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European Migration Studies

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Country Report For Migration in Europe

Sweden



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Introduction

The aim of this report is to present a framework of the migration phenomenon in Sweden based on data collected and made available by EUROSTAT, the official database of the European Union.

Before starting analyzing data, it has to be considered that migration in Sweden has undergone a clear trend in recent years. The number of people applying for residence permits for work, studies or as a relative legal migration is increasing, while the number of asylum seekers in recent years has fluctuated and it is now mainly stable¹.

Sweden's approach to integration is more inclusive compared to the other Nordic countries. Its policies are advances in health and access to nationality for example. Moreover, the integration of immigrants in Sweden includes policies that invest in them, and encourages all population to consider migrants as their equal and as part of the society, and as potential citizens.

Furthermore, integration policies significantly influence the way immigrants and the public interact, and the immigrant's own attitudes, sense of belonging, participation and even health in the new country.

Consequently, Sweden's policies seem to be more effective than other countries at reaching most immigrant residents in need and Sweden's overall approach places it in the MIPEX² 'Top Ten' within the top three³.

The analysis focuses on Sweden as a country of destination in the time period between 2010 and 2020. Specifically, this work analyzes both stocks and flows of the total population in Sweden and of migrants, in particular stressing out information about different categories of sex, age, country of birth and reasons for migration. Finally, the focus is on the data about refugees and asylum seekers and the migrants' integration within the employment or unemployment indicators.

The report is structured into eight sections, according to the eight different objects of analysis:

1. Stock of total population.
2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years.
3. Immigrant stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reasons for migration).
4. Population growth.
5. Flows of migrants in the last 10 years, immigration flow (by sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration).
6. Total number of refugees (asylum seekers, sex, age).
7. Share of refugees on total migration.
8. Migrants' integration indicators employment or unemployment.

¹ EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2019 - Sweden Migrationsverket (Swedish Migration Agency), 2020
Editor: Louise Waldenström - www.emnsweden.se

² Migration Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), a tool which measures policies to integrate migrants.

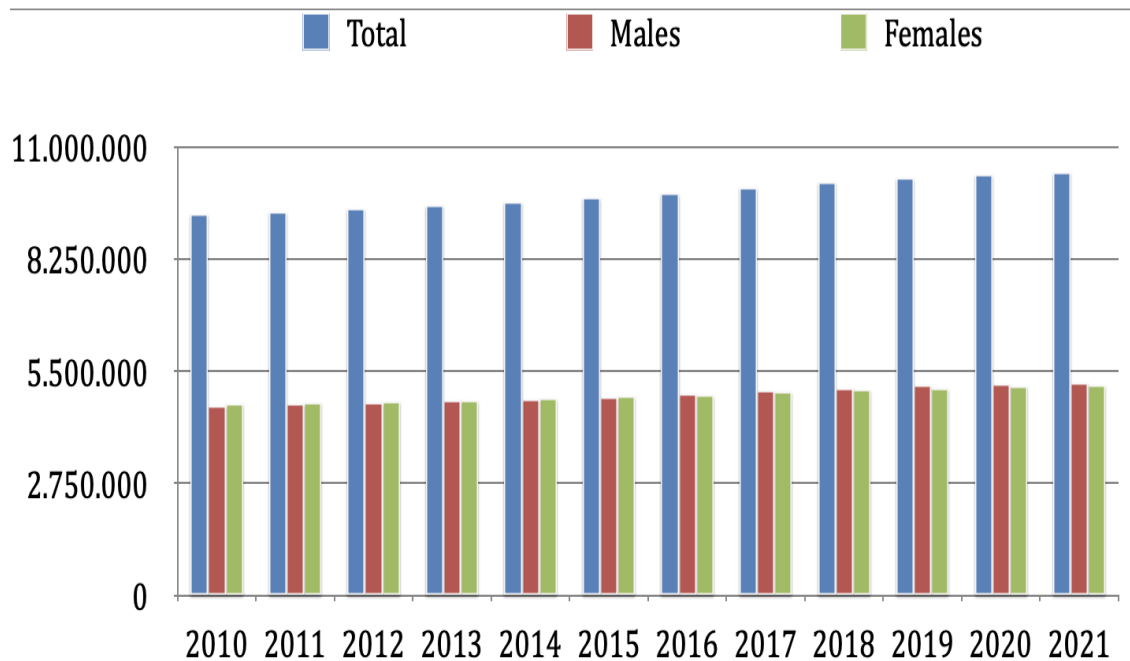
³ Migration policy index 2020 Sweden, available at: <https://www.mipex.eu/download-pdf>

1. Stock total population

Starting from the first section, we have considered the stock of total population in the last 10 years by sex and then we focused our attention on data of the stock by country of birth in the period 2010-2021.

In the following graph, we can see that there's a slight majority of females from 2010 to 2015, then of males from 2016 to 2021. All in all, the population is distributed almost equally and there is not a large gap between the two sexes⁴.

Stock of population in the last 10 years

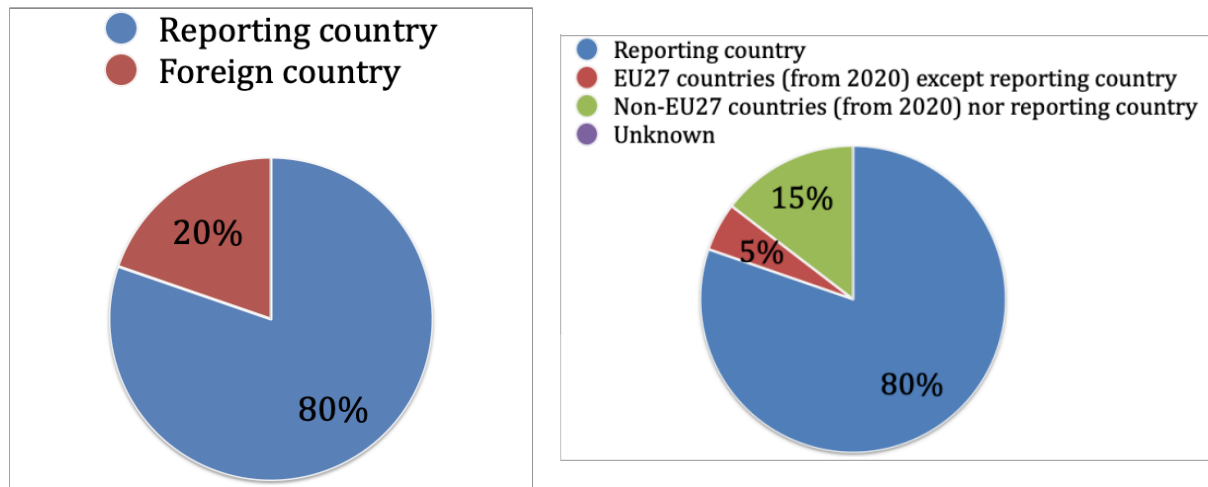


Source: EUROSTAT [demo_pjan]

Furthermore, if we go deeper into details, taking a look to the data from the 1st of January 2021 and considering the country of birth, we notice that 20 % of total population (TOT. 10.379.295) were not born in Sweden, of which 15% were born in non-EU countries (here considered as 27 member States).

⁴ “Life expectancy for both men and women has increased steadily in Sweden for a long time. In 2020, life expectancy fell unusually much because of the high number of deaths due to COVID-19. In 2021, 6 166 fewer deaths than the previous year was registered, and life expectancy increased with 0.61 years for men and with 0.53 years for women. Life expectancy is with that back on the same level as before the COVID-19 pandemic.” (Statistical news from Statistics Sweden 2022-03-22 8.00 - <https://www.scb.se/en/finding-statistics/statistics-by-subject-area/population/population-composition/population-statistics/pong/statistical-news/swedens-population-2021--population-changes2/>)

Population on 1st January 2021 in Sweden by country of birth



Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

The number of immigrants has varied from year to year. The significant peaks were the ones of labour immigration at the end of the 1960s, refugees from Iran at the end of the 1980s and from Yugoslavia in the beginning of the 1990s. During the 2000s, the number of immigrants has increased and reached an all-time-high in 2016. Since then the immigration has decreased, but it still remains at a historically high level.⁵ Reasons for this could be traced mainly to the asylum seekers and immigration for economic reasons, studies and family reunification, as the following data analysis will show.

In order to calculate the stock of international migrants residing in Sweden in the last 10 years, we must look at the data of foreign-country nationals present in the destination country on the 1st of January of each year. According to the “Push-Pull model”⁶, migration is a result of economic, political, and social factors.

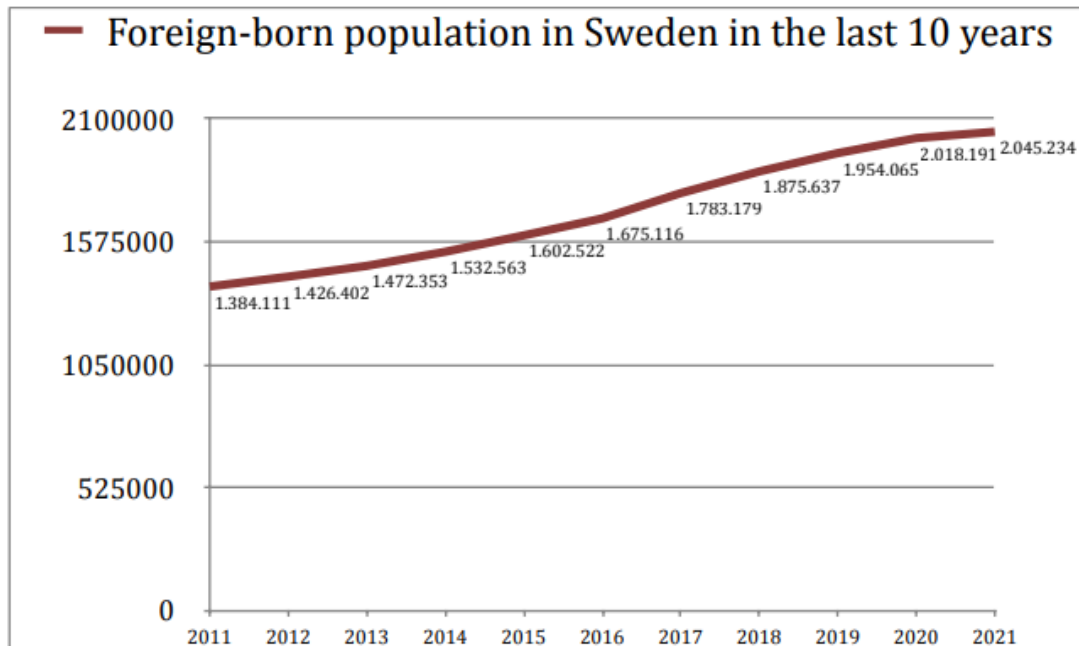
The following graph shows the stock of foreign-born population residing in Sweden from 2011 to 2021. As we can see, the graph confirms trend continuous and constant reaching the highest figure in 2020 and a slight increase in 2021, mainly due to the Covid-19 Pandemic⁷.

