

# JEAN MONNET CHAIR EUROPEAN MIGRATION STUDIES

## ECONOMICS OF MIGRATION IN EUROPE (ECMEU)

REPORTS PRESENTATION

COUNTRY:LUXEMBOURG

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**MIGRATION IN EUROPE**  
**COUNTRY REPORT – LUXEMBOURG**

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## Introduction

Luxembourg has been the perfect destination for immigrants for over a century now. Due to the country's quite attractive location in the central Europe, it attracts a sizeable number of EU citizens but most importantly also third-country nationals (TCNs). This, of course, helps to increase the country's population and play a very important role in the labor market as well as the economy as a whole.

Interestingly, Luxembourg's immigrant ratio has increased during the last 70 years. While the statistics from back in the 1961 would show that only 13.1% resident population did not hold the Luxembourg nationality, the percentage raised significantly to 47.4% as of 2020. Of course, reasons for this are quite manifold: ranging from economic opportunities, high quality of life, very much multilingual environment to Luxembourg city being one of the European capitals along with Brussels and Strasbourg.

To be more familiar with the reasons as to how a country such as Luxembourg went from emigration to immigration it could be explained with the arrival of in Luxembourg in the second part of the 19th century to work in the country's steel mills, followed then by Italians in the century after. Luxembourg soon after became the home of thousands of Portuguese who escaped authoritarianism and poverty in the 1960s. As a result of it all, the service industry, particularly the financial sector, expanded throughout the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This new economic phenomenon was of course connected to the rise of Luxembourg's population. In the end, different categories of immigrants gradually assimilated into Luxembourg's population as we know it now.

## A. Stock of Total Population

TIME	2021	2022
GEO (Labels)		
Luxembourg	634.730	645.397

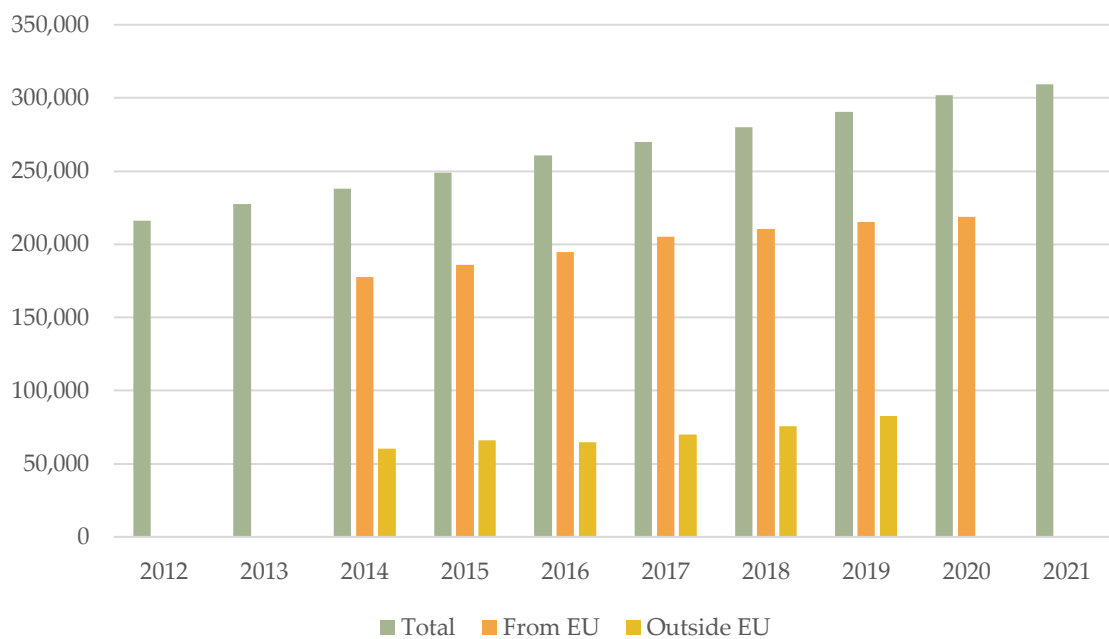
Table 1. Source: Eurostat ([demo\\_gind](#))

From Table 1 it is possible to assess that the total population in Luxembourg amounts to 645.397 people in 2022.

## B. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

GEO (Labels)	Luxembourg		
C_BIRTH (Labels)	Foreign country	EU28 countries (2013-2020) exce	Non-EU28 countries (2013-2020)
TIME			
2012	216.156	:	:
2013	227.461	:	:
2014	237.848	177.592	60.256
2015	248.888	185.965	62.923
2016	260.573	194.791	65.782
2017	270.010	205.247	64.763
2018	280.151	210.250	69.901
2019	290.644	215.016	75.628
2020	301.688	218.888	82.800
2021	309.164	:	:

Table 2. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_pop3ctb](#))



According to Table 2, the stock of migrants has increased over the past 10 years. What we can assert from this table is that the majority of immigrants are born outside the state's territory. Over 45% of Luxembourg's population, is made of foreign citizens, although mostly from the EU which are more often than not attracted by the very high number of international institutions and financial companies, which attract high-skilled workers.

