

JEAN MONNET CHAIR EUROPEAN MIGRATION STUDIES

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REPORTS PRESENTATION

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MIGRATION IN THE NETHERLANDS

Country Report 2022-23



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Abstract

The present document is a report about migration in one specific country of destination of the European Union. It has been chosen the Netherlands because of its long tradition of welcoming migrants from around the world in its centuries of history.

The data reported in this document are collected mainly from the database Eurostat, with some lacking information retrieved from the UNHCR database. In order to properly analyze the effect of people moving from and towards the chosen State, it has been decided to consider a specific period of years, from 2012 to 2022. In certain cases, where specified in the report, it has not been possible to present all the necessary data due to the main database not being updated yet with the most recent numbers.

The report is organized in three main parts, each of which explore a particular aspect of migration. It is utmost relevant to mention the general trends that emerged from the study.

Firstly, considering the stocks – number of migrants living in a country at a given time – population and migration have grown. In particular, immigrants have kept increasing in number with the exception of 2020.

Secondly, concerning the flows – number of migrants who move in a period of time – the number of immigrants arriving in the Netherlands has always grown with only a trend reversal between 2019 and 2020. Indeed, the number of immigrants contributes considerably to the population growth.

Thirdly, the numbers of refugees have been constantly high with a substantial peak in 2022. As regard the asylum seekers' trend, it has been more irregular especially after 2015.

Lastly, the employment rate of immigrants is high with low occupational differences by gender.

The data have been studied by posing attention to the social characteristic of migrants, that are sex, age and reason to move. While researching, it has been found meaningful to put also in evidence what collected from five countries of origin: Türkiye, being the first country for immigration in the Netherlands; Morocco, also relevant for its numbers; Ukraine, Iran and Afghanistan specifically in relation to the last political events.

Part I

In this first section, the changes relative to the growing population of the Netherlands are analyzed by looking in particular at the stocks of migrants. Firstly, it presents a general look at the population stocks of the last few years. Secondly, it presents a deeper look at the stock of migrants, by examining the specifics of immigrants.

1.1 Stock of population

In this paragraph, it is shown how the population has grown in recent years, from a total of over 16 million people in 2012 to over a little 17 million people in 2022. The increase is each year quite small but stable, from a range of 0.29% to a maximum of 0.7%. In the considered period of ten years, it registered a total increase of 5.14% in population.

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
0.294	0.296	0.424	0.463	0.603	0.583	0.588	0.726	0.389	0.659
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

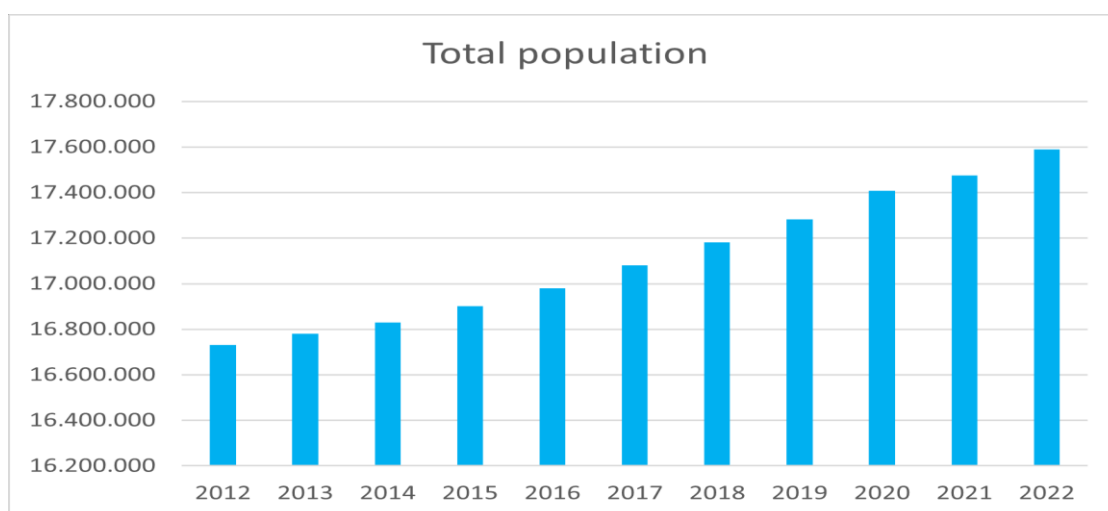


TABLE 1) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [DEMO_PJAN]

1.2 Stock of migrants in 10 years

In this paragraph, it is shown how the number of migrants has grown in recent years. Even in this case, the increase registered is quite stable over the years, with a total rise of the phenomena of 33.77%.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	+1.12%	+1.33%	+2.19%	+3.01%	+3.92%	+3.68%	+3.74%	+4.40%	+2.14%	+4.07%
1.906.295	1.927.728	1.953.436	1.996.318	2.056.520	2.137.234	2.215.849	2.298.705	2.399.804	2.451.157	2.550.083

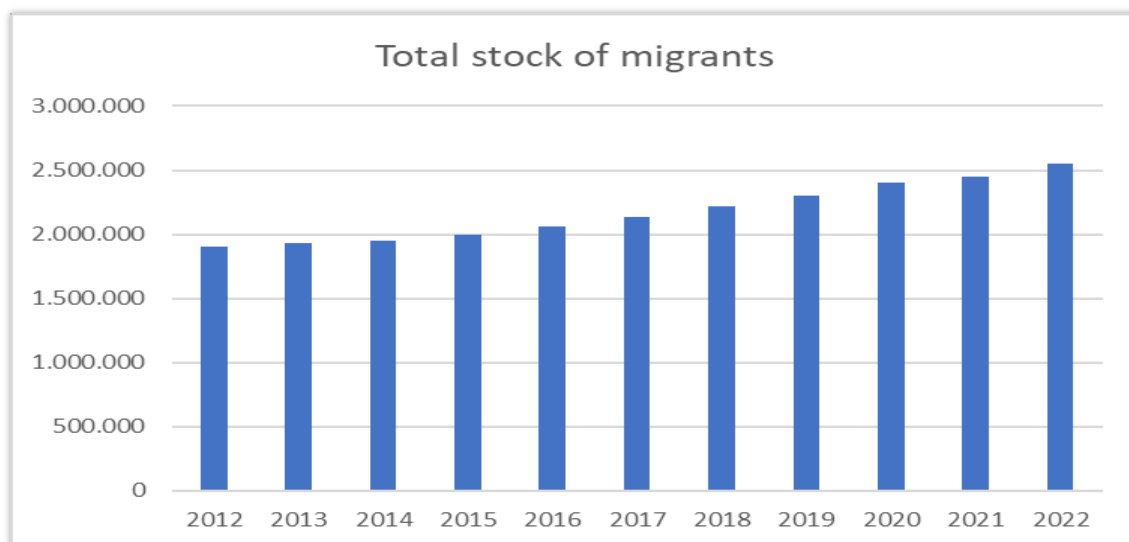


TABLE 2) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_POP3CTB]

1.3 Stock of immigrants

In this paragraph, the stocks of immigrants are analyzed by looking at their specifics: sex, age, country of birth and reasons to migrate.

1.3.1 Stock of immigrants by continents

The following graph shows the stock of immigrants by continent of origin in the Netherlands from 2012 to 2021. It is evident that most of the immigrants come from Europe, and they have increased mainly since 2016. The other large majority of immigrants come from Asia. Asian immigrants have almost doubled between 2015 and 2016, but in the last few years they have started decreasing. Furthermore, considering the most recent years, immigrants from South America increased in 2019 and 2020, even though they still represent a minority. Lastly, even

the number of immigrants from Africa increased, while the number of immigrants from Northern America and Oceania remained constant and consisted only in a few thousands of individuals.

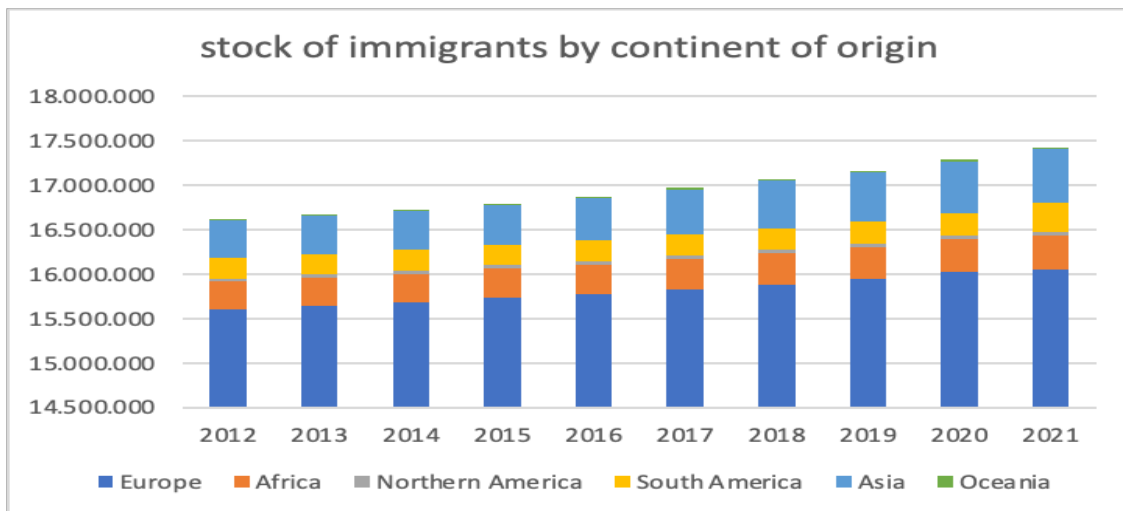


TABLE 3) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_POP3CTB]

1.3.2 Stock of immigrants by sex

The graph shows the gender distribution of the stock of immigrants in the Netherlands for each year considered. There are more females than male immigrants, despite the difference not being significant. Indeed, females are always more than males by just a few thousand people, but, in particular in the last two years, the difference seems less than in the other years considered.

