

JEAN MONNET CHAIR EUROPEAN MIGRATION STUDIES

ECONOMICS OF MIGRATION IN EUROPE (ECMEU)

REPORTS PRESENTATION

COUNTRY: NORWAY

2022/2023

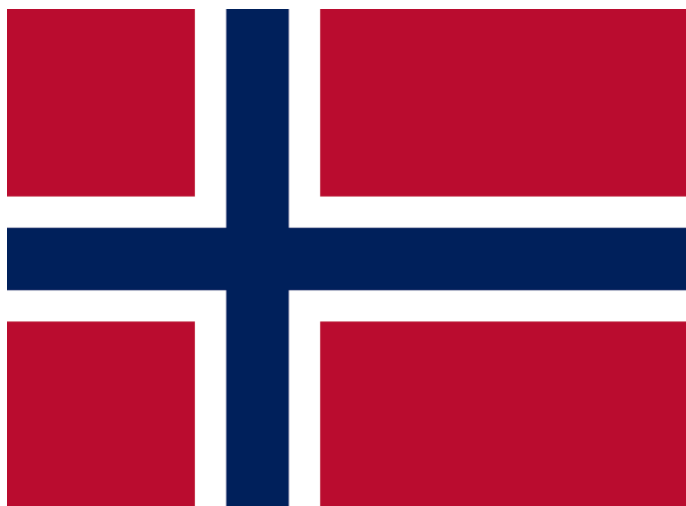
PROF.SSA ALESSANDRA VENTURINI



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**UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO**



Country report: Migration in Norway

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Stefania Baronetto

Ilaria Brusa

Carlo Cimino

Roberta Di Carlo

Arianna Isola

Francesco Ranieri

Alessio Tan

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INTRODUCTION

Norway became independent from Sweden only in 1905. Up until the second half of the 20th century Norway was known not as a destination country for immigrants, but as a population prone to emigration. Especially in the 19th and early 20th century, a high number of people left the country in search of a better life on the other side of the Atlantic. Nearly 850,000 Norwegians emigrated to foreign countries between 1825 and 1945, putting this country second only to Ireland in terms of emigrants in the population. In the late 1960s, a combination of a booming economy and a population shortage led Norway to accept a number of labour migrants from Morocco, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and particularly Pakistan. These guest workers, which were expected to be temporary, remained in the country and were eventually followed by other migrants, including refugees and family reunification candidates. Despite its acceptance of many refugees, Norway maintained a relatively homogenous, largely white Christian population until the 1970s, with most immigrants in the 1960s coming from its Nordic neighbours.

In the 1980s the population started to protest because of the growing numbers of asylum seekers, whose numbers peaked during the decade at 8,600 in 1987. This led to xenophobic tendencies at that time confirmed by electoral support for the anti-immigration Progress Party. Nonetheless, the Norwegian government aimed to treat immigrants and native Norwegians equally, a founding principle anchored in the Immigration Act of 1988. The act provided permission of entry, a border and internal control mechanism, and a "sanctions system" for the cancellation of permits, rejections, and expulsions. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s the wave of labour immigrants was replaced by asylum seekers, with a high number of people fleeing from countries such as Iran, Chile, Vietnam, and the former Yugoslavia.

In 1994, after rejecting EU membership, Norway joined the European Economic Area (EEA), which allowed Norway and other countries to participate in the internal market without becoming a EU member.

The next phase started due to the enlargement of the European Union in 2004, when labour immigrants from Eastern Europe started to dominate immigration to the Scandinavian country. As a matter of fact, today, Poles make up the largest group of foreign citizens living in Norway, followed by Lithuanians.

The Arab springs represent the peak moment in Norwegian immigration, even so in the following years the rate diminished significantly to reach the lowest rate in 2020. Interestingly after the pandemic the flux of immigrants grew quickly, faster than expected. But more important to underline is that in 2022 this number was higher than that of 2011.

In 2015 the people coming from non european countries became the majority of the immigrants entering the State. During the peak period, more than 8.000 asylum seekers arrived in Norway every month in 2015, with a huge flow especially from Syria. Nonetheless, EU Nationals still represent

nowadays a stable and permanent flow of immigrants to Norway, with approximately 20.000 people a year.

Background information

Location Northern Europe, bordering the North Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, west of Sweden

Capital Oslo

Natural resources petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, titanium, pyrites, nickel, fish, timber, hydropower

Population 5,597,924 (2023 est.)

Population growth rate 0.79% (2023 est.)

Birth rate 11.89 births/1,000 population (2023 est.)

Death rate 7.93 deaths/1,000 population (2023 est.)

Net migration rate 3.89 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2023 est.)

Ethnic groups Norwegian 81.5% (includes about 60,000 Sami), other European 8.9%, other 9.6% (2021 est.)

Citizenship

- Citizenship by birth: no
- Citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Norway.
- Dual citizenship recognized: no
- Residency requirement for naturalisation: 7 years

Refugees and internally displaced persons

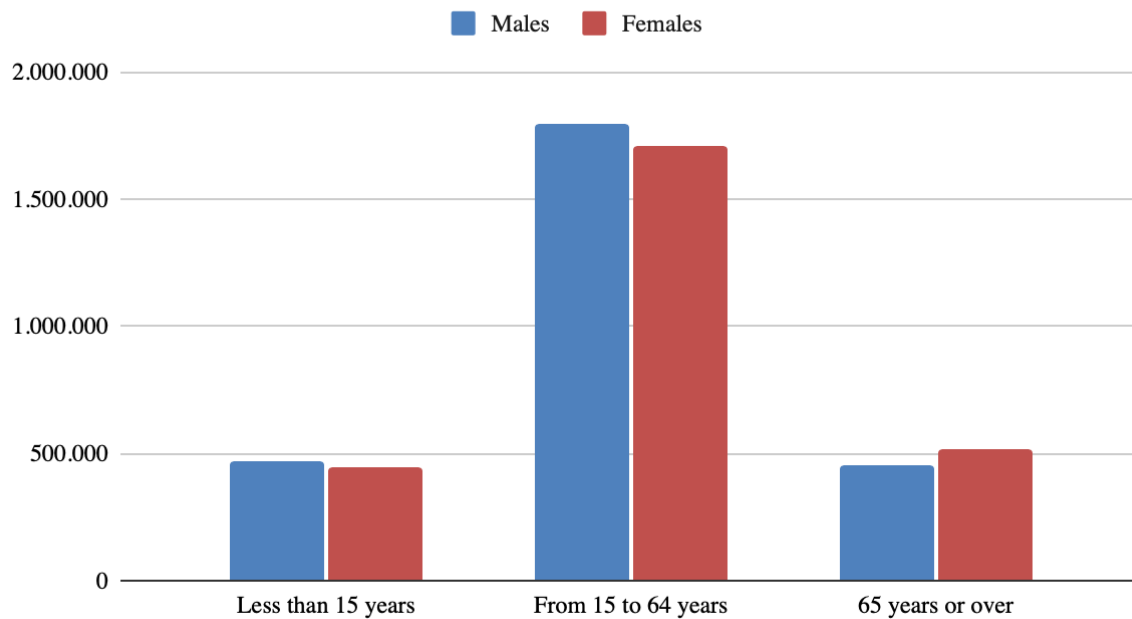
- Refugees (country of origin): 15,901 (Syria), 10,883 (Eritrea) (mid-year 2022); 41,519 (Ukraine) (as of 27 February 2023)
- Stateless persons: 3,901 (2022)

Source: CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/norway/>)

1. STOCK TOTAL POPULATION

For the purpose of this report 2021 has been chosen as the significant year to represent since it is the last one for which data are available in a cross sectional approach. To understand the stock of the total population the dataset **MIGR_POP3CTB** has been chosen with no selection of the country of birth (total). The total population in 2021 was equal to 5.391.369 people of which 2.719.259 males and 2.672.110 females, this data includes all the people legally present in the country at the end of the year.

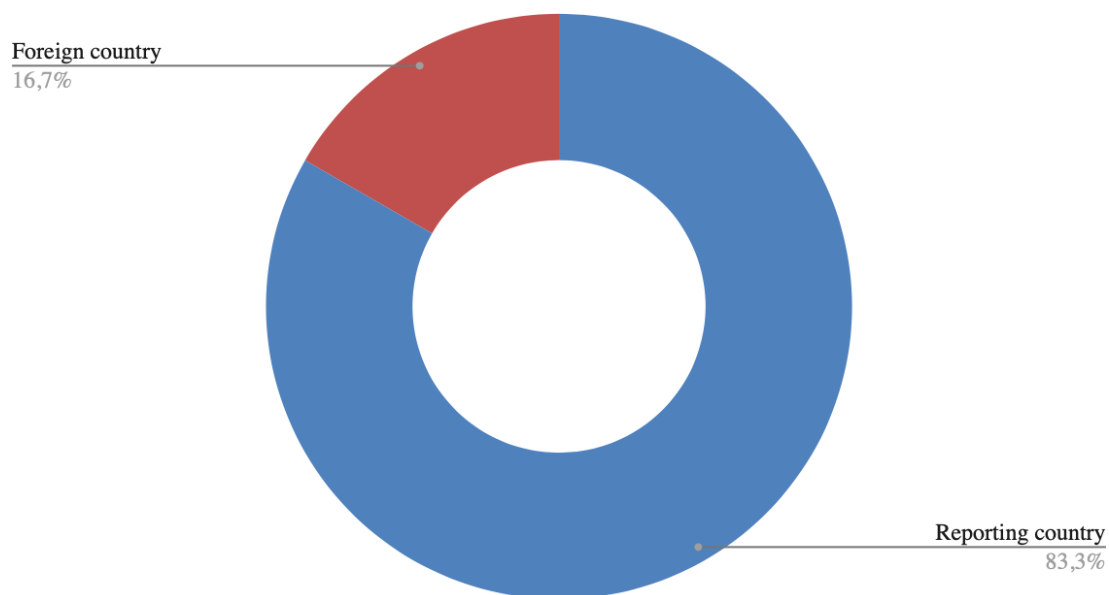
Population on 1 January 2021 by broad age group and sex



Dataset: EUROSTAT [DEMOPJAN]

In Norway the share of international migrants on the 1st of January 2021 was 16,7% of the total population, equal to 878.153 foreign born people present in the country. In the following sections they will be divided for country of birth, sex, and age.