### C. Immigration stock by category

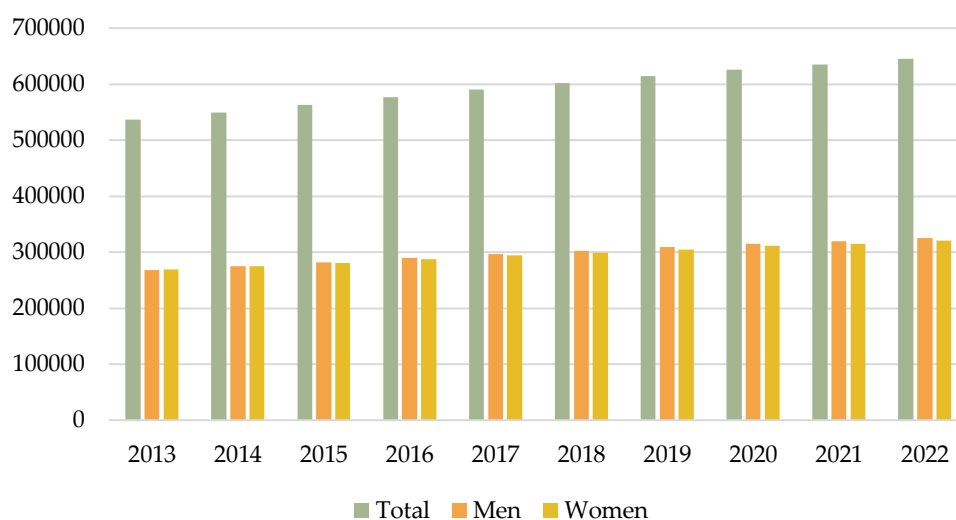
Stocks are defined as the total number of international migrants present in a given country at a particular point of time (usually on 1 January of every year). It can increase or decrease usually because there is either a natural change of population, namely births or deaths and because of net migration, namely the inflows minus the outflows. The estimate of the stock of international immigrants disaggregated by age, sex and country or area of origin are based on national statistics, in most cases obtained from population census. Additionally, population registers and nationally representative surveys provided information on the number and composition of international migrants.

But let's go deeper into this analysis.

#### 1. Categorization by sex

AGE (Labels)	Total		
SEX (Labels)	Total	Males	Females
TIME			
2013	537.039	268.412	268.627
2014	549.680	275.117	274.563
2015	562.958	281.972	280.986
2016	576.249	289.193	287.056
2017	590.667 b	296.641 b	294.026 b
2018	602.005	302.580	299.425
2019	613.894	308.720	305.174
2020	626.108	314.964	311.144
2021	634.730	319.456	315.274
2022	645.397	325.064	320.333

Table 3. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_pop3ctb](#))



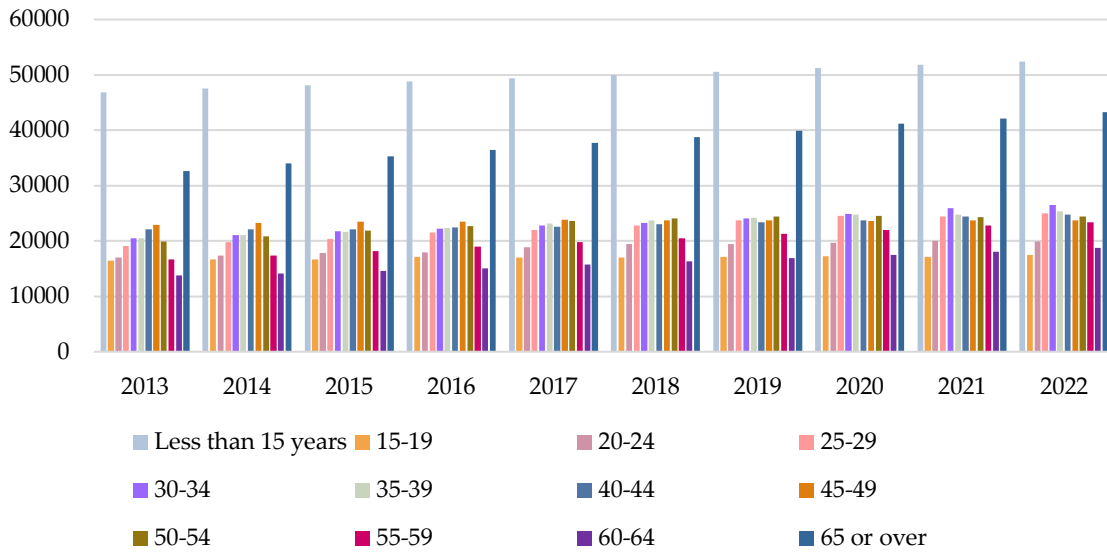
Based on the above-collected data we can assert that the migration phenomenon towards Luxembourg has followed a homogeneous path for what concern the number of men and women moving to the country with a slight increasing year by year, up to the highest number of migrants registered in 2022.

## 2. Categorization by age group

TIME	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
AGE (Labels)										
Less than 15 years	46.863	47.497	48.153	48.773	49.412	49.925	50.537	51.261	51.832	52.461
From 15 to 19 years	16.474	16.635	16.671	17.096	17.004	16.999	17.097	17.235	17.179	17.435
From 20 to 24 years	17.003	17.325	17.807	17.944	18.912	19.403	19.462	19.738	19.975	19.913
From 25 to 29 years	19.071	19.769	20.378	21.481	22.000	22.830	23.710	24.484	24.373	24.997
From 30 to 34 years	20.493	21.016	21.721	22.279	22.805	23.245	24.051	24.906	25.947	26.559
From 35 to 39 years	20.492	21.056	21.704	22.389	23.165	23.677	24.240	24.766	24.798	25.404
From 40 to 44 years	22.096	22.148	22.113	22.405	22.610	23.010	23.352	23.781	24.400	24.784
From 45 to 49 years	22.861	23.219	23.483	23.532	23.850	23.782	23.741	23.625	23.728	23.737
From 50 to 54 years	19.951	20.887	21.823	22.741	23.604	24.102	24.458	24.495	24.324	24.433
From 55 to 59 years	16.716	17.419	18.210	19.033	19.810	20.514	21.271	22.037	22.789	23.368
From 60 to 64 years	13.727	14.167	14.618	15.088	15.763	16.280	16.923	17.485	18.034	18.736
65 years or over	32.665	33.979	35.291	36.432	37.706	38.813	39.878	41.151	42.077	43.237

Table 4. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_pop3ctb](#))

## Stock of migrants by age group



As we can see in Table 4, the most relevant data about the age group of immigrants in Luxembourg between 2013 and 2022, belongs to the those under 15 years old. Even though the trend in the European context presents a decrease of the fertility rate, there's a consistent number of young people. Nevertheless, it is also important to note that a highly consistent part of immigrants' population is also made of adults of 65 years or over.