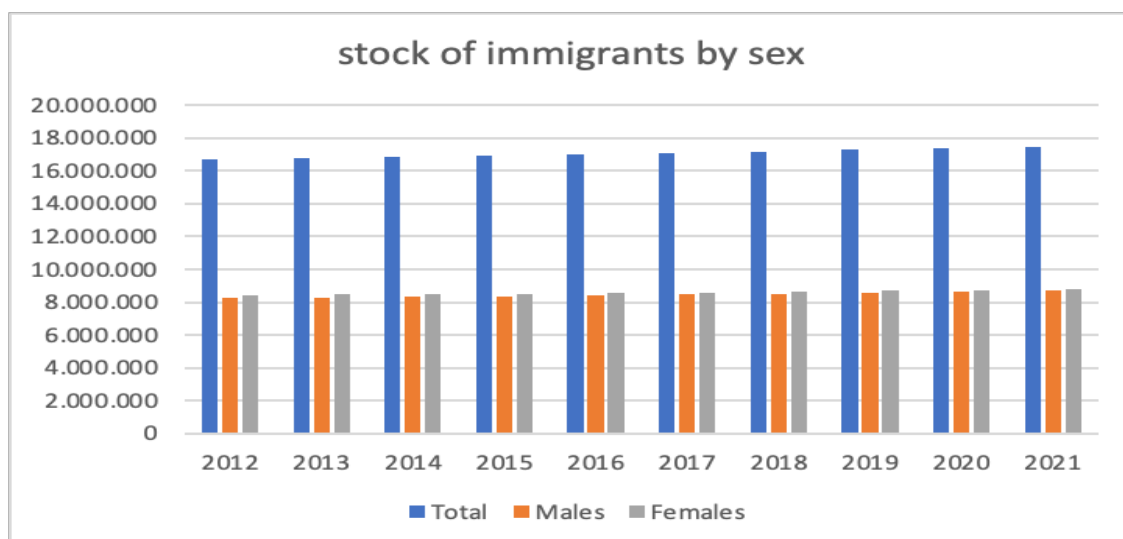


TABLE 4) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_POP3CTB]

1.3.3 Stock of immigrants by age

The graph shows the stock of immigrants by age for each year from 2012 to 2021. The biggest age class of immigrants who stay in the Netherlands is the one from 45 to 64 years old and this trend remains stable over time. The first three age classes are very similar in numbers. It is interesting how the stock of immigrants aged 65 years or over is a consistent number which quite increases, in particular in the last years considered.

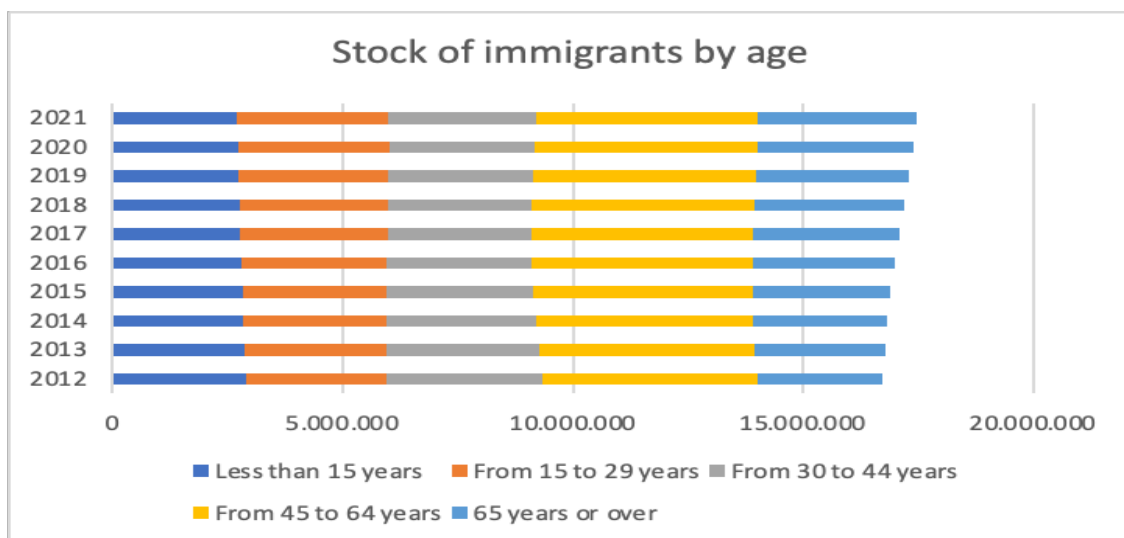


TABLE 5) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_POP3CTB]

1.3.4 Stock of immigrants by country of birth

The graph shows the stock of immigrants by their country of origin for each year from 2012 to 2021. Most immigrants come from Türkiye. A consistent number is also represented by migrants born in Morocco. The number of immigrants from Afghanistan is constant over time. Even the number of immigrants by Iran is quite constant, even though it increased in the last

two years. Furthermore, immigrants from Ukraine are very few, but they are growing, in particular since 2019, gaining a consistent number in 2021.

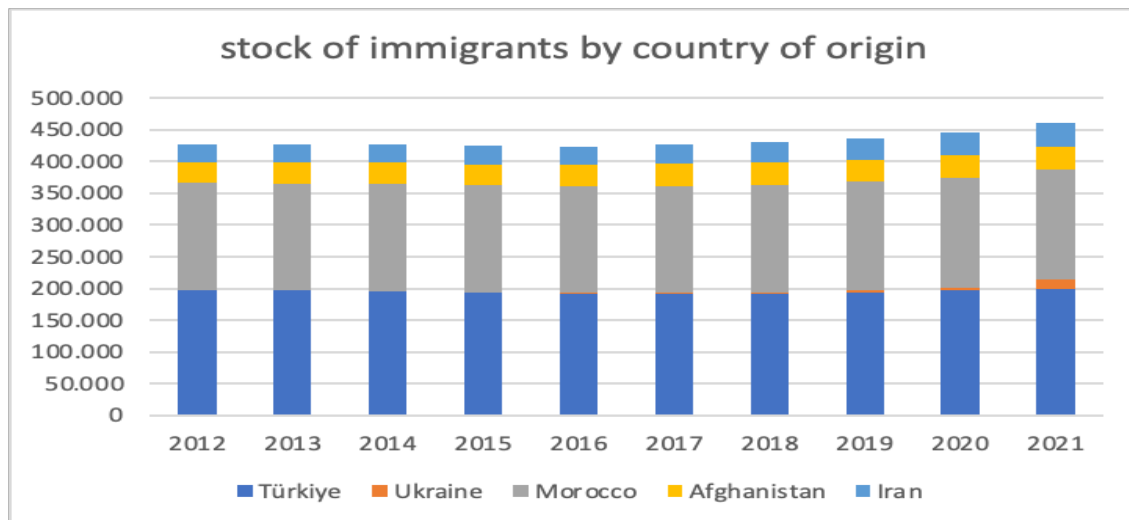


TABLE 6) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_POP3CTB]

1.3.5 Stock of immigrants by reason

The graph shows the stock of immigrants by “reason of immigration” from 2012 to 2021. It is evident that most of the immigrants come to the Netherlands for “other reasons”; even though in 2012 the most significant reason was “family”. The second most relevant reason is “family reason”, which increases every year. The numbers of immigrants living in the Netherlands for employment increase as well, especially since 2019. Eventually “education reason” remains low and quite stable over time.

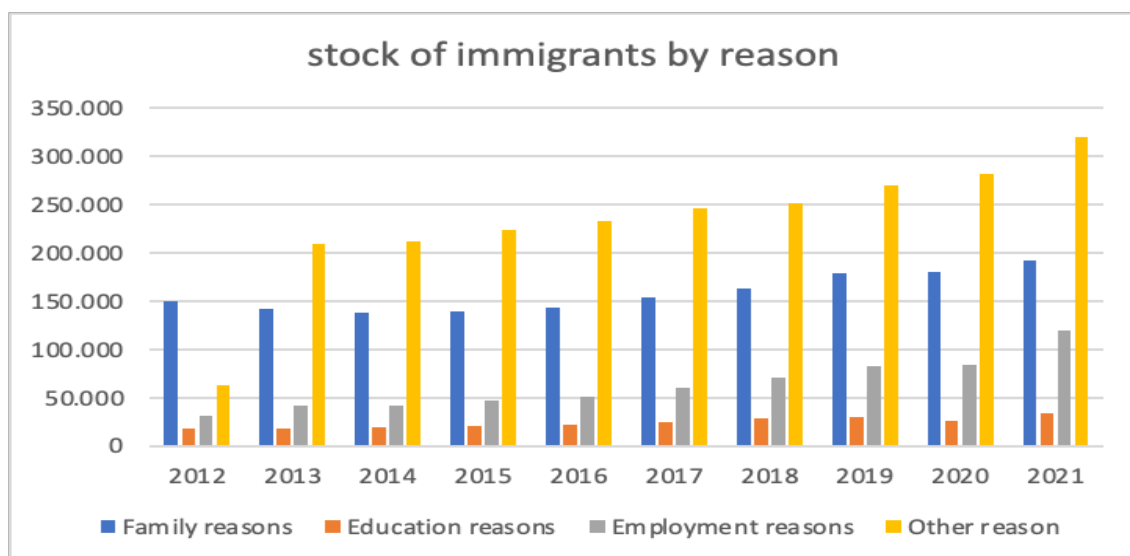


TABLE 7) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_RESVALID]

Part II

In this second section, the impact of migration on the Dutch population is analyzed by looking at the flows of migrants. Firstly, it presents a general look at the population growth over the last few years. Secondly, it presents a deeper look at the flows of migrants, by examining the specifics of immigrants.

