 | 2.585 | 1.385 |
| <18    | 8.100 | 9.550 | 8.050 | 6.140 | 6.660 | 13.630 | 5.690 | 5.535 | 6.605 | 7.800 | 5.075 |
| <18    | 4.520 | 5.640 | 4.510 | 3.355 | 3.640 | 8.730  | 3.495 | 3.190 | 3.820 | 4.680 | 3.370 |
| <18    | 3.585 | 3.910 | 3.535 | 2.790 | 3.020 | 4.900  | 2.200 | 2.345 | 2.785 | 3.210 | 1.705 |
| 14 -17 | 1.935 | 2.905 | 2.095 | 1.410 | 1.510 | 4.960  | 1.905 | 1.640 | 1.900 | 2.490 | 2.160 |
| 14 -17 | 1.305 | 2.160 | 1.465 | 890   | 970   | 4090   | 1.490 | 1.210 | 1.380 | 1.955 | 1.840 |
| 14 -17 | 630   | 745   | 635   | 520   | 540   | 865    | 415   | 430   | 515   | 535   | 320   |

|         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 18 - 34 | 12.665 | 15.650 | 14.220 | 10.245 | 10.810 | 22.290 | 8.390  | 8.590  | 10.815 | 13.470 | 7.945  |
| 18 - 34 | 8.865  | 11.110 | 10.050 | 6.850  | 7.595  | 17.070 | 5.740  | 6.065  | 7.805  | 9.835  | 5.880  |
| 18 - 34 | 3.800  | 4.540  | 4.170  | 3.395  | 3.215  | 5.220  | 2.650  | 2.525  | 3.005  | 3.635  | 2.665  |
| 35 - 64 | 5.165  | 6.525  | 5.645  | 4.475  | 5.020  | 8.435  | 4.000  | 4.045  | 4.905  | 5.985  | 3.570  |
| 35 - 64 | 3.285  | 4.160  | 3.655  | 2.825  | 3.345  | 5.665  | 2.425  | 2.485  | 3.105  | 3.805  | 2.207  |
| 35 - 64 | 1.880  | 2.365  | 1.995  | 1.650  | 1.680  | 2.770  | 1.575  | 1.560  | 1.800  | 2.180  | 1.300  |
| 65 +    | 155    | 185    | 160    | 165    | 220    | 310    | 195    | 170    | 210    | 205    | 125    |
| 65 +    | 75     | 85     | 70     | 80     | 100    | 160    | 85     | 75     | 95     | 90     | 55     |
| 65 +    | 80     | 100    | 90     | 90     | 120    | 150    | 115    | 100    | 120    | 115    | 70     |
| Female  | 9.340  | 10.915 | 9.790  | 7.925  | 8.030  | 13.040 | 6.535  | 6.530  | 7.710  | 9.050  | 5.140  |
| Male    | 16.745 | 20.995 | 18.285 | 13.105 | 14.680 | 31.620 | 11.740 | 11.815 | 14.825 | 18.410 | 11.570 |
| Total   | 26.085 | 31.910 | 28.075 | 21.030 | 22.710 | 44.665 | 18.280 | 18.340 | 22.530 | 27.460 | 16.710 |
|         | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   |

### 3. Decisions on Applications and resettlements

#### A. First Instance Decisions



First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex – annual aggregated data

Source of data: Eurostat (online data code: MIGR\_ASYDCFSTA)

Last update 31/03/2023 23:00

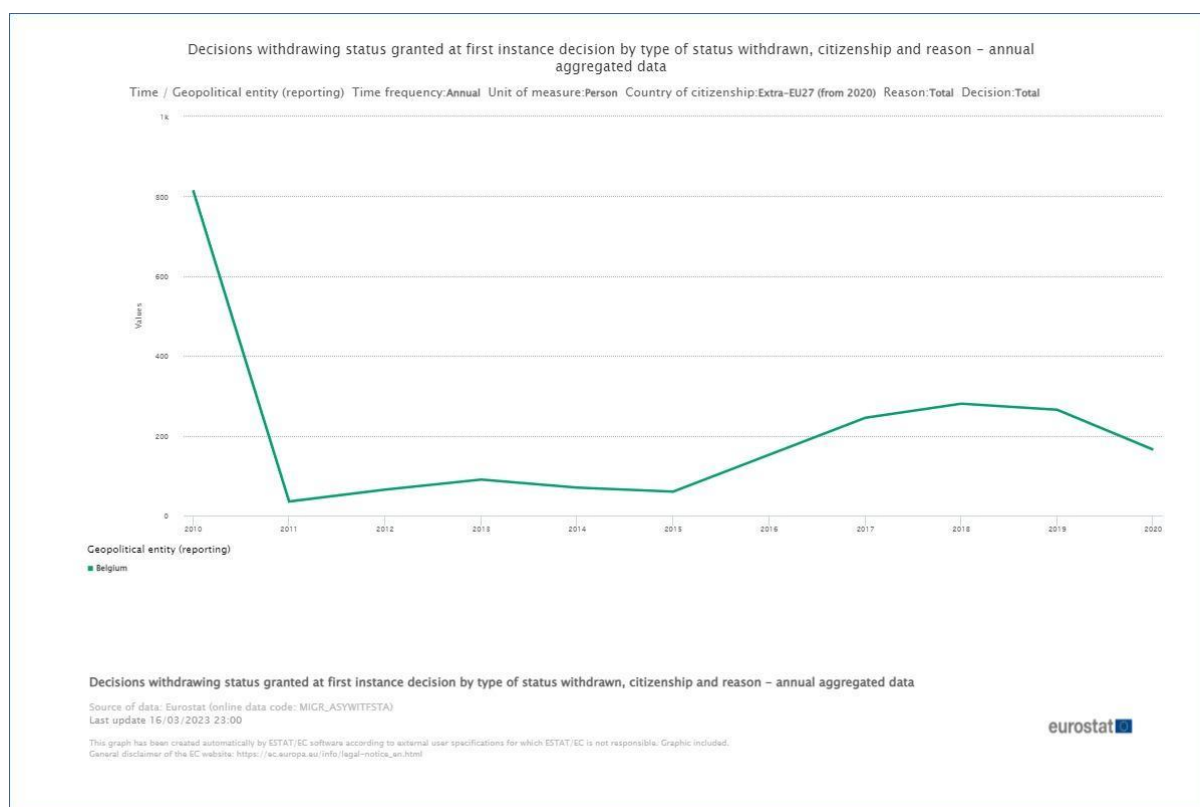
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eurostat

|         | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| total   | 16.230 | 19.810 | 24.495 | 21.390 | 20.335 | 19.420 | 24.960 | 24.045 | 19.020 | 17.170 | 16.360 |
| <14     | 3.585  | 4.375  | 4.640  | 3.805  | 4.045  | 4.160  | 4.520  | 5.095  | 4.215  | 3.855  | 3.095  |
| 14 - 17 | 960    | 1.125  | 1.430  | 960    | 870    | 920    | 1.265  | 1.595  | 1.355  | 1.040  | 880    |
| <18     | 4.545  | 5.500  | 6.070  | 4.765  | 4.915  | 5.080  | 5.785  | 6.690  | 5.570  | 4.895  | 3.975  |
| 18 - 34 | 8.075  | 9.745  | 12.735 | 11.350 | 9.935  | 9.195  | 13.210 | 11.795 | 8.920  | 8.120  | 8.400  |
| 35 - 64 | 3.505  | 4.425  | 5.485  | 5.075  | 5.255  | 4.925  | 5.715  | 5.295  | 4.315  | 3.980  | 3.840  |
| 65 +    | 100    | 140    | 205    | 200    | 230    | 225    | 255    | 265    | 215    | 170    | 135    |
| Male    | 10.580 | 12.445 | 15.600 | 13.730 | 12.935 | 12.295 | 17.120 | 15.560 | 12.120 | 11.105 | 10.940 |

