



Jean Monnet Chair
European Migration Studies



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

Department of Law

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Master's degree in
EUROPEAN LEGAL STUDIES
and
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCES



MIGRATION IN EUROPE
COUNTRY REPORT - FRANCE

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2021/2022
COUNTRY REPORT
FRANCE

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INTRODUCTION

Migration in France has a long and fascinating history which has taken on considerable importance since the mid-19th century. Reason behind this is that France was the largest nation in western Europe in the early modern period and internal migration accounted for most human movement that supplied workers and artisan to needy fields, towns and cities. In addition to this, France had a great reputation in the early 20th century for being the European Country mostly open to immigrants, which includes political refugees; later it changed when opposition rose to continued immigration from Africa.

Historically, between 1850 and 1914 around 4.3 million foreigners entered France, and at the time of World Wars I and II nearly 3 million. Approximately 6% of the population came as immigrants in France from neighboring countries, such as Italy, Spain, Belgium, and Switzerland. These immigrants were quickly assimilated into the national population of France. After World War II, when there was an acute labor shortage, immigration, again, reached a high level in France. It is pertinent to mention here, in the first two post-war decades, immigration contributed about 40% to the growth of the French population, although immigration flattened out after 1974. After 21st century, immigrant streams came from North Africa, notably Algeria and the former protectorates of Morocco and Tunisia¹.

France is one of the European oldest countries for immigrants with approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of its population. Most of the immigrants (around $\frac{2}{3}$) are foreign born and came outside Europe, whereas 90% of the immigrants are from underdeveloped countries. However, keeping into consideration current COVID-19 pandemic situation and health crisis, a major decrease has been seen in the migrants in France². However, the data extracted from Eurostat's immigration from Non-EU migrants increased in 2020 by two percent.

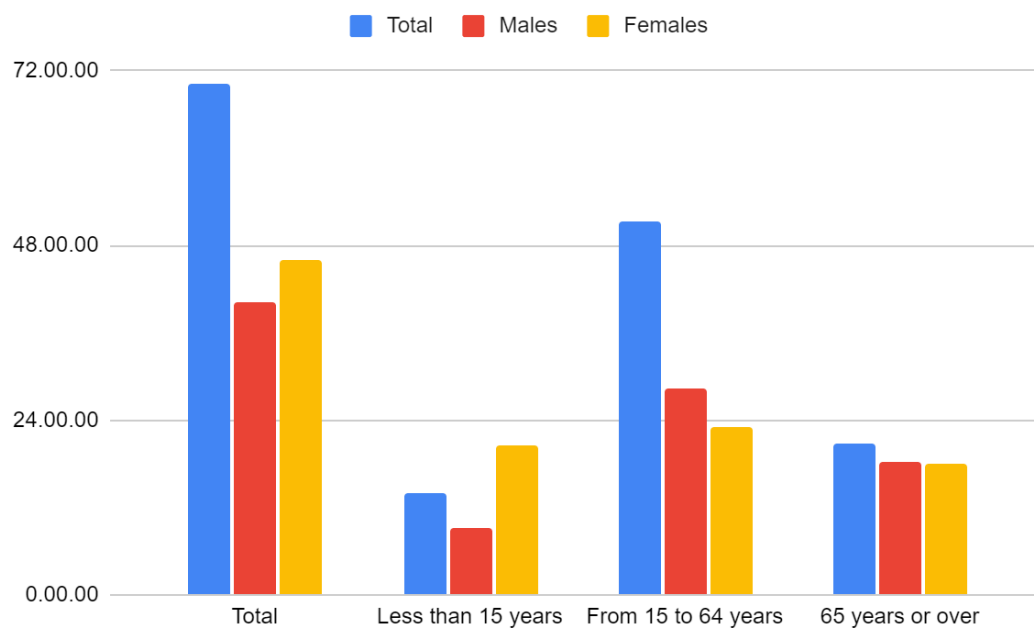
A. STOCK OF TOTAL POPULATION (2019)

SEX	Total	Males	Females
AGE			
Total	67,177,636 (p)	32,475,891 (p)	34,701,745 (p)
Less than 15 years	12,113,357 (p)	6,187,165 (p)	5,926,192 (p)
From 15 to 64 years	41,609,769 (p)	20,501,270 (p)	21,108,499 (p)
65 years or over	13,454,510 (p)	5,787,456 (p)	7,667,054 (p)

Table 1. Source: EUROSTAT[demo_pjan]

¹ <https://www.euronews.com/tag/migrants>

² <https://www.euronews.com/tag/migrants>

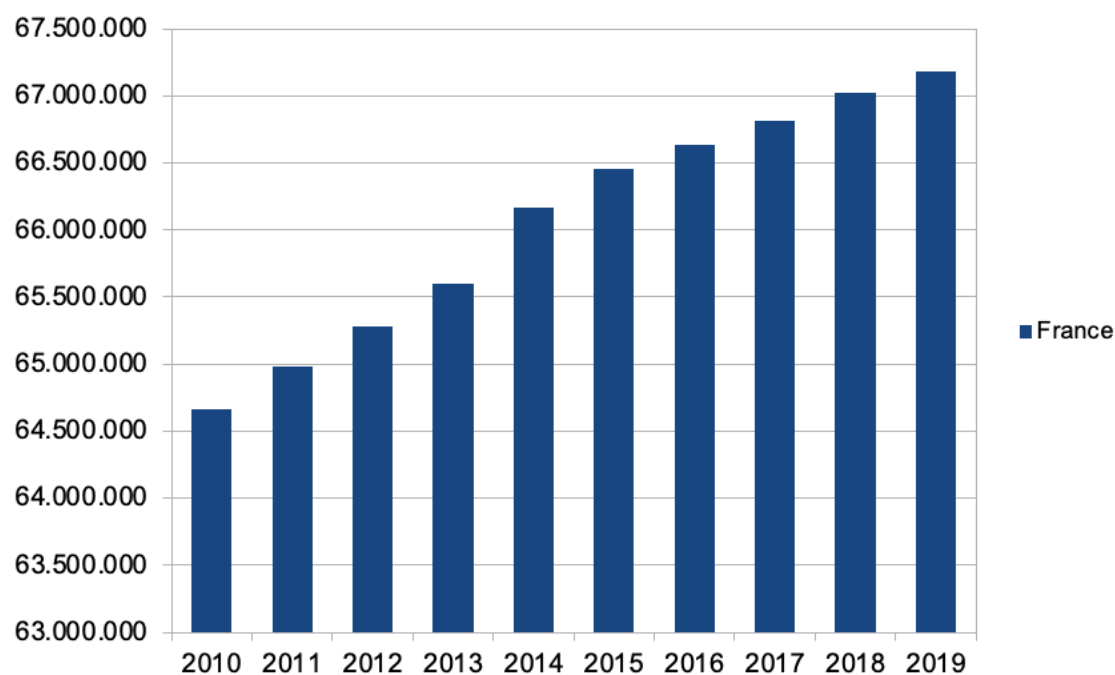


The above table 1 shows the stock of total population. It indicates the inhabitants of France in the year 2019 which is 67,177,636 in total.