⁵ “Immigration and emigration by sex and country of birth 1970–2021 and projection 2022–2070” in Statistics Sweden - <https://www.scb.se/en/finding-statistics/statistics-by-subject-area/population/population-projections/population-projections/pong/tables-and-graphs/immigration-and-emigration-by-sex-and-country-of-birth-and-projection/>

⁶ Lee’s migration model, created in 1996, refers to push and pull factors that are reasons for emigration and immigration, a push factor is something negative about the country that someone lives in and can be decisive for them to leave (e.g., war, economic crisis). A pull factor is something that attracts migrants (e.g., favorable labour market). For more details: Le migrazioni internazionali, Teorie e Dibattiti di Maria Marta Muro.

⁷ According to Statistics Sweden (see note 1).

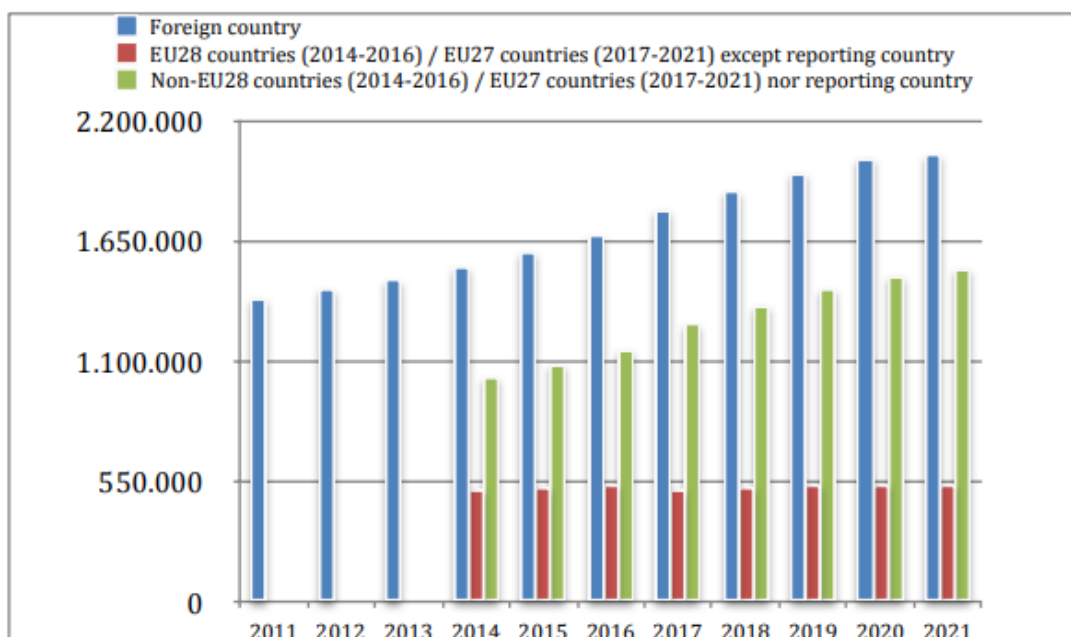
Foreign-born population in Sweden in the last 10 years



Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

According to the following graph, we can see that the migration gain of Sweden is in a wide majority made of people coming from outside the European Union. Accurate data is not available for the years 2011-2013. In this analysis we have considered data from 2014 to 2016 as EU 28 countries, while from 2017 to 2021 as EU 27 countries, following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Brexit).

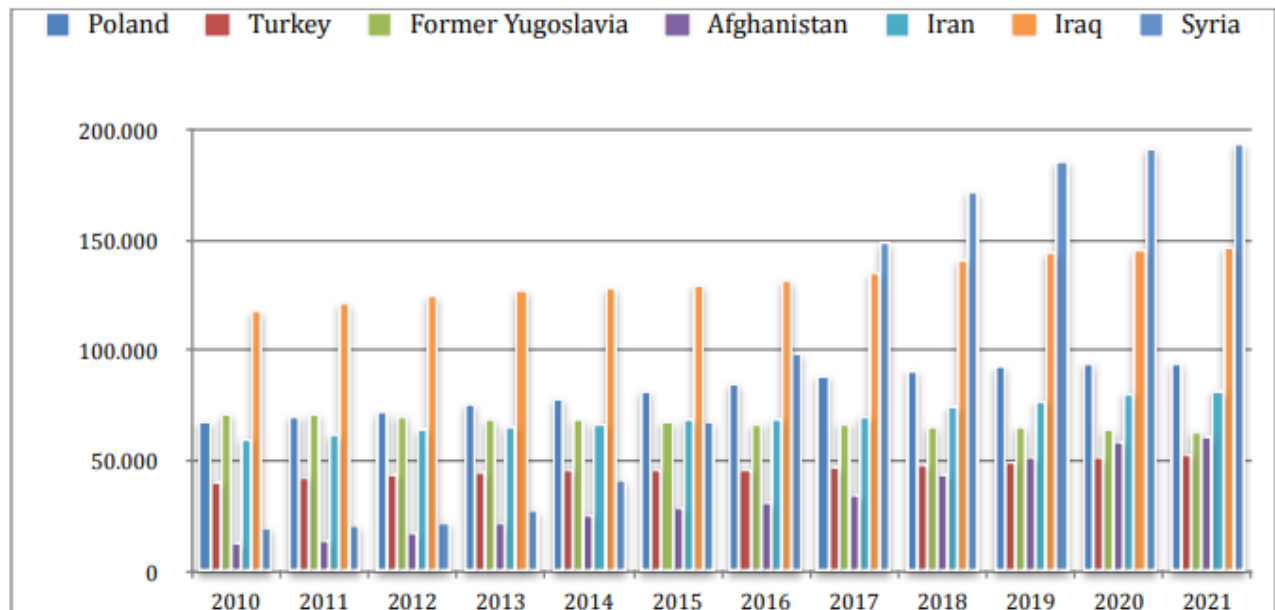
Stock of migrants sorted by country of birth in the last 10 years



Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

Given the majority of non-EU countries nationals moving to Sweden, we have decided to take a closer look in general at the top foreign nationals migrants in the Swedish territory. In the following table, we can see that from the EU countries there's a considerable presence of people from Poland, while it is worth mentioning the major immigration gain from Syria which has reached an exponential growth since 2016, surpassing the Iraq's constant growing presence since 2010.

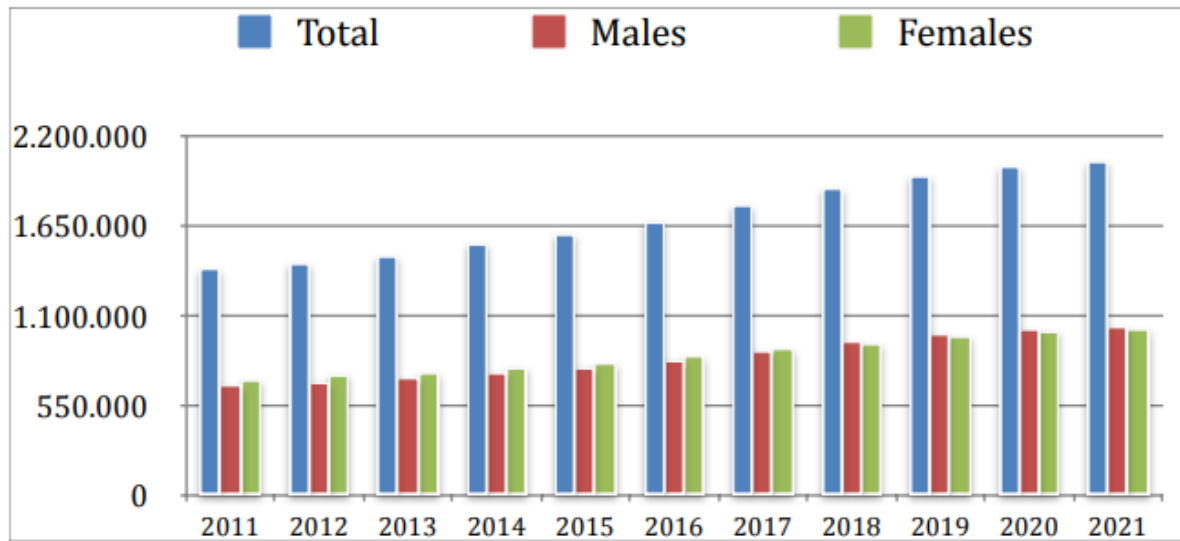
Stock of migrants divided by country of birth



Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

For what concerns sex, the following graph shows that in the last 10 years female migrants exceeded male migrants until 2017, but then since 2018 the gap has been filled by males migrants and progressively exceeding the female migrants until now. All in all it is possible to state that the migration trend has been constant.

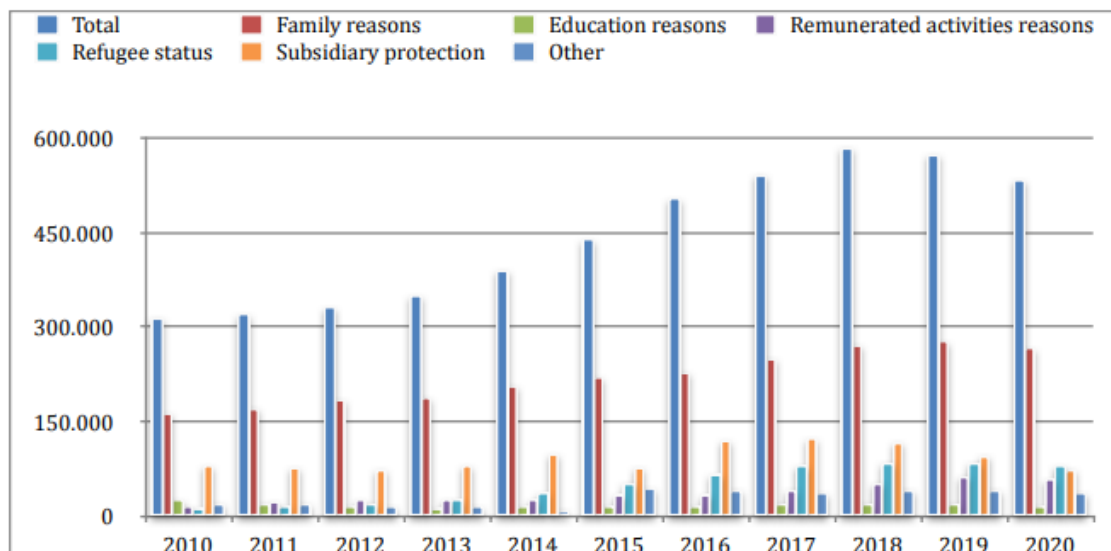
Stock of migrants sorted by sex in the last 10 years



Source: EUROSTAT [migr_pop3ctb]

Speaking of reasons for migration, the following graph shows the trend of the last 10 years in Sweden. The main reason for migration has constantly been “Family reasons”, mostly reunifications, followed on a lower scale by subsidiary protection (that would explain the numbers of migrants from Syria and Iraq, mainly as asylum seekers).