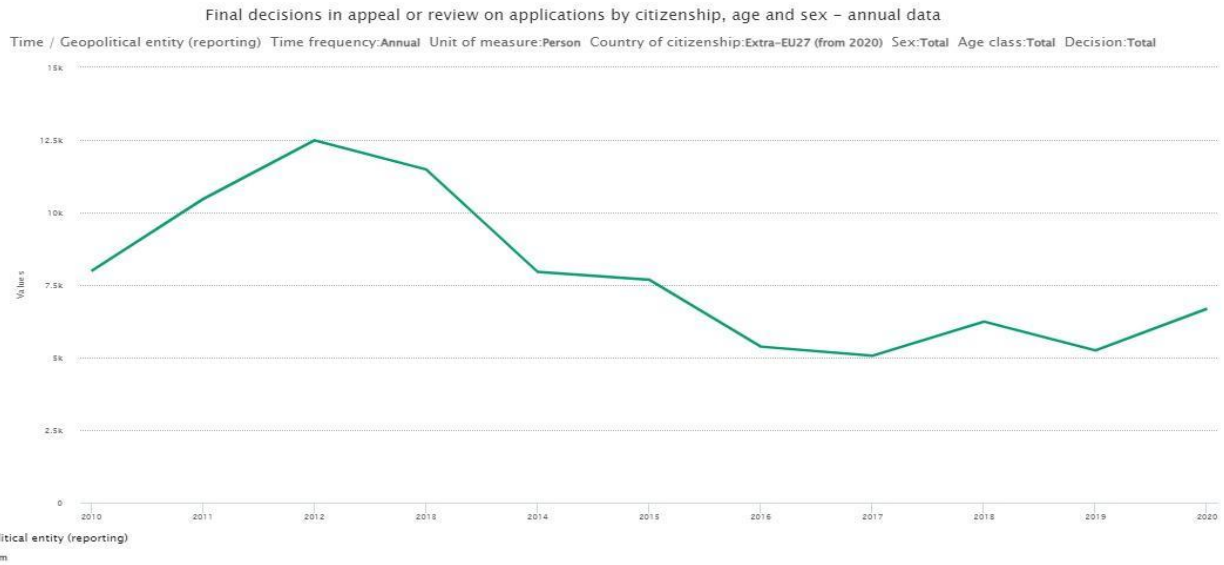
|         |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <14     | 1.940 | 2.250 | 2.405 | 1.965 | 2.145 | 2.110 | 2.365 | 2.550 | 2.120 | 1.980 | 1.590 |
| 14 -17  | 655   | 710   | 990   | 610   | 485   | 560   | 880   | 1.125 | 930   | 675   | 585   |
| <18     | 2.595 | 2.955 | 3.390 | 2.575 | 2.630 | 2.670 | 3.245 | 3.670 | 3.055 | 2.650 | 2.175 |
| 18 - 34 | 5.670 | 6.660 | 8.715 | 7.790 | 6.780 | 6.385 | 9.895 | 8.610 | 6.370 | 5.895 | 6.245 |
| 35 - 64 | 2.275 | 2.765 | 3.415 | 3.270 | 3.410 | 3.140 | 3.867 | 3.160 | 2.595 | 2.480 | 2.445 |
| 65 +    | 50    | 65    | 80    | 95    | 115   | 100   | 120   | 115   | 100   | 80    | 75    |
| Female  | 5.650 | 7.365 | 8.895 | 7.660 | 7.405 | 7.125 | 7.840 | 8.485 | 6.900 | 6.065 | 5.420 |
| <14     | 1.650 | 2.125 | 2.235 | 1.840 | 1.900 | 2.050 | 2.155 | 2.545 | 2.090 | 1.875 | 1.510 |
| 14 -17  | 305   | 420   | 445   | 355   | 385   | 360   | 385   | 470   | 420   | 370   | 290   |
| <18     | 1.950 | 2.545 | 2.680 | 2.190 | 2.285 | 2.410 | 2.540 | 3.020 | 2.515 | 2.245 | 1.800 |
| 18 - 34 | 2.405 | 3.085 | 4.020 | 3.560 | 3.160 | 2.810 | 3.315 | 3.185 | 2.550 | 2.225 | 2.150 |
| 35 - 64 | 1.240 | 1.665 | 2.075 | 1.805 | 1.845 | 1.780 | 1.855 | 2.135 | 1.720 | 1.505 | 1.395 |
| 65 +    | 50    | 75    | 120   | 105   | 115   | 125   | 130   | 150   | 115   | 90    | 75    |

B. Decisions Withdrawing Status Granted at First Instance Decisions by Types of Status Withdrawn



|                              | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total                        | 815  | 35   | 65   | 90   | 70   | 60   | —    | 245  | 280  | 265  | 165  |
| Geneva Convention Status     | 60   | 25   | 40   | 60   | 60   | 50   | —    | 165  | 165  | 155  | 115  |
| Humanitarian status          | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | —    | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   |
| Subsidiary Protection Status | 760  | 5    | 20   | 30   | 10   | 10   | —    | 80   | 115  | 110  | 50   |

### C. Final Decisions in Appeal or Review on Asylum Applications



Final decisions in appeal or review on applications by citizenship, age and sex – annual data

Source of data: Eurostat (online data code: MIGR\_ASYDCFINA)

Last update 31/03/2023 23:00

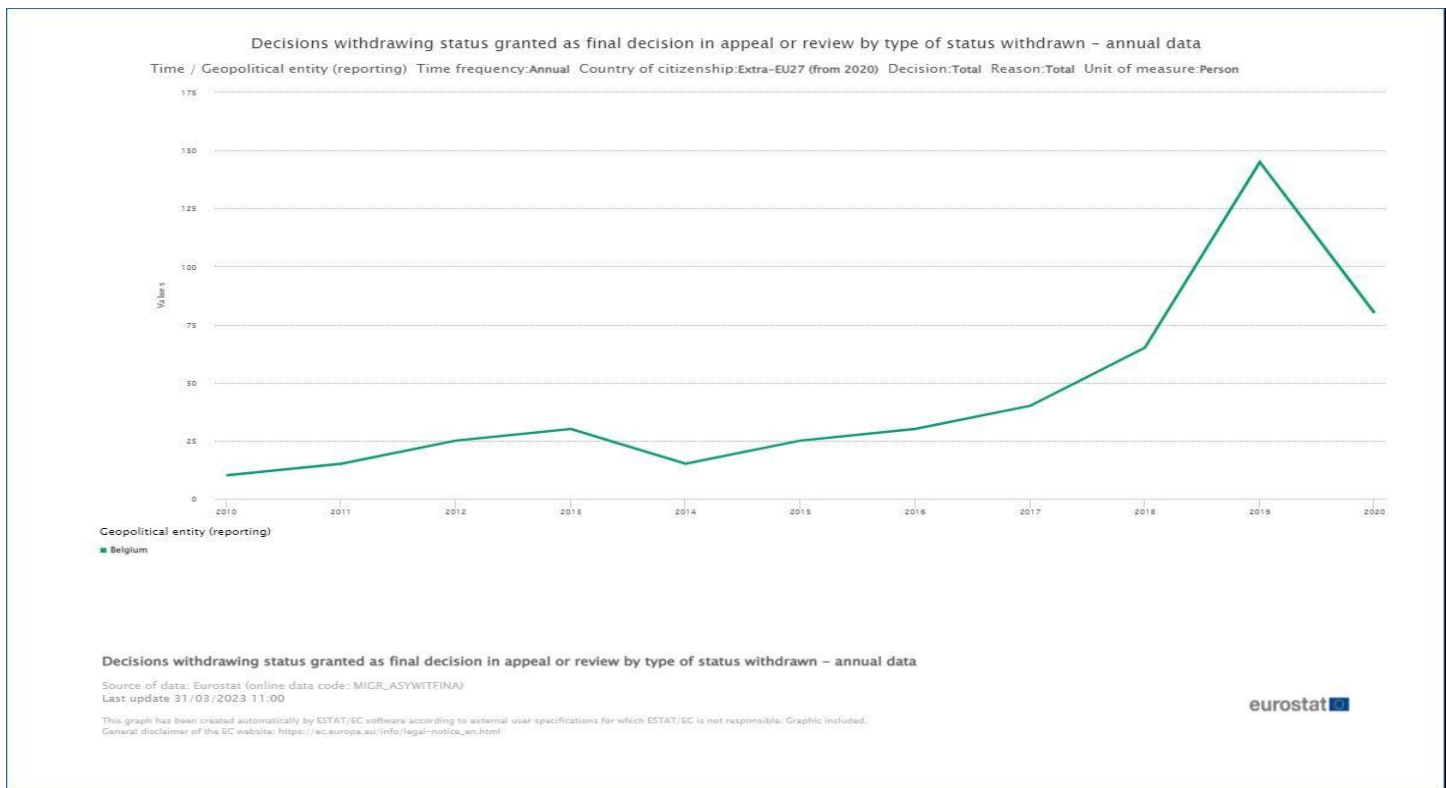
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|                              | 2010  | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total                        | 7.980 | 10.460 | 12.485 | 11.485 | 7.950 | 7.685 | 5.375 | 5.065 | 6.240 | 5.245 | 6.685 |
| Total Positive Decisions     | 280   | 470    | 325    | 430    | 470   | 425   | 350   | 310   | 570   | 410   | 320   |
| Geneva Convention Status     | 195   | 425    | 295    | 370    | 440   | 395   | 320   | 290   | 475   | 330   | 275   |
| Humanitarian status          | —     | —      | —      | —      | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Subsidiary Protection Status | 85    | 50     | 30     | 60     | 30    | 30    | 30    | 20    | 95    | 75    | 45    |
| rejected                     | 7.700 | 9.985  | 12.160 | 11.606 | 7.485 | 7.260 | 5.030 | 4.755 | 5.675 | 4.840 | 6.365 |