B. POPULATION GROWTH (2010-2019)

FR - France	
TIME	
2010	64,658,856
2011	64,978,721
2012	65,276,983 ^(b)
2013	65,600,350
2014	66,165,980 ^(b)
2015	66,458,153
2016	66,638,391
2017	66,809,816
2018	67,026,224 ^(p)
2019	67,177,636 ^(p)

Table 2. Source: EUROSTAT[[demo_pjan](#)]

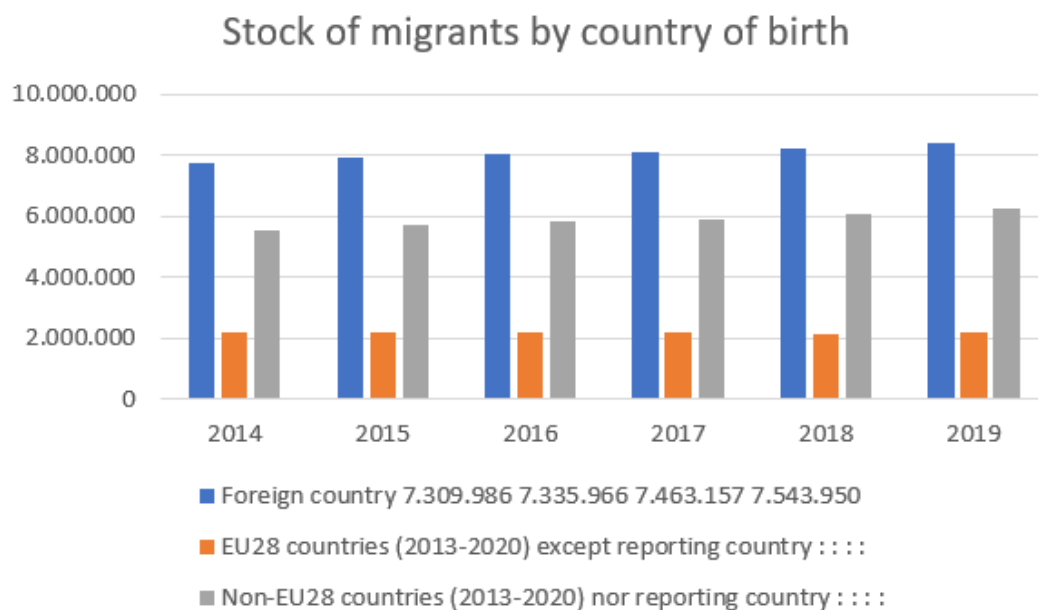


As we can see from Table 2, the French population has steadily risen over the last 10 years by 3.895% since 2010.

C.1. STOCK OF MIGRANTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS (2010-2019)

TIME	Foreign country	EU28 countries (2010)	Non-EU28 countries
2010	7,309,986	:	:
2011	7,335,966	:	:
2012	7,463,157 ^(b)	:	:
2013	7,543,950	:	:
2014	7,746,520 ^(b)	2,175,981 ^(b)	5,570,539 ^(b)
2015	7,915,838	2,186,438	5,729,400
2016	8,028,227	2,189,270	5,838,957
2017	8,098,872	2,193,121	5,905,751
2018	8,199,663	2,142,998	6,056,665
2019	8,428,660 ^(p)	2,178,139 ^(p)	6,250,521 ^(p)

Table 3. Source: EUROSTAT[migr_pop3ctb]

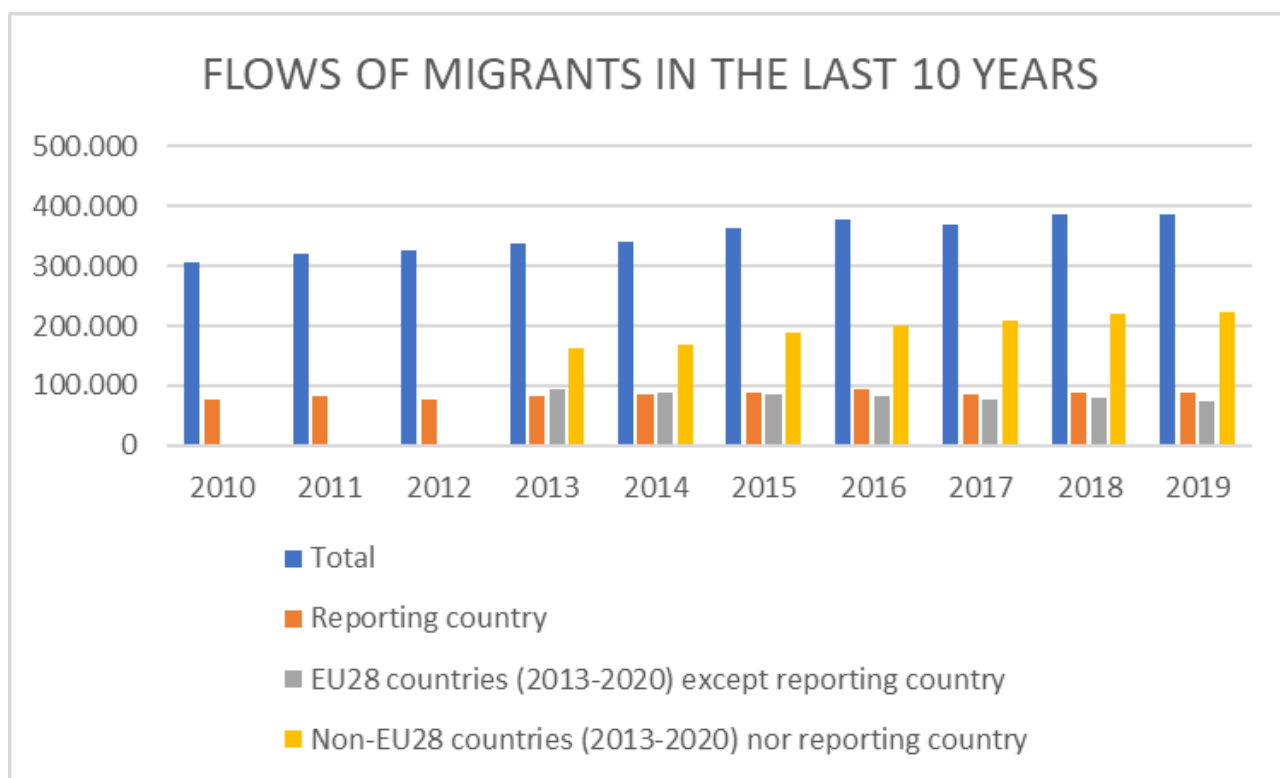


According to table 3, the data extracted from Eurostat's, the stock of immigrants in the last 10 years has constantly increased about 5.97%.

C.2 FLOWS OF MIGRANTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

TIME	Total	Reporting country	EU28 countries (2013-2020) except reporting country	Non-EU28 countries (2013-2020) nor reporting country
2010	307,111 ^(b)	77,980 ^(b)	:	:
2011	319,816	81,301	:	:
2012	327,431	76,585	:	:
2013	338,752	81,489	94,599	162,664
2014	340,383	84,304	87,289	168,790
2015	364,221	89,526	86,398	188,297
2016	377,709	94,382	83,846	199,481
2017	369,621	84,812	75,632	209,177
2018	387,158	88,551	79,277	219,330
2019	385,591	89,442	74,412	221,737

Table 4. Source: EUROSTAT[migr_imm3ctb]