Flow of migrants sorted by reason of migration

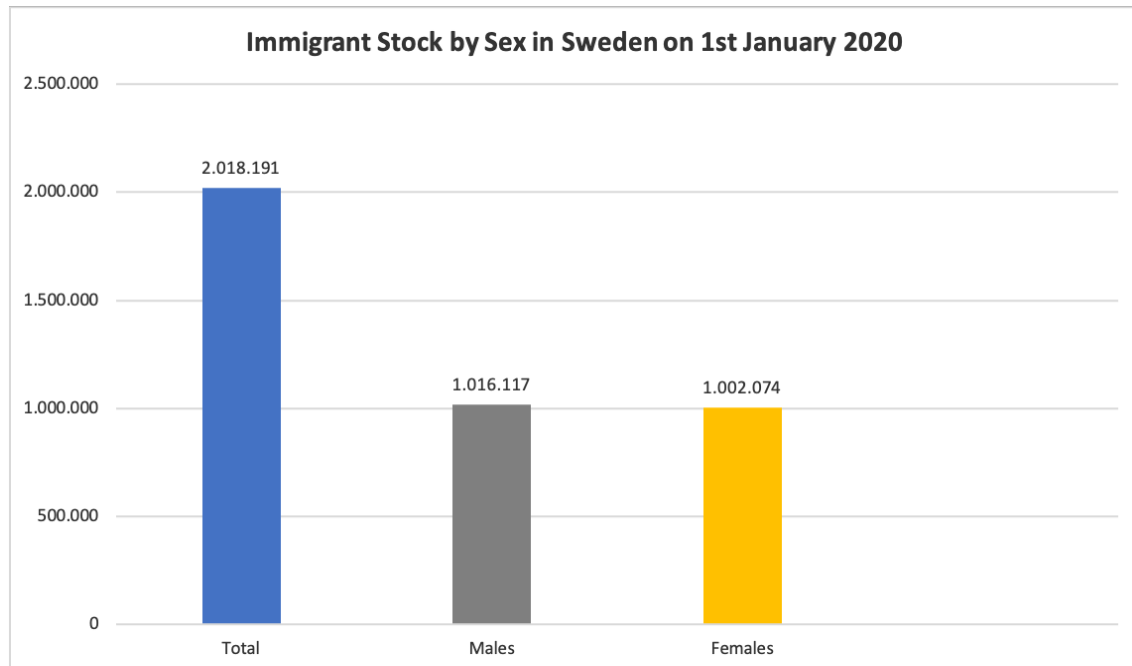


Source: EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid]

3. Immigrant stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

The following part of the report analyses the immigrant stock by category in Sweden. Most of the datas refer to stocks on 1st January 2020. The analysis will be focused specifically on sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration⁸.

The first graph shows the immigrant stock by sex. From the histogram we can notice an equilibrium between males and females stock of migrants in the country: 1 016 117 males and 1 002 074 females, a very slight difference between the two sexes.



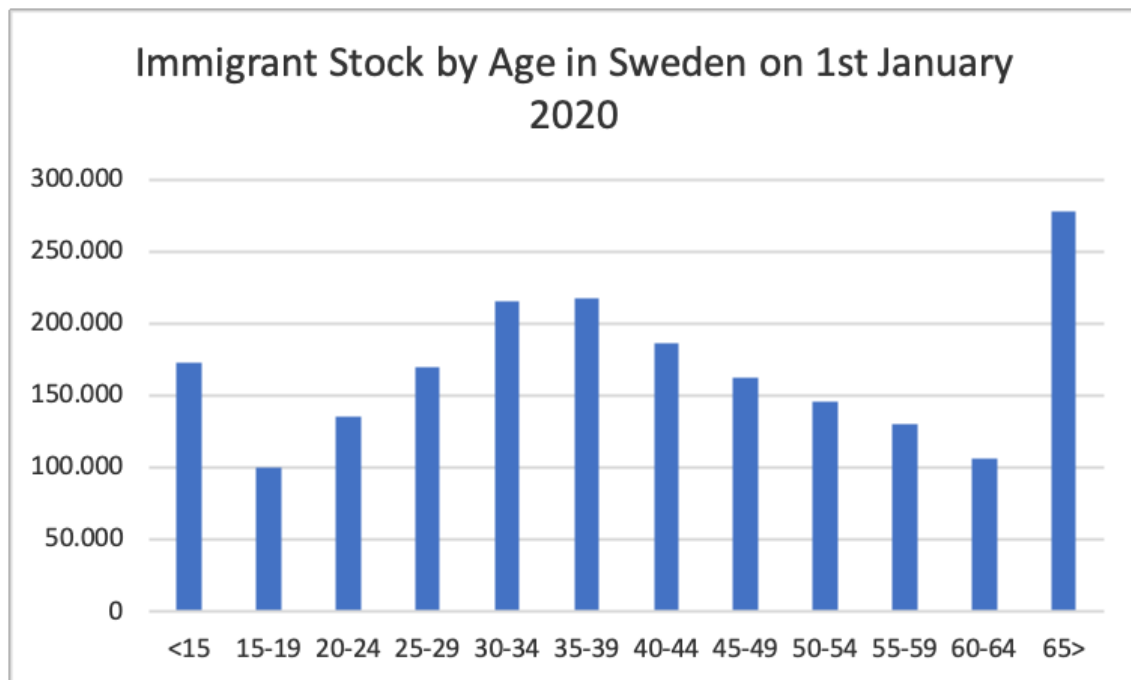
Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

The chart below shows the immigrant stock according to age groups. As it is possible to see, the highest level is represented by elderly people, particularly the age group “65 years old and over” counts 277.531 immigrants.

This data is followed by two other groups, whose numbers are slightly similar. Those groups are the ones concerning young adults from 30 to 39 years old, whose sum exceeds 400.000 people.

Moreover, another relevant feature refers to minors under 15 years old, which are 100.528.

⁸ The information used is taken from EUROSTAT following the labels [migr_pop3ctb] and [migr_resvalid].



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

The third graph shows which countries of origin the majority of immigrants in Sweden come from.

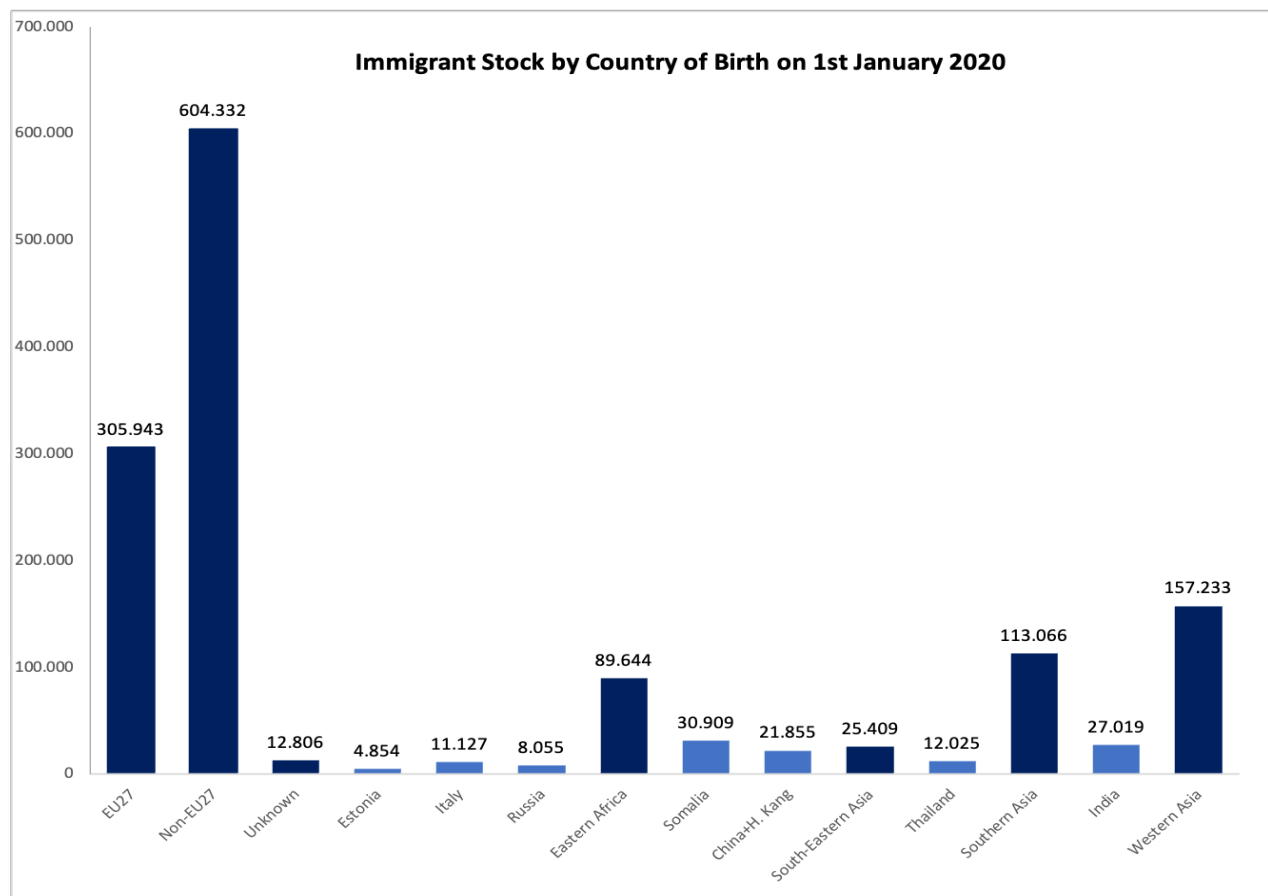
First of all, it is important to make clear that the light blue columns represent individual States, while the dark blue ones symbolize groups of Countries.

The first two columns show the number of people coming from EU countries and non-European countries. As it is possible to see, European citizens moving into Sweden were 305.943, whereas for the other category immigrants were 604.332.

Moreover, it is interesting the fact that the three main countries in Europe from which the majority of immigrants come from were Estonia, Italy and Russia. In particular, Italian citizens moving into Sweden were 11.127.

For what concerns Southern Asia Countries, India registered a sort of record for citizens migrated to Sweden, data which stands at 27.019.

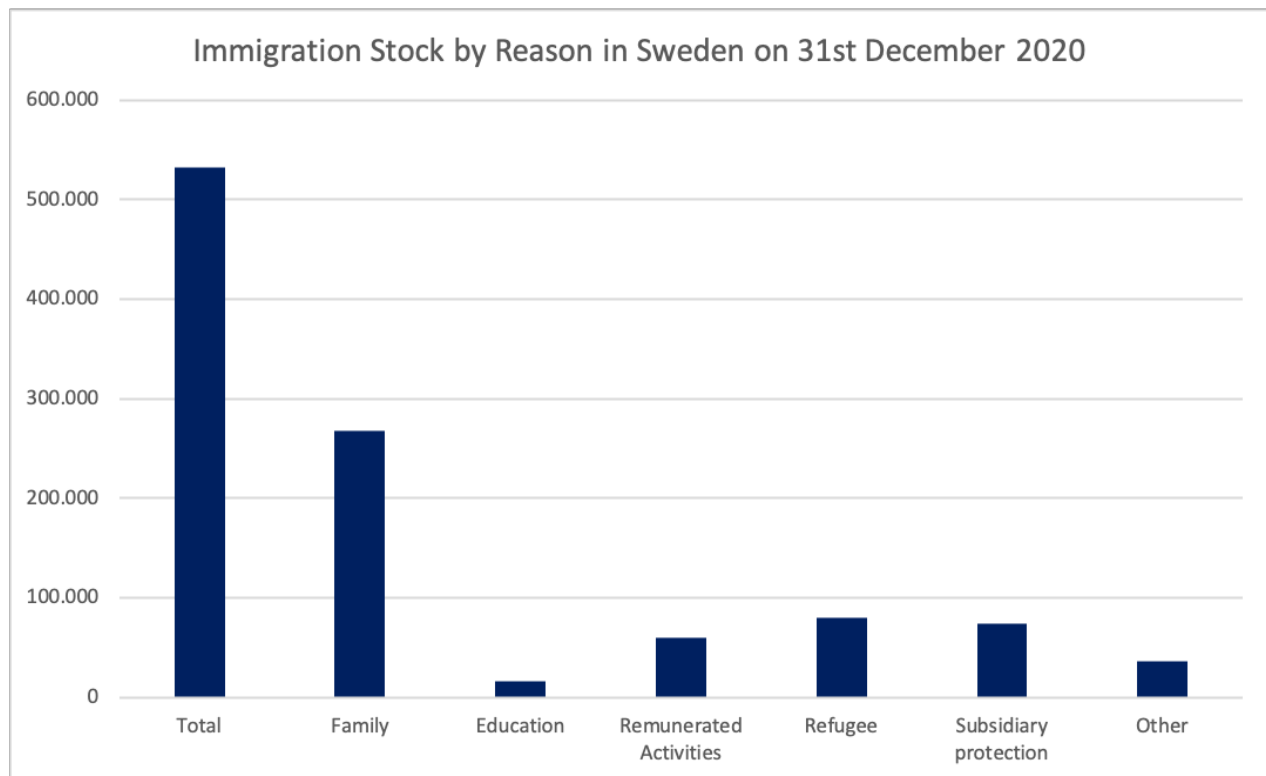
Lastly, within the group of non-European countries, also Asia represents an important continent of origin. In particular, China, Thailand and India are the main countries Asian immigrants come from.