### 3. Immigration stock by country of birth (2017-2022)

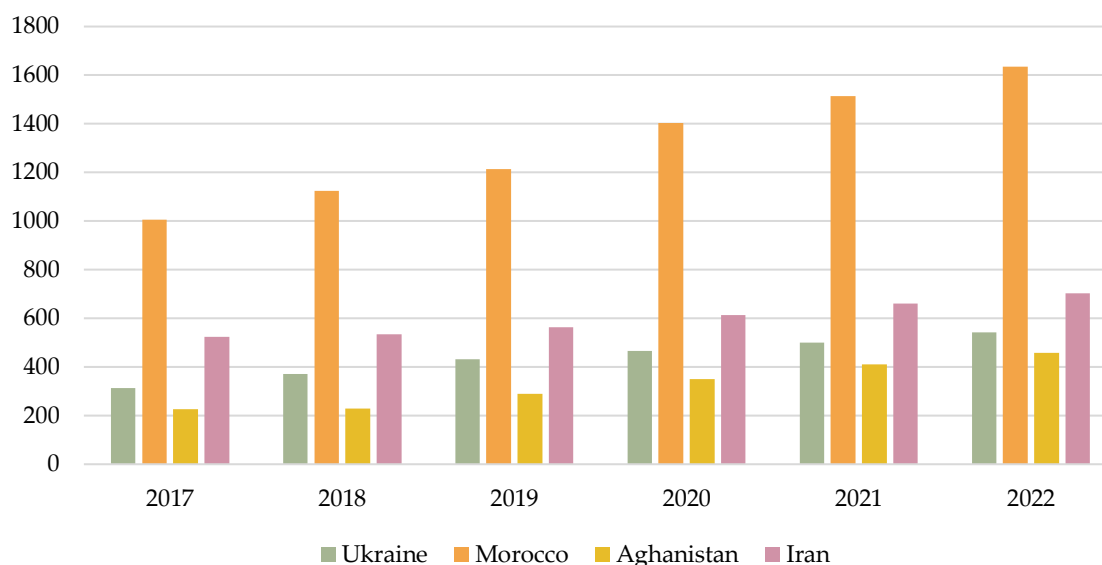
C_BIRTH (Labels)	Ukraine	Morocco	Afghanistan	Iran
TIME				
2017	313 b	1.006 b	226 b	525 b
2018	371	1.125	229	535
2019	432	1.214	289	563
2020	467	1.402	351	613
2021	501	1.513	410	662
2022	543	1.636	459	703

Table 5. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_pop3ctb](#))

The main reason why we use immigrant's country of birth, instead of citizenship to conduct our analysis, is that the country where you are born never changes and this makes it a better method to measure how many people were actually born abroad since, on the other hand, citizenship can be acquired throughout life.



## Stock of immigrants by country of birth



The countries we took under analysis for our report are Ukraine, Morocco, Afghanistan and Iran. As we can see from the graphic, the highest number of migrants among these countries between the years 2017 and 2022, come from Morocco which gradually increased up to the last updated data in 2022. Following we have migrants from Iran which remained stable from 2017 to 2019, while increasing a little from 2020 to 2022. A similar shift also occurred for Ukraine and Afghanistan, nevertheless with fewer migrants moving to Luxembourg.

## 4. Immigration stock by reasons for migration

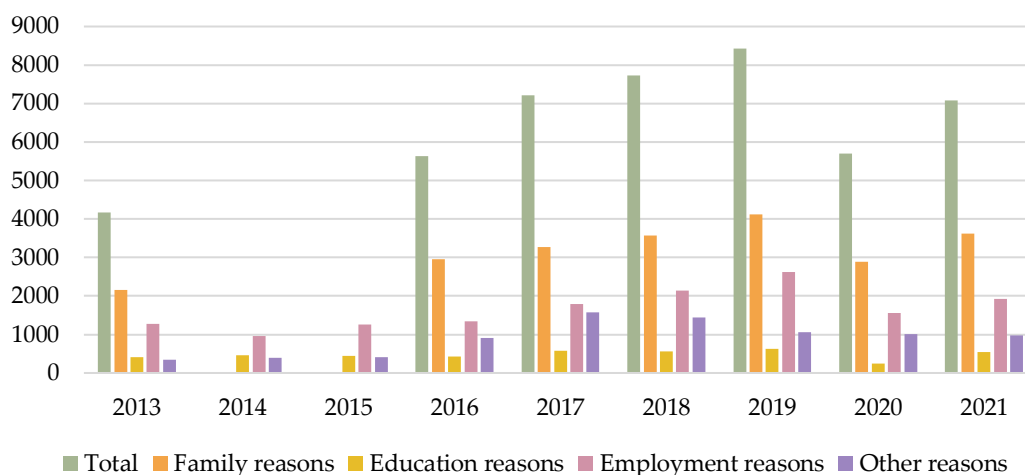
REASON (Labels)	Total	Family reasons	Education reasons	Employment reasons	Other reason
TIME					
2013	4.169	2.153	404	1.272	340
2014	:	:	456	965	398
2015	:	:	442	1.257	413
2016	5.627	2.952	420	1.340	915
2017	7.207	3.277	579	1.783	1.568
2018	7.727	3.573	565	2.142	1.447
2019	8.433	4.118	632	2.619	1.064
2020	5.707	2.894	249	1.554	1.010
2021	7.076	3.628	546	1.918	984

Table 6. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_resfaf](#))

Migration is a very old phenomenon. Men always moved over the years to make up for the lack of essential goods for survival or a better quality of life as a whole. Starting from the past, we know that men used to move in search for better land that could be cultivated once the old ones were exhausted and no longer able to produce food. However, when around 12000 years ago new agricultural technics were discovered, they started to settle down.

The reasons that bring nowadays men to move, are more or less governed by the same needs of course adapted to modern days problems. As the number of immigrants increased, it has become more and more complex to carefully analyse every aspect of this phenomenon but, among the data to be considered, are of course the reasons for migration which can be divided among the 4 macro reasons considered by Eurostat: Family reasons, Education reasons, Employment reasons and the more general category, other reasons.

Stock of migrants by reason for migration



The most important channel of entrance into a country, appears to be the so-called “Family reasons” or “Family reunification” even though the relative data are not available in Eurostat’s database for what concerns 2014 and 2015. Historically speaking, men tend to migrate looking for working opportunities and women usually join them later together with their children, constituting therefore, a high percentage of people moving for family reasons.