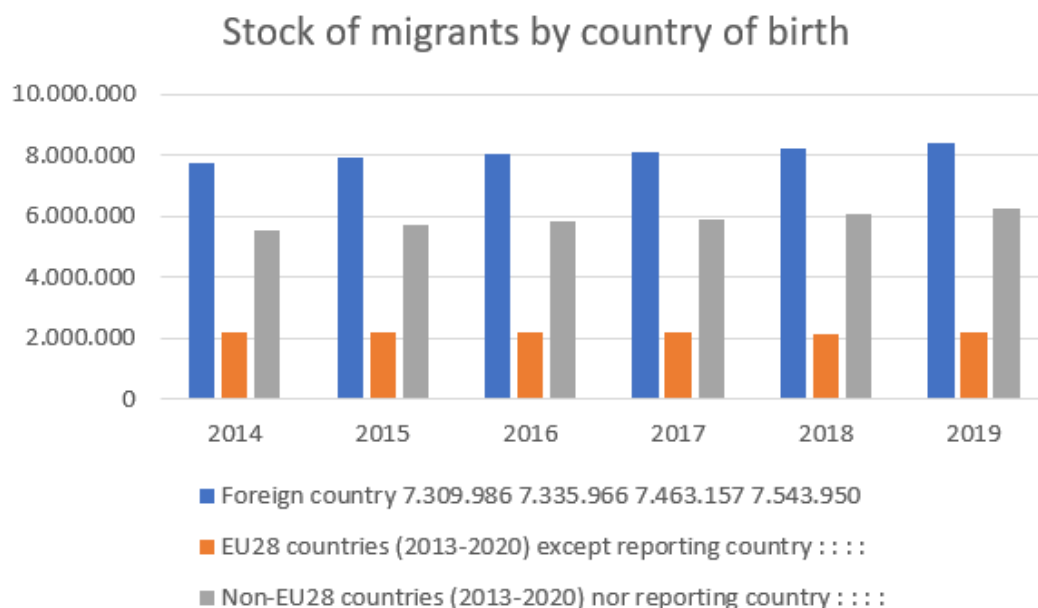


According to table 4, the flow of migrants in the last 10 years has reached its peak in 2018, and it slightly decreased in the following year. According to Eurostat's database, we can note that over the year 2010 immigrant people in France were 307,111, while in 2019 immigrant people were 385,591, which means that in the last 10 years the flow of migrants has increased by 5.0%.

D.1 STOCK OF IMMIGRANTS DIVIDED BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH (2010-2019)

TIME	C_BIRTH	Foreign country	EU28 countries (2010-2019)	Non-EU28 countries
2010		7,309,986	:	:
2011		7,335,966	:	:
2012		7,463,157 ^(b)	:	:
2013		7,543,950	:	:
2014		7,746,520 ^(b)	2,175,981 ^(b)	5,570,539 ^(b)
2015		7,915,838	2,186,438	5,729,400
2016		8,028,227	2,189,270	5,838,957
2017		8,098,872	2,193,121	5,905,751
2018		8,199,663	2,142,998	6,056,665
2019		8,428,660 ^(p)	2,178,139 ^(p)	6,250,521 ^(p)

Table 5. Source: EUROSTAT[migr_pop3ctb]

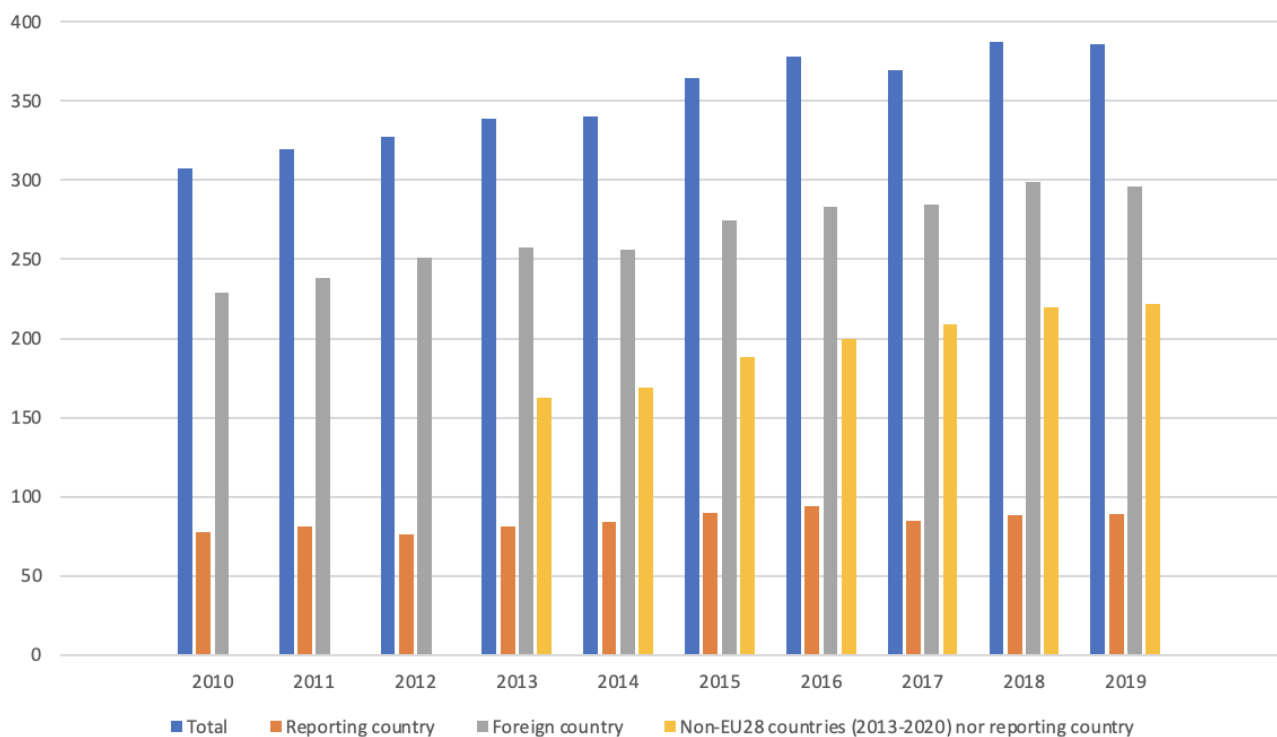


As we see in table 5, according to Eurostat's database and, as we mentioned before, the stock of migrants has increased over its 10 year period. The majority of the immigrants are born outside the French territory and they're from foreign countries especially from Non-EU 27 countries (mostly Africa). Actually a good part of foreigners also consists of immigrants coming from EU countries (about 2 millions).

D.2 IMMIGRATION FLOW BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

TIME	C_BIRTH	Total	Reporting country	Foreign country	Non-EU28 countries
2010		307,111 ^(b)	77,980 ^(b)	229,131 ^(b)	:
2011		319,816	81,301	238,515	:
2012		327,431	76,585	250,846	:
2013		338,752	81,489	257,263	162,664
2014		340,383	84,304	256,079	168,790
2015		364,221	89,526	274,695	188,297
2016		377,709	94,382	283,327	199,481
2017		369,621	84,812	284,809	209,177
2018		387,158	88,551	298,607	219,330
2019		385,591	89,442	296,149	221,737

Table 6. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_imm3ctb]