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

We can continue considering the reasons for migration, looking at the stock of migrants on 31st December 2020. The graph below shows that out of a total of 533.046 people 268.032 people moved because of family reunification, 15.587 because of education reasons, 59.256 for remunerated activities, 79.599 are refugees, 74.081 for obtaining the subsidiary protection and 36.491 moved for other reasons.

Hence, it has to be noticed that approximately half of the migrants living in Sweden at the end of December were there for family reasons. Instead, just few migrants were present into the country for educational purposes.



Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid]

The following pie charts tend to analyze deeply the reasons for migration according to the number of months of permits obtained or required by the immigrants themselves.

As it is possible to see, there is a common trend between two categories of permits, the one from 3 to 5 months and the one from 6 to 11 months.

According to the charts, it is quite impossible to show accurately all criteria, due to the fact that some data are so low that they represent about 0% of the total.

	3-5 months permits	6-11 months permits
Refugees status	0	1
Subsidiary protection	4	0

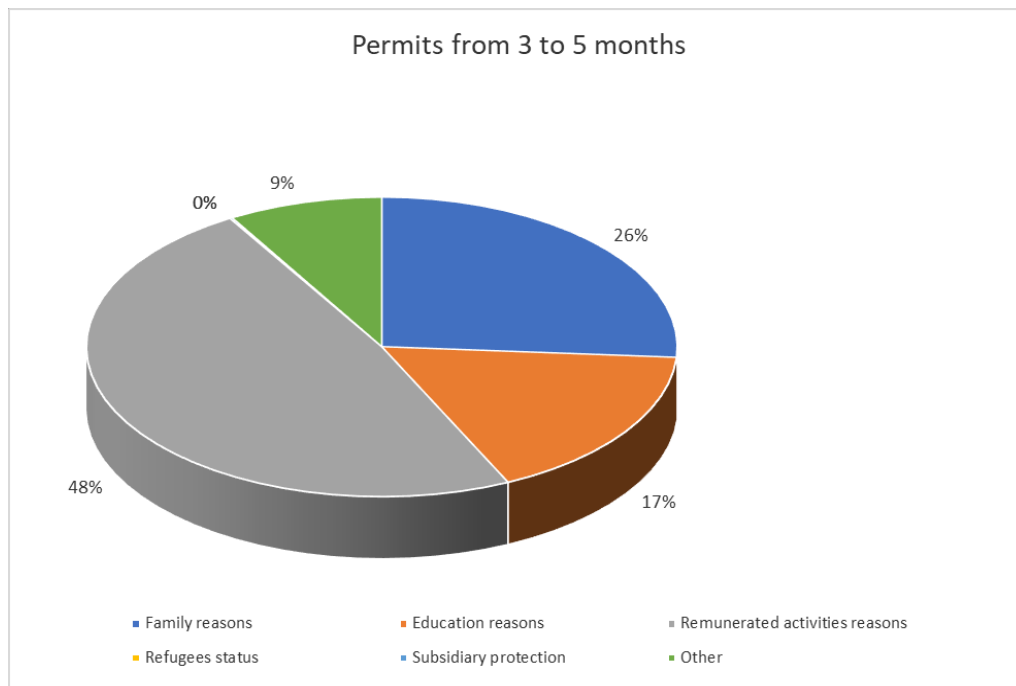
Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid]

On the other hand, always considering the permits under 12 months, the main reason for migration is “Remunerated activities reason”, which represents 48% out the total for 3-5 months period of time, and 33% in the graph concerning 6-11 months period. It is important to notice that in this second case, this reason is not the only main one. Indeed, another 33% is represented by “Family reasons”, followed by “Education reasons” at 31%.

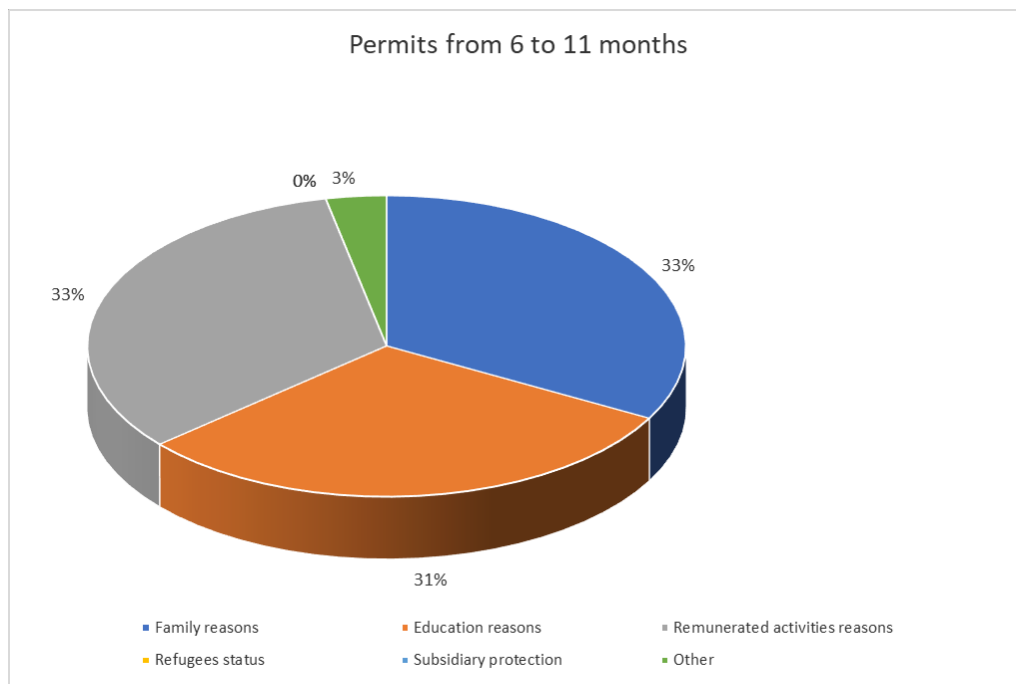
For what concerns the last mentioned reason, it is possible to also mention the fact that it represents the main cause of migration to Sweden in the long run. In fact, 51% of immigrants moved to Sweden for family reasons in the period of 12 months and over.

The last pie chart is the only one in which all categories are highlighted, obviously due to the high numbers of immigrants represented. As it is possible to see, the “Education reason” that in the previous graph represents the third main reason, now is the less displayed reason (only 2%).

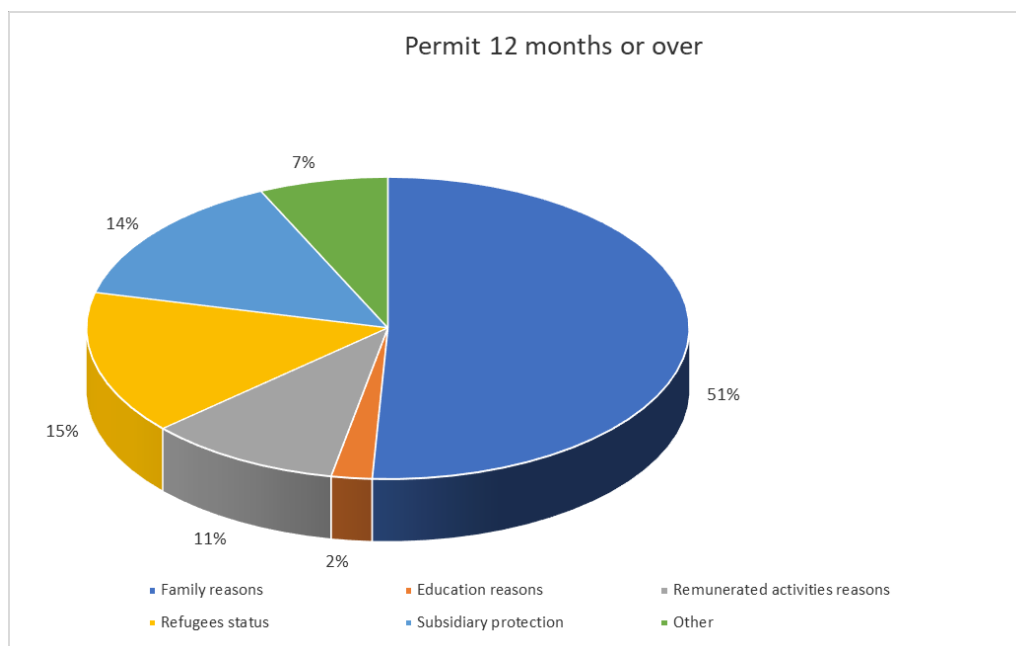
Compared with the other two charts, now immigrants asking for refugee status and subsidiary protection represent a higher percentage, respectively 15% and 14%, than the ones seeking remunerated activities, which are the 11%.



Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid]



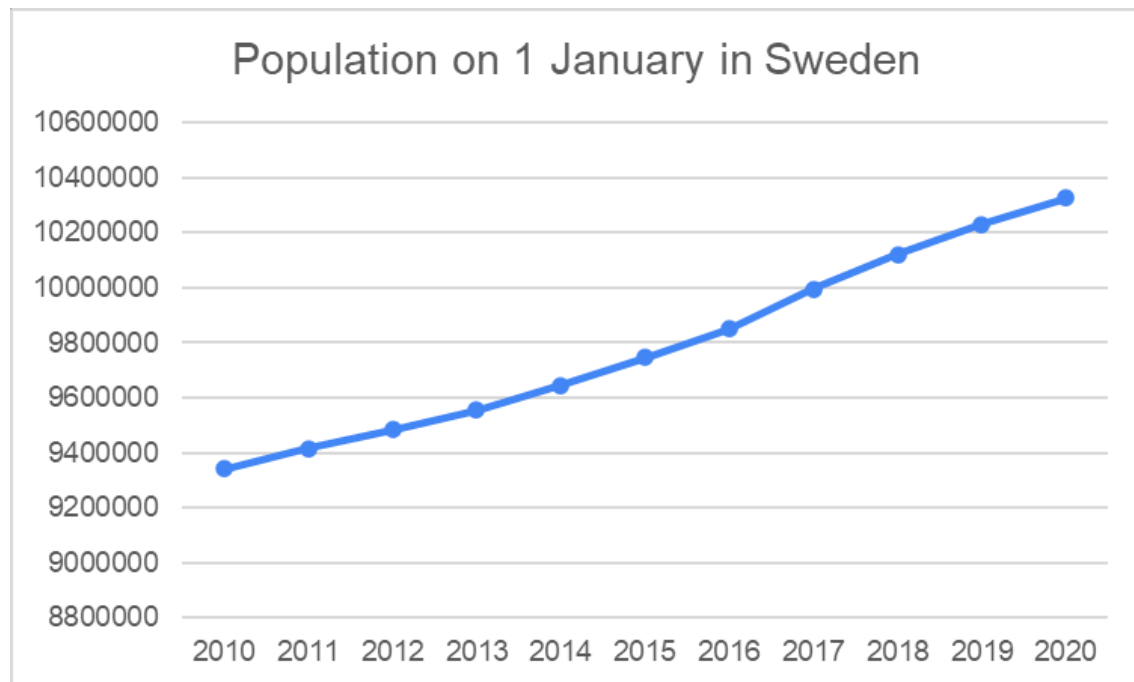
Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid]



Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid]

4. Population growth

The population in Sweden has increased in 2010 to 2020 from 9,340,682 to 10,230,185. According to the World Bank database, the population growth rate has decreased from 1.35% in 2017 to 0,723% in 2021⁹.



Source: Eurostat [demo_pjan]

5. Flows of migrants in the last 10 years, immigration flow (by sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration).

This section intends to analyze the dynamics of immigration flows in Sweden from 2010 to 2020.

It is important to underline that some graphs show the flows in the period of time between 2013 and 2020, due to the fact that there is a lack of data for the previous years.

In addition, for every sub-section of this paragraph there is one more graph concerning a particular year on which it is important to focus. The year taken into consideration is 2020, because this year it registered the lowest number of immigrants heading to Sweden.

Furthermore, it should be noticed that EUROSTAT criteria concerning countries of birth are splitted into European member States and Non-European countries. In particular, until 2019 the European members were 28, whereas since 2020 member States taken into account are 27. It means that the United Kingdom is not foreseen anymore, due to the fact that it is no longer an EU member since January the 31th of 2020.

Finally, this section of the report will analyze the flows of migrants from the point of view of the reason of their migration, crossed with the sex, age and country of birth for a complete perspective.

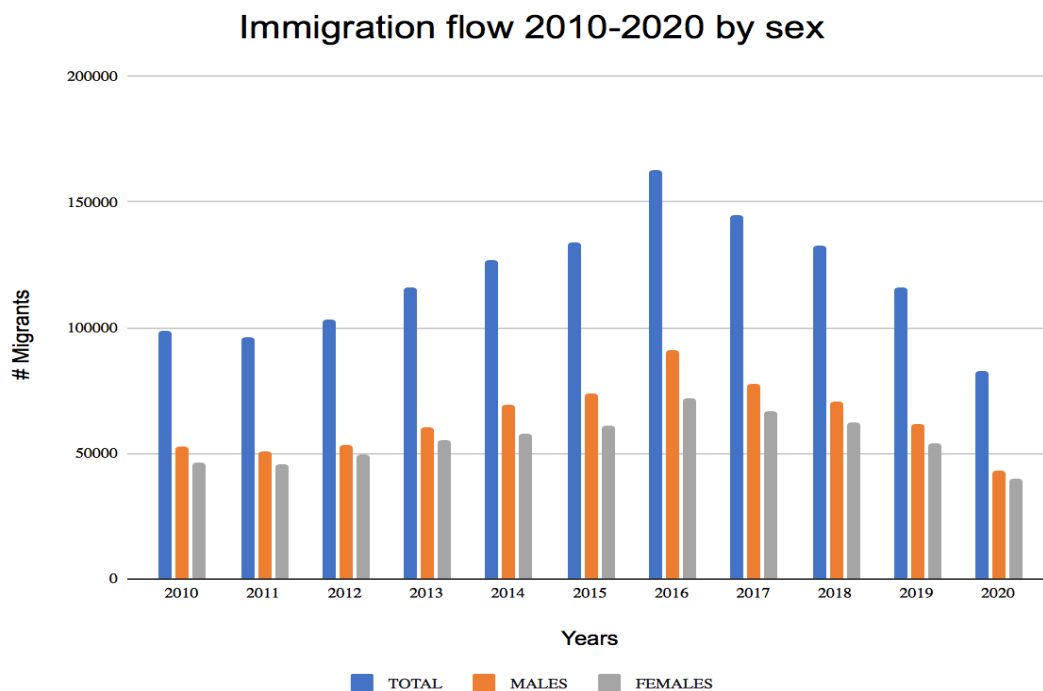
⁹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.GROW?locations=SE>

5.1 Sex

The first bar chart shows the total number of immigrants in Sweden per year dividing them according to their gender.

As it is possible to see, the highest number of people moved to Sweden has been registered in 2016, whereas the lowest data registered refers to the year 2020. More precisely, during 2016 it has been registered 163.005 immigrants in Sweden, of which 91.146 were males and 71.859 females.

The peculiarity of this first point of analysis can be seen in the fact that for each year the number of male immigrants is higher than the relative data concerning females.

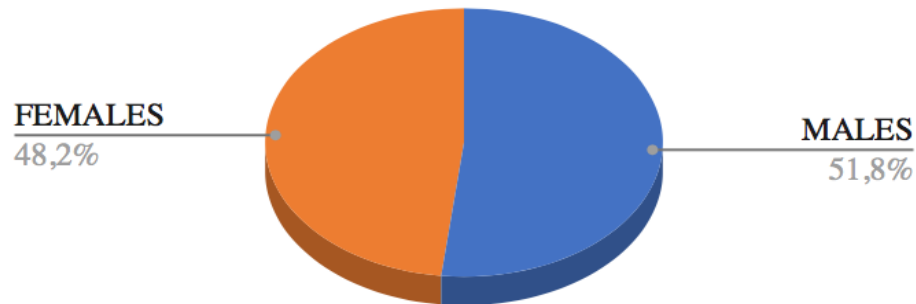


Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

Regarding the year 2020, of a total of 82.518 immigrants, the percentage of male immigrants was higher compared to the female one. Indeed, in this year men moved into Sweden were 42.770 (51.8% of immigrants), while women were 39.748, representing 48.2% of foreigners.

Males and females

Immigration flow in 2020



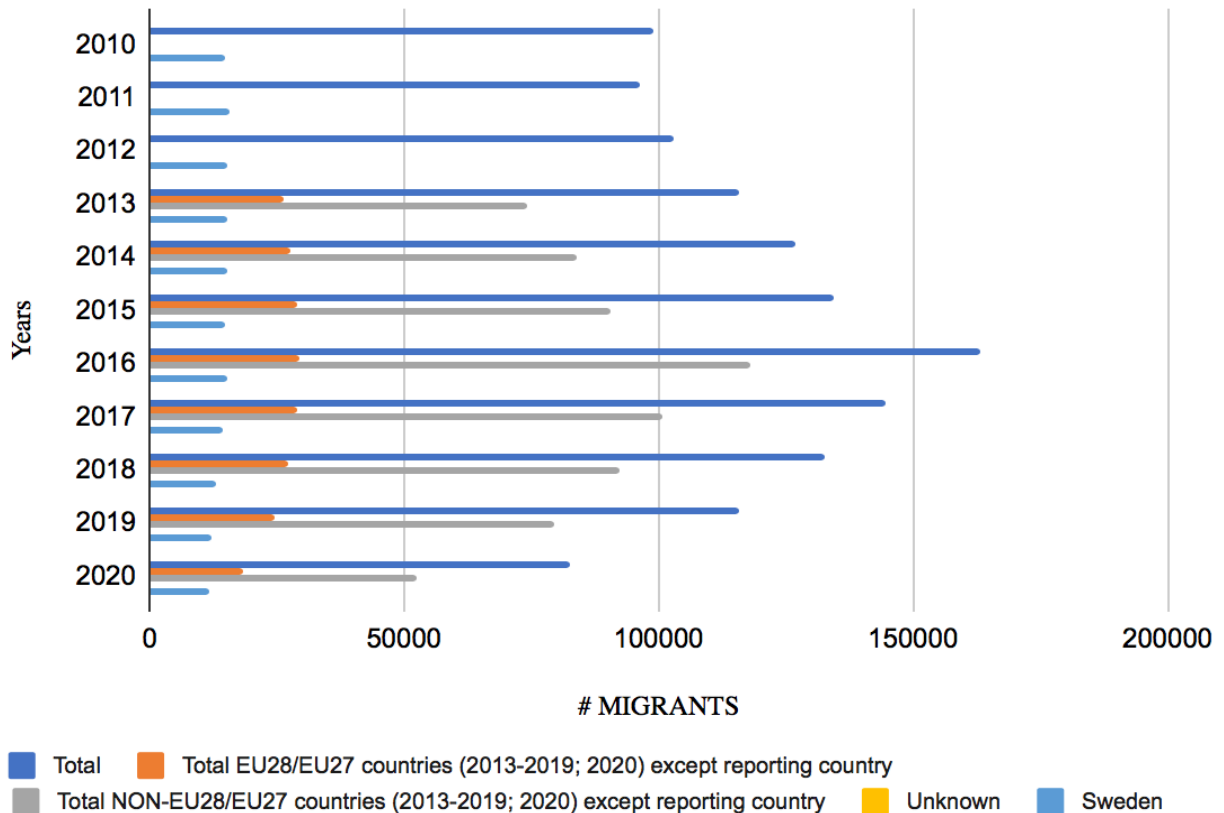
Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

5.2 Country of birth

The second criterion of analysis introduced in this section concerns the country of origin of immigrants.

Before proceeding with the examination, it is important to point out that EUROSTAT data about the period of time from 2010 and 2012 are incomplete, as a matter of fact the database does not provide information on the European Union immigrants nor those from Countries outside the EU until 2013.

Immigration flow 2010-2020 by country of birth



Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

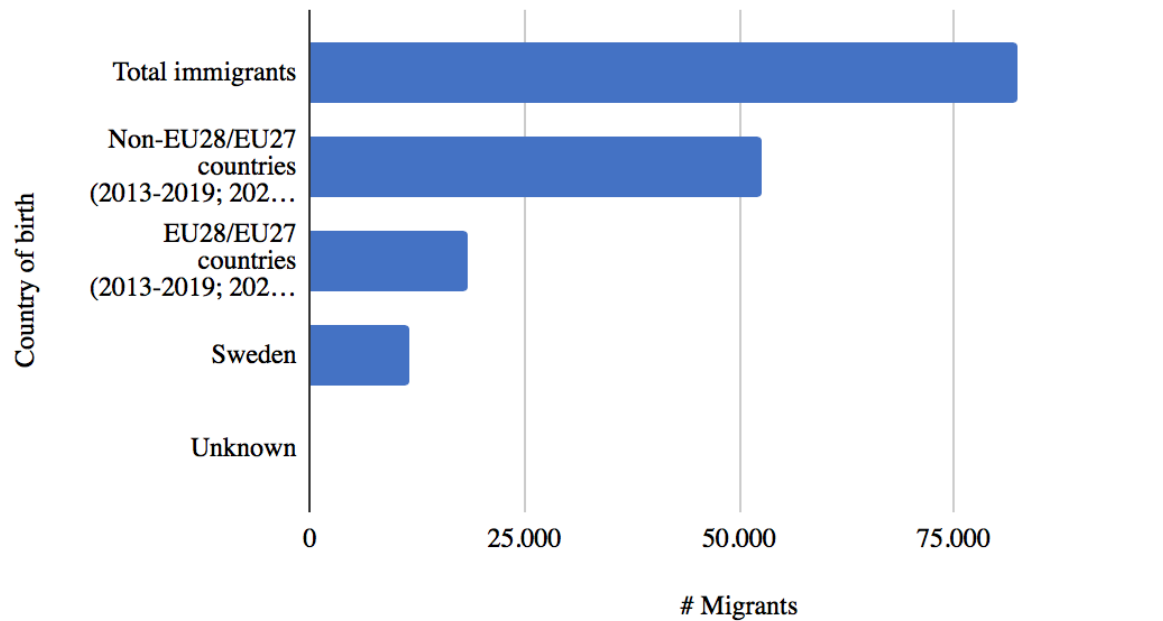
Investigating the chart above, the first issue that emerges is that it is quite impossible to report in the graph the number of immigrants whose origin is unknown, because the data in absolute terms are low, as reported in the table below.

TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Unknown	117	118	74	101	162	175	210	215	199	132	71

Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

Furthermore, the bar chart shows that the number of immigrants from Non-EU countries are significantly higher compared to foreign people from the European Union. As it is possible to see, since 2013 immigrants Non-EU exceed 50.000 units, whereas those from the EU are under this score, even though until 2019 the criterion includes one more country, the United Kingdom.

Immigration flow in 2020 by country of birth



Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

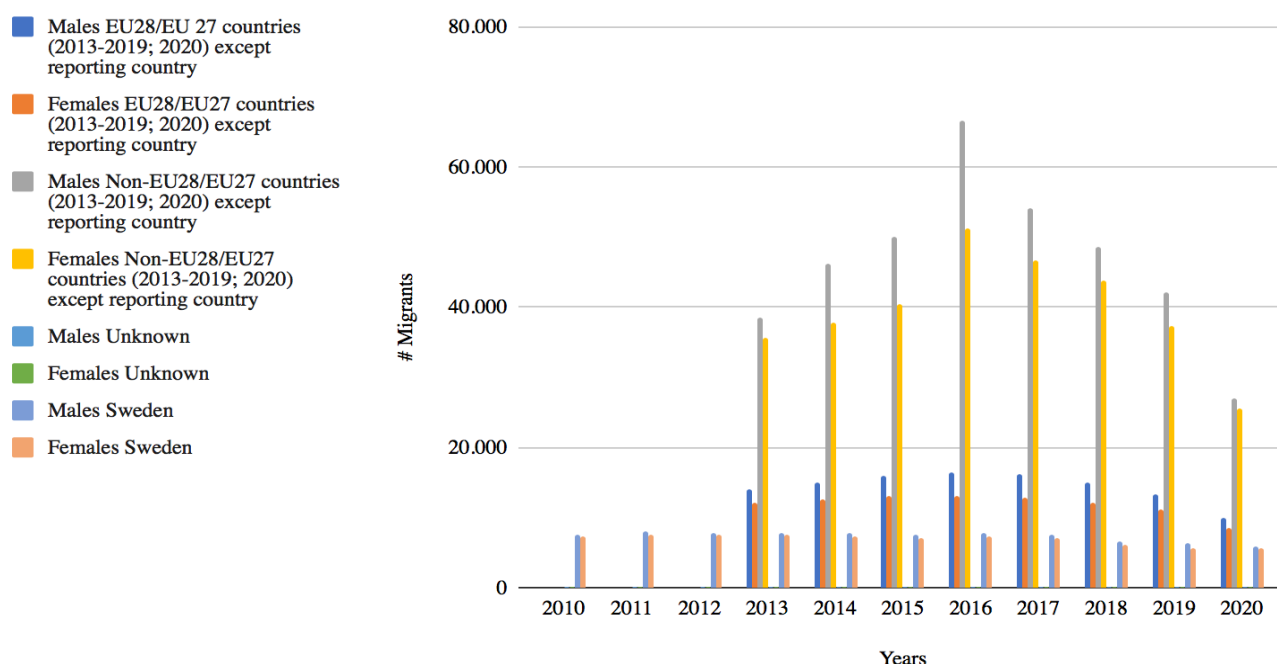
Examining the topic deeply, in 2020 the total number of foreign people moving to Swedish territory was 82.518 units. The graph clearly illustrates that, as mentioned before, the majority of people who immigrated to Sweden were born in non-EU countries (52.493), while EU citizens are equivalent to less than one third of the migrants (18.294). Immigrants born in Sweden in 2020 were 11.660, a number that does not differ that much if compared with the previous year. Indeed, in 2019, Swedish people returning to their country of birth were 11.955, only a few thousands more.

As it is possible to see in the graph, in 2020 it was impossible to determine the country of origin of just 71 immigrants.

5.3 Sex + country of birth

The third part of the analysis of flows concerns the combination of two on the three criteria taken into account in this report, thus sex and country of birth of the immigrants.

Immigration flow 2010-2020 by sex and country of birth



Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

First of all, the graph shows that males and females from Non-European countries are much more than those from other countries. In particular, since 2013 those immigrants exceeded the 20.000 units, whereas the number of people from a EU member State or born in Sweden remain below this score.

What stands out in the graph is that the highest score in the last ten years has been reached by males from non-European countries, which is the only category to exceed the score of 60.000 in 2016. More precisely, non-european males migrated to Sweden were 91.146.

It was previously said that immigration peak was reached in 2016. Actually, the data that emerge by combining the criteria of sex and country of origin show that this trend does not apply to all categories taken into account. Indeed, it should be noted that the peak concerning immigrants of unknown origins was not registered in 2016. As we can see in the table below, the male boom was in 2017, when the highest number filed was 133, while the highest number related to women was 86 during 2018.

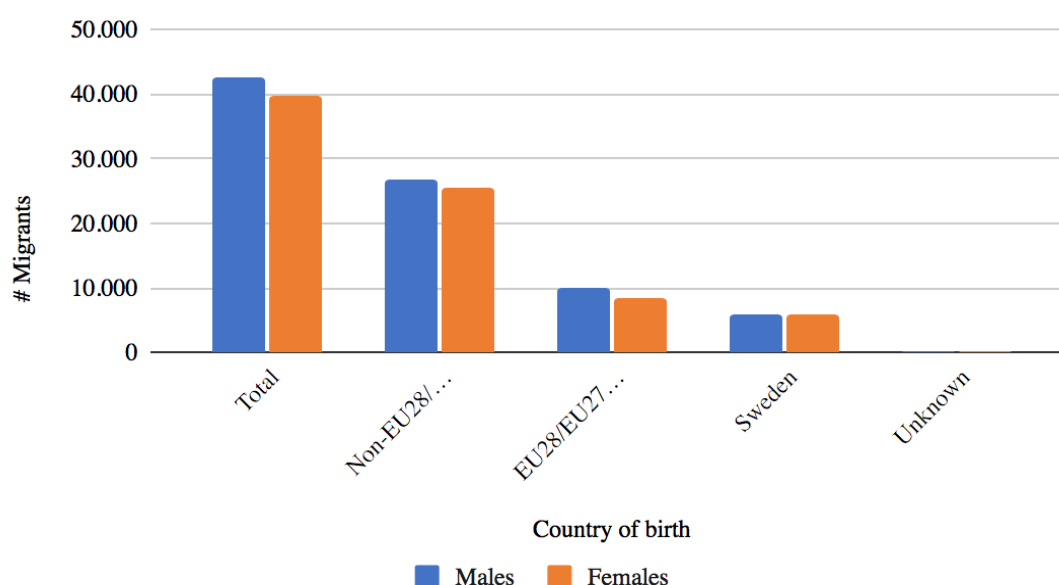
TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Males Unknown	67	70	41	59	103	109	129	133	113	81	44
Females Unknown	50	48	33	42	59	66	81	82	86	51	27

Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

Moreover, it can be also mentioned that the trend concerning non-EU immigrants tends to decrease since 2017, registering a considerable fall between 2019 and 2020, mostly regarding males data. In particular, men in 2019 were 42.103, while women were 37.258. Those data decreased in 2020, reaching 26.916 units for males and 25.577 for females.

By contrast, the information about other countries of origin recorded slight increases and decreases, but not that much strong.

Immigration flow in 2020 by sex and country of birth



Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

As mentioned above, EUROSTAT registered the lowest number of incomes during 2020 for most of the categories taken into consideration. The only exception is the group of males from unknown countries, whose lowest score has been registered in 2012, when they were 41, whereas in 2020 they were 44.

It is clear that people outside of the European Union represent the majority of immigrants, whose data exceed 20 thousand units for both men and women in 2020 (more precisely 26.916 men and 25.577 women).

However, it is impressive the fact that the data of European citizens and those of immigrants born in Sweden did not register a huge difference in terms of units for both males and females categories. In fact, males from the EU in 2020 were 9.887, whereas females were 8.407.

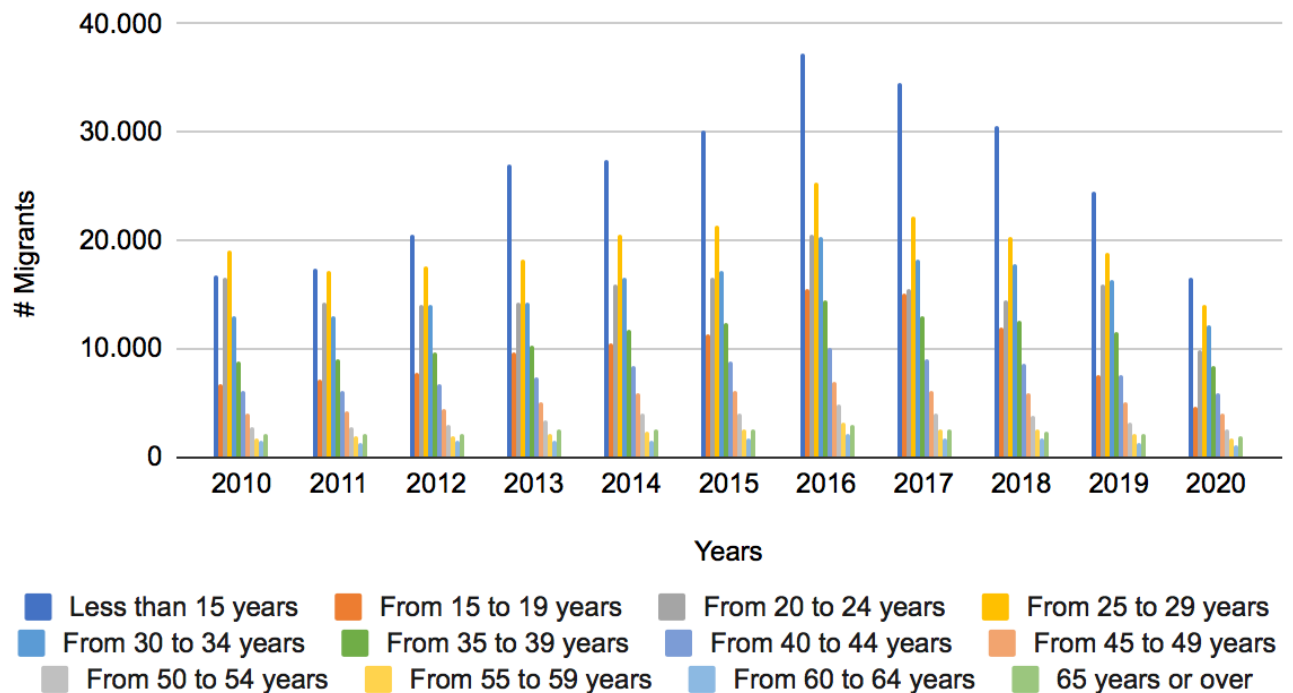
Males born in Sweden were 5.923 compared to Swedish women who were 5.737, data which are slightly similar.