2.1 Population growth

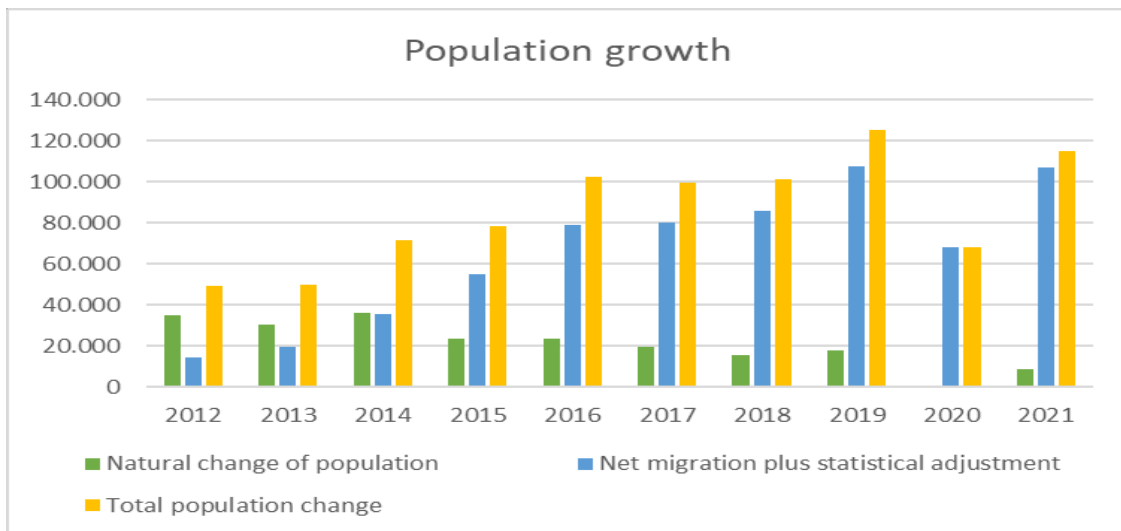


TABLE 8) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [DEMO_GIND]

Population growth is the difference in population size among consecutive years. Two dimensions are relevant in order to detect the total population change: the natural change of population, that is the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths in a specific year, and the net migration, namely the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants in a given period of time, including statistical adjustment through the difference between the total population change and the natural change of population.

The graph shows that the population in the Netherlands remained stable in 2012 and 2013, it started growing until 2016, after a little recession it peaked in 2019, it went down critically in 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation and in 2021 it reached quite the same level of 2019. Data for 2022 are not available on Eurostat. Moreover, it should be noticed the crucial influence that migration has on the Dutch population size, because while the natural change of population presents a decreasing trend, meaning the difference between births and deaths shrinks over time, the net migration increases constantly and presents amounts which are more and more

similar to the amounts registered by the total population change. This trend is highly clear if we look at 2020, but it should always be remembered that the situation was outstanding because of the pandemic.

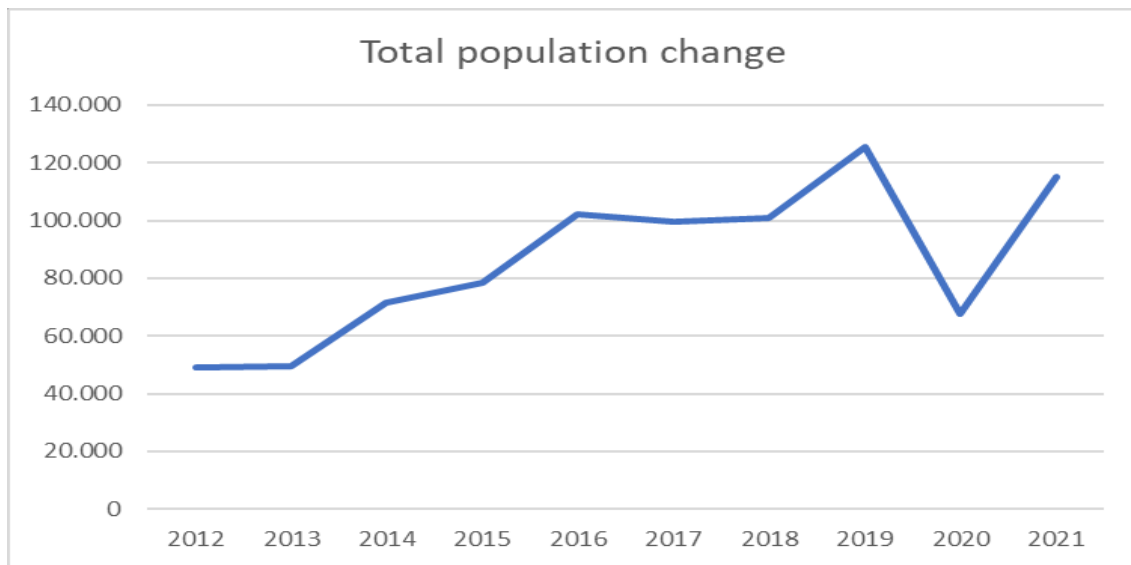


TABLE 9) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [DEMO_GIND]

This graph permits to focus better on the irregular trend of the total population change over time.

2.2 Flows of migrants in 10 years

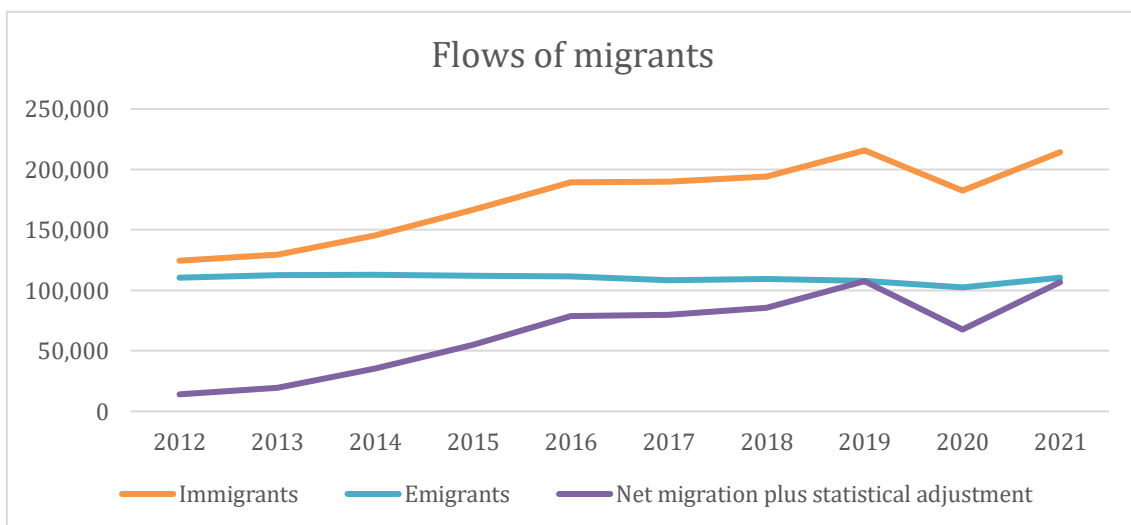


TABLE 10) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM8]; [MIGR_EMI2]; [DEMO_GIND]

The graph above shows the flow of immigrants, namely the number of people born abroad entering the Netherlands every year, and the flow of emigrants, that is the number of people leaving the Netherlands every year, both put in relation through the net migration.

The two trends are clearly different from each other, indeed the flow of immigrants presents higher levels and grows over time, except a stagnation in 2016-2017 and a sharp decline in 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation, while the flow of emigrants remains quite stable over time, with a mild decreasing trend. However, the number of emigrants registers an upturn in 2021. Data for 2022 are not available on Eurostat.

2.3 Immigration flows

In this paragraph, the flows of immigrants are analyzed by looking at their specifics: sex, age, country of birth and reasons to migrate.

2.3.1 Flow of immigrants by continents

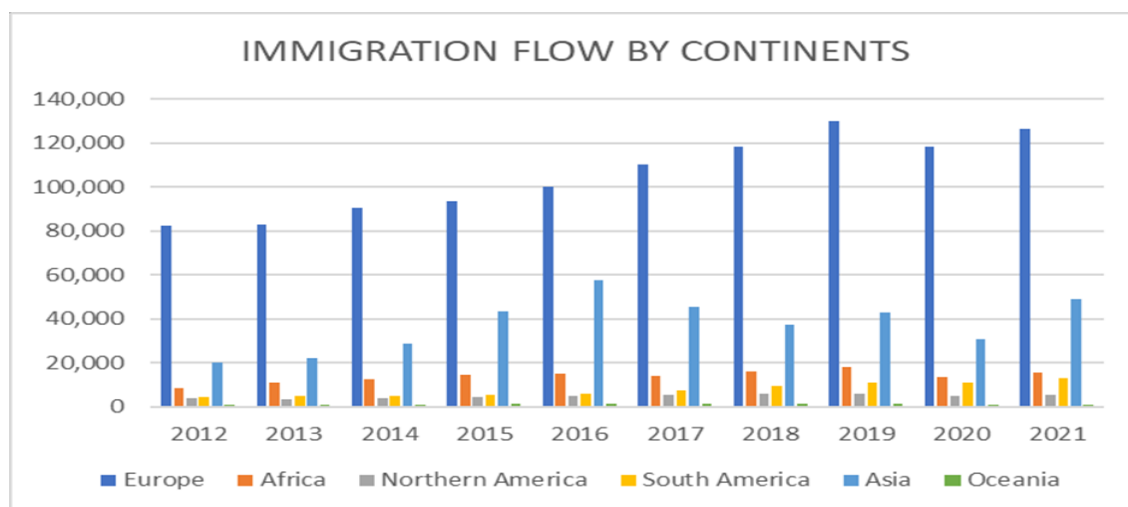


TABLE 11) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

As it can be seen from the chart, every year Europe is the continent from which the highest number of immigrants arrives in the Netherlands. Moreover, the second continent from which immigrants come from is Asia and the third is Africa.