International migrants on 1 January 2021



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_POP3CTB]

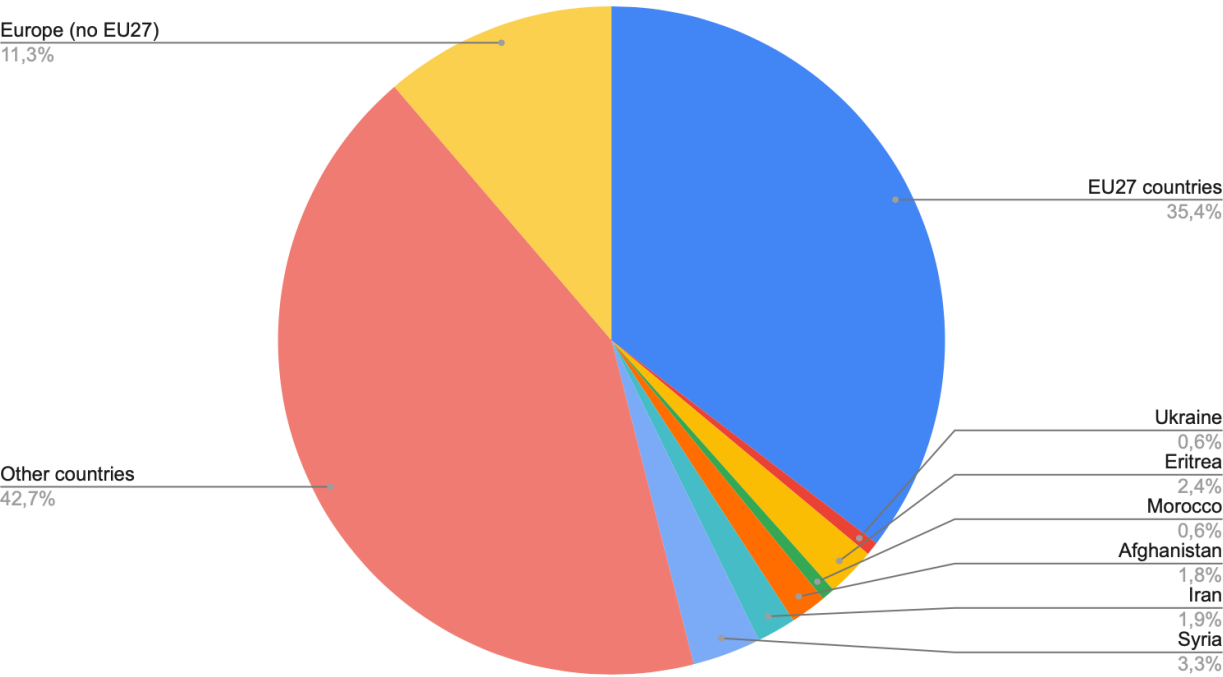
From the total population it is also possible to divide foreign born people and further select them looking at their country of origin. From Ukraine there were 6.434 people, Moroccans were equal to 6.329, Afghani were 17.398 people, Syrian were 32.807, and Eritrean 23.647 while Iranian were 18.821; in addition Eritrea and Syria have been chosen as representative countries to select as countries of origin (country of birth) since they are significant when looking at the number of refugees that will be explained later.

However, from this starting point it is clear how the majority of foreign born people do not come from the aforementioned countries, instead, a large share of migrants travel within Europe.

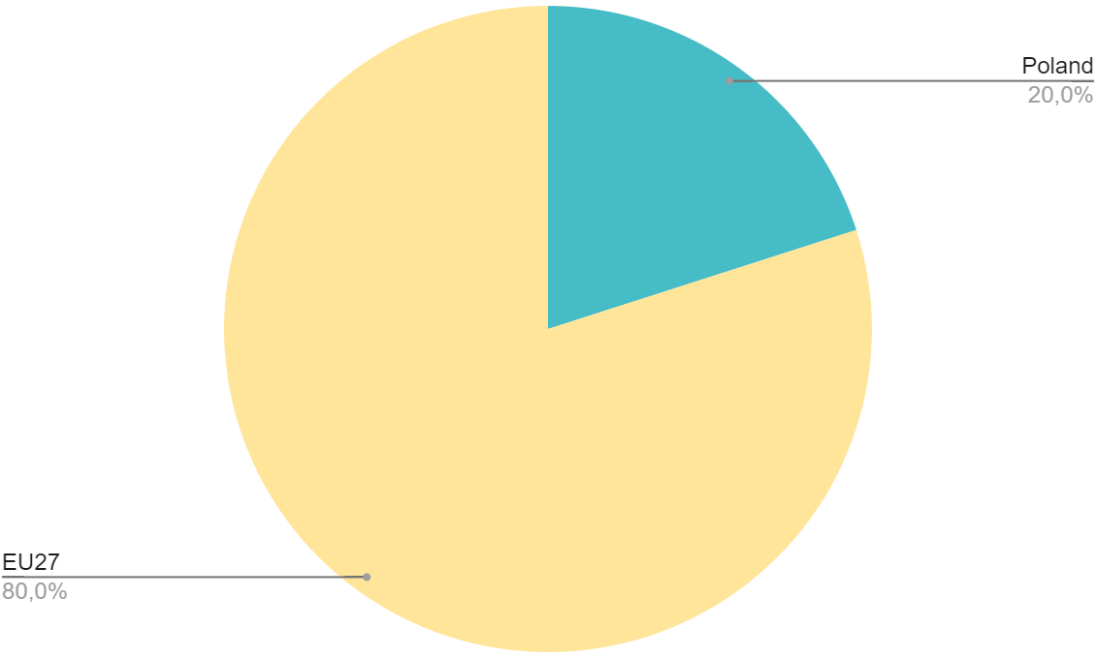
According to the following graph, we can see that Norway's migration gain is half represented by European countries which are mostly member states of the European Union (EU27).

A little focus on Poland has been made in a separate graph, to underline the presence of this country on the overall EU member states, representing the biggest group of immigrants living in Norway.

Foreign born by countries of origin



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

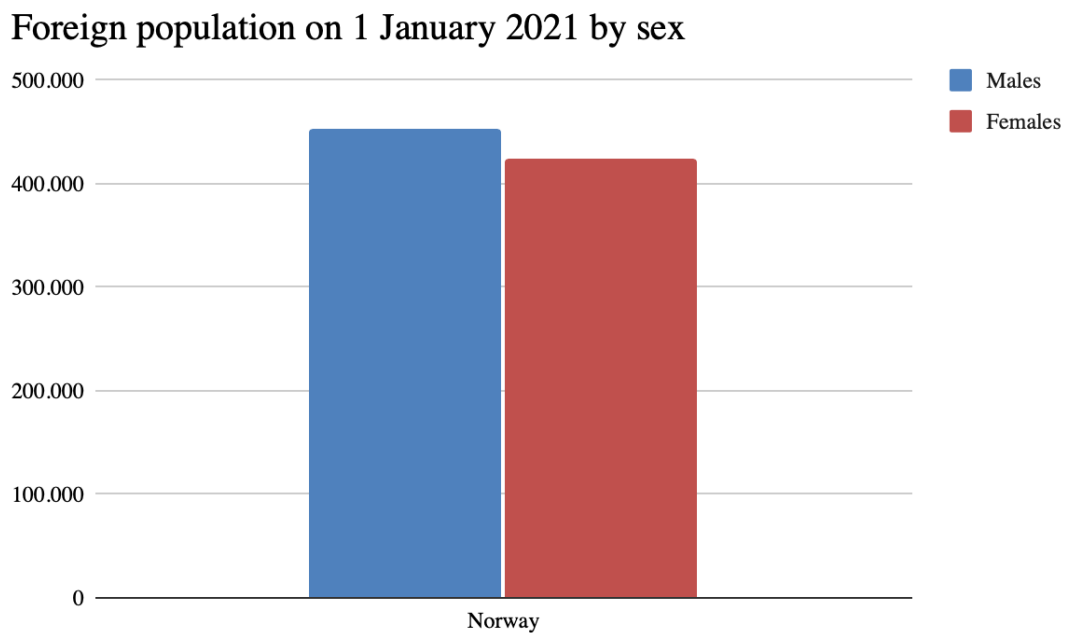


Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

The share of people born in Europe, excluding EU countries, is more than 10% of international migrants, which is equal to the foreign born from the selected countries all together. When focusing on the selected ones, Syria becomes important since it represents the 3,3% of the stock, with 32.807 people present in the country, 31.152 of whom have a residence permit (the majority for 12 months or over).

Even so, a large number of foreign-born people are represented by other countries than previously discussed, with 422.480 present in Norway.

Dividing the foreign population by sex it turned out that male foreigners are 453.609 and female foreigners are 424.544, so despite a slight majority of males, the foreign-born population is distributed almost equally.

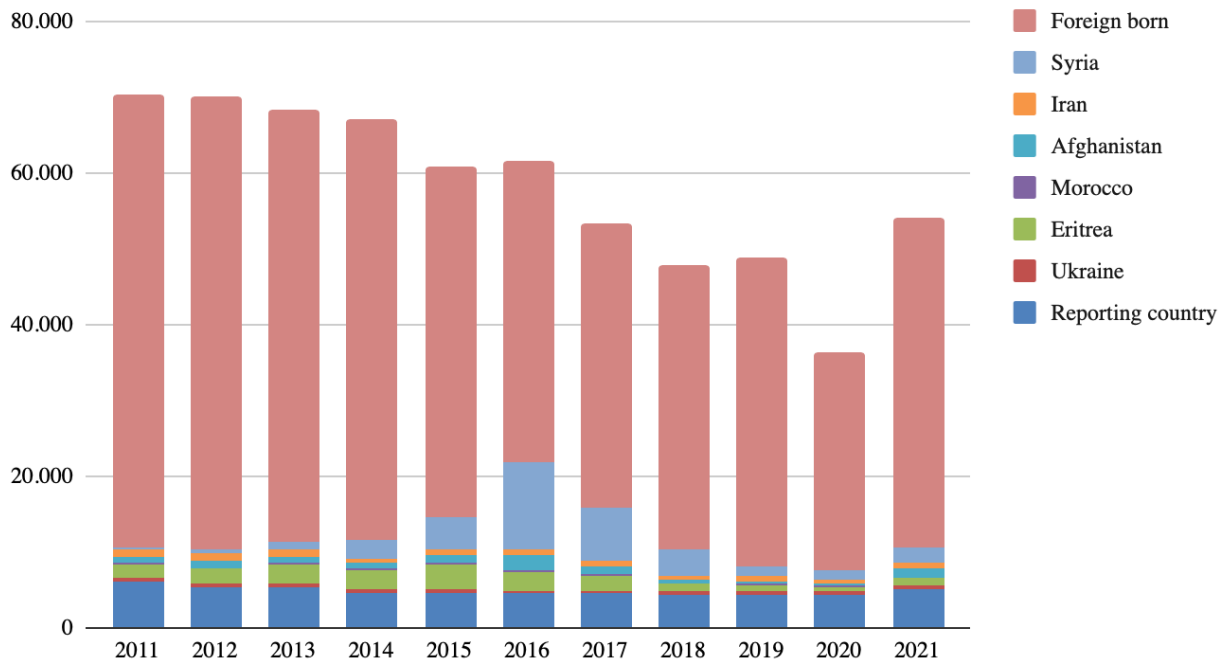


Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_POP3CTB]

2. STOCK OF MIGRANTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

A methodological note has to be made since the data for 2022 were not available; the chosen ten years are representative of the last updated information.

Immigrants stock (2011-2021) by countries of origin



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

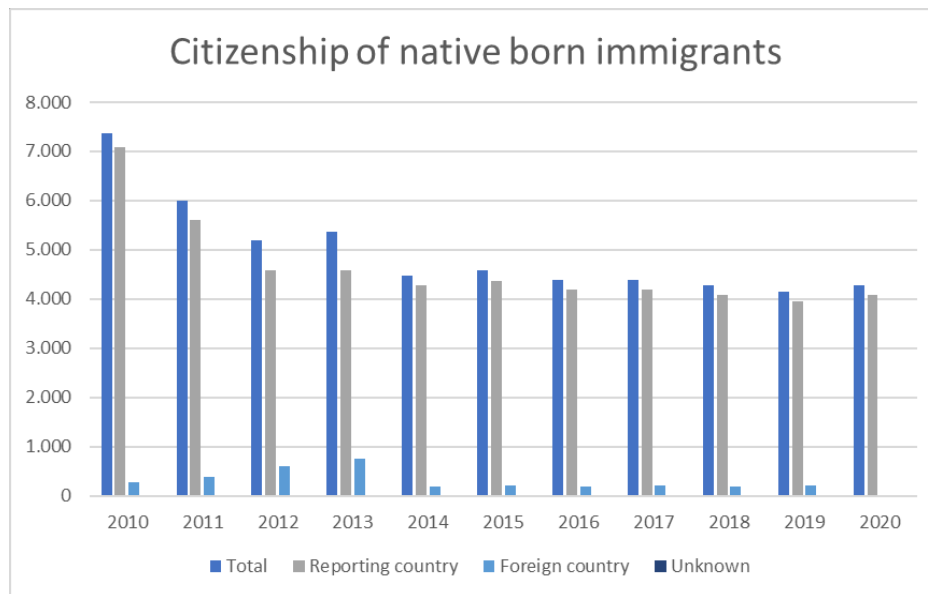
The majority of foreign born immigrants come from other countries than the selected ones (Ukraine, Morocco, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Eritrea).