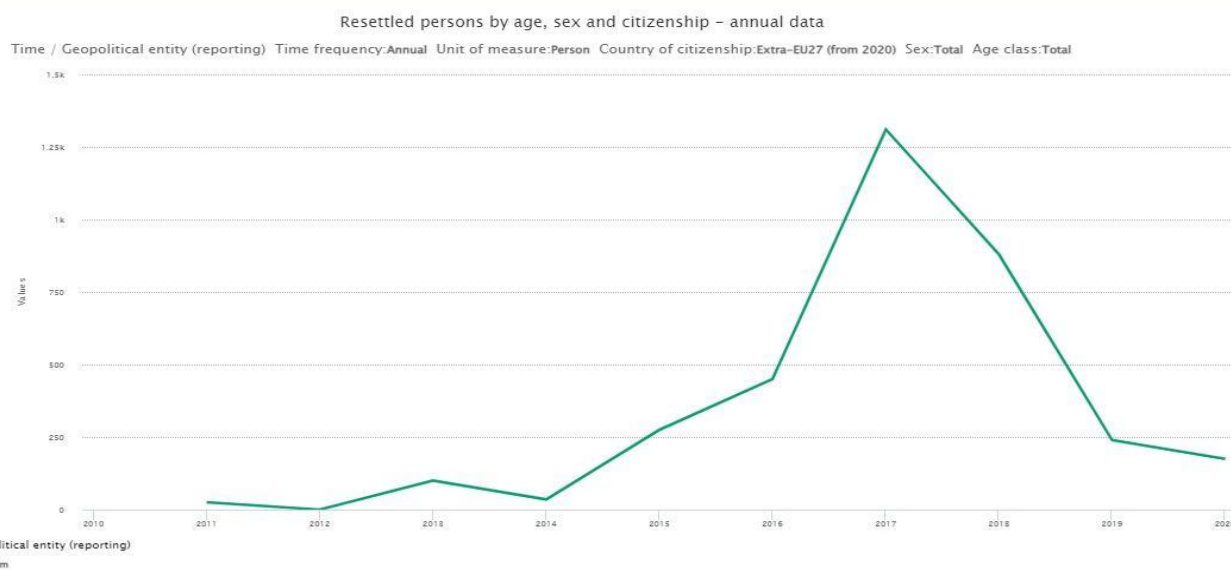


### D. Decisions withdrawing status granted as final decisions in appeal or review by type of status withdrawn



|                              | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total                        | 10   | 15   | 25   | 30   | 15   | 25   | 30   | 40   | 65   | 145  | 80   |
| Geneva Convention Status     | 10   | 10   | 20   | 20   | 5    | 20   | 30   | 20   | 30   | 95   | 60   |
| Humanitarian status          | 000  | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   |
| Subsidiary Protection Status | 00   | 5    | 00   | 10   | 5    | 5    | 00   | 20   | 35   | 55   | 20   |

### E. Resettled Persons



Resettled persons by age, sex and citizenship – annual data

Source of data: Eurostat (online data code: MIGR\_ASYRESA)

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eurostat

|         | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017  | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Total   | —    | 25   | 00   | 100  | 35   | 275  | 450  | 1,310 | 880  | 240  | 175  |
| <14     | —    | 5    | 0    | 45   | 10   | 100  | 175  | 525   | 340  | 85   | 75   |
| 14 - 17 | —    | 00   | 00   | 10   | 00   | 20   | 25   | 110   | 110  | 25   | 15   |
| <18     | —    | 10   | 00   | 55   | 15   | 120  | 200  | 635   | 450  | 110  | 85   |
| 18 - 34 | —    | 10   | 00   | 30   | 10   | 85   | 135  | 365   | 215  | 70   | 45   |
| 35 - 64 | —    | 5    | 0    | 15   | 10   | 75   | 100  | 290   | 205  | 55   | 40   |
| 65 +    | —    | 00   | 00   | 00   | 00   | 10   | 15   | 20    | 10   | 5    | 5    |
| Male    | —    | 15   | 00   | 45   | 10   | 145  | 235  | 695   | 480  | 125  | 85   |
| <14     | —    | 5    | 00   | 20   | 5    | 50   | 90   | 295   | 180  | 40   | 35   |
| 14 - 17 | —    | 00   | 00   | 5    | 00   | 10   | 15   | 65    | 80   | 15   | 10   |
| <18     | —    | 5    | 00   | 25   | 5    | 65   | 105  | 360   | 260  | 55   | 40   |

|         |   |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---------|---|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 18 - 34 | — | 00 | 00 | 10 | 5  | 50  | 70  | 165 | 100 | 40  | 20 |
| 35 - 64 | — | 5  | 00 | 10 | 5  | 30  | 50  | 160 | 115 | 25  | 20 |
| 65 +    | — | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00  | 10  | 10  | 5   | 00  | 00 |
| Female  | — | 10 | 00 | 55 | 20 | 130 | 220 | 615 | 400 | 115 | 90 |
| <14     | — | 00 | 00 | 20 | 5  | 45  | 85  | 225 | 160 | 40  | 40 |
| 14 -17  | — | 00 | 00 | 5  | 00 | 10  | 10  | 45  | 30  | 10  | 5  |
| <18     | — | 00 | 00 | 30 | 5  | 55  | 95  | 275 | 190 | 55  | 45 |
| 18 - 34 | — | 10 | 00 | 15 | 10 | 35  | 65  | 200 | 115 | 30  | 25 |
| 35 - 64 | — | 00 | 00 | 10 | 5  | 35  | 50  | 130 | 90  | 30  | 20 |
| 65 +    | — | 00 | 00 | 00 | 00 | 5   | 10  | 10  | 5   | 00  | 00 |