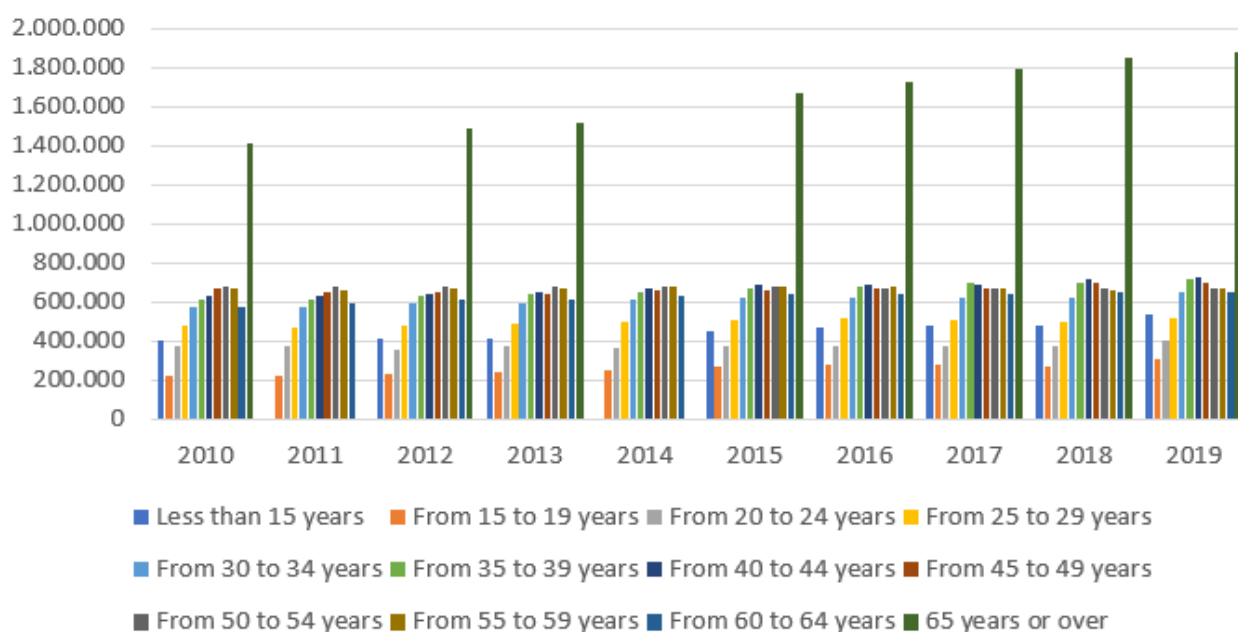
As we see in table 6, according to Eurostat's database, the flow of migrants has increased over the 10 year period considered. The majority of the immigrants are born in Non-EU28 countries (mostly Africa). We observe a slight increase of 1,36% in the number of immigrants who were born in Non-EU28 countries comparing 2013 to 2019. We lack the data regarding Non-EU28 countries in the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

E.1 IMMIGRATION STOCK BY AGE GROUP

AGE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Less than 15 years	403,101	:	415,625 ^(b)	413,352	:	456,021	470,831	479,114	479,622	533,129 ^(b)
From 15 to 19 years	226,777	225,642	233,989 ^(b)	243,616	254,510 ^(b)	269,622	279,846	282,564	275,173	308,159 ^(b)
From 20 to 24 years	375,857	376,774	359,352 ^(b)	374,320	367,267 ^(b)	374,673	376,043	375,385	371,460	408,413 ^(b)
From 25 to 29 years	481,181	469,157	478,899 ^(b)	489,792	498,079 ^(b)	511,612	513,711	504,924	500,820	519,014 ^(b)
From 30 to 34 years	577,566	578,630	593,660 ^(b)	598,235	610,317 ^(b)	622,973	623,322	622,256	624,652	653,222 ^(b)
From 35 to 39 years	612,191	613,428	632,323 ^(b)	642,566	652,025 ^(b)	667,569	684,584	694,827	702,049	716,818 ^(b)
From 40 to 44 years	628,619	629,239	638,113 ^(b)	651,379	670,159 ^(b)	686,340	691,765	692,829	719,791	723,087 ^(b)
From 45 to 49 years	666,874	653,045	648,195 ^(b)	645,171	658,948 ^(b)	664,037	668,448	673,085	696,439	696,560 ^(b)
From 50 to 54 years	681,481	680,354	681,175 ^(b)	676,244	678,635 ^(b)	676,356	672,962	667,031	669,007	666,744 ^(b)
From 55 to 59 years	669,726	661,041	673,509 ^(b)	670,845	676,320 ^(b)	676,832	676,234	671,473	660,407	668,844 ^(b)
From 60 to 64 years	574,881	597,016	618,004 ^(b)	617,585	631,403 ^(b)	638,318	641,119	646,058	649,368	652,292 ^(b)
65 years or over	1,411,732	:	1,490,313 ^(b)	1,520,845	:	1,671,485	1,729,362	1,789,326	1,850,875	1,882,378 ^(b)

Table 7. Source: EUROSTAT[migr_pop3ctb]

Stock of migrants by age group

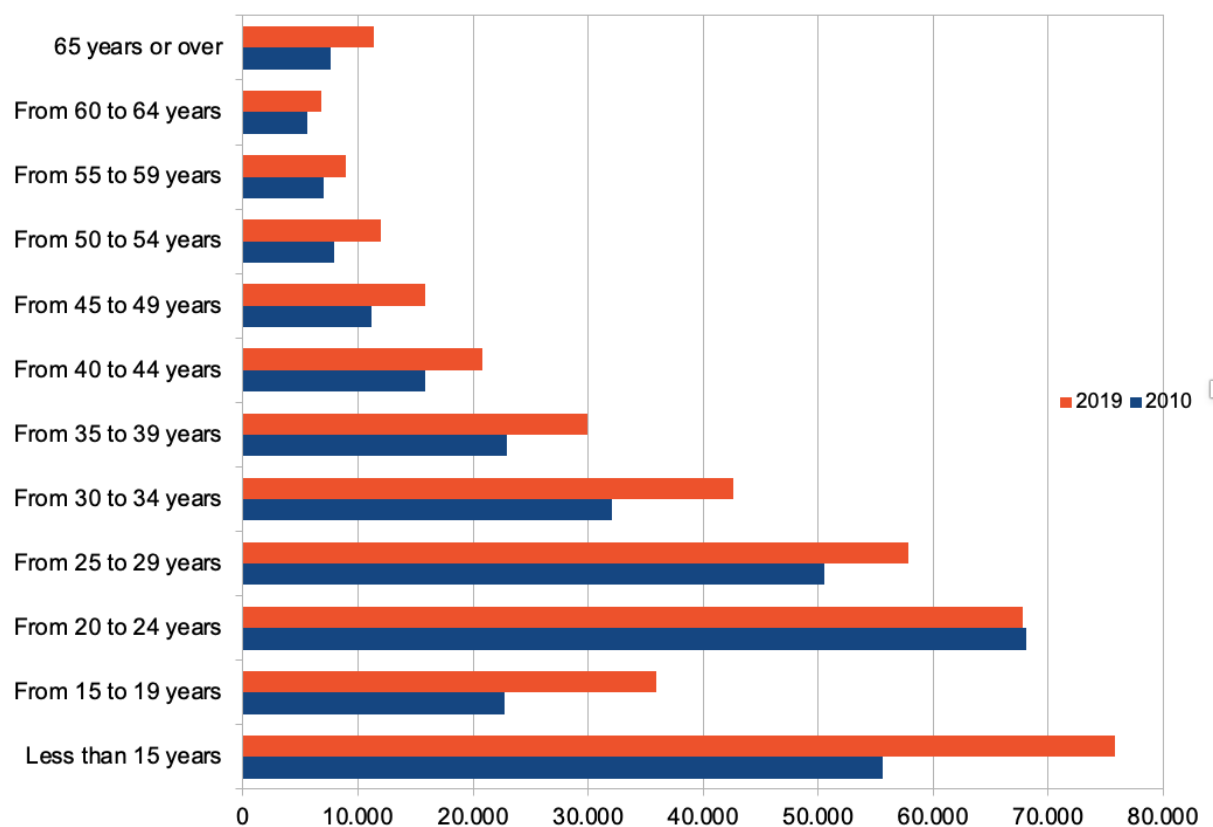


As we see in the table, the most relevant categories of immigrants in France between the years 2010-2019 belong to the ages 20-24 and minors under 15 years. Even though the trend in the European context presents a decrease of the fertility rate, there's a consistent number of young people. Nevertheless, it is important to note that there's a highly consistent part of immigrants' population that is made of adults of 65 years or over.