Since 2017 the numbers are decreasing to then reach 2021 and reverse course, growing again. Especially between 2020 and 2021 there is the most significant change, represented by the arrival of more than 200.000 additional immigrants. To focus more on the single countries, Norway shows a stable presence of native born immigrants, in contrast with the numbers of Syrian born which fluctuates from almost nothing to a huge share in 2016, peak also shared by Afghani immigrants. Eritrea has a clear presence until 2017, a year from which the amount of people coming from this country start to decline to almost “disappear” from the graph.

3. IMMIGRANT STOCK BY CATEGORY

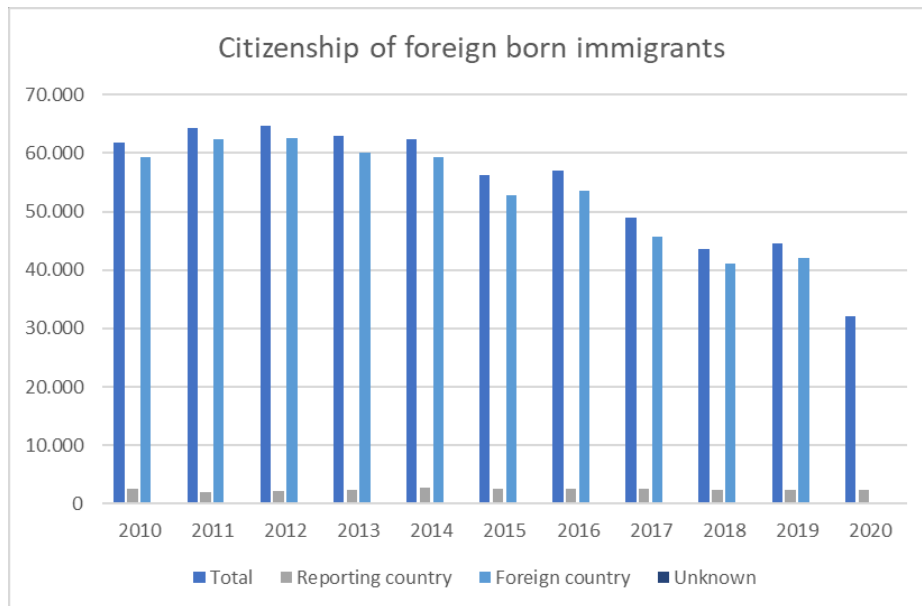
This part of the report analyses the immigrant stock by category in Norway on 1st January 2021.

To calculate the immigration stock divided by age, people born in Norway have been included, especially since this country accepts dual citizenship only from 2020. It's also important to underline that for 2021 there's no data for people born in Norway with Norwegian citizenship who are immigrants, since these numbers are available only up to 2020.



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM6CTZ]

The dataset shows us that since 2013 there is a harsh decline in the number of native born immigrants with foreign citizenship. In 2020 this data are not available anymore, maybe because of the recognition of dual citizenship.



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM6CTZ]

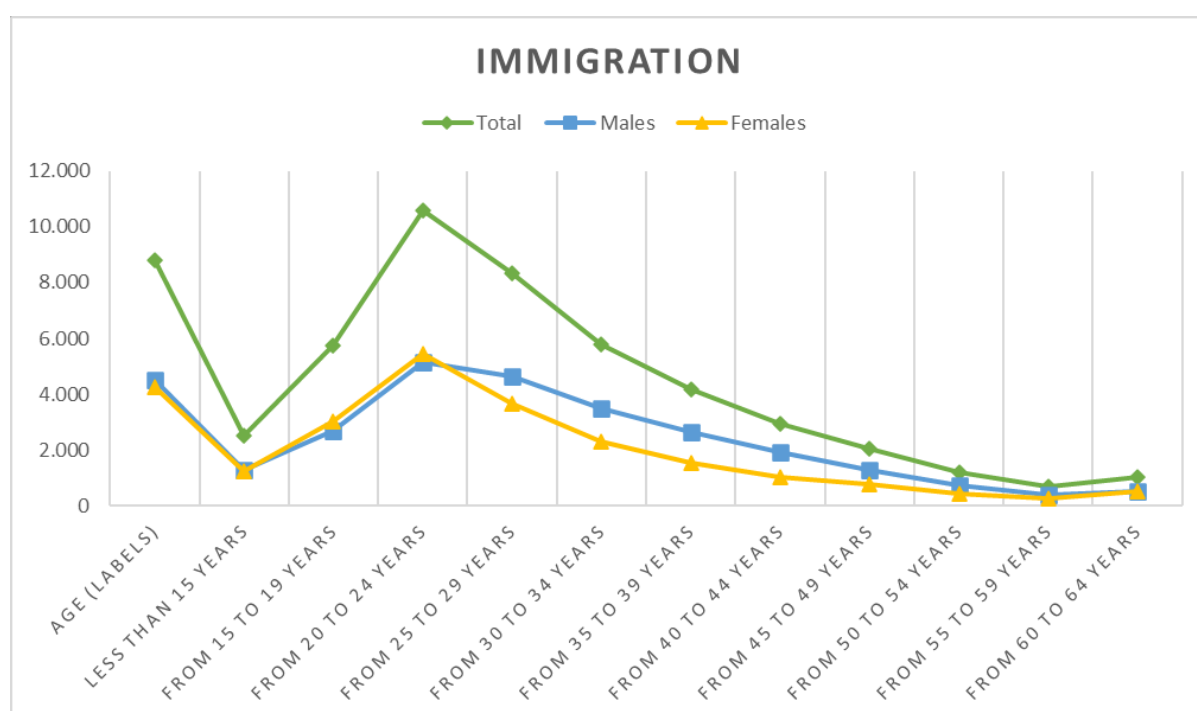
Instead, the graph presented above shows that the number of foreign born people having Norwegian citizenship is more or less stable during the years. Also significant to mention is 2017, when people with no citizenship or with an unknown one reached their peak with 37 people, while in 2012 they were only 3. Besides these information, is also possible to understand that the number of foreign born people with a foreign citizenship decreased from 2017, presenting the lowest immigration rate during these years, forecasting increase of this value (foreign born people without Norwegian citizenship), since the number of immigrants started to increase again after the pandemic period (2020).

3.1 Immigration stock by age and sex

Firstly, it is useful to divide the number of immigrants by gender (male and female) and age groups (less than 15, more than 65, and age groups of 5 years in between).

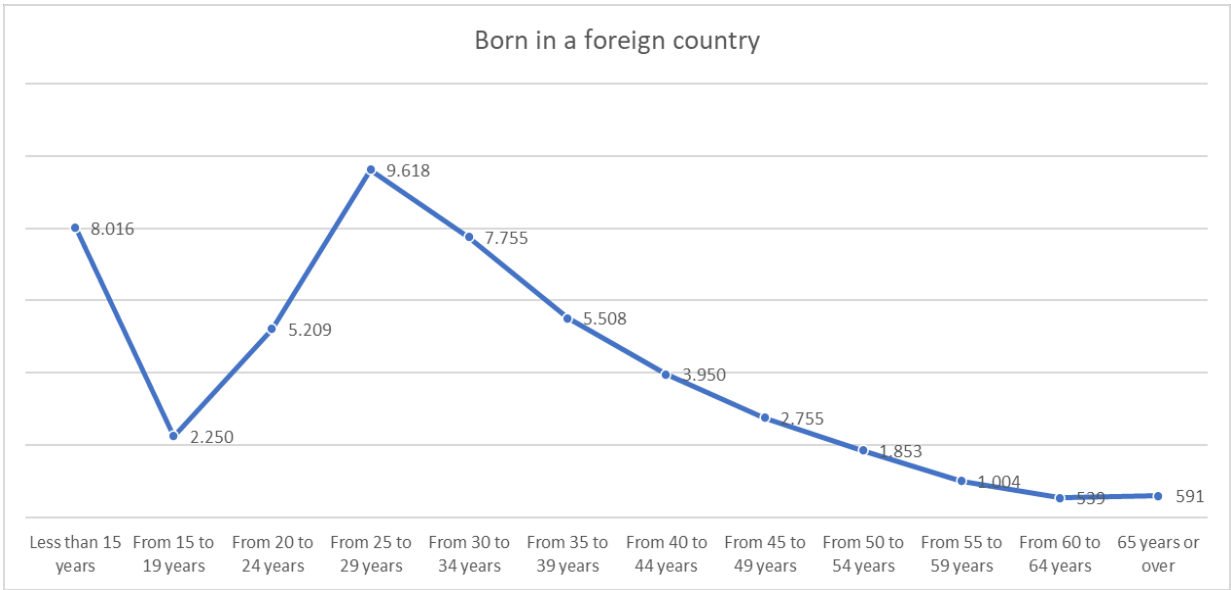
The majority of people who immigrate to Norway are potential labour force and are in general mostly young people, especially minors under 15 years and people aged 25-29 who represent a consistent part of the total.

Women are slightly more, or almost the same, as men in the age group 15-29. However, they are underrepresented after their 30s. As a matter of fact, between 25 and 35 females are decreasing faster than males to meet a balance again after turning 50-54 years old.

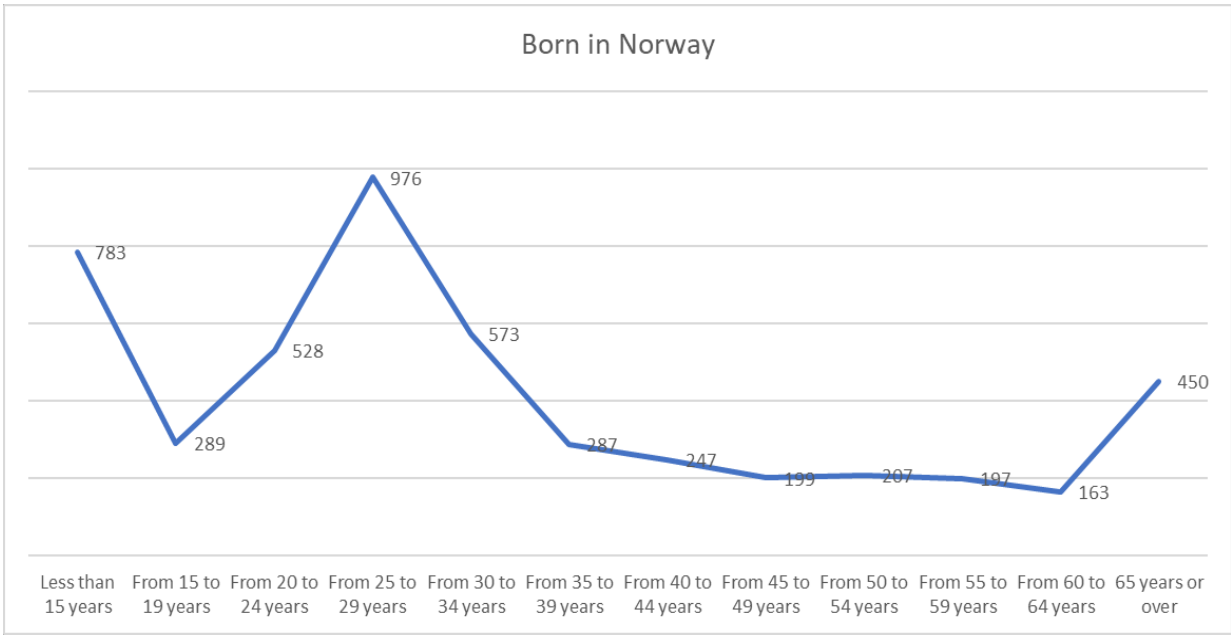


Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

The division between native and foreign born immigrants aims to show the increase of native born immigrants in their old age, probably for retirement and support, after a stationary period between people aged 45 and 64. This trend is different from the foreign born people who at this life stage are not increasing significantly as their native peers.