### ● Syrian Immigration Crisis

The charts above clearly show a large flow of Asylum seekers in the years 2015 and 2016, this should come as no surprise as of the Syrian refugee crisis that hit Europe in that period. the flow of immigrants was too strong driving the commission to propose a new pact on the migration and Asylum in order to enhance and fasten the EU's asylum and migration system, as well as a reform of the dublin system; this aims to better locate Asylum seekers among EU countries, through determining the country responsible for each Asylum claim.<sup>1</sup>

### 4. Dublin statistics

Dublin statistics refers to statistics based on Regulation 604/2013/EU of 26 June 2013 establishing a set of criteria which, in general, allocate responsibility for examining an asylum application to the European Union Member State that permitted the applicant to enter or to reside in the territories of the EU Member States. That Member State is responsible for examining the application according to its national law and is obliged to take back its applicants who are irregularly in another Member State.<sup>2</sup>

## IV. EMPLOYMENT

<sup>1</sup> Society, 'The EU Response to the Migrant Challenge', 2017, News European Parliament <<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20170629STO78629/the-eu-response-to-the-migrant-challenge>>

<sup>2</sup> Eurostat, Statistics Explained, 2021. <[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Dublin\\_statistics#:~:text=Dublin%20statistics%20refers%20to%20statistics,the%20territories%20of%20the%20EU](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:Dublin_statistics#:~:text=Dublin%20statistics%20refers%20to%20statistics,the%20territories%20of%20the%20EU)>

1. Employment rates by sex, age and country of birth (%) / age 15-64.
2. Employment rates by sex, age and citizenship (%) / age 15-64.
3. Employment rates by sex, age, citizenship and educational attainment level (%) / age 15-64/ year 2021.
4. What about refugees and asylum seekers?

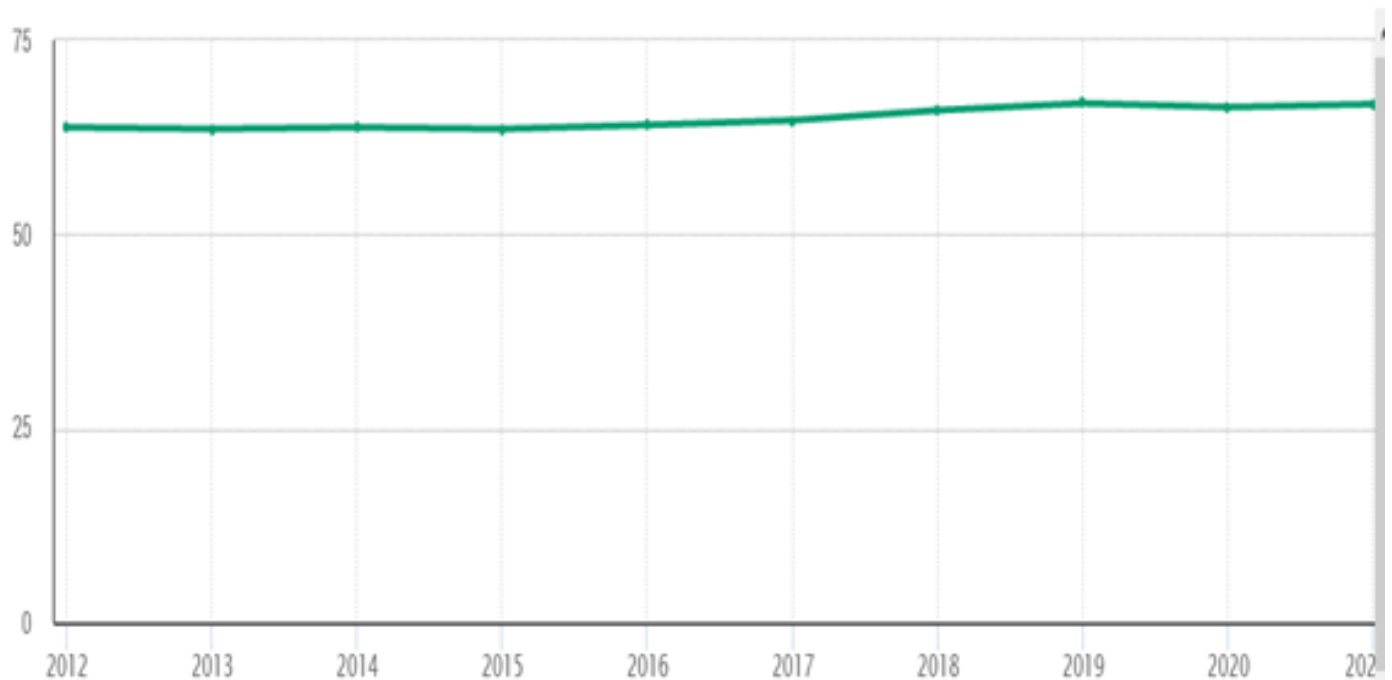
1. Employment rates by sex, age and country of birth (%) / age 15-64

Employment rates are clearly higher for people born in Belgium, than for foreigners. The phenomenon has to do with the concept of integration, which is influenced by several factors and that is undoubtedly more difficult for the second category.

- People born in Belgium (of which tot females and males)

2012 → 63.8% (59.4% of females and 68.2% of males were employed)

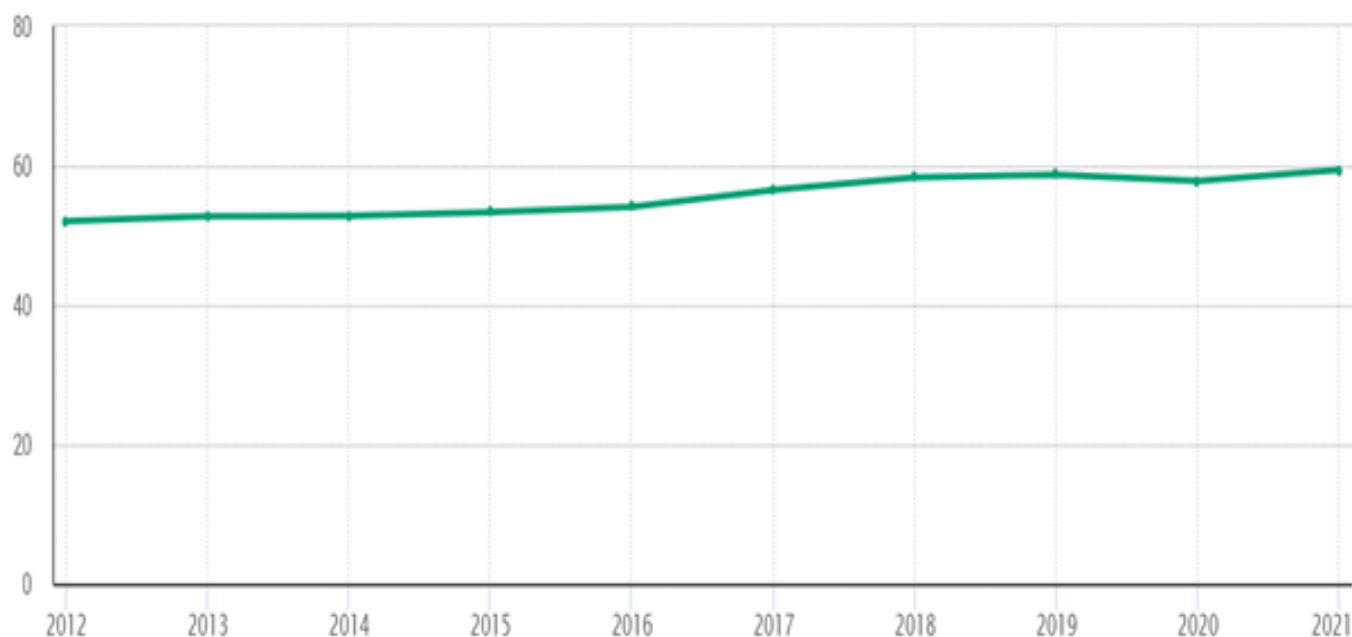
2021 → 66.8% (64.5% of females and 68.8% of males were employed)