2.3.2 Flow of immigrants by sex

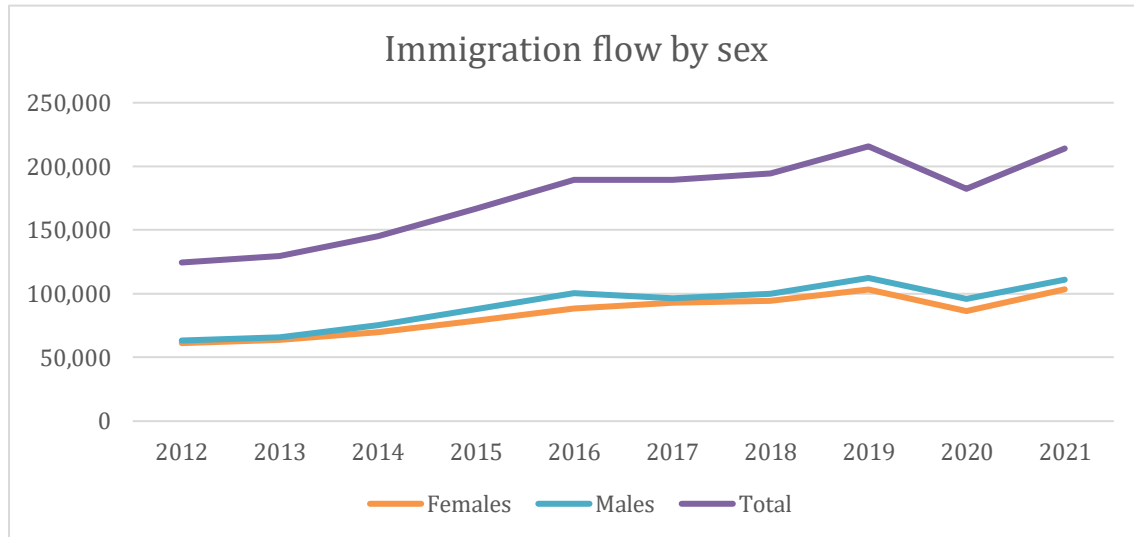


TABLE 12) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

This graph shows the gender distribution of immigrants flows in the Netherlands from 2012 to 2021. The numbers of female and male immigrants are always similar, with the number of males being always a bit larger than the one of females. The major differences are registered in 2015, 2016 and from 2019 to 2021.

2.3.3 Flow of immigrants by age

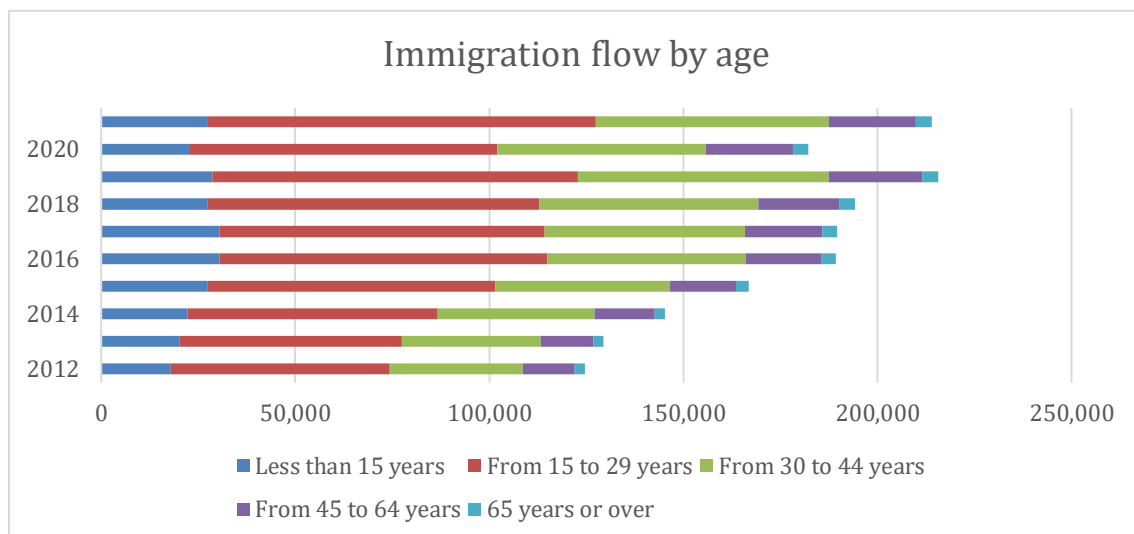


TABLE 13) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

The graph above shows the age distribution of immigrants arriving in the Netherlands every year from 2012 to 2021. It highlights that the biggest category of immigrants is characterized by people from 15 to 29 years old, followed by the category of people from 30 to 44 years old. These trends remain stable over the years considered. The years 2019 and 2021 registered the most consistent arrivals of immigrants aged from 15 to 29 and from 30 to 44.

2.3.4 Flow of migrants by country of birth

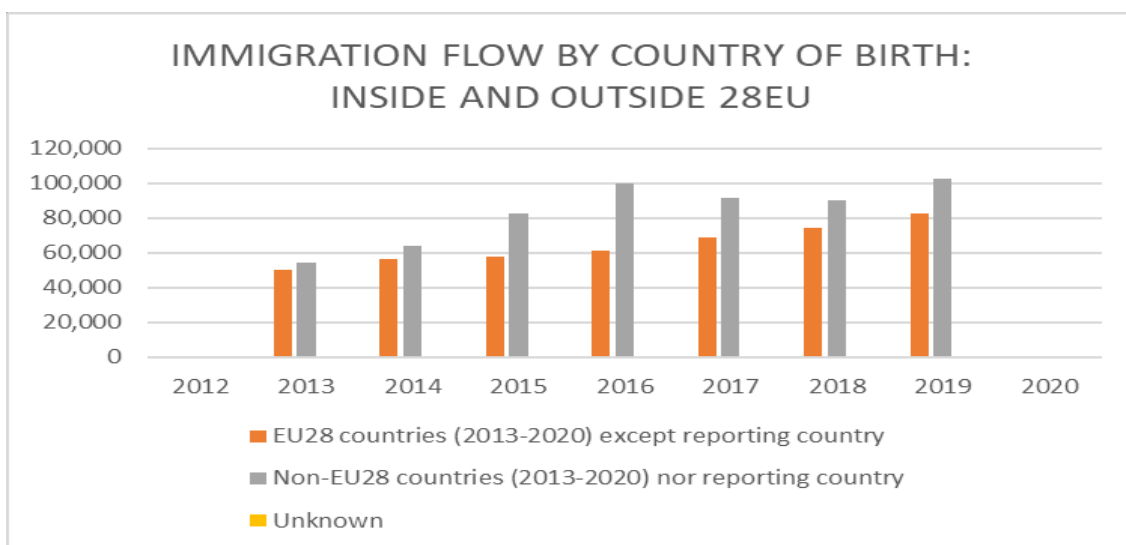


TABLE 14) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

Looking at this graph, it can be observed that the majority of immigrants moving towards the Netherlands are not born in the European Union. In addition, it can be observed two similar peaks, one in 2016 and one in 2019. Unfortunately, data have not been collected since 2019, just before the pandemic.

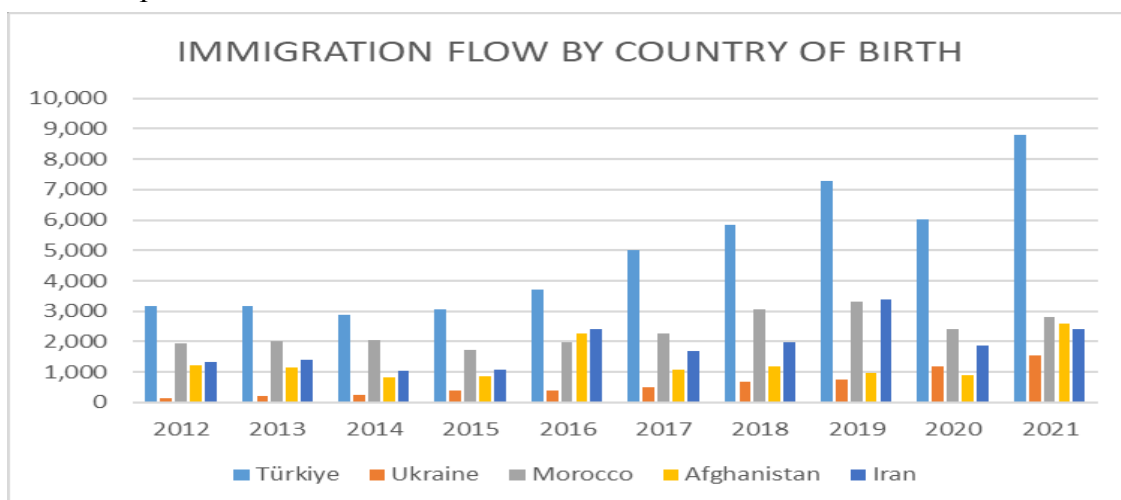


TABLE 15) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

An in-depth analysis shows that the highest rate of immigrants comes from Türkiye, followed every year by Morocco except for 2016 and 2019, when Iran goes over. Significant is the Türkiye's amount recorded in 2021, when it has increased by 47% since 2020. We can indeed affirm that the biggest bulk of immigrants from non-EU countries are from Türkiye and Morocco. Then we have Iran, Afghanistan and Ukraine. Furthermore, the graphic highlights the significant increase of Ukrainian immigrants starting from 2014, because of the war.