Non-EU migrants who move for work or study reasons, have a higher qualification level than those entering for family reasons. As we can see from the graphic, and for the already mentioned working possibilities offered by the country, employment reasons constitute the second highest value for reasons for moving.

## D. Population growth

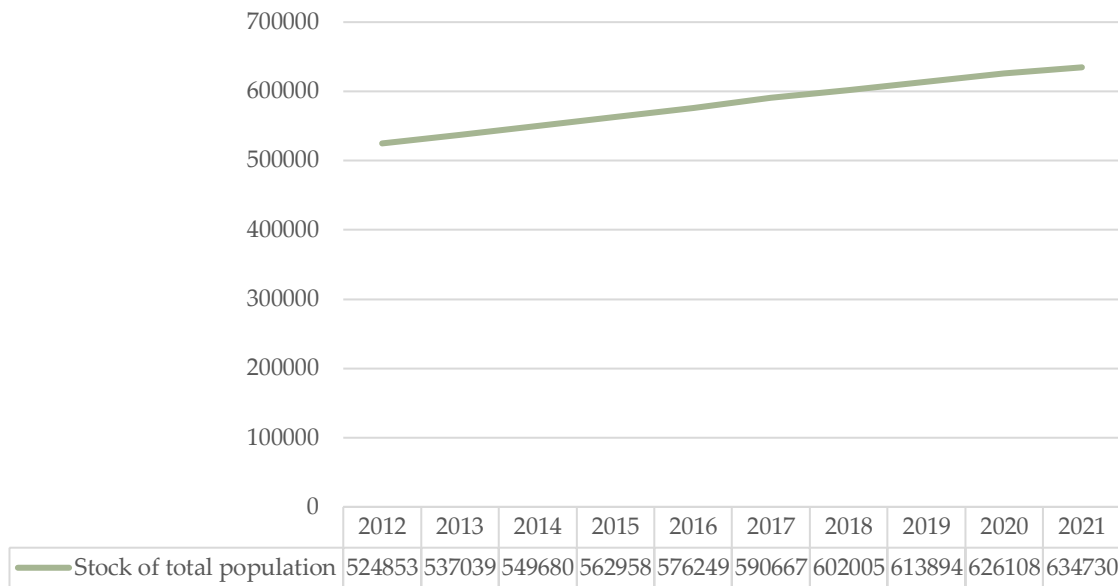


Table 7.

The above Table 7 shows the population growth. It indicates the inhabitants of Luxembourg from 2012 to 2021. It is possible to state that there is an overall increase of the population, that was 524.853 in 2012 and became 634.730 in 2021. This indicates that population grew up of 20,93%.

## E. Flow of migrants in the last 10 years

### 1. Immigration v. Emigration

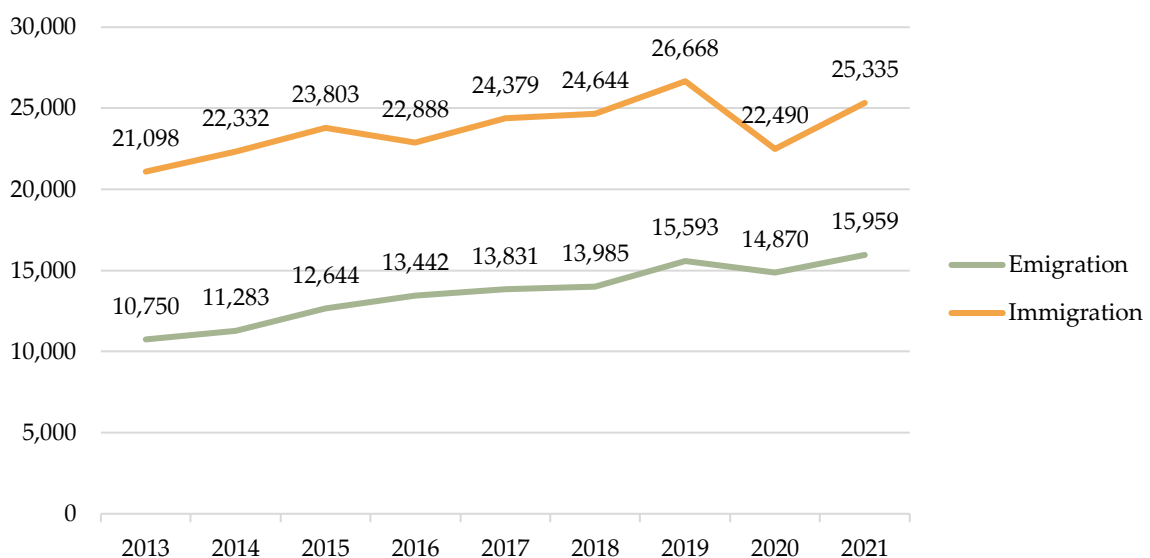


Table 8.

As an introduction, Table 8 is intended to show the number of immigrants coming to Luxembourg each year, from 2013 to 2021. The highest peak has been reached in 2019, with 26.668 immigrants, and the lowest was reached in 2013, with 21.098 immigrants. From 2013 to 2019 there's been an increase of immigrants of 26,4%.

In 2020, there's been a rapid decrease of immigrants due to the Covid pandemic, that has rapidly grown in 2021, almost reaching the above-mentioned positive peak of 2019. The effective percentage of growth from 2013 to 2021 amounts to 20%.

Leaving aside the concept of immigration alone, it is still relevant for our purpose to notice the gap between the immigration flow number and the emigration flow one: we can clearly state that the net migration ratio is a positive rate, since the immigration flow exceeds the emigration one by ten thousand individuals circa for each year.

Net migration rate is the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants over a period, divided by the person-years lived by the population of the receiving country over that period. It is expressed as net number of migrants per 1,000 population.