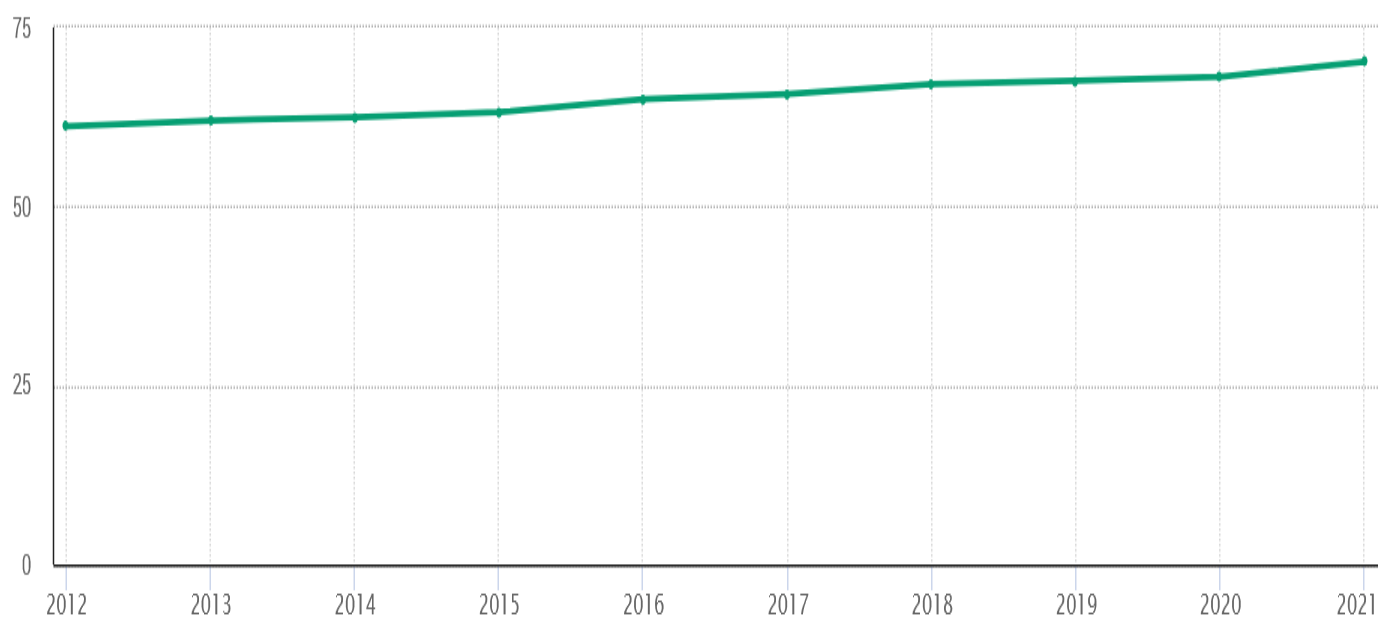
- People born in foreign countries (of which tot females and males)

• 2012 → 52.0% (44.5% of females and 60.0% of males were employed)

• 2021 → 59.4% (51.4% of females and 68.0% of males were employed)



- For what concerns people born in other EU countries, the employment rates are the following:  
 2012 → 61.2% (56.5% of females and 66.7% of males were employed)  
 2021 → 70.2% (64.6% of females and 76.4% of males were employed)



## 2. Employment rates by sex, age and citizenship (%) / age 15-64

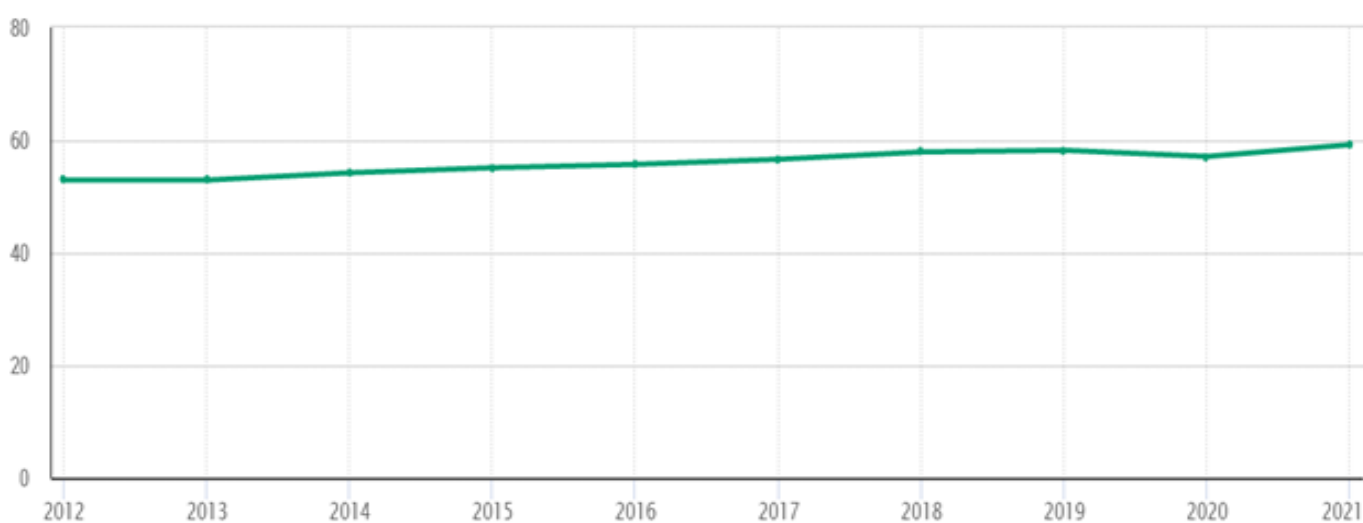
Generally, permanent residence and ultimately citizenship are seen as crucial opportunities for migrants. Citizenship is a legal status and a relationship between individuals and state that entails specific legal rights and duties, such as the right to reside without restriction in the territory of the state of citizenship, the right to vote in elections and the right to hold public office or be employed in selected public sector

jobs. However, not all migrants have an equal interest in acquiring destination country citizenship, and even when they naturalize this new status does not bring the same consequences for all. Nonetheless, a range of alternative legal statuses may be available to them, either related to the grounds on the basis of which they have been admitted to the territory of the state, such as residence permits related to work, study, family reunification or humanitarian grounds, or a residence status proving the right to permanent residence, such as the Green Card in the US or the permit in the EU for so-called 'long-term resident third-country nationals'.

- People with citizenship in foreign countries (of which tot females and males)

2012 → 52.9% (46.1% of females and 59.6% of males were employed)

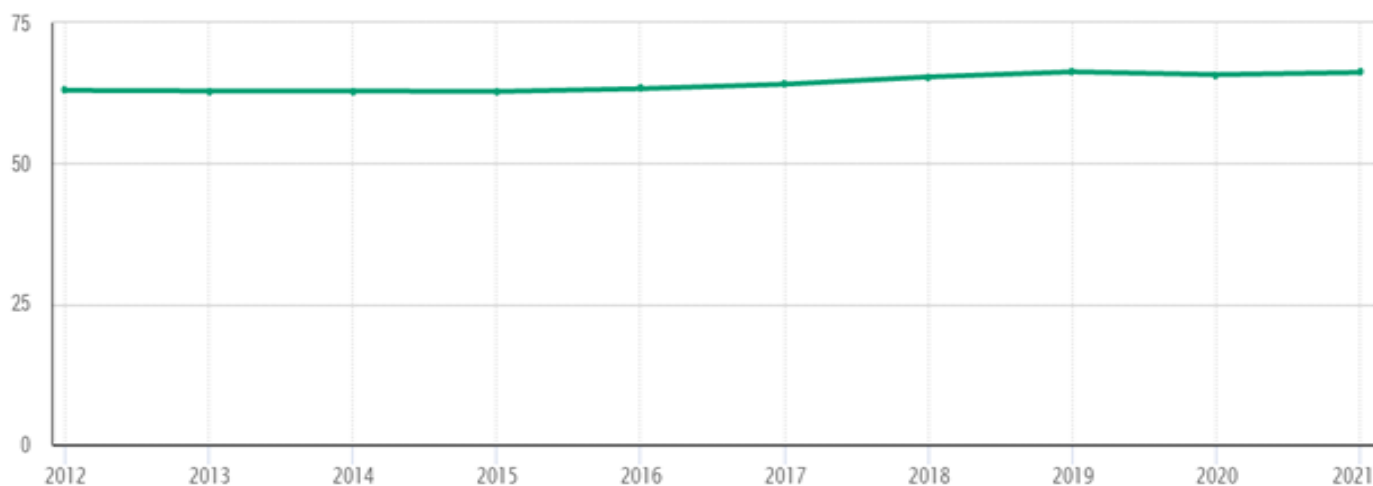
2021 → 59.2% (50.4% of females and 68.4% of males were employed)