2.3.4 Flow of migrants by reasons

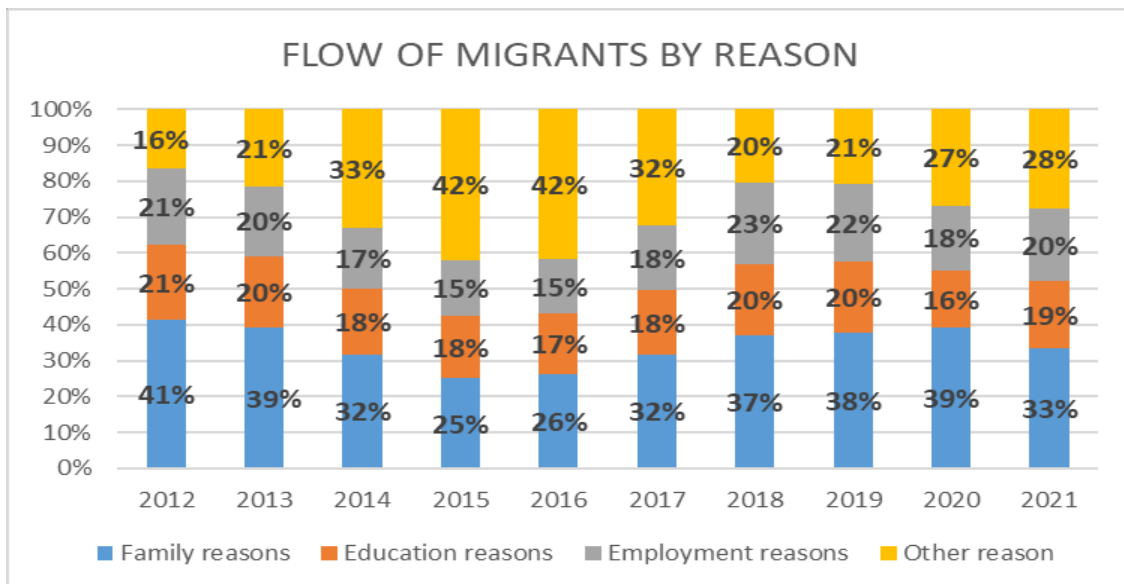


TABLE 16) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_RESFIRST]

The reasons for which migrants decide to move have changed during the decade. The major reasons for which people move are “family” and “other reasons”. Instead, “education” and “employment” are always the lowest and the most constant reasons.

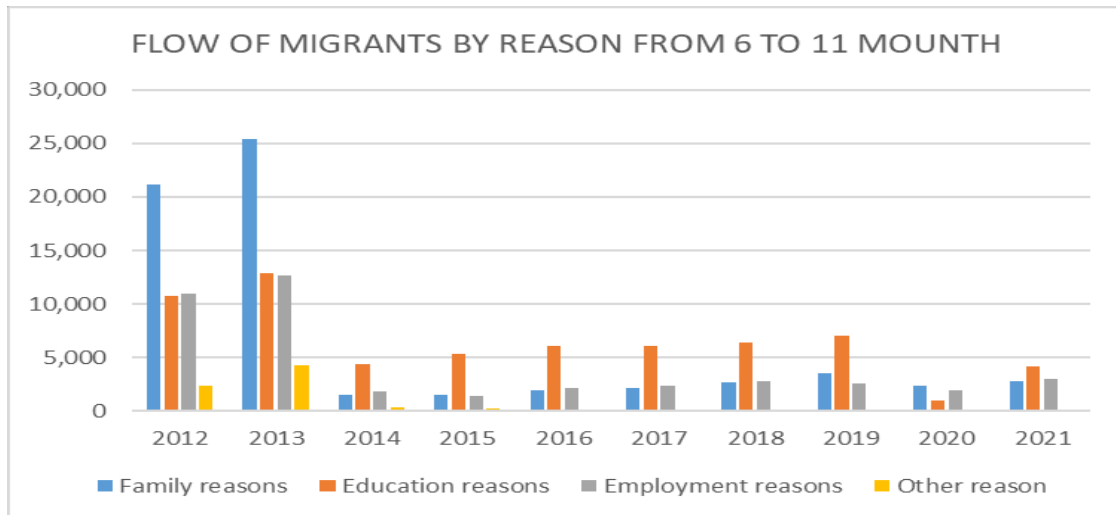


TABLE 17) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_RESFIRST]

While dissecting the reality of the variable “reasons to migrate”, it can be observed some differences. First, the availability of data in 2012 and 2013 for the period of “12 months or over” refers only to “other reasons”. Apart from this fact, it is significant to look at the decrease of all the variables in the first graph, from 2014 to 2021. Furthermore, the “family reason” variable has fallen drastically: from 2014 the “family reason” variable is lower than the “education reason” variable until 2021. In fact, there has been a drop of almost 90%.

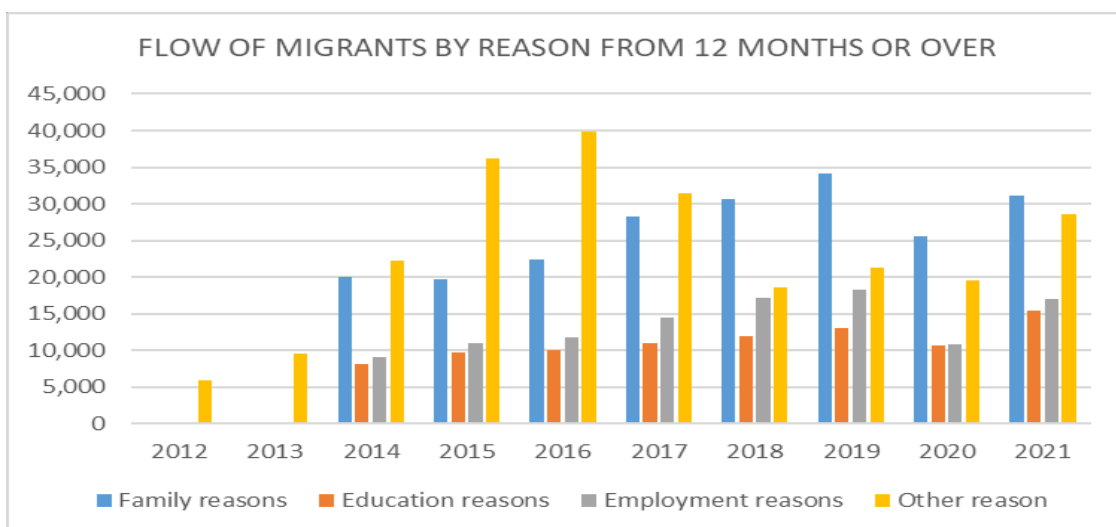


TABLE 18) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_RESFIRST]



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Looking at the second graph the landscape changes. Indeed “family reason” is the second highest variable after “other reason”, except in 2021, in which it is the highest. The “education reason” and “employment reason”, instead, follow their constant trend.

Part III

In the following section, the discourse focuses on the analysis of data related to the topic of refugees. When talking about “refugees” it refers to someone who “is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion”¹.

3.1 The number of refugees

In the Netherlands, the numbers of refugees are significant, even if they do not reach the numbers of other countries like Germany or France. For example, in 2018 in the Netherlands there were 103.843 refugees, while in Germany 970.4 and in France 337.2.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
71.89 3	74.70 0	82.48 3	88.51 8	101.7 27	103.8 43	101.8 24	94.41 7	95.89 7	99.58 5	198.4 07

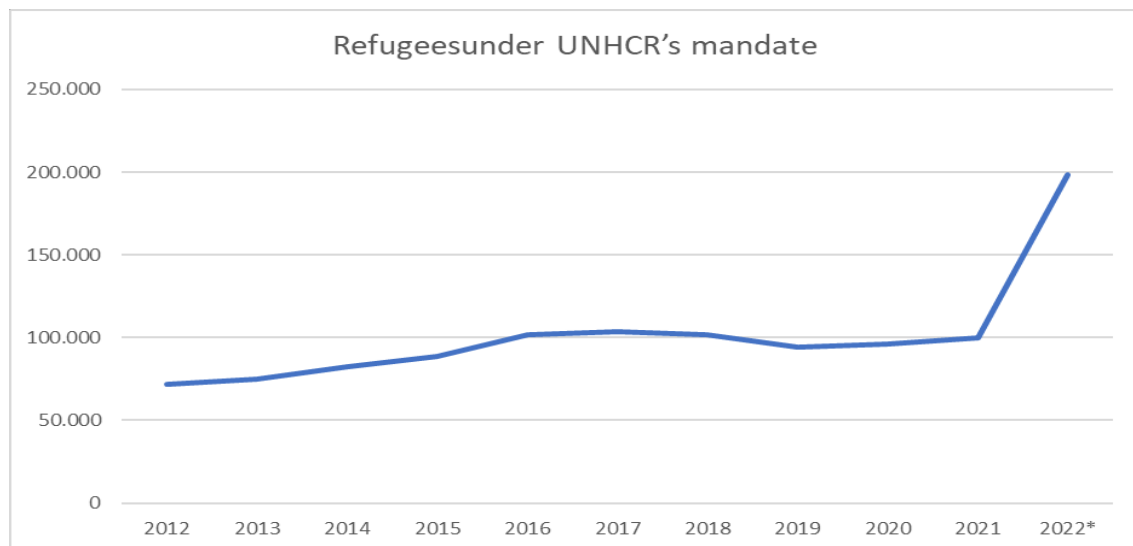


TABLE 19) SOURCE: UNHCR REFUGEE POPULATION STATISTICS DATABASE, 2022.

¹ quote from the 1951 Refugee Convention held by the United Nations (UNHCR).

The count of refugees in 2022 is registered until the mid-year, so it is expected to be much higher. Such a number could be explained by the refugee crisis followed by the war in Ukraine. In particular, it is useful to analyze a special type of permission granted to Ukrainian refugees, the temporary protection. The European Union activated, for the first time since its introduction in 2001, the Temporary Protection Directive. This measure allocates refugees coming from outside the borders of the European Union in each European State, based on their capacity to host them. Looking at the numbers, it is possible to notice how indeed the number of the Ukrainian refugees is high, both in the European Union and in the Netherlands.

	EU (27)	Netherlands
Türkiye	1.370	290
Ukraine	4.271.050	102.065
Morocco	4.165	860
Afghanistan	755	30
Iran	665	220
Total	4.331.510	109.110

This form of protection lasts one year and can be renovated for only one more year. What is relevant to notice from the table above is that the refugees who were in Ukraine are also counted, since they had to be relocated in different countries of the European Union.

3.1.1 Asylum seekers and asylum applicants

As reported by the UNHCR, an asylum seeker is someone “whose request to be granted asylum in another country has yet to be processed”². The number of asylum seekers in the Netherlands is quite small compared with the total number of refugees shown previously. The following graph represents the numbers of asylum seekers in the last years. In 2013, no asylum seekers were registered. The data have stopped being updated in the middle of 2022.