## 2. Categorization by Sex

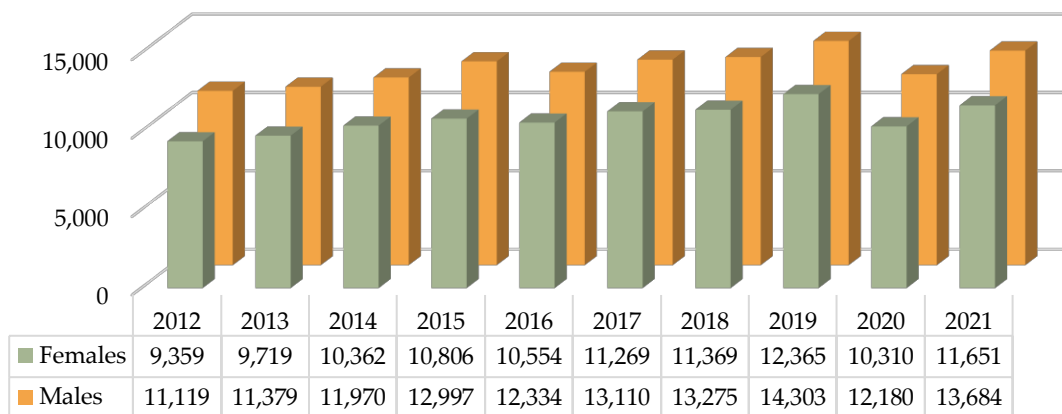


Table 9.

The data from Eurostat from table 9 shows the sex of immigrants coming in Luxembourg. What is noticeable is that there's an underrepresentation of females: in fact, males immigrants exceed the female ones by an average of 1.850 individuals per each year. To put it into a percentage, males immigrants amount to 54% of the total immigrations in Luxembourg in 2021, while females amount to 46%.

### 3. Categorization by Age

TIME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
GEO (Labels)	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg
AGE (Labels)										
Less than 15 years	:	3.408	3.233	3.632	3.507	3.801	3.682	4.135	3.375	3.660
From 15 to 19 years	:	901	987	1.079	984	1.000	1.005	1.080	925	1.071
From 20 to 24 years	:	2.419	2.732	2.975	2.764	2.991	3.033	3.297	2.732	3.128
From 25 to 29 years	:	3.536	3.928	4.283	4.277	4.554	4.801	5.123	4.174	4.983
From 30 to 34 years	:	2.877	3.077	3.248	3.231	3.526	3.498	3.882	3.341	3.730
From 35 to 39 years	:	2.195	2.329	2.396	2.354	2.529	2.636	2.793	2.285	2.619
From 40 to 44 years	:	1.738	1.722	1.868	1.825	1.967	1.880	1.954	1.786	1.815
From 45 to 49 years	:	1.365	1.402	1.443	1.380	1.426	1.480	1.537	1.311	1.436
From 50 to 54 years	:	977	1.033	1.064	1.015	1.097	1.110	1.090	1.066	1.086
From 55 to 59 years	:	621	652	686	632	666	651	787	691	741
From 60 to 64 years	:	398	424	399	369	316	365	416	335	406
65 years or over	:	663	813	730	550	506	503	574	469	660

Table 10. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_pop3ctb](#))

Thanks to Table 10, we have a perspective on the age of immigrants. We have taken into account many micro areas, exception made for the younger (0-15 years) and the elder people (over 65 years).

What is clearly noticeable is the great number of immigrants aged from 20 to 29 years: their immigration can be associated to educational reasons. Anyhow, individuals from 25 to 29 years at their highest peak (2019) were 19,21% of the total immigrants of that year.

On the contrary, there is a rapid decrease of immigrants aged over 55 years: this led us to the conclusion that Luxembourg does not attract immigrants in pre-retirement period, neither those already retired. We can also assess that it is a country devoted to work (and family) immigrants and education ones.

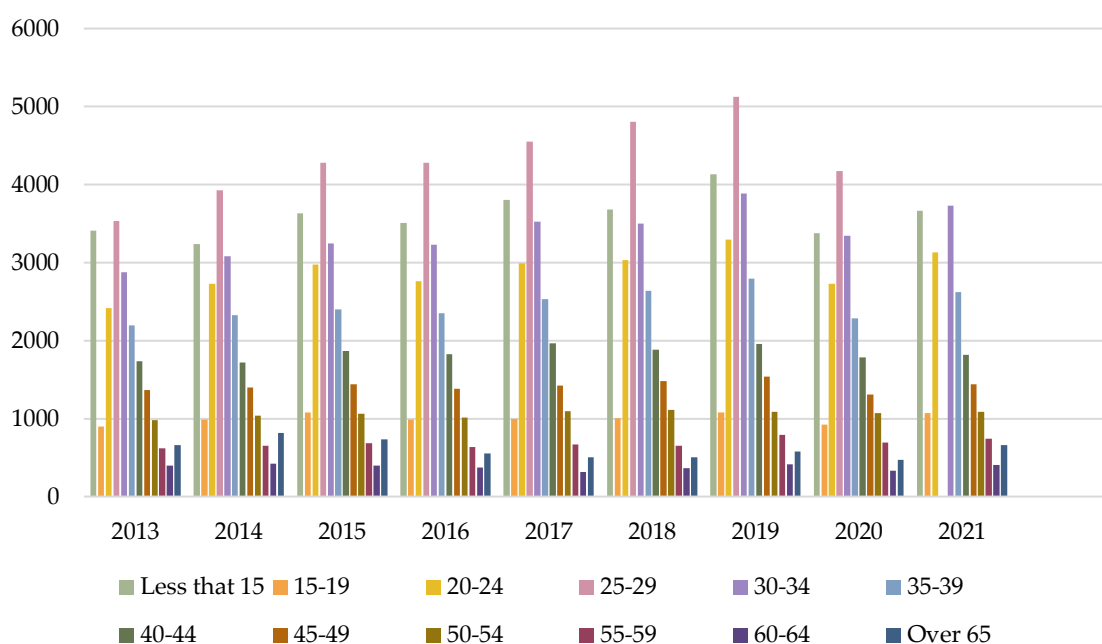


Table 11.

Table 11 is intended to explain the wide generational gap in immigration with its scheme of colours. It is important to note that, even though European Community as a whole is facing a decrease on the fertility rate, there is a consistent number of young immigrants.