- People with citizenship in Belgium (of which tot females and males)

2012 → 63.0% (58.1% of females and 67.8% of males)

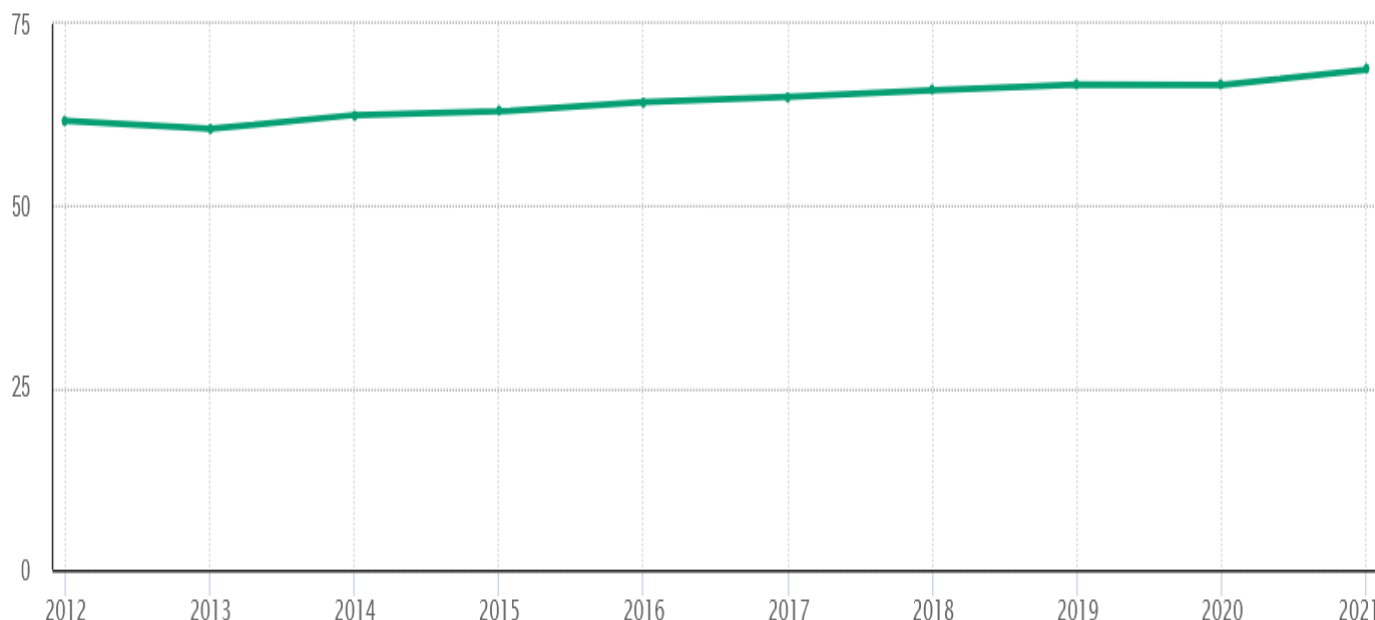
2021 → 66.2% (63.5% of females and 68.8% of males)



- For what concerns people with their citizenship in other EU countries, the employment rates do not exceedingly differ from those of Belgian citizens:

2012 → 61.7% (56.9% of females and 66.5% of males were employed)

2021 → 68.7% (62.8% of females and 74.6% of males were employed)



### 3. Employment rates by sex, age, citizenship and educational attainment level (%) / age 15-64/ year 2021

Across low-income contexts, higher educated people are more likely to migrate, due to a combination of higher financial resources, greater aspirations, and lack of appropriate employment in their home environment. Highly educated migrants are more likely to go abroad for work, because more legal options are open to them, but they are also very likely to enroll in further education once abroad, partly because their qualifications are not recognized. Irregular migrants are likely to have low levels of education and this often means less options for legal migration. The numbers show that migrants with tertiary education have much more job opportunities. As said before, employment rates grow substantially if those migrants have their citizenship in the country where they work.

Let's look at the numbers:

- People with citizenship in foreign countries (both females and males)

Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education → 36.1% (24.0% of females, 48.1% of males)

Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education → 58.7% (47.8% of females, 69.2% of males)

Tertiary education → 77.6% (71.3% of females, 84.9% of males)

- People with citizenship in Belgium (both females and males)

Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education - 33.7% (27.2% of females and 39.1% of males)

Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education - 65.0% (58.9% of females and 70.1% of males)

Tertiary education - 84.9% (83.4% of females and 86.8% of males)

As we can see, the number of employed people is much higher for educated migrants, and even higher for those who hold a Belgian citizenship.

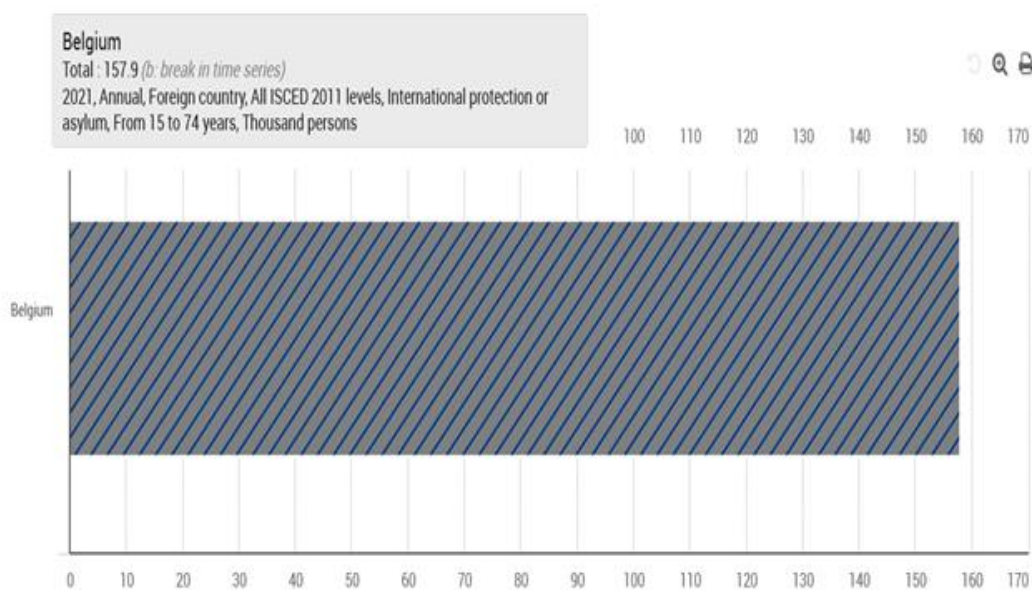
#### 4. What about refugees and asylum seekers?