²quoted from [UNHCR - Asylum-Seekers](#).

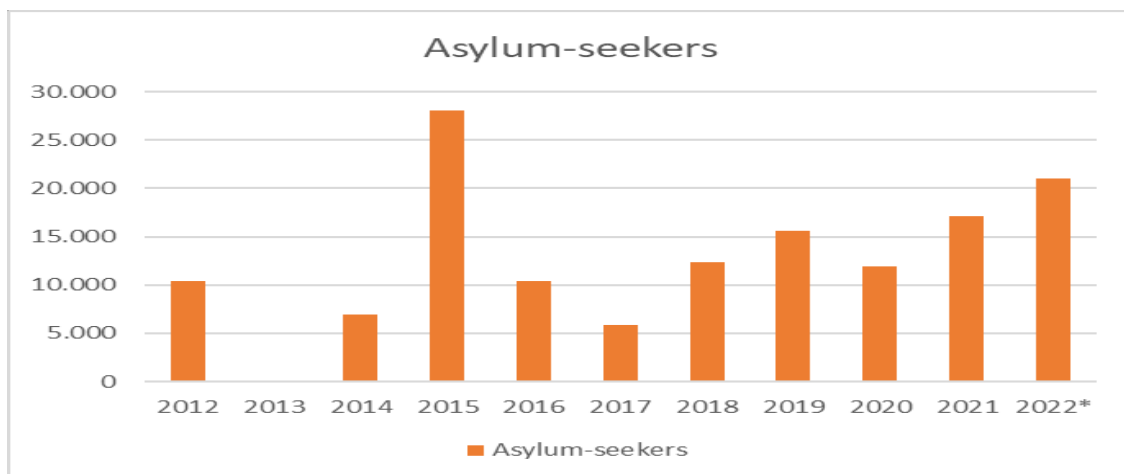


TABLE 20) SOURCE: UNHCR REFUGEE POPULATION STATISTICS DATABASE, 2022.

In the following part, it is shown the number of first asylum applicants during the years. It is to notice that the numbers have changed concurrently to the 2015 refugee crisis, then have decreased within the next years following the changes with the European policies. After 2020, it is again reported an increase in the number of asylum applications, especially with a higher number of requests from States like Afghanistan and Türkiye and Ukraine.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Türkiye	105	70	60	70	250	505	1.330	1.280	1.010	2.480	2.705
Ukraine	30	35	265	760	340	180	330	160	50	80	1.075
Morocco	35	70	65	90	1.280	1.015	1.160	1.190	845	980	775
Afghanistan	1.620	1.365	880	2.875	1.385	785	960	790	570	3.310	2.785
Iran	1.195	1.020	665	2.030	995	895	2.300	1.795	550	485	920
Total	13.095	13.060	24.495	44.970	20.945	18.210	24.025	25.260	15.320	26.555	37.060

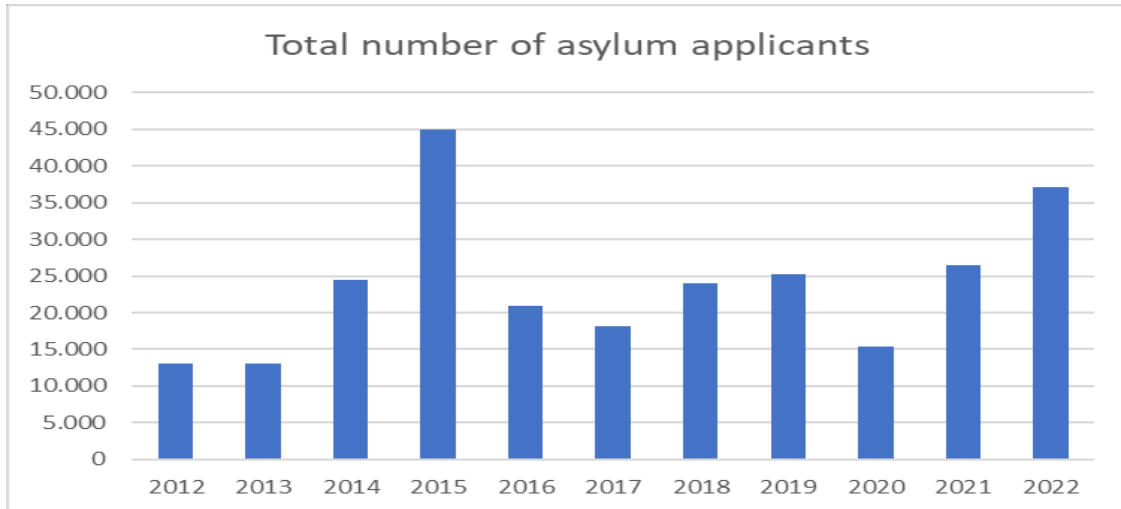


TABLE 21) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_ASYAPPCTZA]

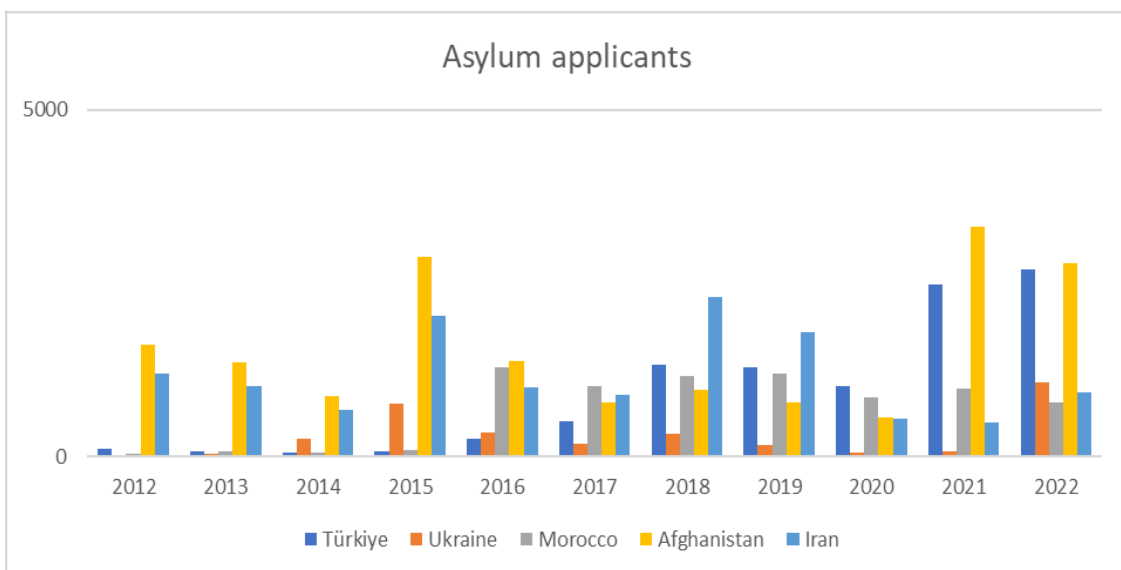


TABLE 22) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_ASYAPPCTZA]

3.1.2 Analyzing data by sex

Analyzing the data from the Eurostat Database related to the asylum applications, it is relevant to notice that there is a considerable difference in rate between the genders. The disproportion in favor of the male population has increased during the years: indeed, in 2022 only a little over 20% of applicants were female.

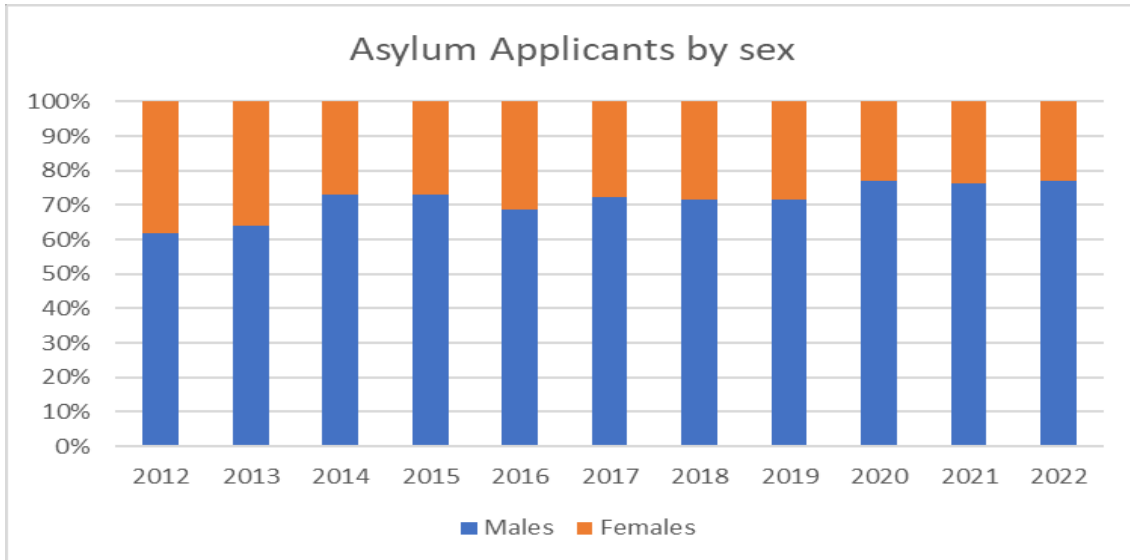


TABLE 23) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_ASYAPPCTZA]

3.1.3 Analyzing data by age

In this graph, the numbers of asylum applicants by age are shown. Surely, the majority of people belong to the category that goes from 18 to 34 years.