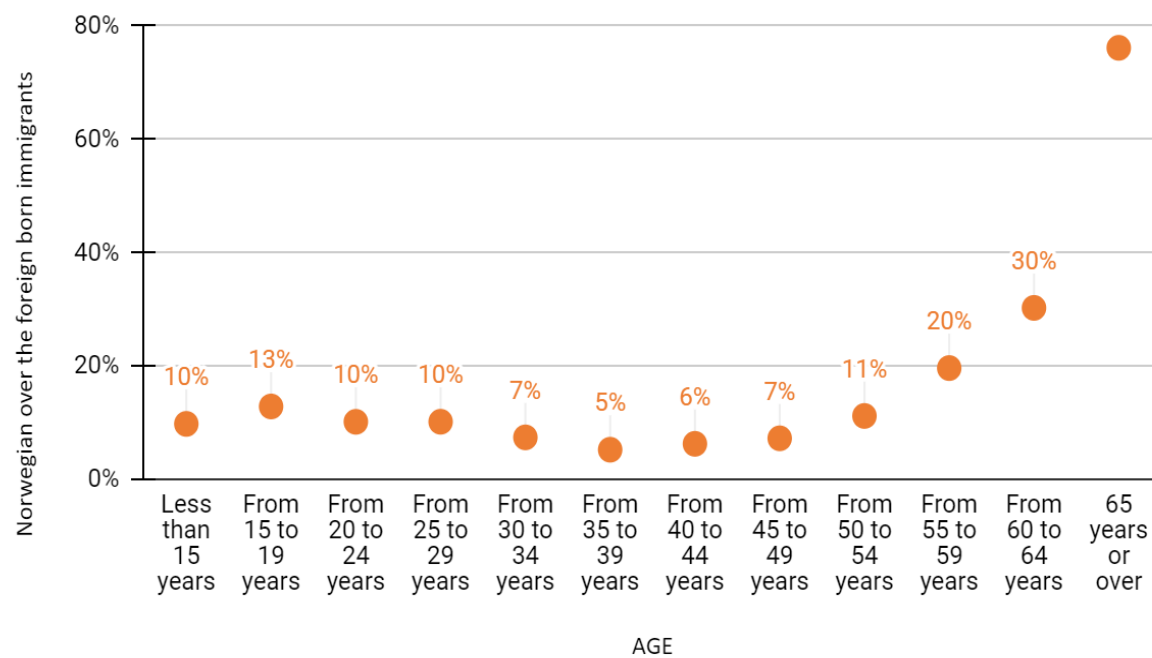
Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

However, it’s important to highlight that the number of foreign born is less increasing but is also represented by a huge presence, more or less ten times bigger than the amount of foreign born until the age group 50-54. In this sense is interesting the age group 65 years or over, where the amount of Norwegians is just one fourth less than the amount of foreign born immigrants.

Percentage of Norwegian immigrants over the foreign born ones



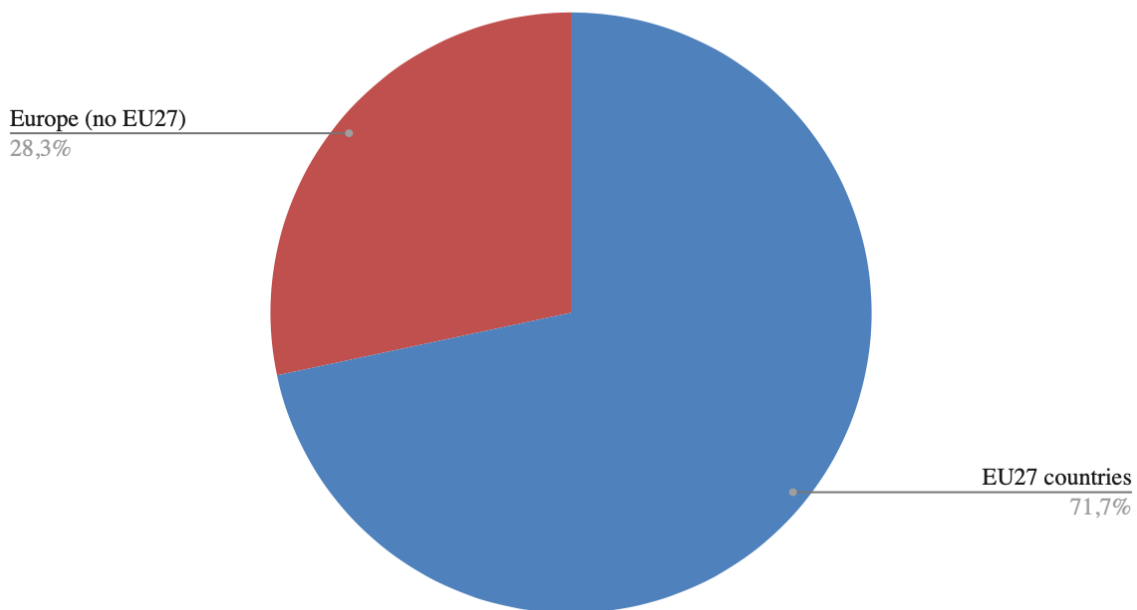
Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

3.2 Immigration stock by country of birth

In the following graphs, we see migrants sorted by their country of birth.

Firstly, since we noticed how the biggest part of immigrants comes from European countries, we focused on the distinction between people from EU countries and people from non-EU countries. The majority of people (24.960) come from EU 27 countries, while 9.873 people come from the European area.

Immigration stock by country of birth (European countries)



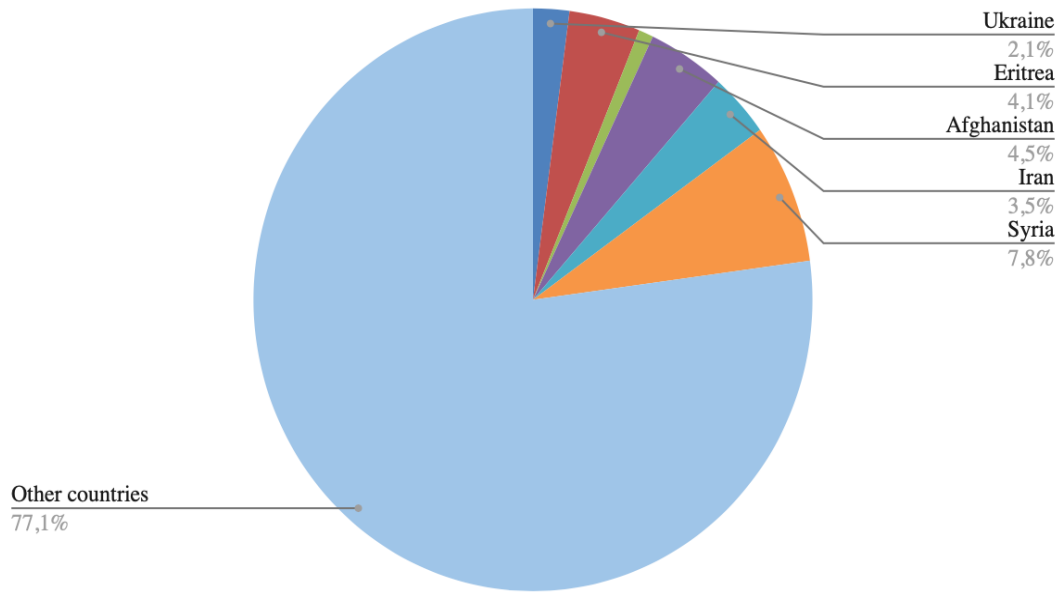
Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

Instead the following graph shows the number of migrants coming from non-European countries, which is 24.088.

As soon as we look at the graph, it is evident that the countries selected don't represent the majority of migrants coming from outside Europe, but make up only 23 % of the total share, with the 77% coming from other countries.

The biggest share of migrants from the selected countries is not surprisingly people coming from Syria (1.870) followed by Afghanis (1.084), Eritreans (991), Iranians (852) and lastly Ukrainians (504).

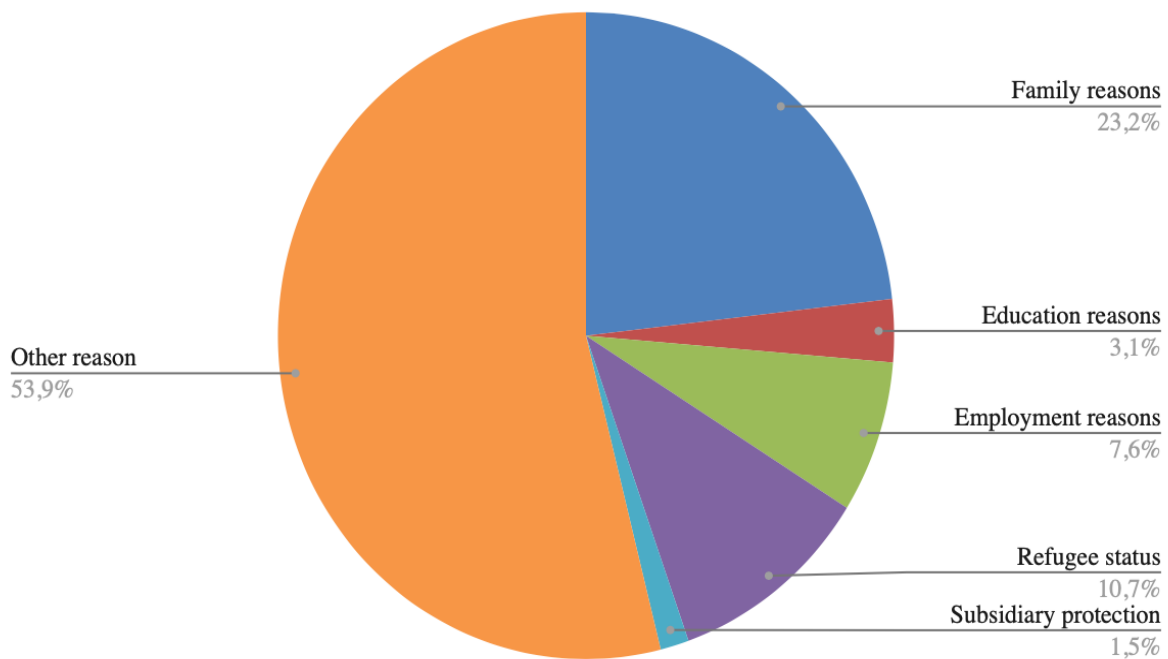
Immigrant stock by country of birth (non European countries)