This trend can also be seen in the category of non-European immigrants. In fact, in 2020, 26.916 males and 25.577 women moved into Sweden.

5.4 Age group

The next graphs illustrate the population of immigrants divided for age groups.

Immigration flow 2010-2020 by age group

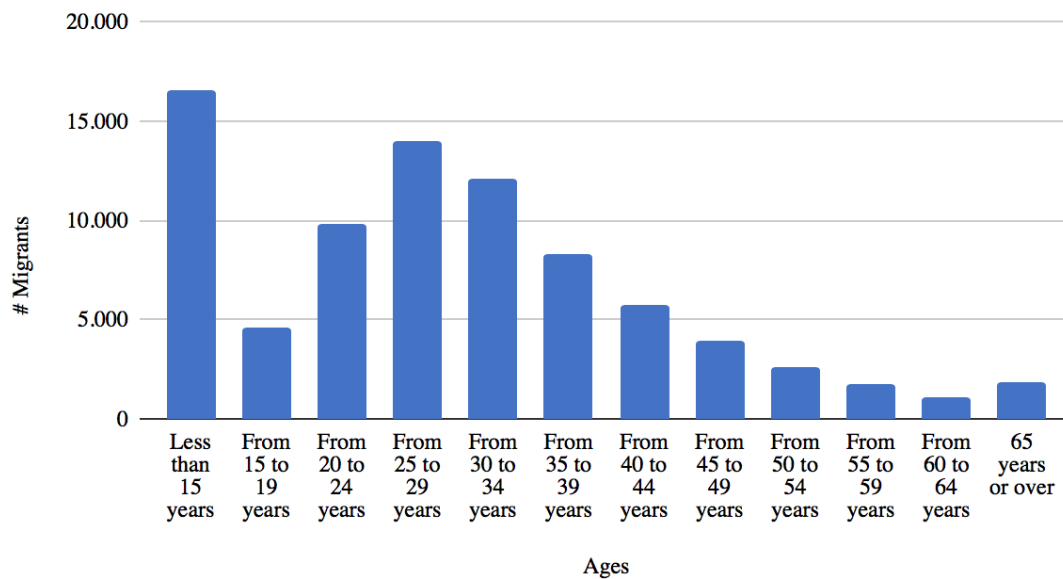


Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

It is clear that the majority of immigrants in Sweden were less than 15 years old, data that increased until 2016, when the peak reached 37.180 units.

However, the only exception detected is in 2010, when the age group from 25 to 29 is the highest represented, with 18.979 people included in this category. By comparison with what mentioned above, the age group including people less than 15 years old is the second most represented (16.678). The third one is the category of immigrants of 20-24 years old, whose data are not particularly inferior to the second. In fact, this last group is composed of 16.568 people.

Immigration flow in 2020 by age group



Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

Compared with what has been mentioned above, during 2016 an inversion of data is recorded. In fact, if in 2010 the age group with the highest level of immigrants was the one of people from 25 to 29 years old, in 2020 the highest level of immigrants were represented by minors aged less than 15 years old (16.532), followed by young people from 25 to 29 (13.966) and, then, by the group of 30-34 years old (12.137).

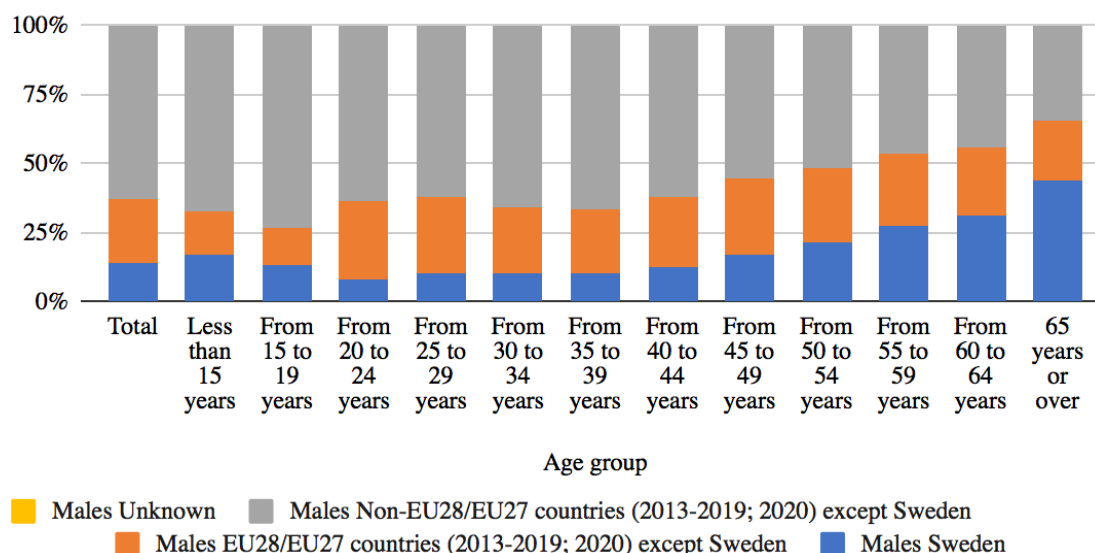
Moreover, the graph points out that, after the peak represented by the age group of 25-29 years old, the trend tends to decrease as age increases. However, the lowest data recorded in this second part of the trend concerns immigrants from 60 to 64 years old (1.053). Then, as we can see, the data become slightly higher for the last category, in which 1.872 immigrants are included.

5.5 Age group + sex + country of birth

The last analysis that can be done in this section has the aim of matching all the criteria used until this point, in order to examine the immigration trend in 2020. In fact, the charts beyond represent the percentage of males and females immigrating to Sweden, dividing them according to their age and the country of birth.

Males by age group and country of birth

Immigration flow in 2020



Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

In the first chart, it is clear that the percentage of males from non-European countries was the majority, compared to the other countries of origin. The data provided by EUROSTAT shows that the main age group represented is the one composed by young people of 15-19 years old. In other words, out of a total of 42.726 immigrants, males from non-EU countries were 26.916, whereas the other categories are composed as follows: males from the European Union were 9.887; males from Sweden were 5.923 and, then, males whose origin is unknown were only 44.

In addition, according to the graph, there has been a growing trend in the percentage of adult men born in Sweden willing to return to their country of origin. Although the data in absolute terms show a fluctuating trend (as shown in the table below), the percentage of males from Sweden, compared to the percentage of the other categories, registered an increase since the age of 40 years old.

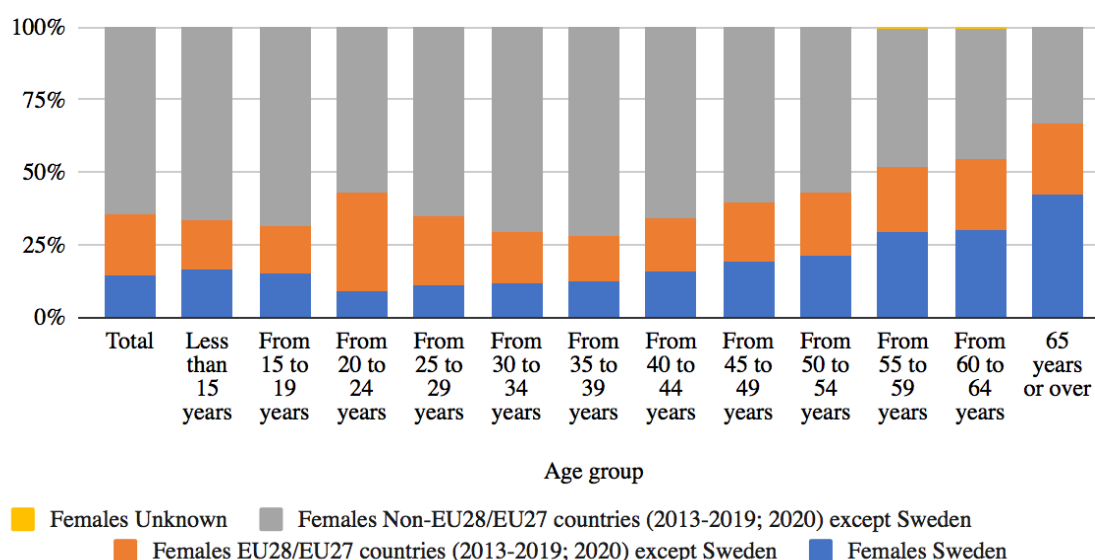
AGE (Labels)(2020)	Males Sweden
Total	5.923
Less than 15 years	1.432
From 15 to 19 years	322
From 20 to 24 years	360
From 25 to 29 years	669
From 30 to 34 years	627
From 35 to 39 years	438
From 40 to 44 years	403

From 45 to 49 years	391
From 50 to 54 years	319
From 55 to 59 years	296
From 60 to 64 years	199
65 years or over	467

Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

Females by age group and country of birth

Immigration flow in 2020



Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

For what concerns the females chart, the trend seems similar to the males one in terms of percentage of immigrants from non-EU countries and percentage of Swedish people returning to their country of origin.

This graph also shows another peculiarity to which we must pay close attention. This is the percentages relating to the categories representing young women from European countries aged 20-24 years old and 25-29 years old. As we can see, the percentage of immigrants from 20 to 24 years old is higher than the other group, even though in absolute terms the two categories have numbers very similar, as reported in the table below.