E.2 IMMIGRATION FLOW BY AGE GROUP

AGE	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Less than 15 years	55,589 ^(b)	57,138	60,110	62,792	62,621	63,947	68,289	69,897	75,494	75,831
From 15 to 19 years	22,764 ^(b)	24,916	25,813	25,824	27,596	30,339	32,053	32,530	36,826	35,931
From 20 to 24 years	68,117 ^(b)	65,990	67,441	68,672	67,330	73,084	74,637	71,594	70,259	67,804
From 25 to 29 years	50,518 ^(b)	51,102	51,849	52,644	52,468	58,277	58,646	56,674	59,279	57,834
From 30 to 34 years	32,031 ^(b)	35,221	35,908	36,071	37,235	38,771	39,842	39,558	42,264	42,584
From 35 to 39 years	22,925 ^(b)	25,019	25,072	25,920	25,198	26,674	27,495	27,887	28,804	29,983
From 40 to 44 years	15,845 ^(b)	18,431	18,135	19,314	19,958	20,367	20,503	20,411	20,813	20,757
From 45 to 49 years	11,142 ^(b)	12,947	12,948	14,510	14,083	15,628	15,978	13,931	15,921	15,805
From 50 to 54 years	7,966 ^(b)	8,618	9,478	9,556	10,445	11,276	12,108	11,626	11,315	12,005
From 55 to 59 years	7,010 ^(b)	6,540	6,568	7,891	7,416	8,638	8,672	7,823	8,363	8,900
From 60 to 64 years	5,622 ^(b)	6,100	5,691	5,917	6,235	6,699	7,725	6,535	6,679	6,815
65 years or over	7,582 ^(b)	7,794	8,418	9,641	9,798	10,521	11,761	11,155	11,141	11,342

Table 8. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_imm1ctz]



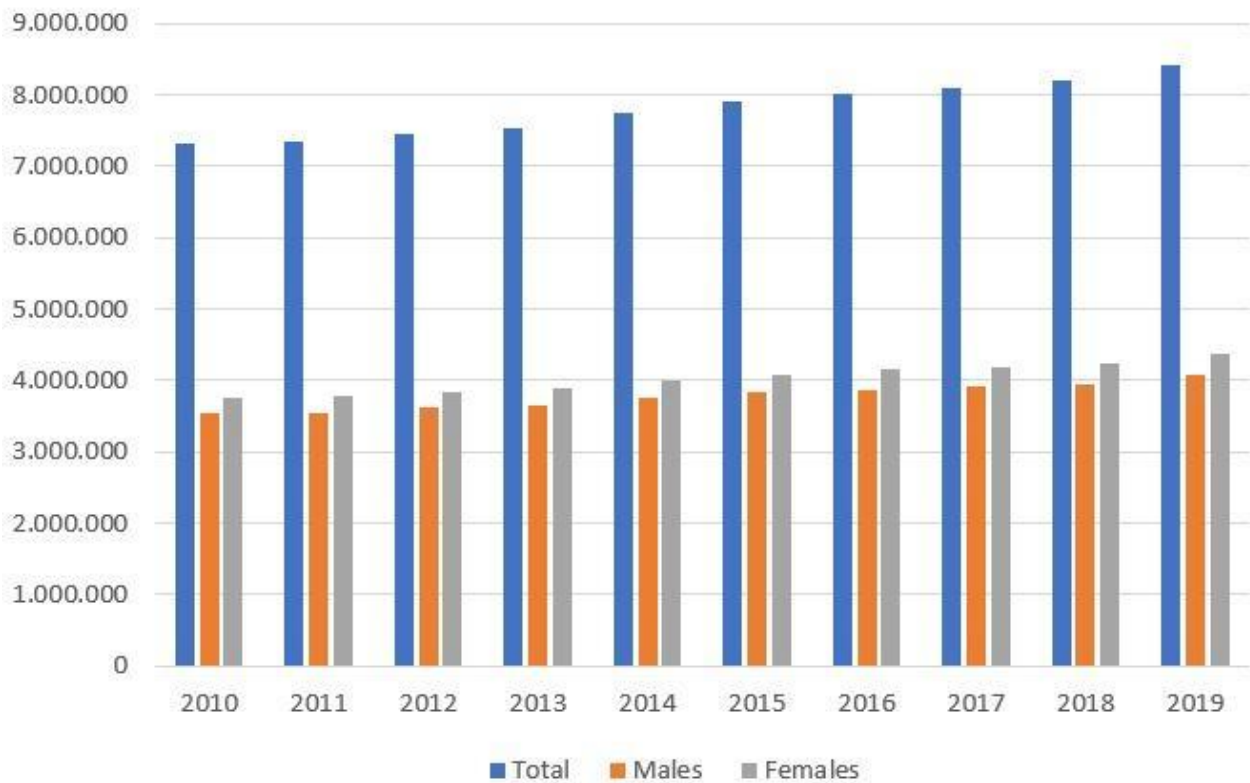
As we see in table 8, the most relevant categories of immigrants in France between the years 2010-2019 belong to the ages 20-24 and minors under 15. Even though, as we said before, the trend in the European context presents a decrease in the fertility rate, the French age pyramid still has a large base.

F.1 IMMIGRATION STOCK BY CATEGORY (SEX)

TIME	SEX	Total	Males	Females
2010		7,309,986	3,554,527	3,755,459
2011		7,335,966	3,552,557	3,783,409
2012		7,463,157 ^(b)	3,614,415 ^(b)	3,848,742 ^(b)
2013		7,543,950	3,644,328	3,899,622
2014		7,746,520 ^(b)	3,747,575 ^(b)	3,998,945 ^(b)
2015		7,915,838	3,824,732	4,091,106
2016		8,028,227	3,876,508	4,151,719
2017		8,098,872	3,911,364	4,187,508
2018		8,199,663	3,947,281	4,252,382
2019		8,428,660 ^(p)	4,067,065 ^(p)	4,361,595 ^(p)

Table 9. Source: EUROSTAT[migr_pop3ctb]

Stock of migrants by sex

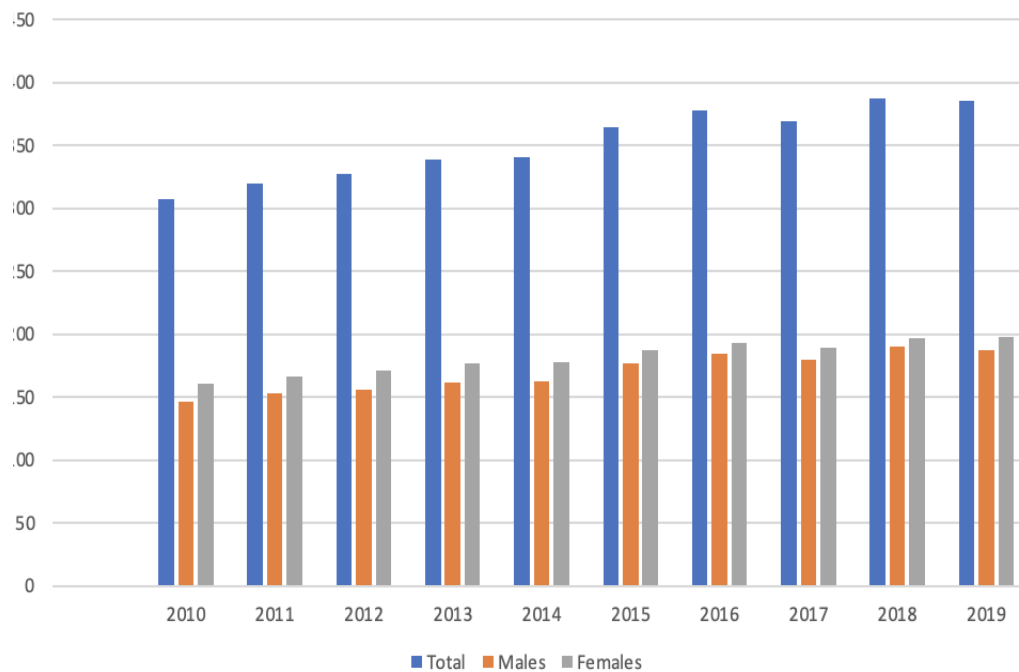


Based on the data collected, the number of males immigrants is fewer than female immigrants, and it has always been higher than the male ones from 2010 to 2019. In addition to that we can see a slight increase of about 1.61% in the number of female immigrants compared to the year 2010-2019. This feminization in migration is usually attributed to family reunification, because historically, men tend to migrate to find work and their female partners join them later. The other reason is the rise of “independent” female migration with the goal of finding equal education and employment as men.