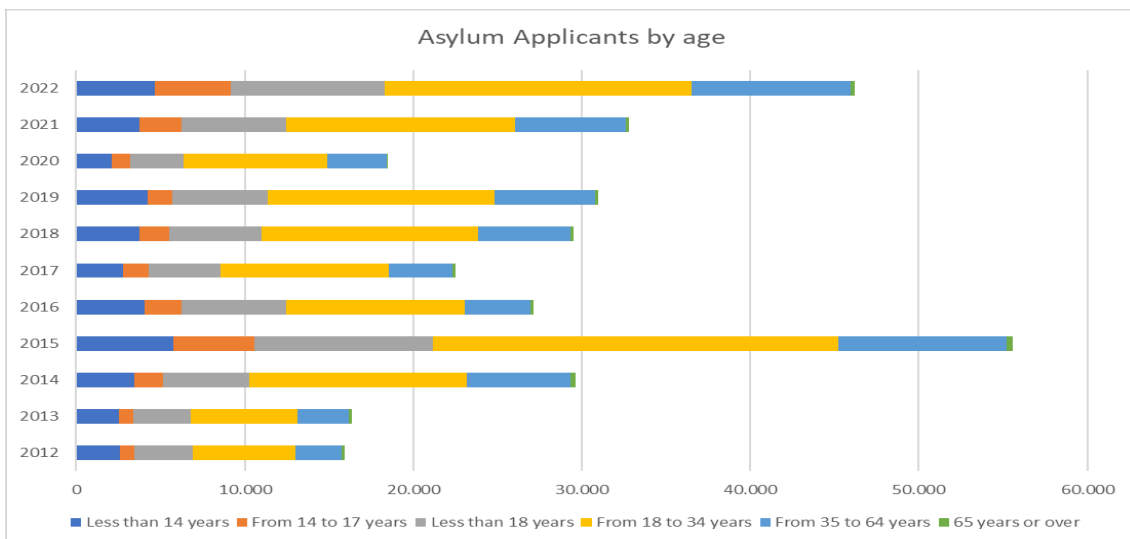


TABLE 24) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_ASYAPPCTZA]

3.2 Share of refugees

While talking about refugees, it is important to compare this data to the total number of migrants. To do this comparison, have been used again the data offered by the UNHCR database. As shown by the graph, the number of refugees is considerably small.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
3.77%	3.87%	4.22%	4.43%	4.95%	4.86%	4.59%	4.11%	3.99%	4.06%	7.78%
71.893	74.700	82.483	88.518	101.727	103.843	101.824	94.417	95.897	99.585	198.407

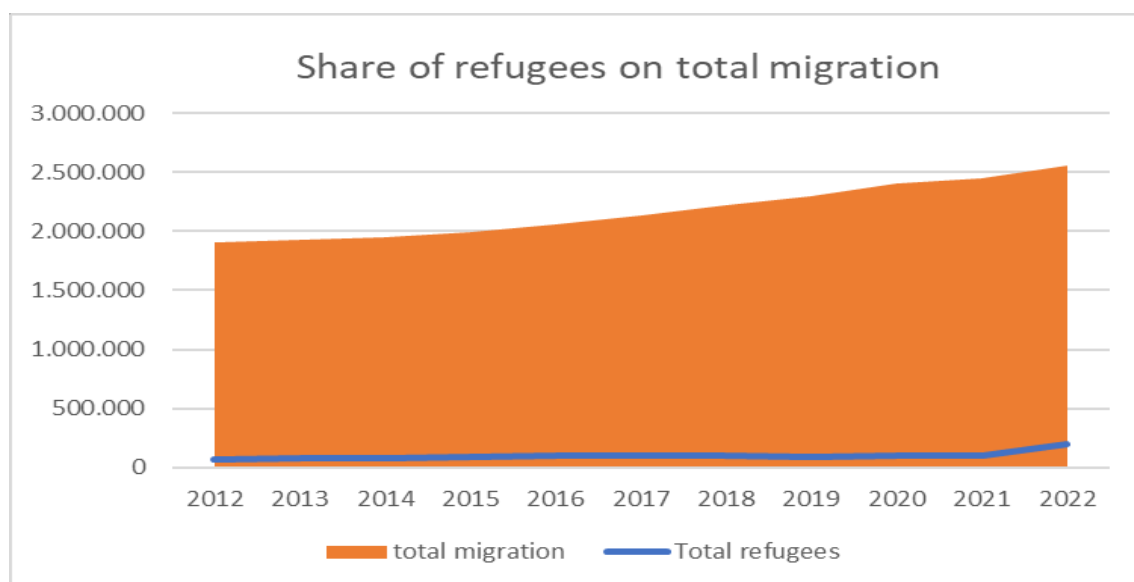


TABLE 25) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [MIGR_POP3CTB]; UNHCR REFUGEE POPULATION STATISTICS DATABASE, 2022.

3.3 Migration employ - unemployment

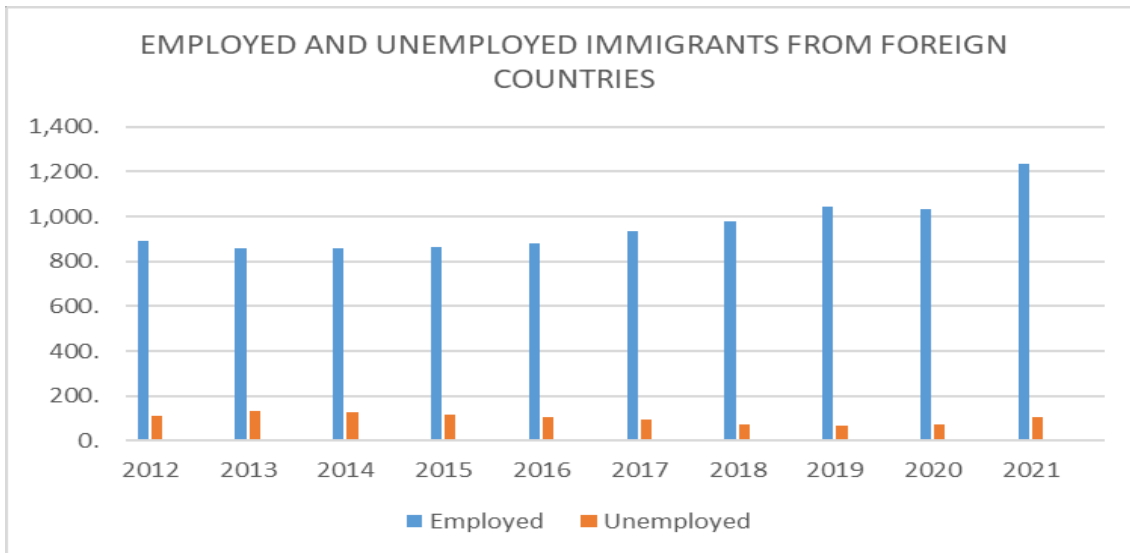


TABLE 26) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PGACWS]

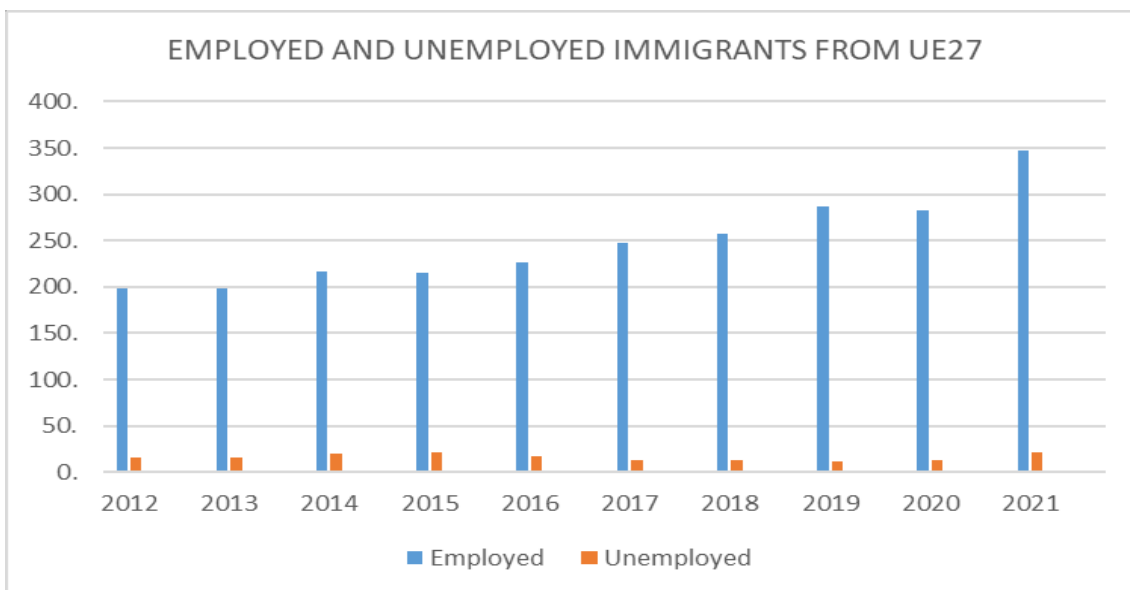


TABLE 27) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PGACWS]

An important rate of integration is provided by the number of employed and unemployed immigrants. In both graphs it can be observed that there has been an increase of employment during the years: there is an important growth of more than 70% of employment from EU27 countries, meanwhile the rise of employees from foreign countries is almost 40%. The difference is evident by looking at the number of unemployed immigrants: EU27 countries registered an increase of 34%, while foreign countries registered a decrease of 6%. In addition, it can be observed a peak of employed immigrants in 2021, both in EU-27 countries and foreign

countries, while the peak of unemployment immigrants is in 2015 for those coming from EU27 countries and in 2013 for those coming from foreign countries.