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

3.3 Immigration stock by reason for migration

Immigration stock by reason for migration (2021)



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_RESVALID]

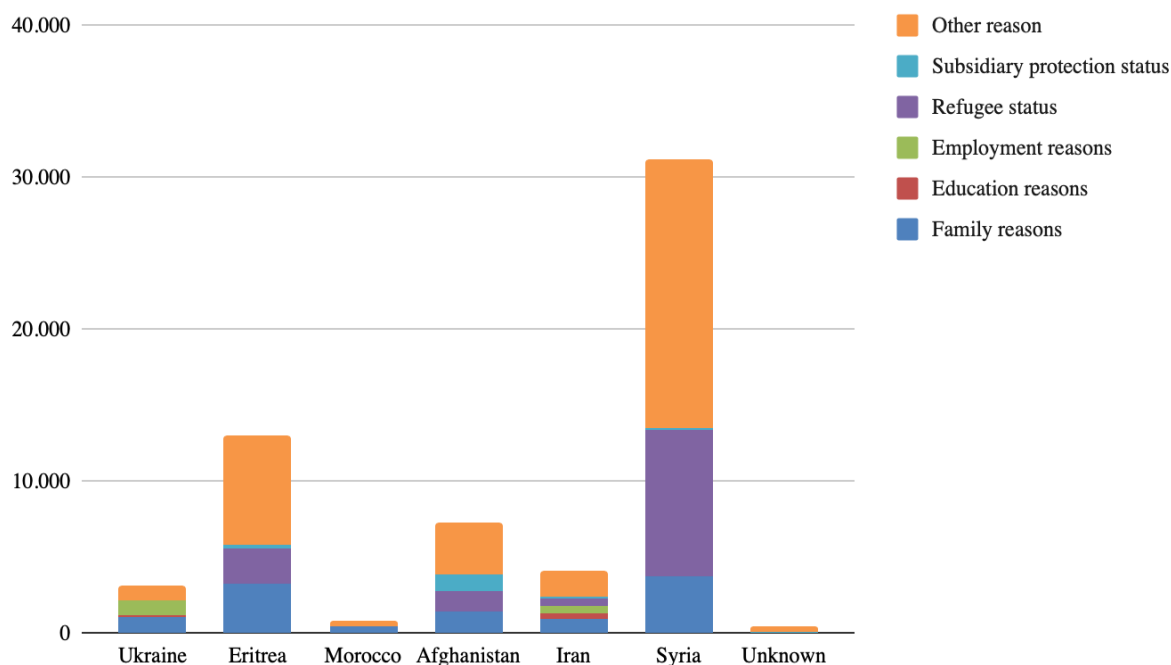
In order to analyse the reasons for migration we have used the data in the analytical category of “All valid residence permits” without selection of citizenship. As we can see in the chart the first cause of migration into Norway is “other reasons”, followed by family reunification and refugee status.

The majority of valid permits are for 12 months or over. The 53,9% are for “other reason”, then the 23,2% are for family reason, the 7,8% are for employment reason and the 3,1% are for education reason. Refugee status and subsidiary protection represent the 10,7% in which Eritrean and Syrian refugees are an important slice of the cake, and 1,5% consist of subsidiary protection of all reasons to migrate.

However, as it's shown in the next graph, if one looks at the data linking the reason for requested permit and citizenship, it is clear that “other reasons” occupy a large space within the two countries, bigger than the refugee reason.

The employment reason share is not significant as for example the refugee status, in fact the work migration is more evident for Ukrainians who come from Europe.

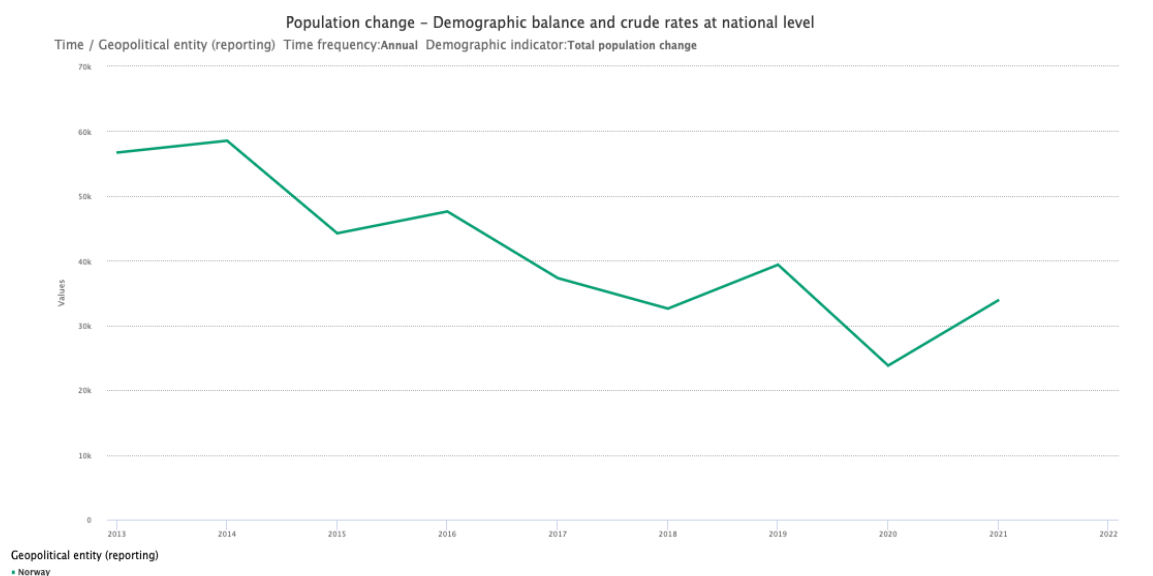
Immigration stock by citizenship and reason for migration (2021)



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_RESVALID]

4. POPULATION GROWTH

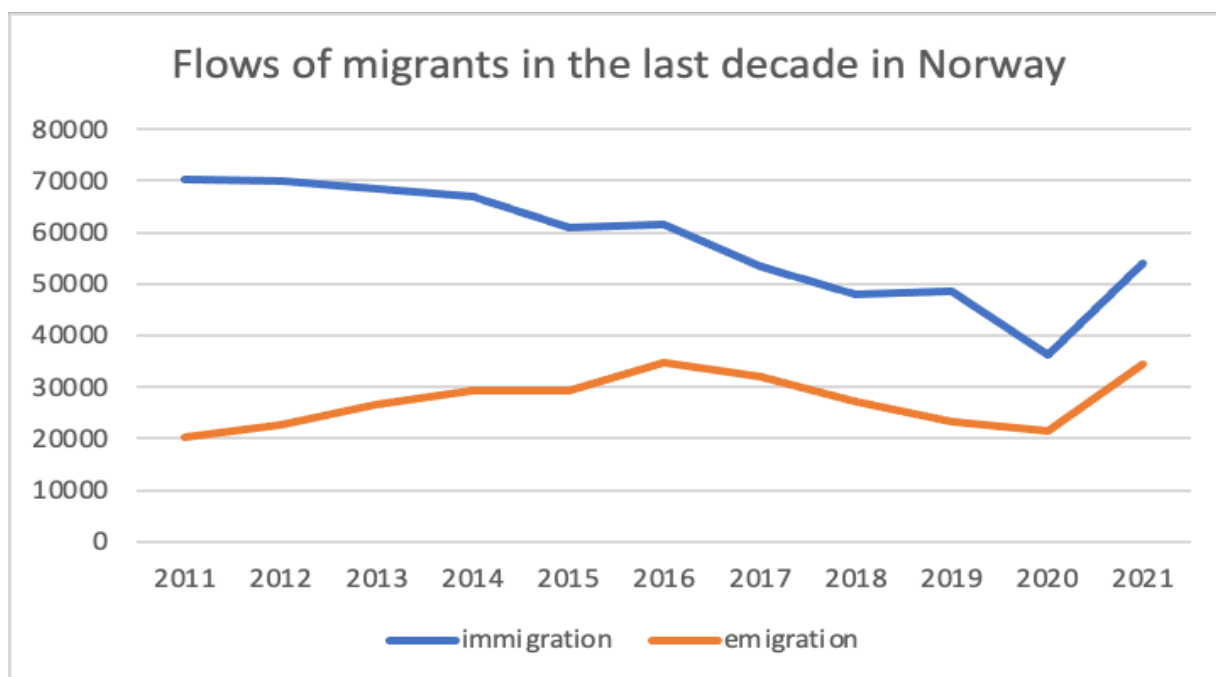
Population growth is the difference in population size on 1st January of two consecutive years. The population change, whether positive or negative, consists of natural change (ie. Births and Deaths) and net migration.



Dataset: EUROSTAT [DEMO_GIND]

In 2021 the rate of population growth was by 0.63%. The rate is positive, so we can say that the population has increased by 0.63%. The estimated growth rate for 2022 is by 0.46%. The total population growth in three years has decreased from 32593 people in 2018 to 24812 in 2021.

5. FLOW OF MIGRANTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS



Dataset: EUROSTAT [migr_imm8], [migr_emi2].

The immigration flow is larger than the emigration one.

At the beginning of the decade, the flow of immigration was at the highest point of the graph, with 70.337 migrants. During the following years the number started to decrease. Since 2013, the Progress Party and the Conservative Party, both in government, have introduced restrictive measures to decrease the number of economic migrants arriving in the country.

Between 2015 and 2020 the flow was decreasing, except for 2016 when there were 644 more than in 2015.

The lower point was reached in 2020, with 36.287 migrants, but then in 2021 there was an increase of the number of immigrants.

The emigration flow, in reverse, has been increasing since 2011. Between 2014 and 2015 it was stable. In 2016 there was the highest point of emigration, with 34.694 migrants, then the flow began to decrease until 2020.