These two groups of people often perform comparably to, but generally still worse than, migrants who came as family members. Indeed, immigration for family reasons gives migrants many more job opportunities. Plus, “The employment outcomes of refugees improve over time, as they integrate more into the labour market and society, but it takes them up to 20 years to catch up with the native-born”<sup>3</sup> These were the numbers – in 2021 - of employed migrants that arrived in Belgium either for International Protection or Asylum (1) or for Family Reasons (2):

(1) INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OR  
ASYLUM

2) FAMILY REASONS

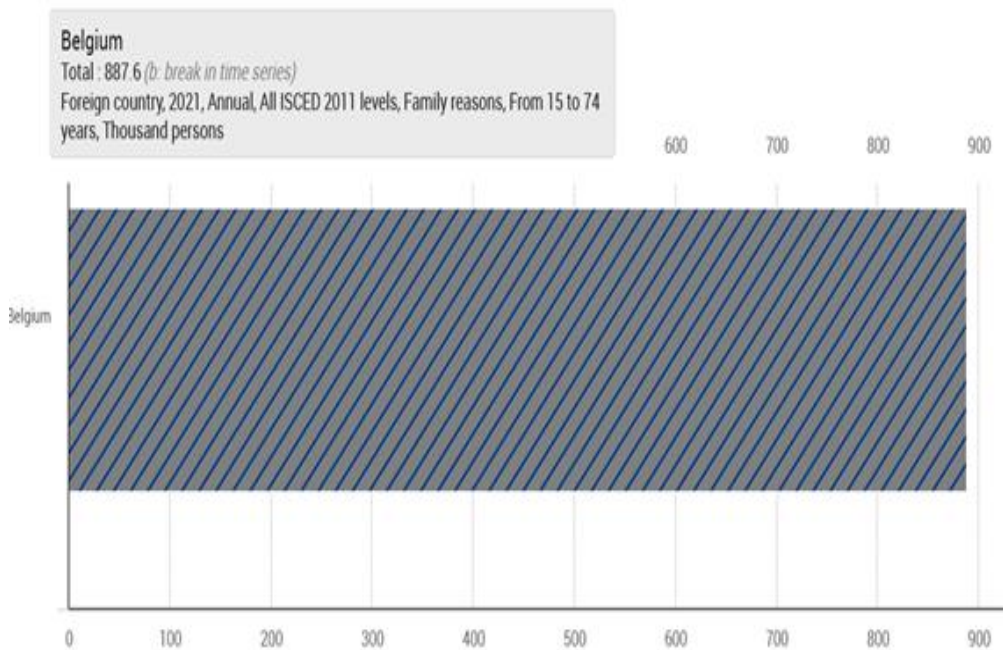
(1) 157.9k in total - of which 90.6k males and 67.3k females.



<sup>3</sup> FROM REFUGEES TO WORKERS?: WHAT CHALLENGES?, by Iván Martín, European University Institute.



(2) 887.6k in total - of which 350.2k males and 537.5 females.



## Unemployment

Following:

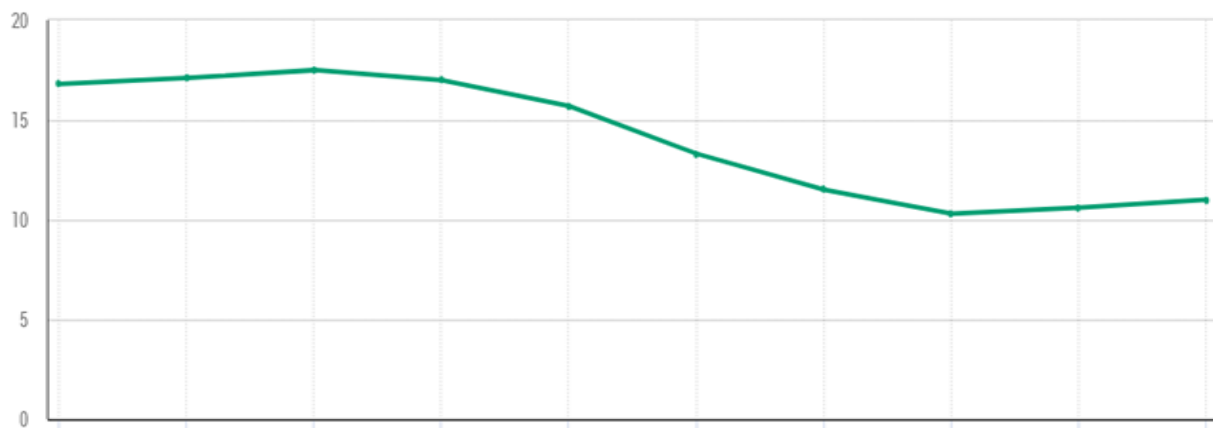
1. Unemployment rates by sex, age and country of birth (%) / age 15 to 74
2. Unemployment rates by sex, age and citizenship (%) / age 15 to 74
3. Unemployment rates by sex, age, citizenship and educational attainment level (%) / age 15-64 / year 2021.

### 1. Unemployment rates by sex, age and country of birth (%) / age 15 to 74

- People born in foreign countries (of which tot females and males)

2012 → 16.8% (15.9% of females and 17.5% of males)

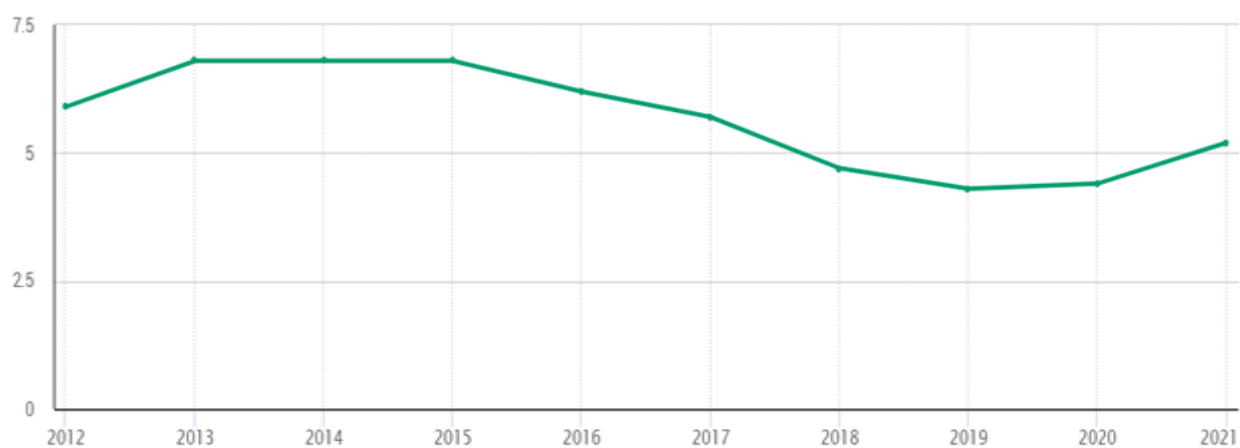
2021 → 11.0% (11.7% of females and 10.3% of males)



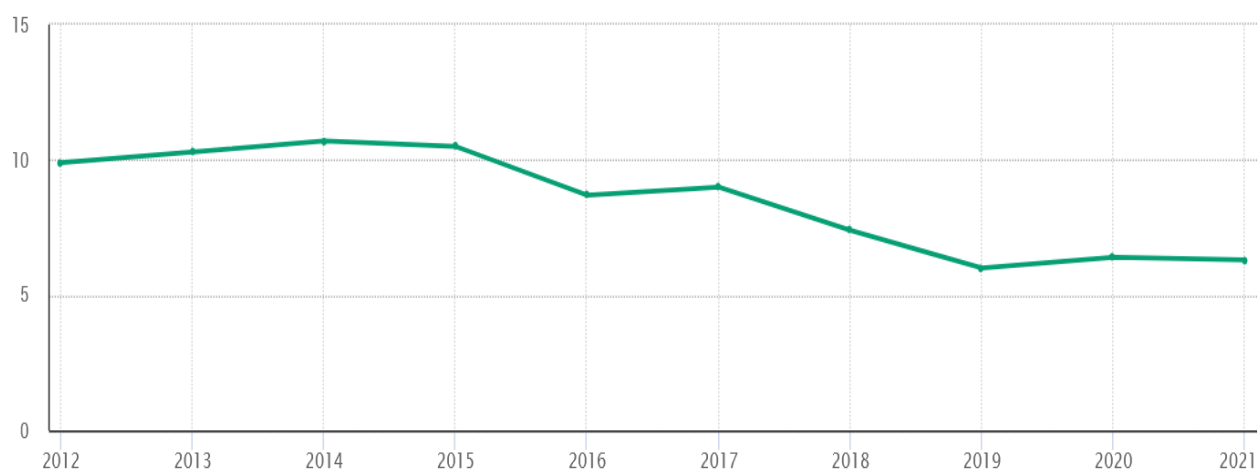
- People born in Belgium (of which tot females and males)

2012 → 5.9% (5.9% of females and 5.8% of males)

2021 → 5.2% (4.5% of females and 5.7% of males)



These rates show the role played by integration, which makes it more difficult for people born in foreign countries to find a job.