F.2 IMMIGRATION FLOW BY CATEGORY (SEX)

TIME	SEX	Total	Males	Females
2010		307,111 ^(b)	146,681 ^(b)	160,430 ^(b)
2011		319,816	153,022	166,794
2012		327,431	155,811	171,620
2013		338,752	161,862	176,890
2014		340,383	162,542	177,841
2015		364,221	177,217	187,004
2016		377,709	184,918	192,791
2017		369,621	180,213	189,408
2018		387,158	190,126	197,032
2019		385,591	187,681	197,910

Table 10. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_imm8]

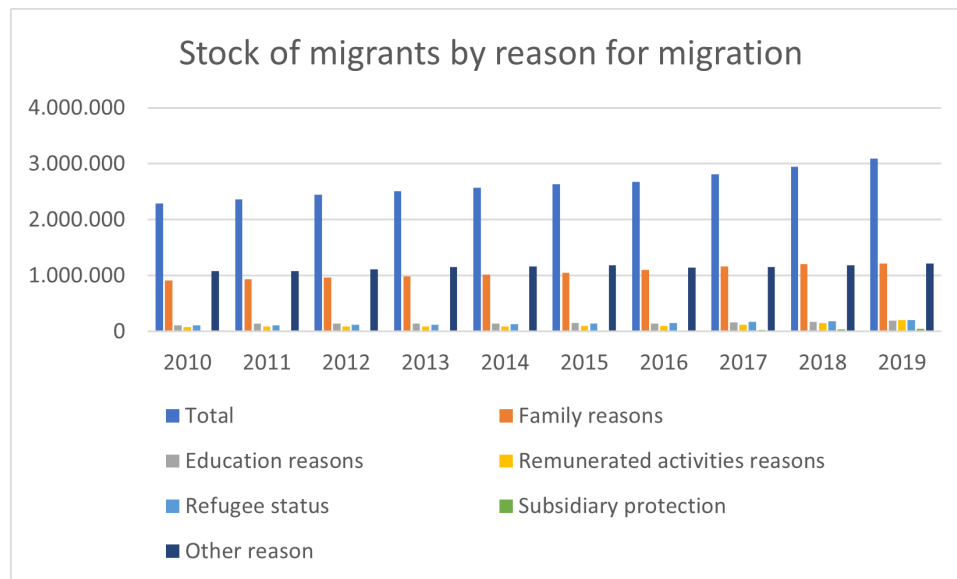


Based on the data collected, there is an underrepresentation of male immigrants and the number of female immigrants has always been higher than the male ones from 2010 to 2019 and we can see a slight increase of about 1.23% in the number of female immigrants comparing the year 2010 to 2019. This feminization in migration is usually attributed to family reunification, because historically, men tend to migrate to find work and their female partners join them later. The other reason is the rise of “independent” female migration with the goal of finding equal education and employment as men.

G.1 IMMIGRANTS STOCK BY CATEGORY (REASONS FOR MIGRATION)

TIME	REASON	Total	Family reasons	Education reasons	Remunerated activities reasons	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Other reason
2010		2,294,046	909,824	110,075	80,681	108,996	4,802	1,079,668
2011		2,363,001	933,042	143,211	86,782	113,588	6,014	1,080,364
2012		2,444,426	961,762	144,549	91,882	120,613	7,823	1,117,797
2013		2,512,279	984,234	145,352	90,602	126,433	9,635	1,156,023
2014		2,577,189	1,023,458	145,377	94,419	133,316	11,135	1,169,494
2015		2,633,041	1,047,981	148,849	100,639	141,336	12,585	1,181,651
2016		2,672,813	1,103,466	146,477	106,776	154,060	16,544	1,145,490
2017		2,807,593	1,161,675	162,110	124,235	173,001	27,293	1,159,279
2018		2,945,573	1,202,492	172,990	156,592	187,275	36,334	1,189,890
2019		3,090,419	1,221,823	198,067	205,689	205,475	45,554	1,213,811

Table 11. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]



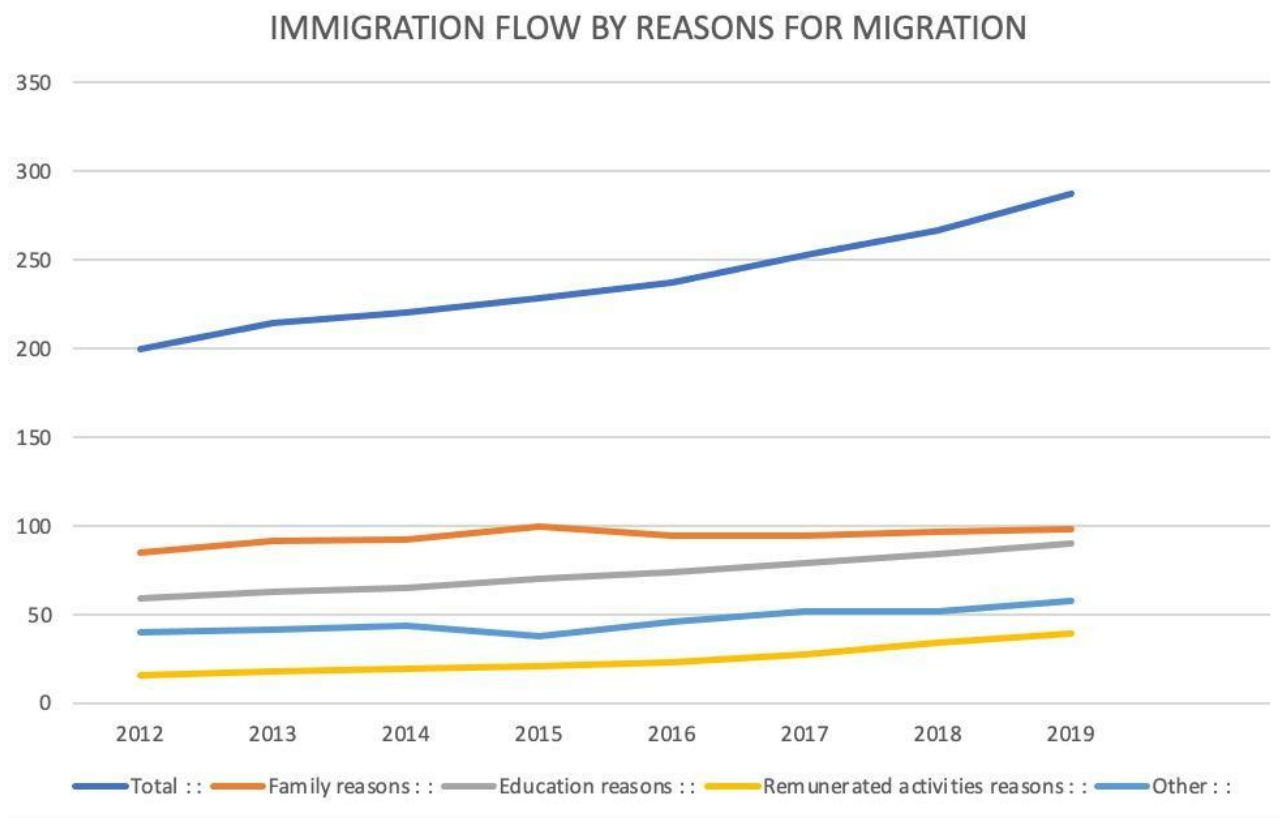
If we want to make a comparison between the stock of total migrants in 2010 and 2019, we can see a raise concerning the total number. There's a similarity in those two years (but also in the others): "Family reasons" remains a significant reason for migration and then there are other non-mentioned reasons indicated as "Others".