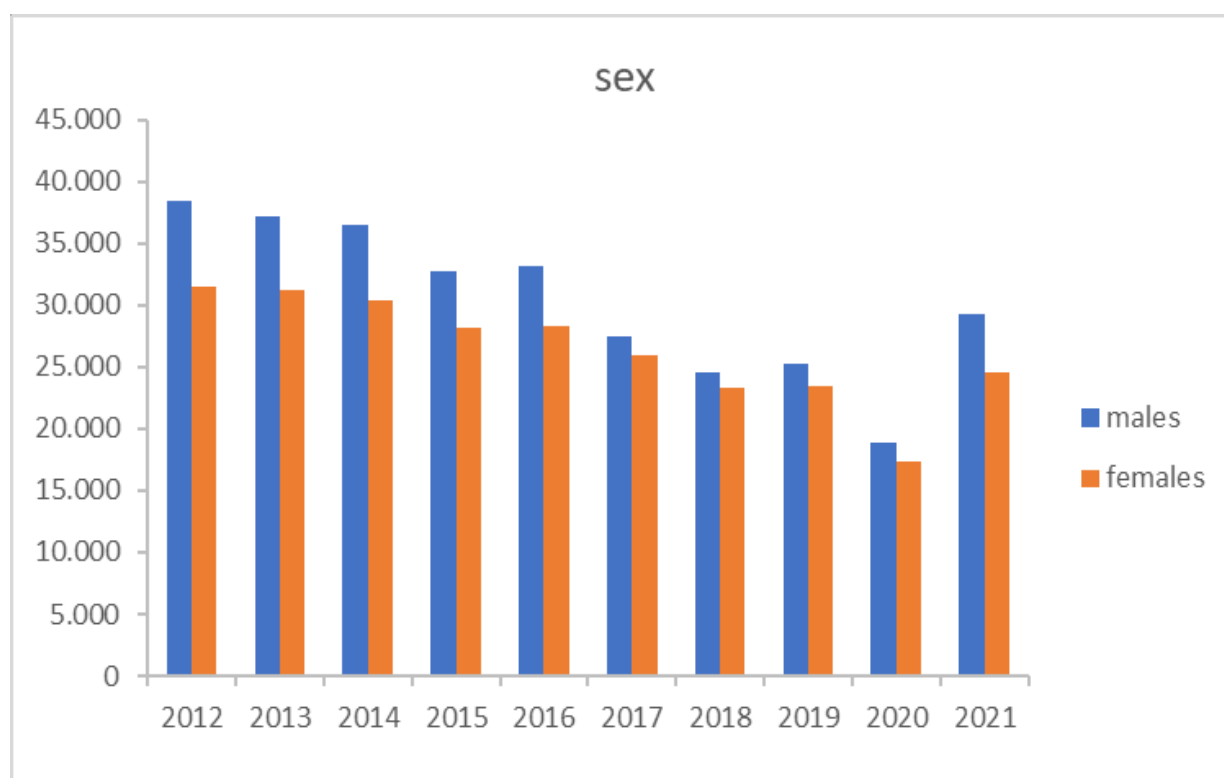
In 2021 instead the number of migrants reached 34.297, 12850 migrants more than in 2020.

The gap between outflows and inflows narrowed only in 2017.

The final migratory balance remains positive throughout the decade.

6. IMMIGRATION FLOW

6.1 Immigration by sex in the last decade in Norway

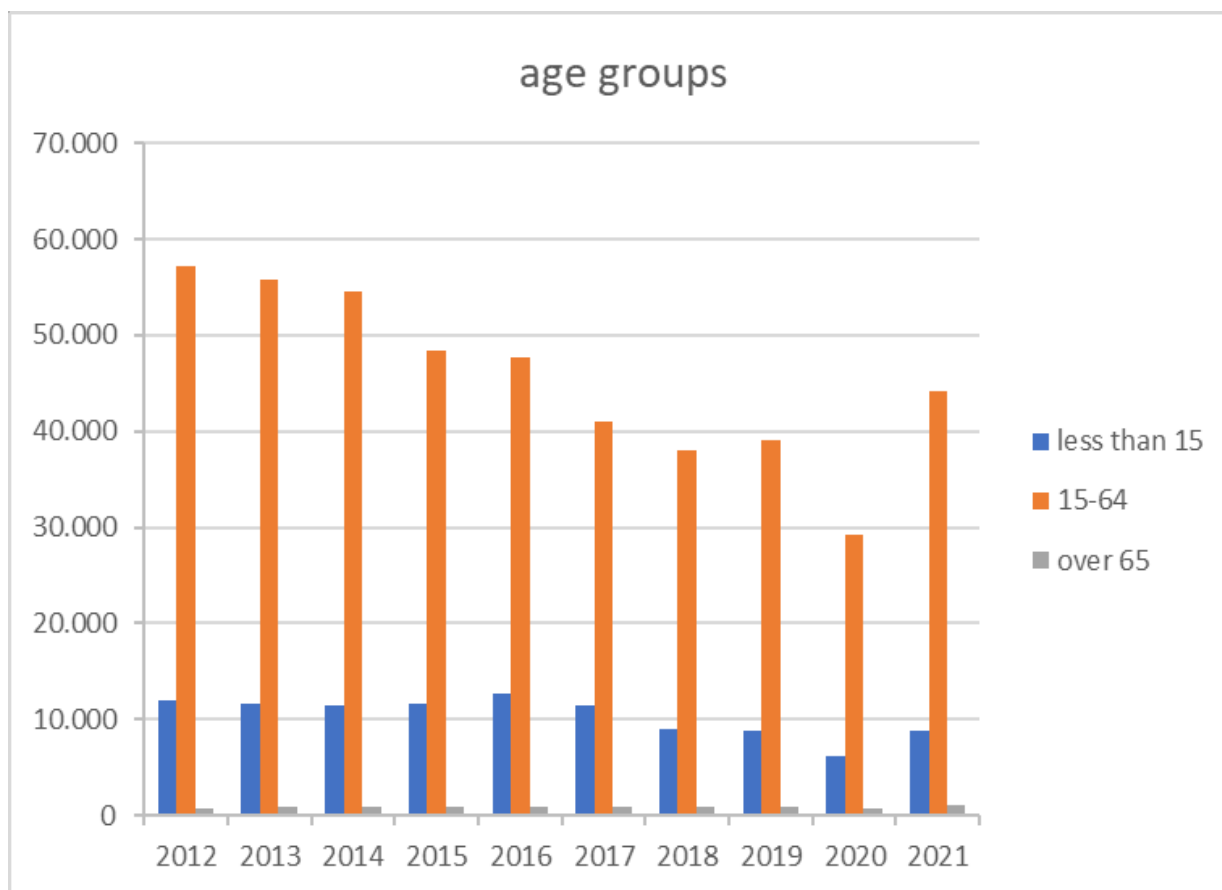


Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM4CTB]

In the last 10 years the immigrants flows of males and females have followed the same trend, rising and decreasing together and in a quite proportional way between the two, the gap not that large between the two categories and we can observe a decreasing trend, with the female immigration number coming closer to the male one (except for a bigger gap observed again in year 2021).

The immigration trend decreased slowly during the years from 2012 to 2018. In 2019 we see a rising trend which continued in 2021, interrupted only in 2020 by the global pandemic, which restricted movement of migrants. The male immigration flow has been constantly higher than the female one. The years with more migrants, both males and females, is 2012: with 31.493 female immigrants and 38.415 male immigrants registered.

6.2 Immigration by age group in the last decade in Norway

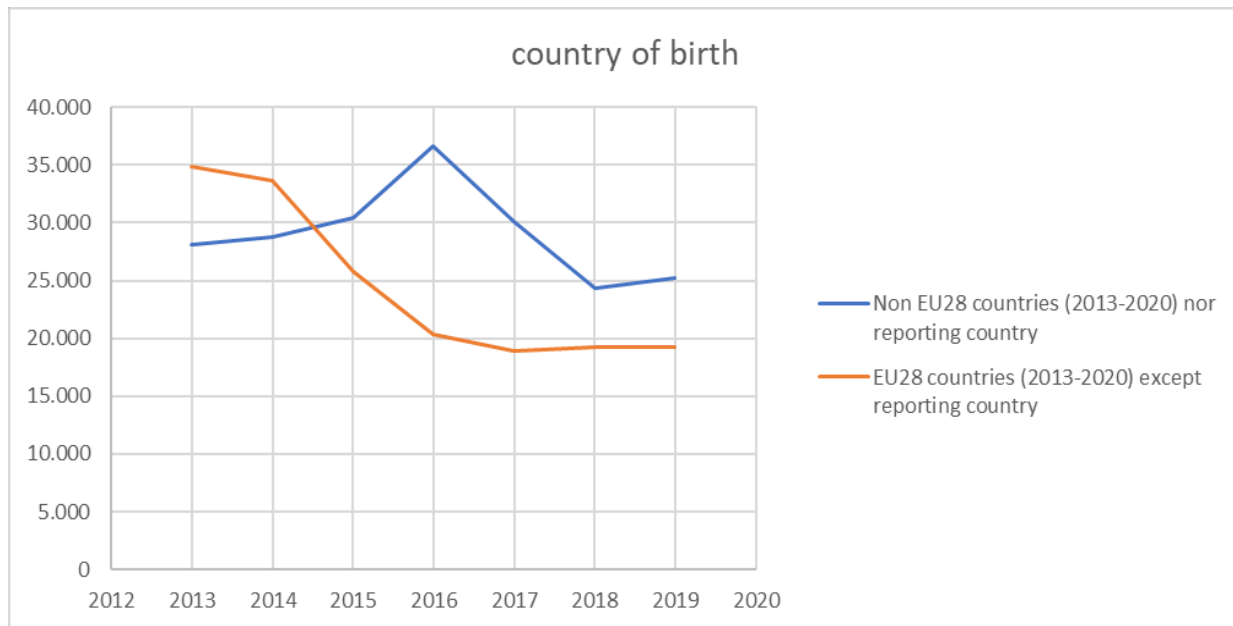


Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

The three age groups have followed a constant trend during the last 10 years, with the large predominance of the age group of people between 15 and 64 years old, considered as active people in a work perspective.

The second larger range is the one formed by minors with less than 15 years, the flow has always maintained a gap of more or less 40.000 people with the highest one, with a peak of 12.750 people in 2016, followed by a decrease in the last 5 years. The peak of minors does not correspond to a peak with the highest range, 16-64, which has its peak in 2012, with 57.172 immigrants. The range of people that are over 65 years old is very steady as a trend and with very small numbers, with 10.041 as the higher number of immigrants in 2021.

6.3 Immigration by country of birth in the last decade in norway

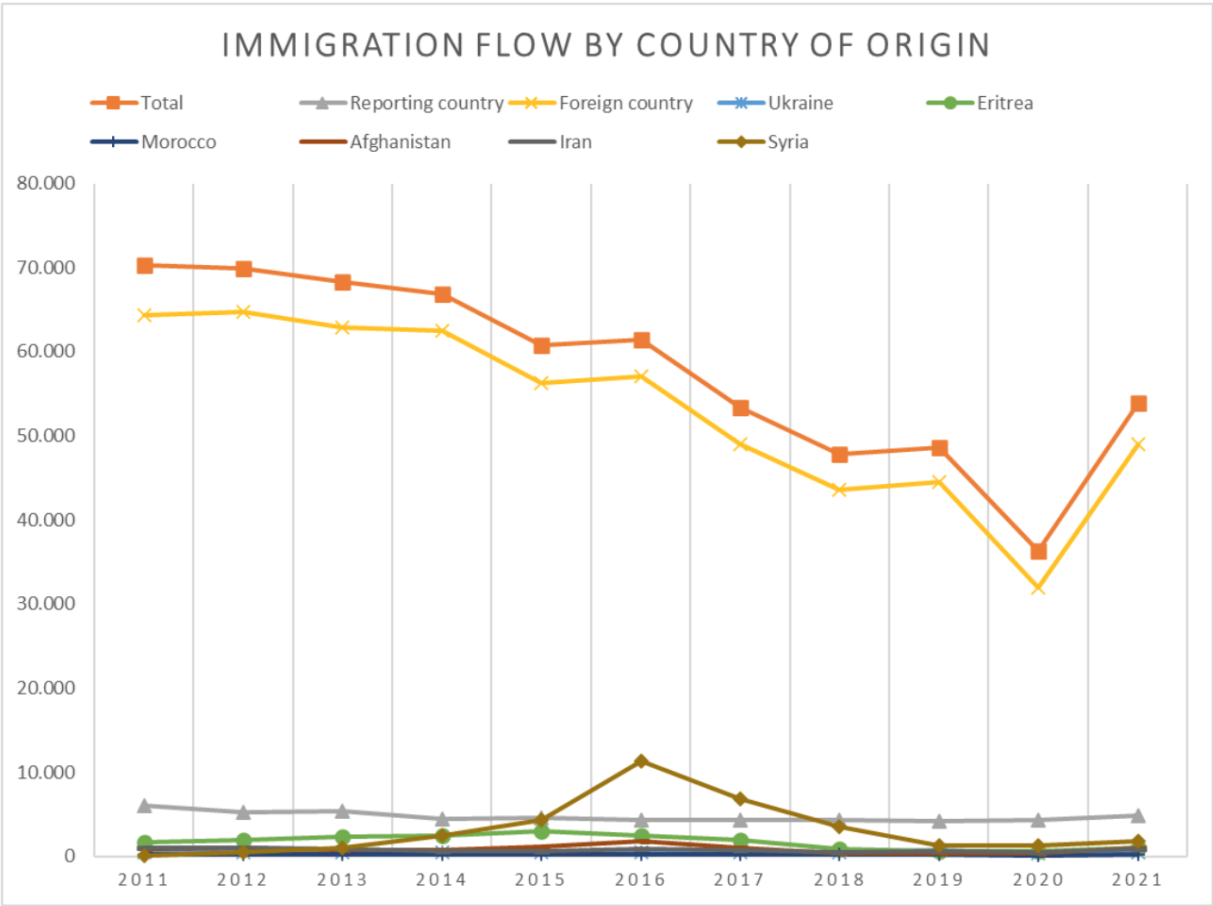


Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

Concerning the country of birth of immigrants in Norway in the last decade, we can observe a lack of data up until 2013 and for the years 2020 and 2021.