#### 4. Immigration flow by country of birth

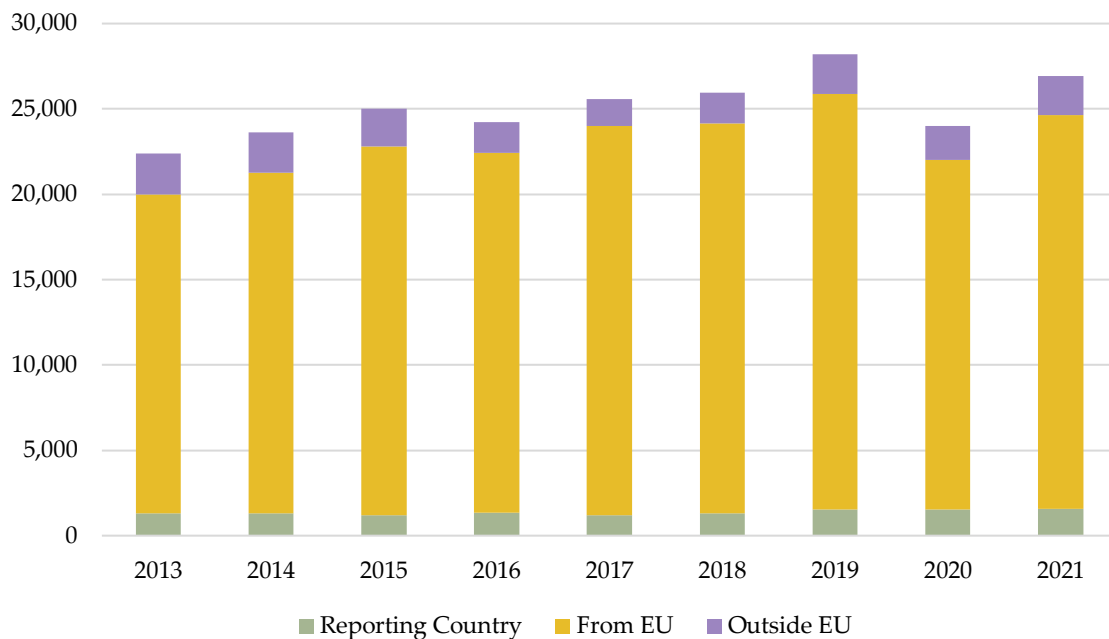


Table 12.

Table 12 shows the country of previous residence of immigrants in Luxembourg. The vast majority of migrants in the last decade came from another European country (especially from Portugal, France, Italy and Spain): the highest peak has been reached in 2019, with 24,359 immigrants from another EU member state. From 2013 to 2021 there's been an increase of European immigrants amounting to 23,43%.

## First permits released by Luxembourg to immigrants, 2013-2021

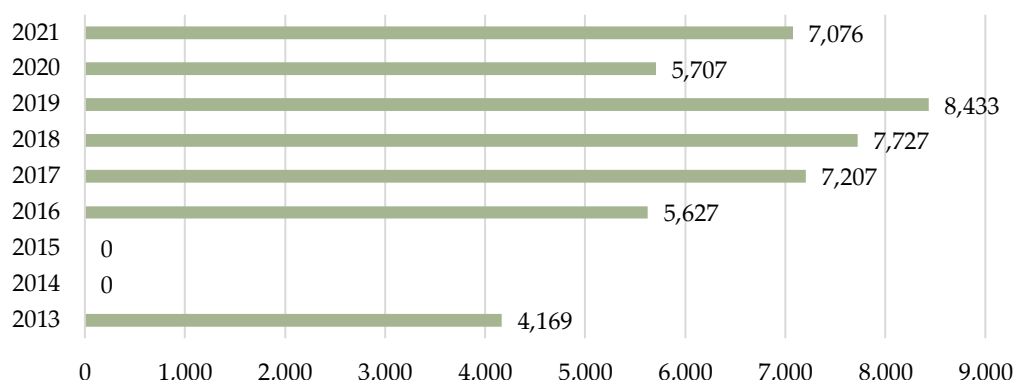


Table 13.

Table 13 is aimed at showing the number of permits released from Luxembourg to the outside EU immigrants. This data automatically excludes European citizens, given the possibility for them to freely circulate inside the European borders.

The trend of the table is positive, exception made for the last two years (namely, 2020 and 2021), which are strongly influenced by the block in movement created by the Covid pandemic. However, from 2013 to 2019 there is an increase of permit release that amounts to 102,28%. This means that in 2019, Luxembourg issued twice as many residence permits as it did in 2013.

## 5. Reasons for migration

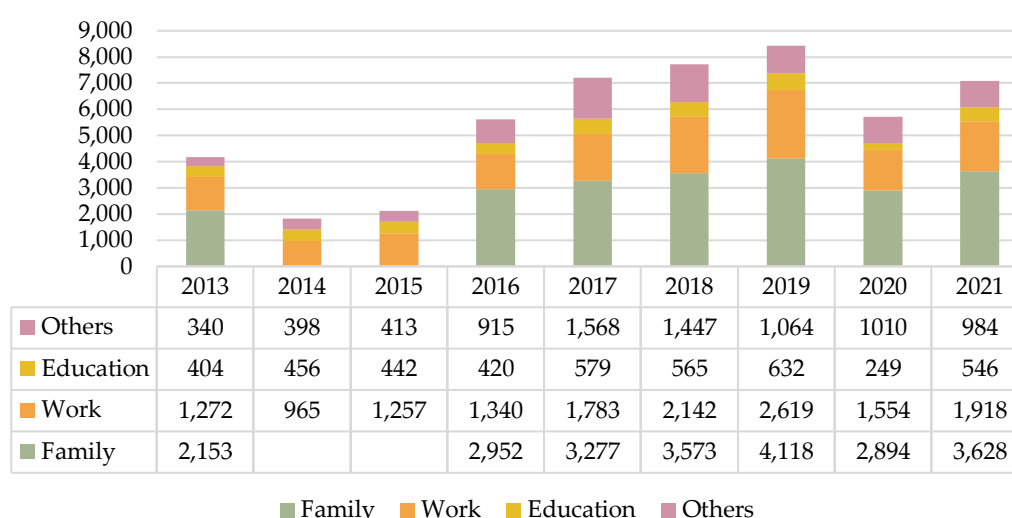


Table 14.