The most obvious rise in the number of immigrants in these years can be seen in the number of people applying for a "Refugee status" but also for a "Subsidiary protection". The Subsidiary Protection is the international protection for people seeking asylum who don't qualify as refugees. This rise in the numbers can be due to the wars and crises that have happened in the last decade.

G.2 IMMIGRATION FLOW BY REASONS FOR MIGRATION

TIME	REASON	Total	Family reasons	Education reasons	Remunerated activities	Other
2010		:	:	:	:	:
2011		:	:	:	:	:
2012		199,480	84,747	59,025	15,827	39,881
2013		214,346	91,707	62,988	18,244	41,407
2014		220,599	92,272	65,201	19,428	43,698
2015		228,687 ^(d)	99,312	70,250	21,003	38,122
2016		237,218	94,345	73,865	23,275	45,733
2017		252,826	94,247	78,758	27,835	51,986
2018		266,699	96,937	83,975	33,993	51,794
2019		287,443	97,908	90,388	39,172	57,618

TABLE 12. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resfas]

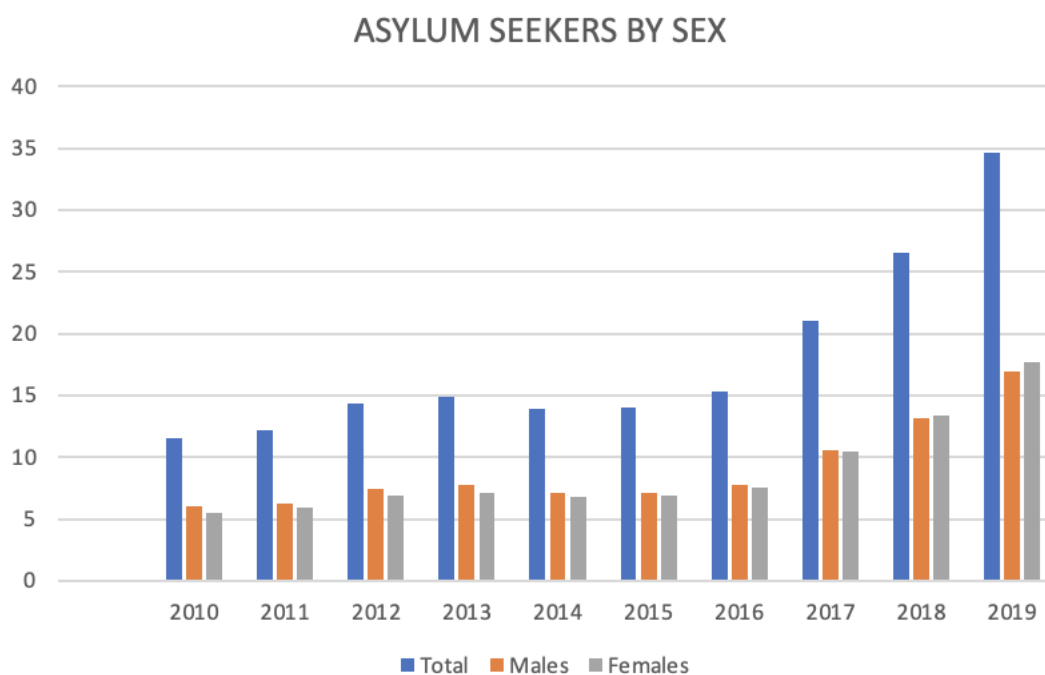


Based on the data collected from Eurostat's database, the total flow of immigrants from 2012 to 2019 has increased by 1,44% and the main reason for it has been "family reasons", while the most obvious raise belongs to the "remunerated activities". The flow of migrants with the aim of earning money has risen from 15,827 people in 2012 to 39,172 people in 2019, which sounds quite rational because the number of people changing their place of living with the aim of finding better jobs and salaries is increasing based on the economic problems throughout the world.

H. TOTAL NUMBER OF ASYLUM APPLICANTS BY SEX

TIME	SEX	Total	Males	Females
2010		11,550	6,040	5,510
2011		12,165	6,260	5,905
2012		14,350	7,430	6,920
2013		14,875	7,710	7,160
2014		13,945	7,145	6,800
2015		14,020	7,115	6,905
2016		15,285	7,725	7,560
2017		20,995	10,535	10,465
2018		26,525	13,185	13,340
2019		34,590	16,910	17,680

Table 13. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_asyappctza]



An asylum-seeker is a person who has left his or her country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim.

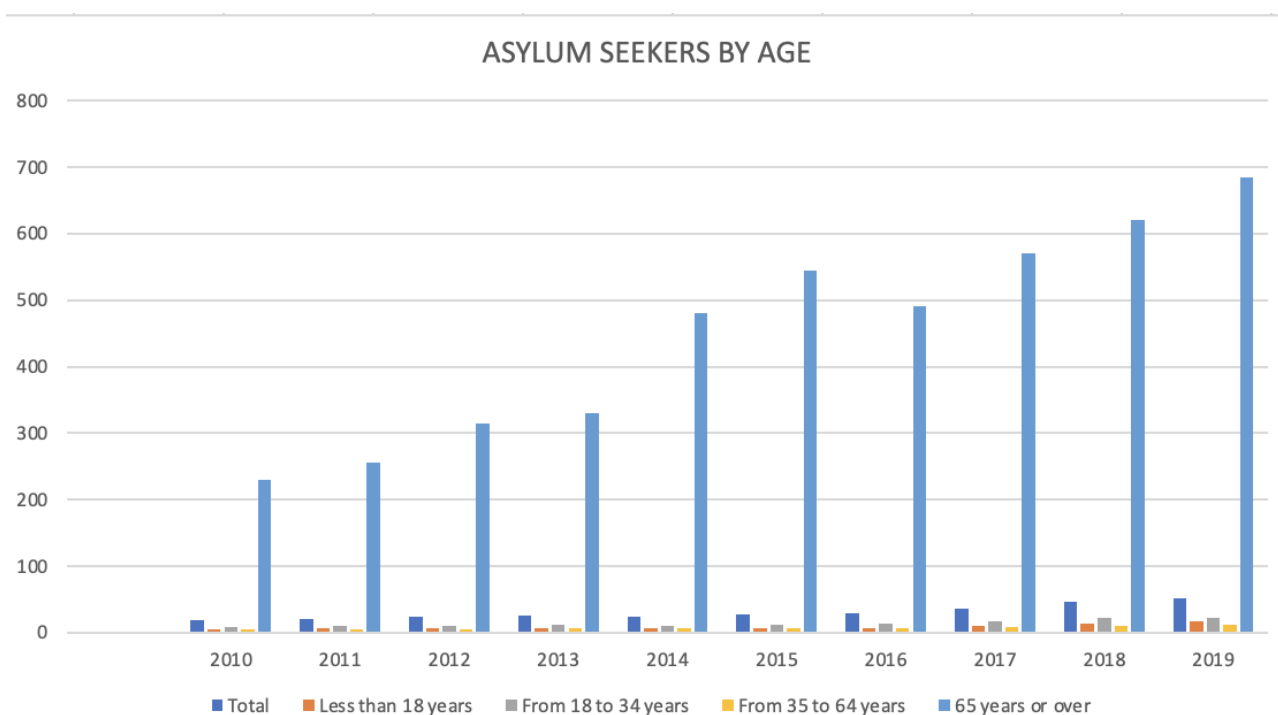
As we see in the table, by comparing the years 2010 and 2019, the number of asylum-seekers in 2019 has increased 3 times compared to 2010. One of the main reasons can be the Syrian war in 2011 which led to a huge increase in the number of Asylum applicants in Europe but the increase in this number is more obvious from the years 2017 to 2019. The main reason for this increase can be the election of Emmanuel Macron and the new amendments of the asylum and immigration law

which reduced the time limit of entrance to the labor market from 9 months to 6 months for asylum-seekers and also the lodging time from 120 days to 90 days.