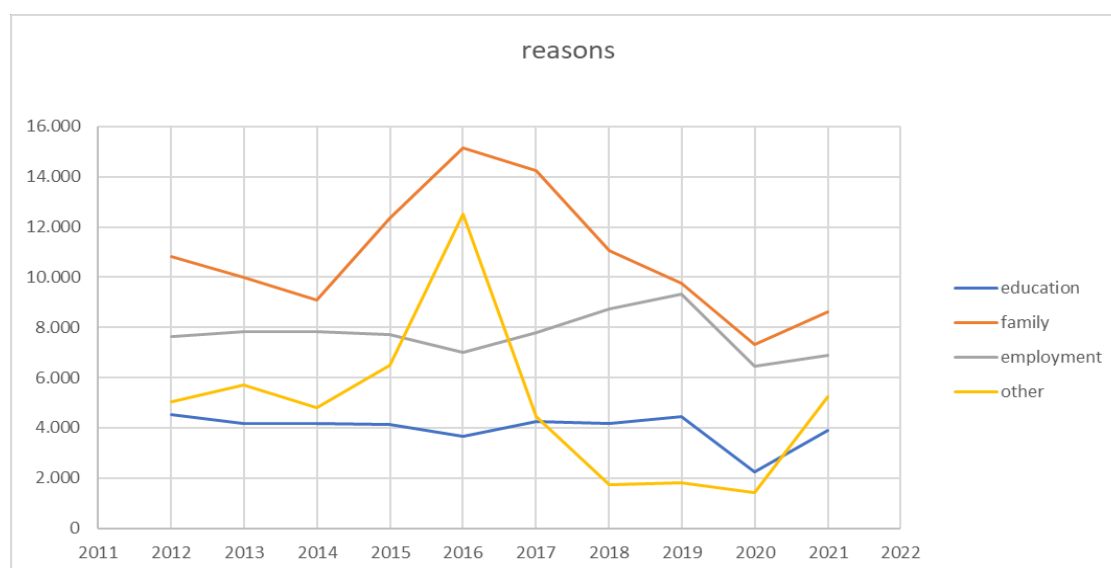
Nonetheless, we can observe that from 2013 to 2015 the main immigration movement was from EU nationals, especially from Poland, with more or less 10.000 immigrants per year during 2012, 2013 and 2014. The large movement from Poland and other eastern European countries was due to the expansion of the European Union in 2004, with its consequent freedom of movement. The EU-28 national number decreased from 2014, stabilising around the amount of 20.000 people a year from 2016 to 2019.

While a different phenomenon occurs for the non-EU 28 nationals, increasing from 2013 and surpassing the EU nationals number in 2015. The non-EU 28 immigration flow increased until 2016, with a peak of 36.686 people, a large part of them -11.311 people- arriving from Syria, due to the civil war. The non-EU 28 immigrants then decreased, with a rising trend from 2018 to 2019, and always keeping a higher rate compared to the EU nationals.



Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

6.4 Immigration by reason in the last decade in Norway



Dataset: EUROSTAT [migr_resfirst]

As shown from the table above, the main reason of immigration towards Norway has been family, meaning in most of the cases that a family reunification has been asked to enter to country, to join an already resident relative, family reunification is often used to enter a country because it is way easier than apply for a job permit, especially for a third country national. Family reasons have known a peak in 2016, decreasing afterwards but remaining the main reason. This obviously follows the trend of people moving to Norway, the more the immigrants the more the family reunification required. The “other reason” follows the “family” flow but with a large gap from it, except for 2016, this is probably because of the refugee permits allowed in 2016 due to the Syrian crisis. Employment can be identified as the second reason of immigration, although it has been surpassed by a peak of “others” in 2016, it remains stable during the decade as one of the main reasons. Education follows a very similar trend, being quite stable during the last 10 years, but with lower numbers compared to employment. They both had their peak In 2019, respectively with 9.311 immigrants for employment reasons and 4.464 immigrants for education reasons.

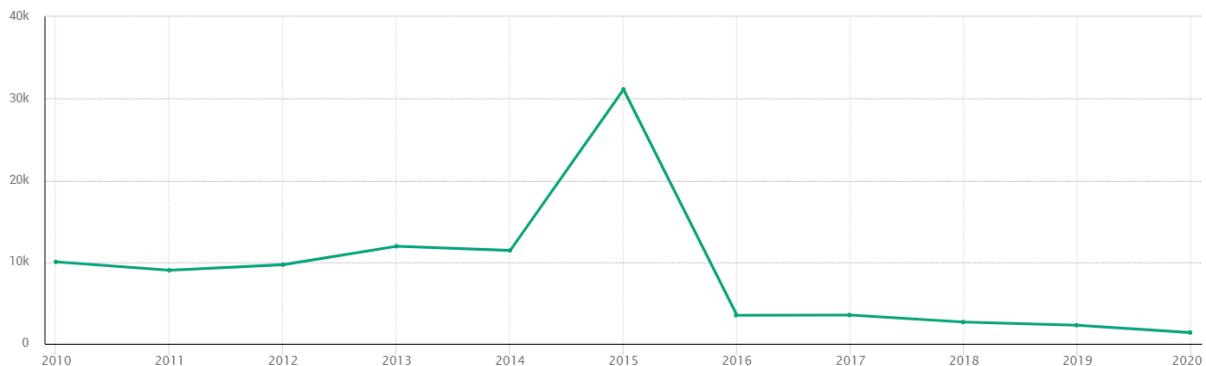
7. TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES

The graph below illustrates the variation of asylum seekers' number in Norway through the years. The result obtained takes into consideration all valid refugee status per year.

The table is very interesting for at least two reasons.

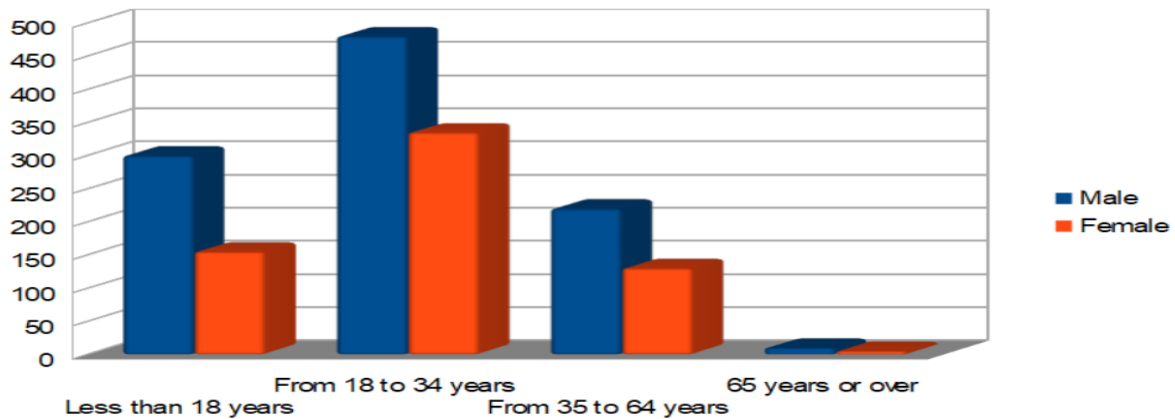
First, we can see that in 2015 Norway received a huge number of asylum applications. Deepening the analysis, one can easily understand what this growth is due to: 2015 was the apex of ISIS activity in Syria and Iraq and, as result of this, thousands of people fled from these territories. In this year, more than 31.115 people obtained refugee status from Norway, of whom 10.565 were from Syria and 3.000 from Iraq.

Secondly, after 2015, the number of permits released by Norway has dramatically decreased.



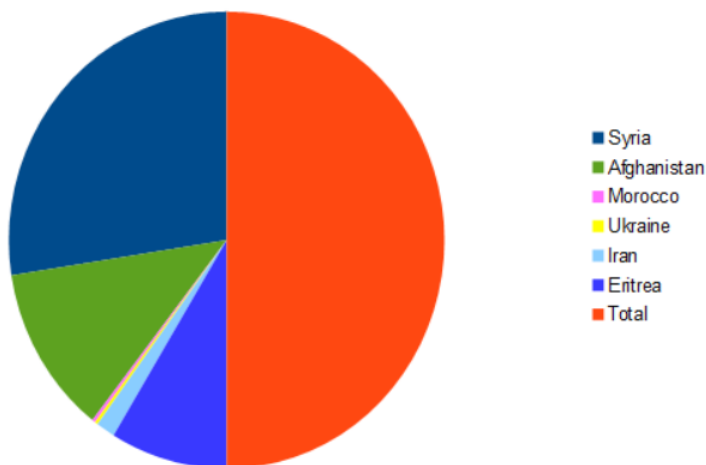
Dataset: EUROSTAT [migr_asyappctza]

7.1 Asylum seekers by age and sex



Dataset: EUROSTAT [migr_asyappctza]

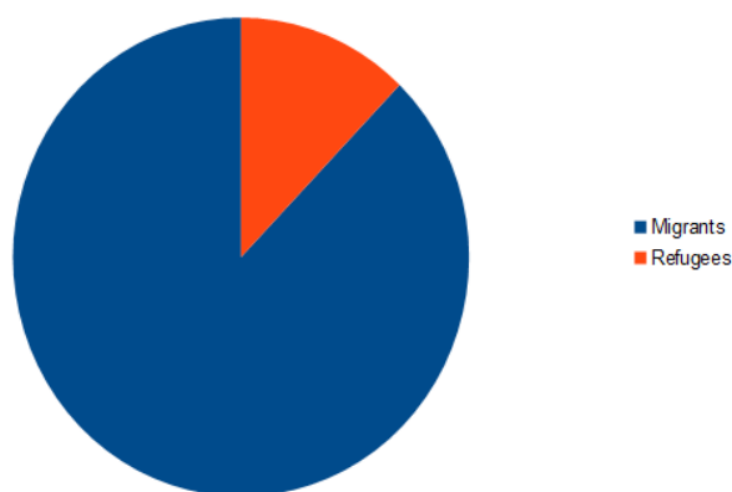
This graph describes instead the breakdown by gender and age of the refugees in 2021. It is clear how the largest number of asylum seekers are males between 18 and 34 years old. It's equally clear how people in their 60s are unlikely to make a significant number in refugee flows. The most striking result of this graph is, however, that males are always the most significant percentage of asylum seekers.