As it happens for many other countries, the main reason for migration is family reunification. It is well known that often family reunification is strictly connected to the employment reasons. Despite that, Luxembourg faced an increase of migrants that moved due to family reunification that amounts to 91,26% from 2013 to 2019. If we take into account the period 2013-2019, the percentage of increase is of 68,5.

It is necessary to note that, unfortunately, data on family reunification are lacking due to the unavailability in Eurostat platform.

The flow of migrants with the aim of earning money has risen from 1.272 in 2013 to 2.619 in 2019, year with the highest peak. This means that -also in this case- there's an increase in the migration related to remunerated activities that amounts to 106%.

## F. Asylum seekers

An asylum seeker is someone who has fled their home country in search of protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but has not yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is awaiting a decision on their asylum claim. Asylum seeking is a human right.

### 1. Categorization by sex

SEX (Labels)	Total	Males	Females
GEO (Labels)	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg
TIME			
2011	2,150	1,250	900
2012	2,050	1,265	785
2013	1,070	770	300
2014	1,150	765	385
2015	2,505	1,745	760
2016	2,160	1,550	615
2017	2,430	1,860	570
2018	2,335	1,680	660
2019	2,270	1,475	790
2020	1,345	900	445
2021	1,415	905	510

Table 15. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyappctza](#))



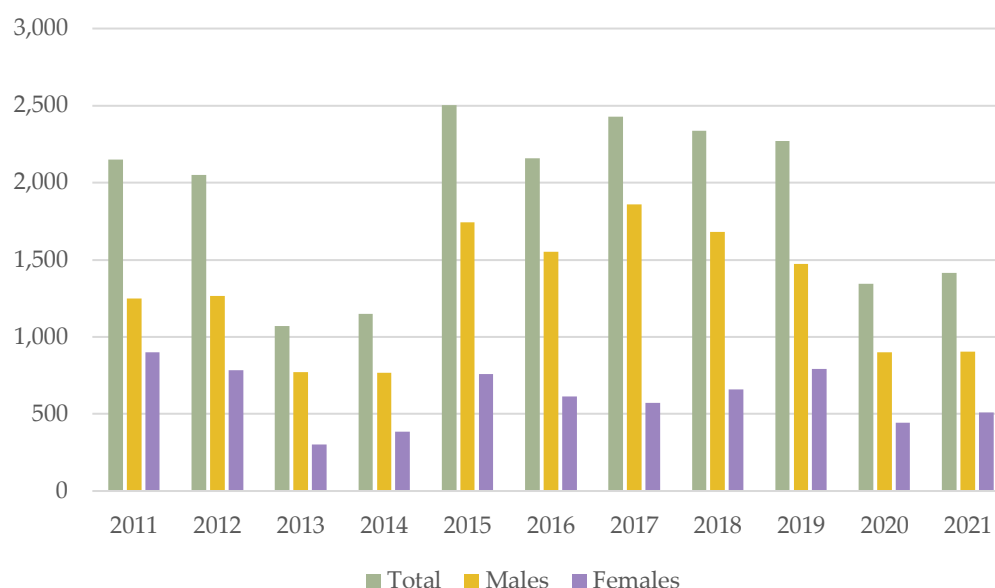


Table 15 clearly shows that there are much more males immigrants than females ones. This could be due to the fact that most immigrants came to Luxembourg to work and there are mostly men.

In 2017, the difference between male and female immigrants reached the maximum, that is males immigrants are 76,5% of the total in comparison to the 26% of female immigrants.

The graphic also shows that from 2011 to 2021 the total number of asylum seekers decreased from 1,915 to 1,365 immigrants. Plus, in 2015 the number of immigrants reached the peak of 2,360.

## 2. Categorization by Age

AGE (Labels)	Total	From 14 to 17 years	Less than 18 years	From 18 to 34 years	From 35 to 64 years	65 years or over
GEO (Labels)	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Luxembourg
TIME						
2011	2,150	150	845	820	480	0
2012	2,050	100	705	935	405	10
2013	1,070	80	260	560	245	5
2014	1,150	65	355	570	220	5
2015	2,505	185	780	1,175	545	5
2016	2,160	115	625	1,095	440	5
2017	2,430	100	630	1,335	455	10
2018	2,335	105	615	1,225	485	15
2019	2,270	105	770	1,035	455	5
2020	1,345	80	505	565	270	5
2021	1,415	95	535	605	270	10

Table 16. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyappctza](#))



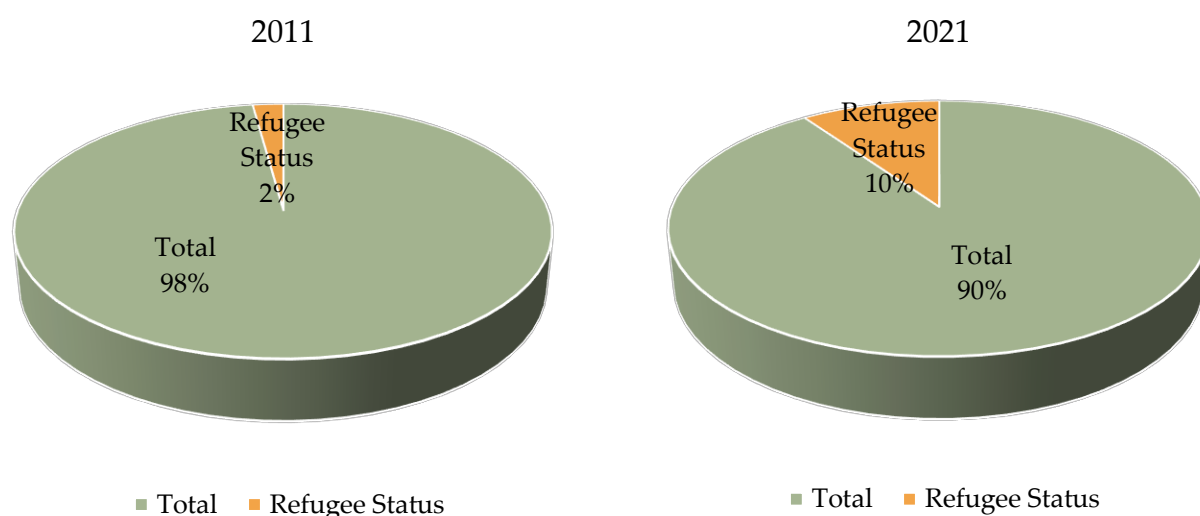
Based on the information we have gathered, from year 2011 to 2021, the age group that has the most applicants for asylum are from 18 to 34 years. Right after that group there is the one from 35 to 64 years.