I. TOTAL NUMBER OF ASYLUM APPLICANTS BY AGE GROUP

TIME	AGE	Total	Less than 18 years	From 18 to 34 years	From 35 to 64 years	65 years or over
2010		19,375	5,510	8,950	4,685	230
2011		20,980	5,905	9,685	5,135	255
2012		23,830	6,920	10,750	5,840	315
2013		24,975	7,160	11,335	6,145	330
2014		24,590	6,800	10,910	6,395	480
2015		27,190	6,905	12,385	7,355	545
2016		29,345	7,560	13,785	7,505	490
2017		36,310	10,465	16,245	9,030	570
2018		46,220	13,340	21,775	10,490	620
2019		51,935	17,680	21,750	11,825	685

TABLE N.14. Source: EUROSTAT [migr_asyappctza]



Based on the information that we have gathered, from 2010 to 2019, the age group of 18-34 years is the first group that has the most applicants for asylum and after that, we can see the minors under 18 years old.

We have to take a look at the situation of minors under 18. Most of the members of this age group are unaccompanied minors which are principally from Africa (71%) and to a lesser extent from

Asia (20%). According to the knowledge of MMNA's country-oriented unit, 14,908 records of unaccompanied minors were delivered to French departments between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.

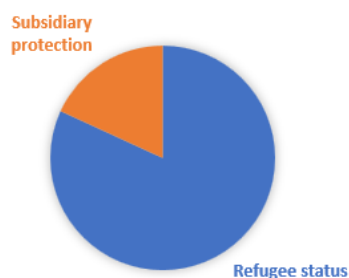
One of the key features of France is the ever-increasing flow in recent years, leading to many challenges. These minors have different reasons for leaving their country of origin. The Senate report describes why unaccompanied minors leave their country of origin: “The reasons for this particular type of migration are many. Some are fleeing their country of origin where political or social unrest threatens their safety, others see France as a springboard on their migration path to the UK, but most came to France in search of economic opportunities they did not find on their own. Therefore, this is a group that wishes to settle permanently and not be affected by refugee status. Their appearance is often organized by criminal networks that have to fight. Finally, a large number of young people seek the protection that our laws provide to minors.”

L. SHARE OF REFUGEES OF TOTAL MIGRATION

REASON	2019
Total	3,090,419
Refugee status	205,475
Subsidiary protection	45,554

TABLE 15. Source: EUROSTAT[migr_resvalid]

SHARE OF REFUGEES OF TOTAL MIGRATION

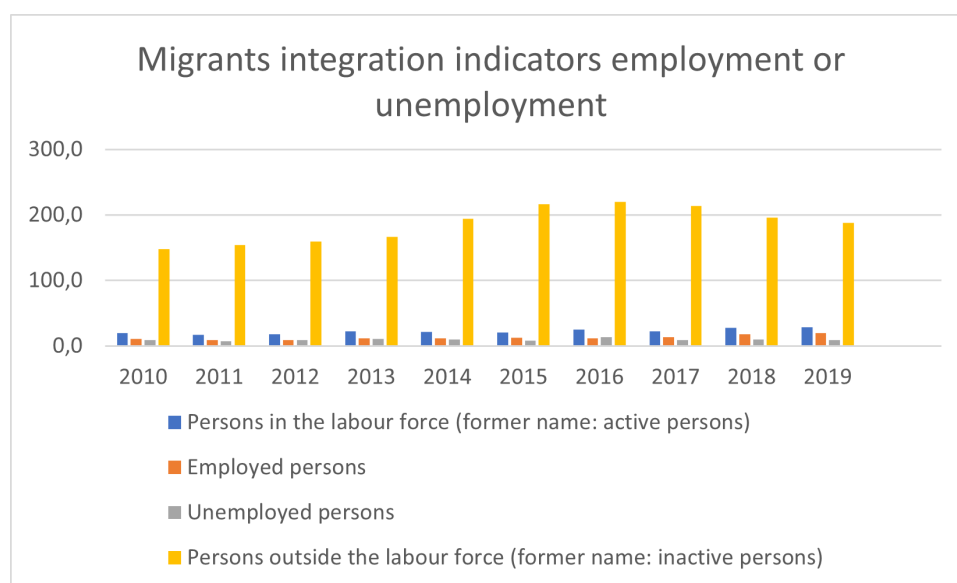


As we see in this table, the total migration in the year 2019 has been 3,09,419 and only 15.04% people received the refugee status out of this number because, as we saw in Table 8.1, the most important reason for the migrants in 2019 has been the “family reunification.”

M. MIGRANTS INTEGRATION INDICATORS OF EMPLOYMENT OR UNEMPLOYMENT

TIME	Persons in the labour force (former name: active persons)	Employed persons	Unemployed persons	Persons outside the labour force (former name: inactive persons)
2010	3,352.2	2,888.0	464.3	1,619.9
2011	3,424.5	2,933.1	491.4	1,661.1
2012	3,505.4	2,982.7	522.6	1,676.5
2013	3,464.1	2,900.8	563.4	1,636.9
2014	3,458.2 ^(b)	2,885.8 ^(b)	572.4 ^(b)	1,666.9 ^(b)
2015	3,552.8	2,936.9	615.8	1,736.5
2016	3,550.4	2,959.2	591.1	1,794.0
2017	3,651.6	3,085.7	566.0	1,804.4
2018	3,752.9	3,205.9	547.1	1,729.7
2019	3,739.1	3,250.2	489.0	1,761.8

Table 16. Source: EUROSTAT [lfsa_pgacws]



According to table 16, the foreign people's unemployment rate (number of unemployed people in the country, divided by the total number of workers available in the civilian labor force) of 2010 has been about 13,8% whereas the same rate in 2019 has been 13,07%. So there's no difference between these 2 years in this decade.

On the other hand, comparing the foreign people's unemployment rate in 2019 with the nationals' one (8%)³ we can observe a more significant number for foreigners.

CONCLUSION

While keeping into consideration all the above data, it can be said that, in the European Union, France is the most popular country of destination after Germany. Even when the population all over the country was falling due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, France's population stock is increasing in

³ <https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/4498582?sommaire=4498692&q=taux+de+chomage+immigr%C3%A9>

2022 by approximately 1.5%. It is worth noting that an increase in population when all the world was facing a decrease means that France is one of a welfare state which in every situation provides all the facilities to migrants.

As per the research, the reason behind the positive population of migrants in France after the Second World war, is its immigration policies and main reason behind the France migrants is family reunification and settlement. Most of the migrants' people are non- EU born young females, aged between 20 and 40 years. This is because of correlation with the European Union results since it considers non-EU countries migrants more populous. In addition to that, we should keep in mind that the main reason for migration of these young women is family reunification (especially from North African countries).

Lastly, we must keep in consideration that during the years 2010 and 2019 the number of Asylum seekers and refugees (usually from Afghanistan or Guinea) has doubled even after there was a negative decision upon the first asylum application by French immigration authorities. However, an impact is perceivable on the employment market, labor demand, migrants and immigrants' decision itself and collectively on the total number of the migrants in France due to the health crisis in 2019. Overall, an increase in the migrant population can be seen in France over the years taken into consideration.