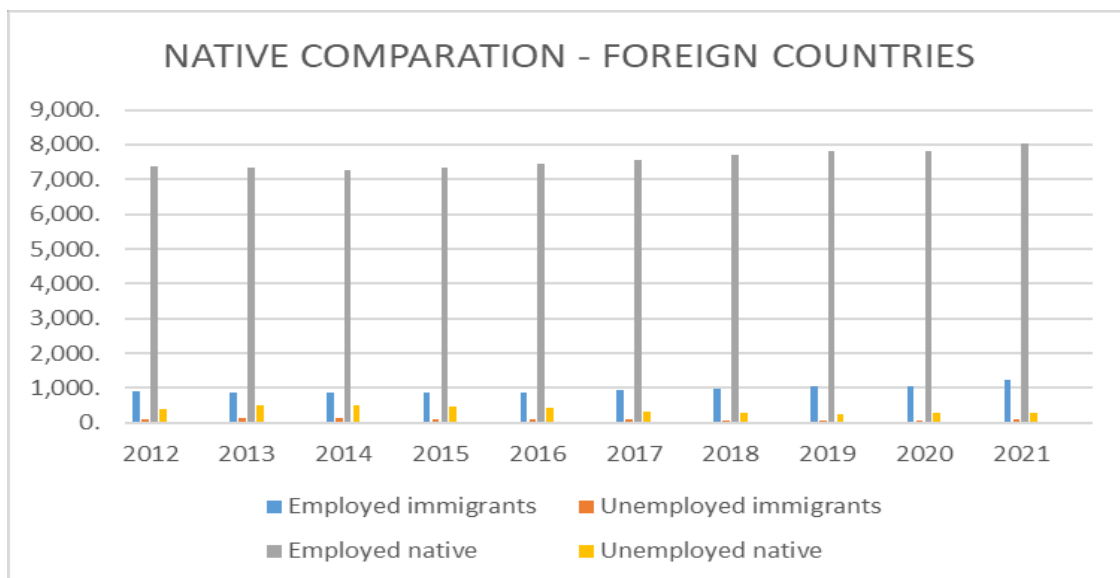


TABLE 28) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PGACWS]

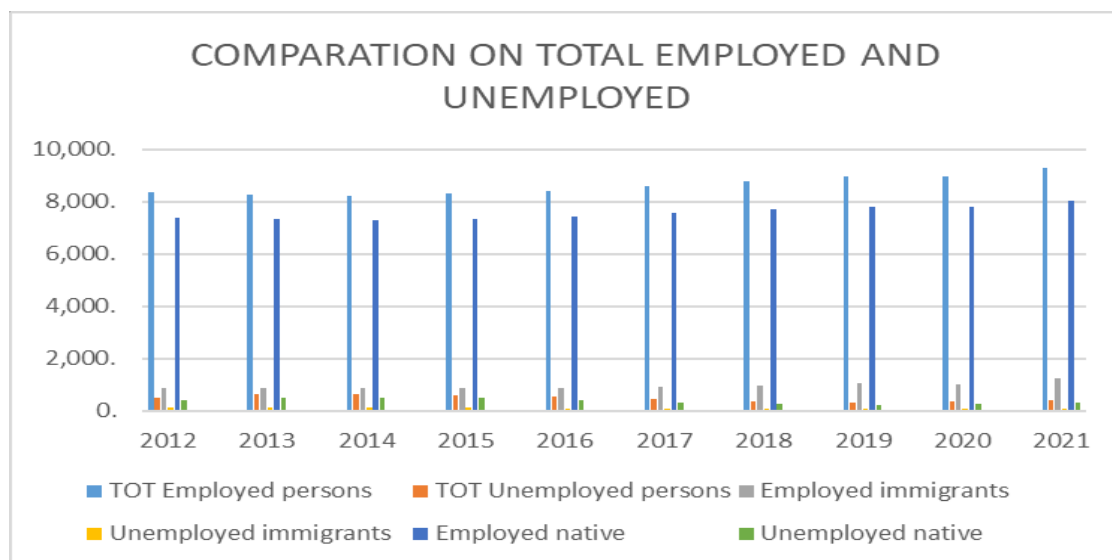


TABLE 29) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PGACWS]

Comparing the numbers of total employed and total unemployed people, it can be noticing the differences between employed and unemployed immigrants with employed and unemployed natives.

The average of natives on total employed people over the decade is 88%. At the same time, the average of employed immigrants is just 11%.

Regarding the averages of unemployed people, it is 77% for unemployed natives and 21% for unemployed immigrants.

% on total employed or unemployed people	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	AVERAGE
EMPLOYED NATIVES	88%	89%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	87%	87%	87%	88%
EMPLOYED IMMIGRANTS	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	12%	12%	13%	11%
UNEMPLOYED NATIVES	77%	78%	79%	79%	79%	77%	77%	76%	77%	74%	77%
UNEMPLOYED IMMIGRANTS	22%	20%	19%	19%	19%	21%	21%	22%	21%	26%	21%

Looking at the active population, meaning the total numbers of employed and unemployed people, it is interesting to notice that the average of employed natives is 83% while the average of employed immigrants is 10%. Furthermore, the average of unemployed natives is 4% and regarding the unemployed immigrants the average is 1%.

% on active population	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	AVERAGE
EMPLOYED NATIVES	83%	82%	82%	82%	83%	84%	84%	84%	84%	83%	83%
EMPLOYED IMMIGRANTS	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	13%	10%
UNEMPLOYED NATIVES	4%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
UNEMPLOYED IMMIGRANTS	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

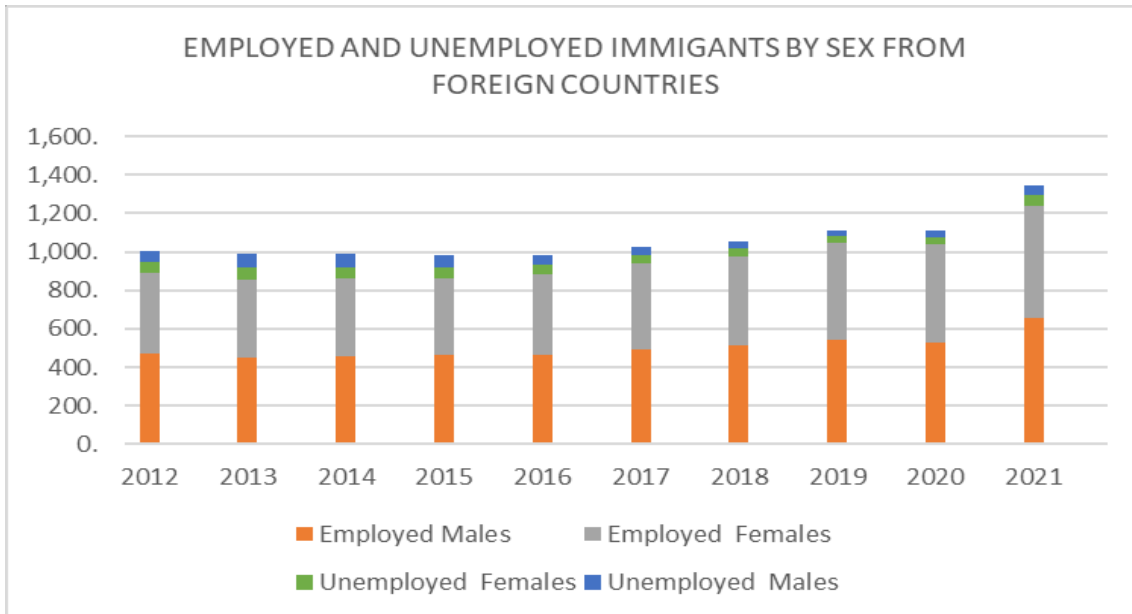


TABLE 30) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PGACWS]

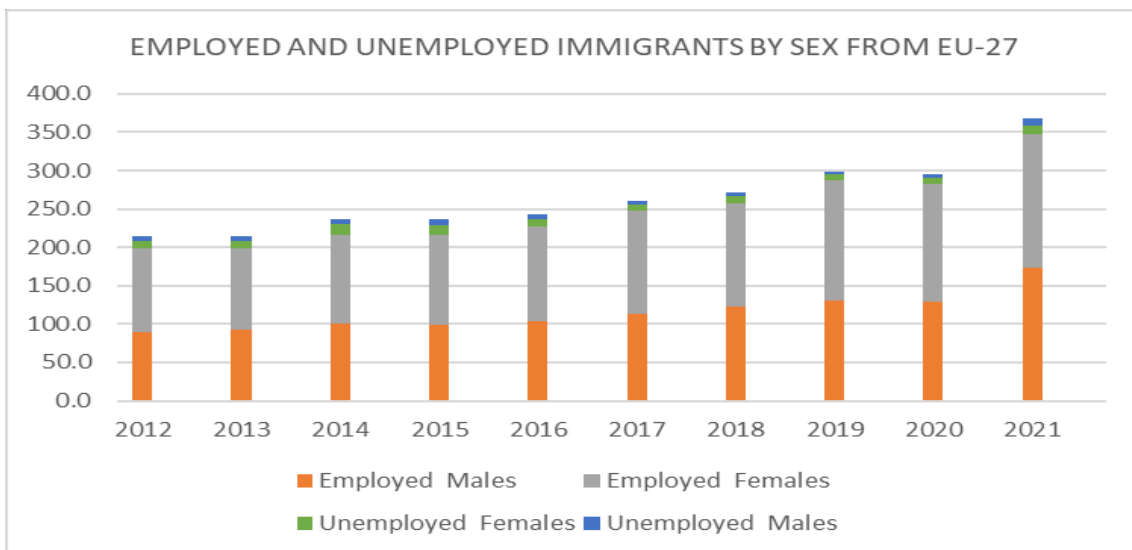


TABLE 31) SOURCE: EUROSTAT [LFSA_PGACWS]

Furthermore, it is interesting to notice from an in-depth analysis on gender that in the EU-27 there are more employed female immigrants than employed males until 2021. In fact, the percentage of employed males keep increasing during the years, reaching the percentage of employed females in the last year considered, 50%. While looking at the percentages of unemployed males and females, it appears that the latter is higher than the former, giving the fact that probably the number of female immigrants is higher than the one of male immigrants.



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The foreign countries chart shows that, differently from the situation with the EU-27 immigrants, there are more employed males than females although the difference is narrow. The total unemployment rate has scored a decrease of 6% from 2012 to 2021, that explains the reason why unemployed male immigrants dropped by 16% during the decade.