Few are the people that seek asylum after the age of 65.

### 3. Share of Refugees on Total Migration

REASON (Labels)	Total	Refugee status
GEO (Labels)	Luxembourg	Luxembourg
TIME		
2011	25,715	567
2012	27,910	752
2013	29,873	937
2014	31,836	1,125
2015	34,330	1,250
2016	36,779	1,969
2017	40,294	3,174
2018	42,744	4,086
2019	46,051	4,597
2020	47,120	5,174
2021	51,032	5,501

Table 17. Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_resvalid](#))



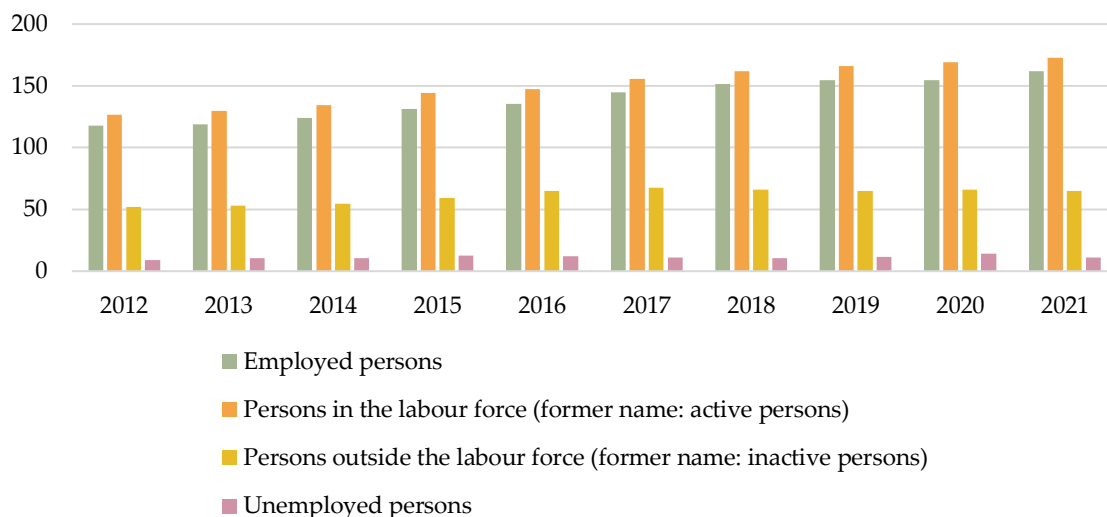
As we can see from the tables above, the share of total refugees has increased in the last 10 year of 8%.

## G. Migrants' integration indicators

WSTATUS (Labels)	Persons in the labour force	Employed persons	Unemployed persons	Persons outside the labour force
<b>TIME</b>				
2012	126.4	117.7	8.8	51.9
2013	129.6	119.1	10.4	52.8
2014	134.6	124.0	10.6	54.5
2015	144.2 b	131.3 b	12.8 b	59.3 b
2016	147.3	135.3	12.1	65.1
2017	155.6	144.8	10.8	67.3
2018	162.1	151.4	10.6	66.2
2019	165.9	154.6	11.4	64.7
2020	169.0	154.6	14.4	65.8
2021	172.6 b	161.8 b	10.8 b	65.1 b

Table 18. Source: Eurostat ([lfsa\\_pgacws](#))

## Migrant Integration Indicators of Employment and Unemployment



According to Table 18, the foreign people's unemployment rate (number of unemployed people in the country, divided by the total number of workers available in the civilian labour force) of 2012 has been about 7% whereas the same rate in 2021 has been 6.3%. So, there is a decrease in the rate for these 2 years in this decade.

On the other hand, when comparing the foreign people's unemployment rate in 2021 with the nationals' one (5.3%)<sup>1</sup>, we can observe that the national rate is slightly less.

The difference between the unemployment rate not being too sizeable does not come as surprise considering that about 50% of the population of Luxembourg does not hold Luxembourgish nationality.

<sup>1</sup> Source: EUROSTAT (check: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tps00066/default/table?lang=en>)

## Conclusion

In conclusion, it is important to assert that taking into consideration all the above data already analysed, during the past ten years the Luxembourg stock of migrants has increased significantly reaching 45% growth from 2012 to 2021. It is worth noting that the vast amount migrants were EU citizens, which describes Luxembourg as a particularly allure country. Nevertheless, the data shows an interesting trend in terms of age category, where people under 15 years old and over 65 years old are taking up the majority of the total number of Luxembourg's migrants. For what concern the sex, as stated in the above graphics there is a slight difference in female and male immigrants, which clearly shows the equal attractiveness to Luxembourg migration policies for both men and women.

Luxembourg has to be considered as a Welfare State which provides all the benefits to migrants. In 2021, Luxembourg has placed itself in the 18th position<sup>2</sup> for asylum applications and the age groups that have most applicants for asylum is 18-34 and 35-64, so this means that in the EU context it cannot be considered one of the first choices for immigrants, however the share of total refugees has increased of 8% in the last 10 years. According to the research, we can confirm that some of the reasons behind immigration in Luxembourg are; family reasons (family reunification), employment reasons (constitutes the second highest value for moving), and lastly study reasons.

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<sup>2</sup> [Asylum applications in the EU - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/european-council/en/asylum-applications-in-the-eu)