2012 → 9.9% (9.1% of females and 10.7% of males)

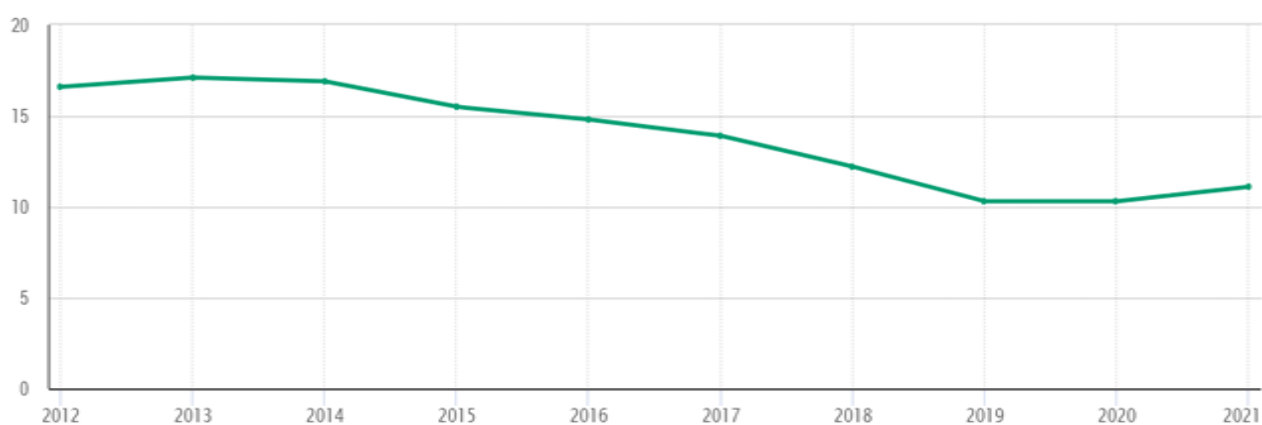
2021 → 6.3% (7.1% of females and 5.5% of males)

## 2. Unemployment rates by sex, age and citizenship (%) / age 15 to 74

- People with citizenship in foreign countries

2012 → 16.6% (15.4% of females and 17.6% of males)

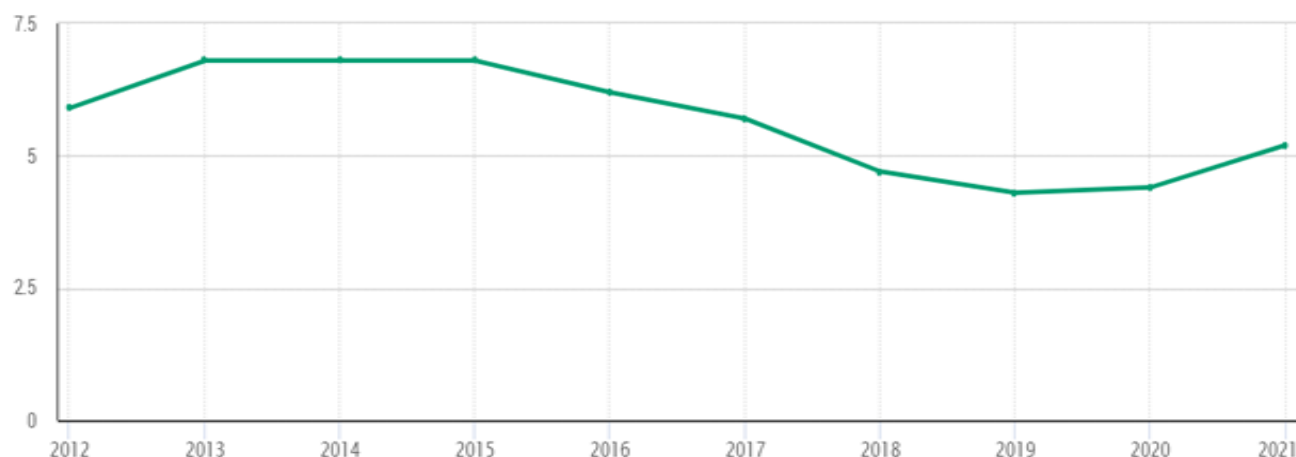
2021 → 11.1% (12.4% of females and 10.1% of males)



- People with citizenship in Belgium

2012 → 6.5% (6.6% of females and 6.4% of males)

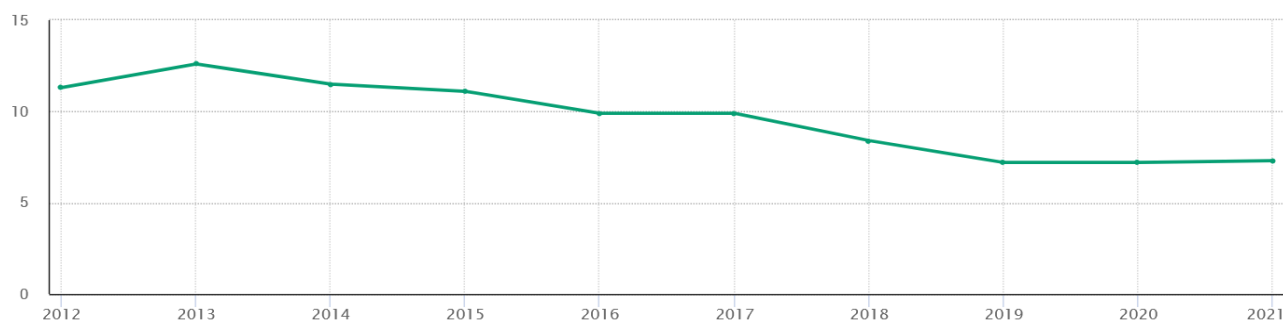
2021 → 5.6% (5.0% of females and 6.1% of males)



- Unemployment rates for people with citizenship in other EU countries

2012 → 11.3% (10.5% of females and 12.0% of males)

2021 → 7.3% (8.1% of females and 6.7% of males)



Unemployment rates by sex, age, citizenship and educational attainment level (%)/ age 15-64/ year 2021.

- People with citizenship in foreign countries (both females and males)

Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education → 20.6% (24.2% of females, 18.7% of males)

Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education → 12.0% (15.9% of females, 9.2% of males)

Tertiary education → 6.7% (7.2% of females, 6.2% of males)

- People with citizenship in Belgium (both females and males)

Less than primary, primary and lower secondary education → 13.3% (13.4% of females and 13.2% of males)

Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education → 6.5% (6.3% of females and 6.6% of males)

Tertiary education → 3.2% (3.0% of females and 3.4% of males)

As confirmation of what was mentioned before, the number of unemployed educated people is much lower than that of less educated people; those who are also provided with a Belgian citizenship, are even more likely to find job opportunities.

In general, what is observable from the data on employment and unemployment is that indicators like the country of birth, the citizenship and the level of education of people sets the main differences between them, but for each of those categories, gender plays a crucial role: at equal conditions, women have much lower employment rates than men.