Dataset: EUROSTAT [migr_asyappctza]

In 2021, out of 1.065 migrants, 255 came from Afghanistan, 585 from Syria, 185 from Eritrea, 5 from Morocco, 5 from Ukraine and 30 from Iran.

8. SHARE OF REFUGEES ON TOTAL MIGRATION

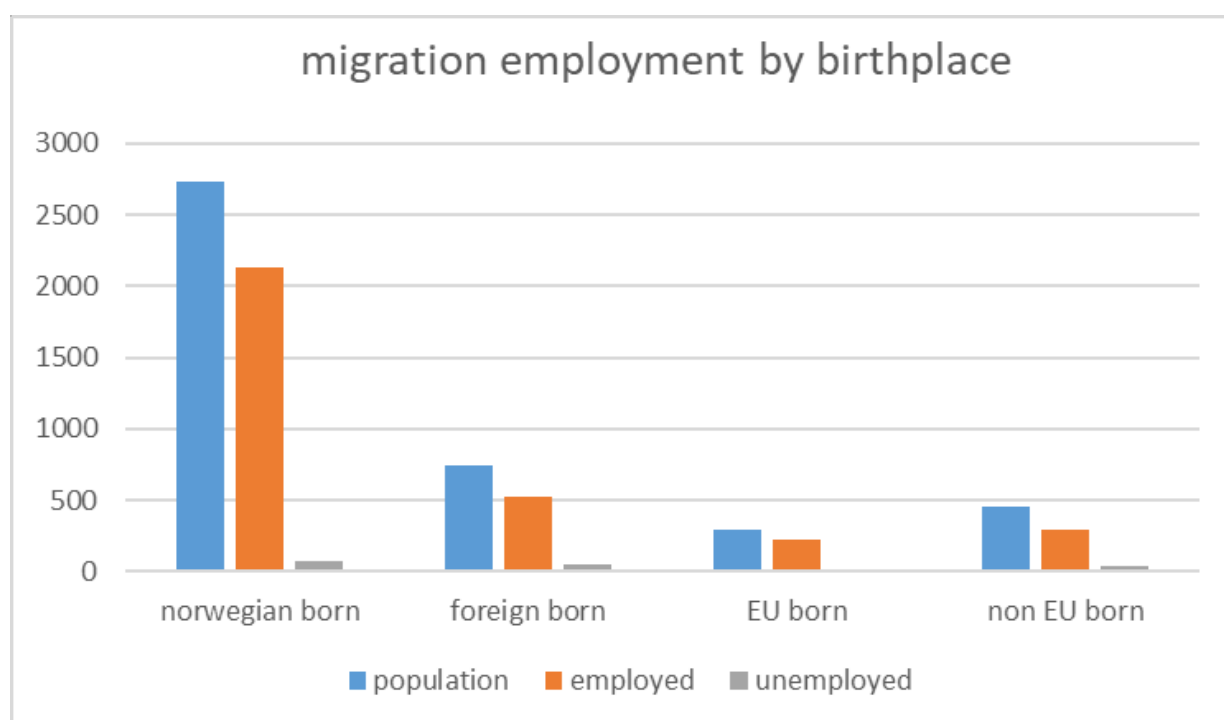


Dataset: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB_custom_5655944]

In Norway, the share of asylum seekers on total migration is 13.9%. In numbers this means that, from 2012 to 2020, out of 567.529 migrants, less than 80.000 were refugees.

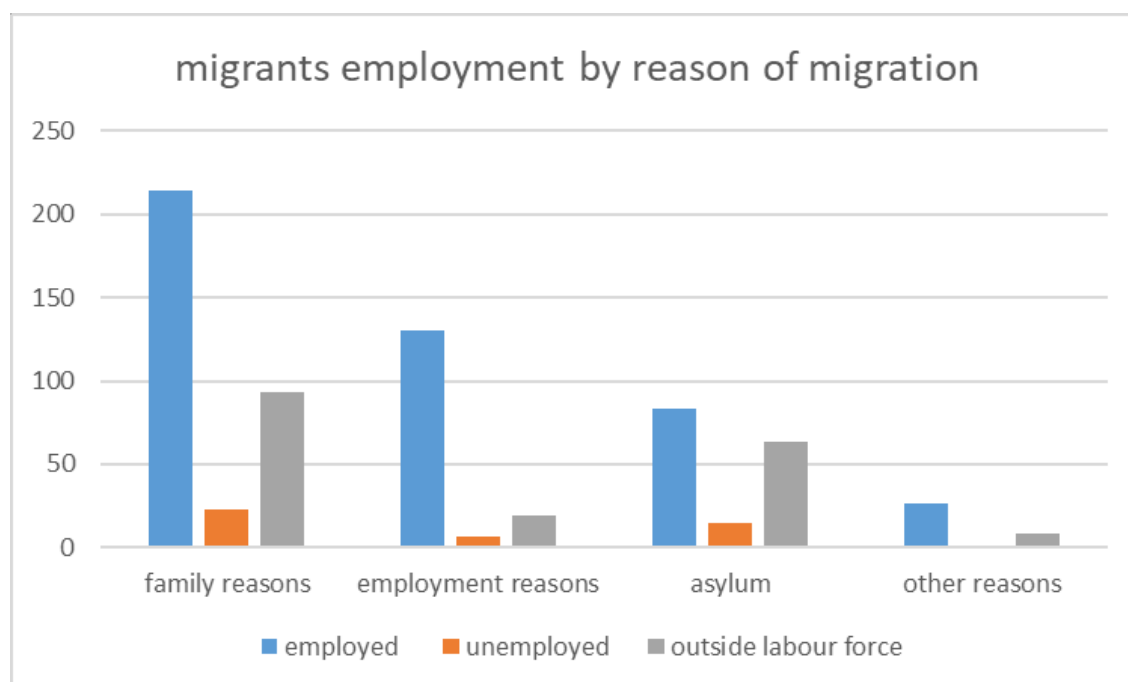
9. MIGRANTS' INTEGRATION INDICATORS EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

On a foreign born people stock amounting to more than 700 thousand people, in 2021, we can derive from the table below, how 500 thousands of these people were employed during 2021, while just 28 thousands of them resulted unemployed. Among these foreign born people, 174,9 thousands of them were born outside the 27 states belonging to European Union, and 155,6 were employed in 2021, while the number of people born in member states of the EU resulted to be 136 thousands, and 127 thousands of them resulted employed, that is to say the vast majority of them.



Dataset: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PGACWS]

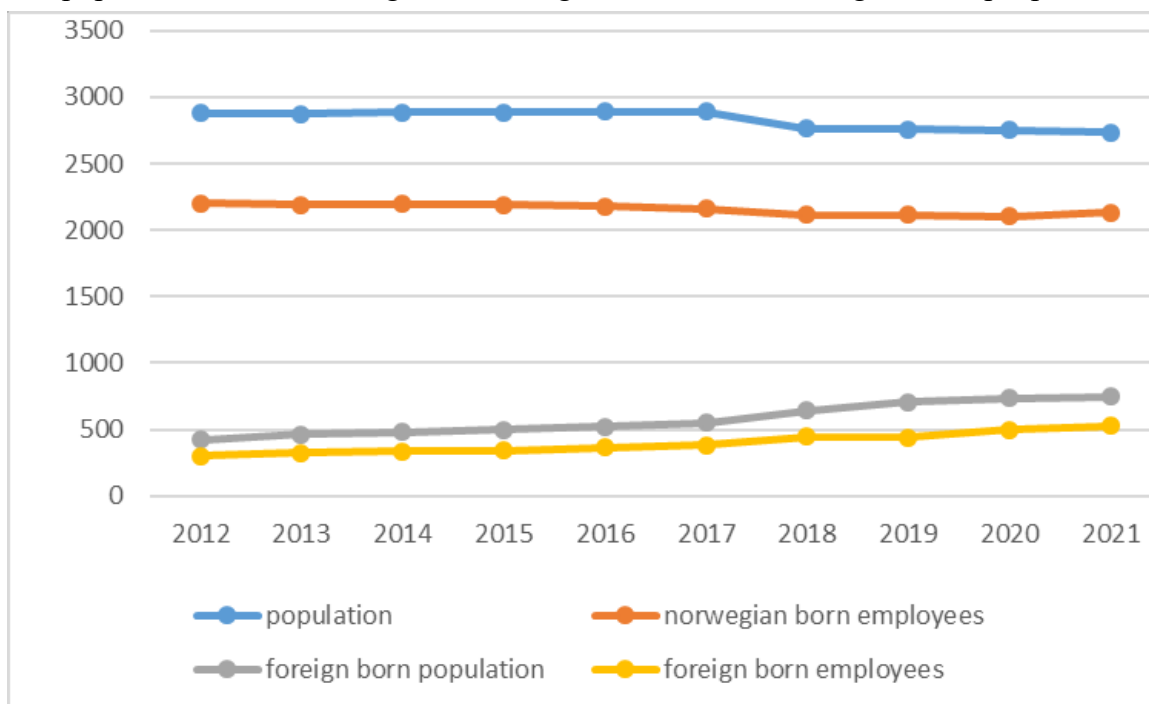
The following table shows how the majority of migrants were employed in 2021, and may be important to notice how, despite the very low unemployment percentage, the number is even lower when the reason to migrate is employment itself. The highest percentage of employed among foreign born, results to be migrating for family reasons. This reflects the previous table showing how family reasons are among the principal ones for people migrating to Norway. No data were shown on unemployment for people who migrated for “other reasons”.



Dataset: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PFGANWSM]

Despite the migrant inflow since 2015, the employment rates decreased slightly almost proportionally to the demographic decrease. In the same years we can anyway register a slight increase in the foreign

born population, which brought to a slight increase of foreign born people's employment.



Dataset: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PGACWS]

Conclusion

According to data from Eurostat, Norway has experienced an increase in asylum applications from non-EU countries, despite being a country of relatively recent immigration with little growth in the migrant population over the past decade.

Male migrants make up a larger percentage than females, with a significant number of adult migrants in the workforce choosing Norway as their destination country.

While the "other" category, including diplomatic reasons, pensioners, and non-asylum permits, has increased, family remains the primary reason for migration, followed by remunerated activities, education, refugee status, and subsidiary protection.

Immigration is a contentious topic in Europe, with each country adopting different approaches to integration. In Norway, immigrants must have a job offer to enter the country, and refugees are required to attend rigorous two-year courses in Norwegian language, civic, historical, and cultural knowledge. The government provides financial support, including 71% of the basic salary and social assistance, and focuses on integrating refugees into the workforce, with 60% finding employment within the first five years of resettlement.

We also observe that between 2019 and 2020 the number of refugees has decreased, probably due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, 750 people have applied for asylum.

Norway granted temporary collective protection for refugees; this means that they are granted a residence permit in Norway for one year at a time.

Norway has a reputation as a welcoming country for those seeking refuge from abuse and injustice and is viewed as a model of integration by many European nations.

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