Age group (2020)	Females EU28/EU27 countries (2013-2019; 2020) except Sweden
From 20 to 24 years	1.750
From 25 to 29 years	1.704

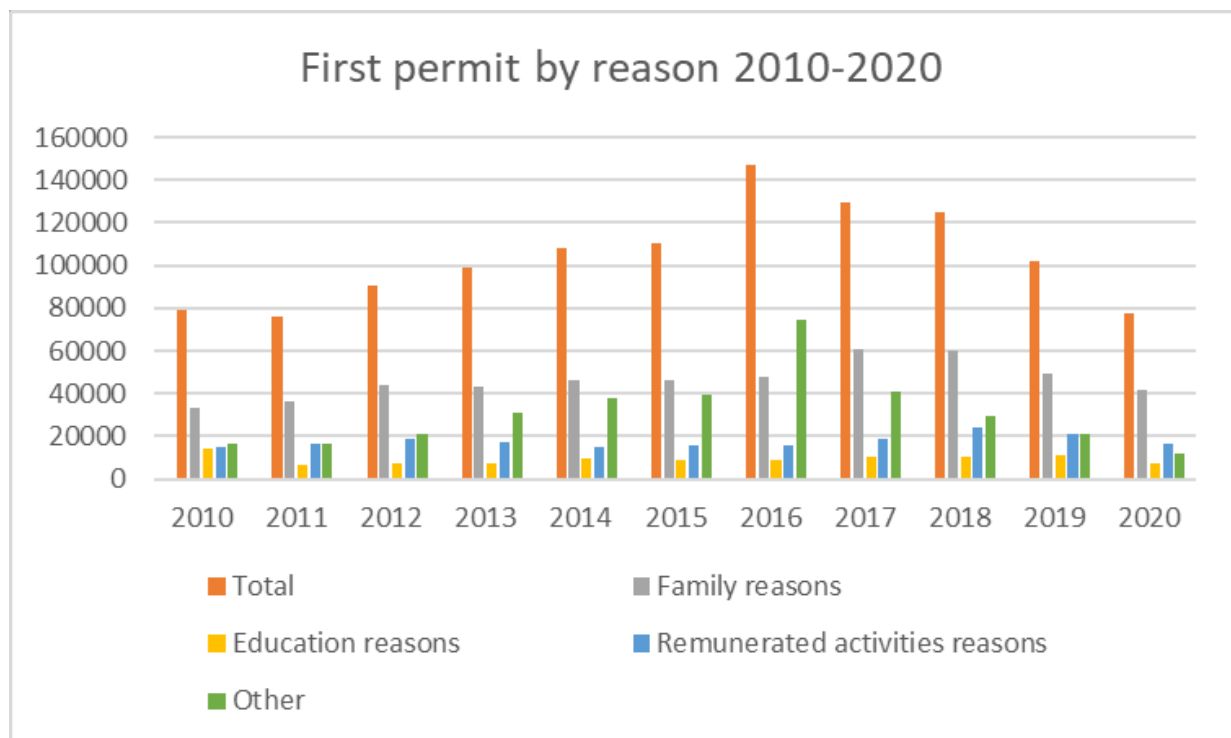
Source: Eurostat [MIGR_IMM3CTB]

5.6 First permit by reason and sex

In this new section we will analyse data about the first permits¹⁰ issued by Sweden between 2010 and 2020. At first the analysis is focused on the reasons and gender of people receiving the permission of residence in Sweden.

The following considerations can be done about the following histogram showing the first permits by reason between 2010 and 2020:

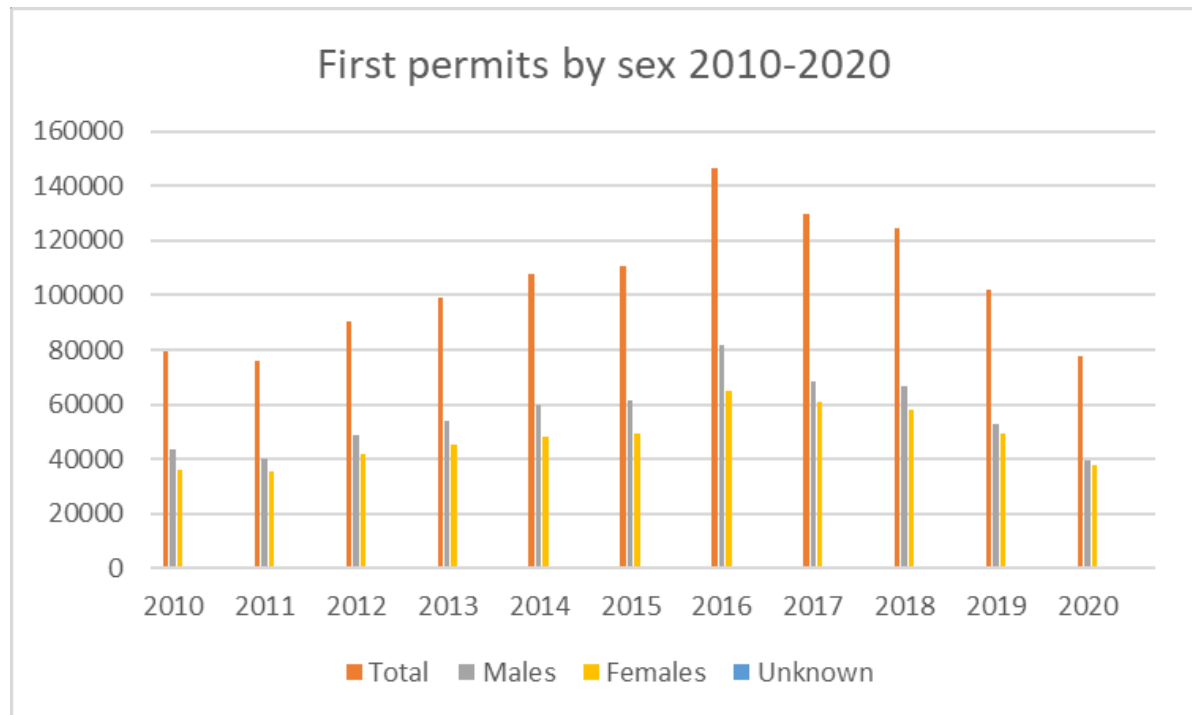
1. Since 2010, the total number of first permits has risen and reached a peak in 2017 of 146.740 permits. After that, between 2017 and 2020 the number of first permits decreased gradually to 77.404.
2. In the time range considered, family reasons have been the prevailing reason for first permits over other reasons. The only exception is in 2016, when there was a significant rise in the category of other reasons permits. In fact, in this year the number of permits issued was 74.608, while the number of family reasons permits was 47697. Although, in the following years, 2017 and 2018, the number of family reasons permits increased to 60.358 and returned to be the most common reason for first permission
3. The category of education reason has remained steady between 2010 and 2022 between 13.00 and 6.000 with slight changes.
4. First permits for remunerated activities have an upward trend in 2018 and 2019 reaching over 20.000 permissions.



¹⁰ Residence permits statistics refers to third-country nationals (persons who are not EU citizens) receiving a residence permit or an authorization to reside in one of the EU Member States or EFTA countries or the United Kingdom.

Source: Eurostat [migr_resfirst]

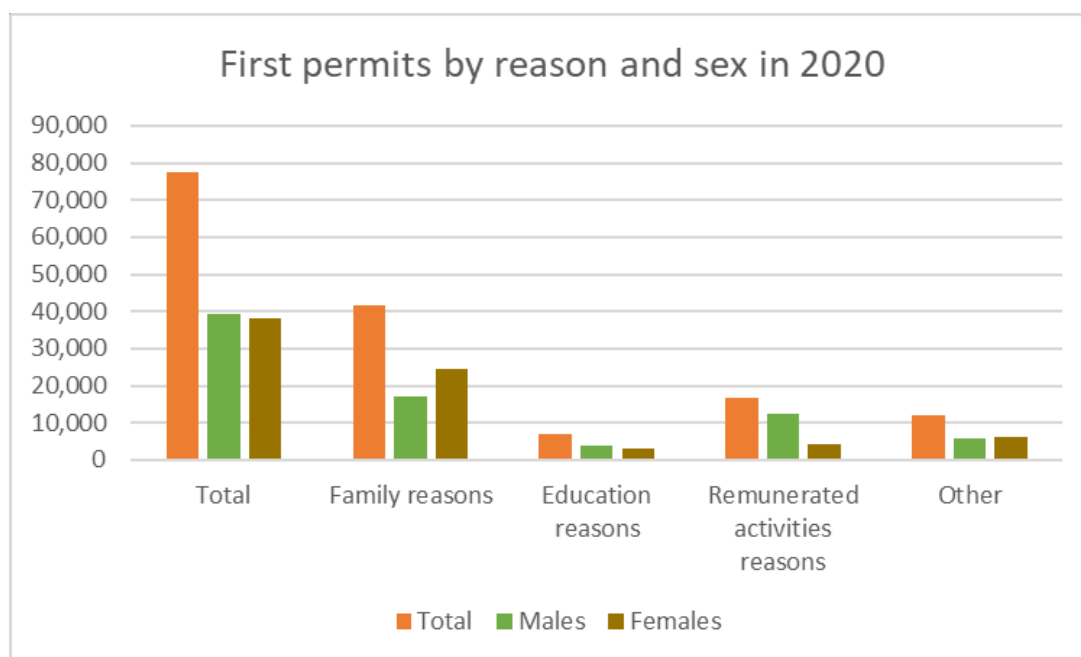
The following bar chart shows a comparison between the number of male and females in first permits between 2010 and 2020. Specifically, it shows that the number of males arriving in Sweden has always been higher compared to females. The distance between females and males numbers has followed the total first permits' trend: in 2016 the disparity between females and males has reached a peak, as it is for the totality of first permits.



Source: Eurostat [migr_resfas]

A more detailed analysis shows that in 2020 males received a slightly higher number of first permissions than females did. Focusing on the family reasons category the number of females that have received the first permits is higher compared to males (17.001 males and 24.642 females). Conversely, males overcome females in the number of first permits in the category of remunerated activities reasons (12.502 males and 4.219 females). For both males and females the lower number of first permissions are issued for education reasons.

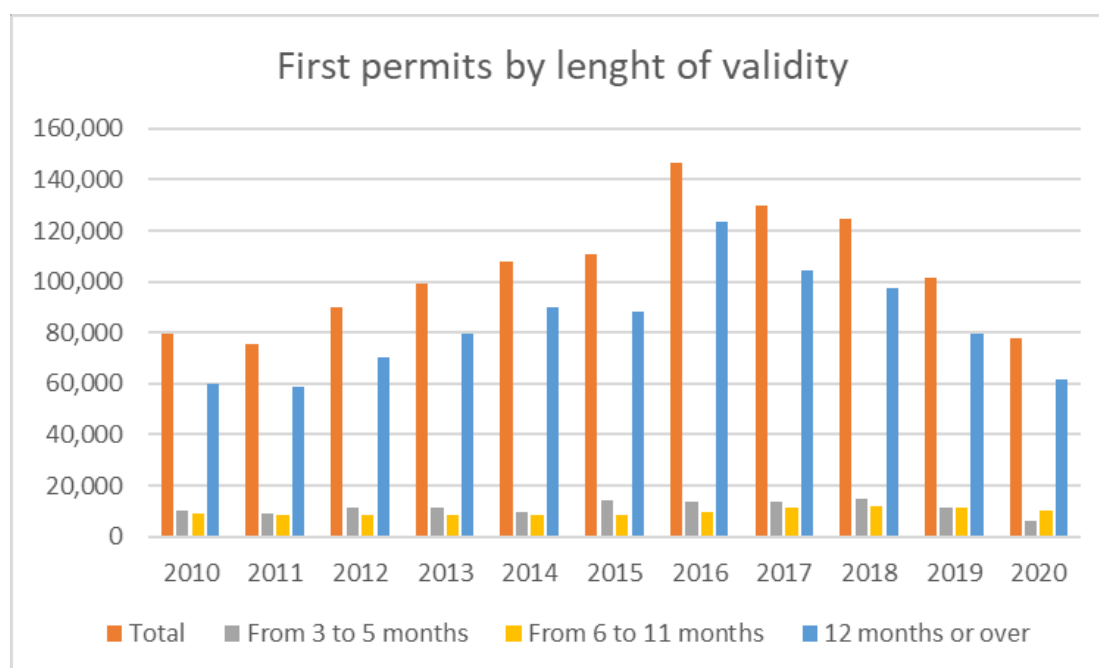
Finally, it is clear that approximately half of the total number of permissions were issued for family reasons: first permits for family reasons were 41.643, compared to the total of 77.404.



Source: Eurostat [migr_resfas]

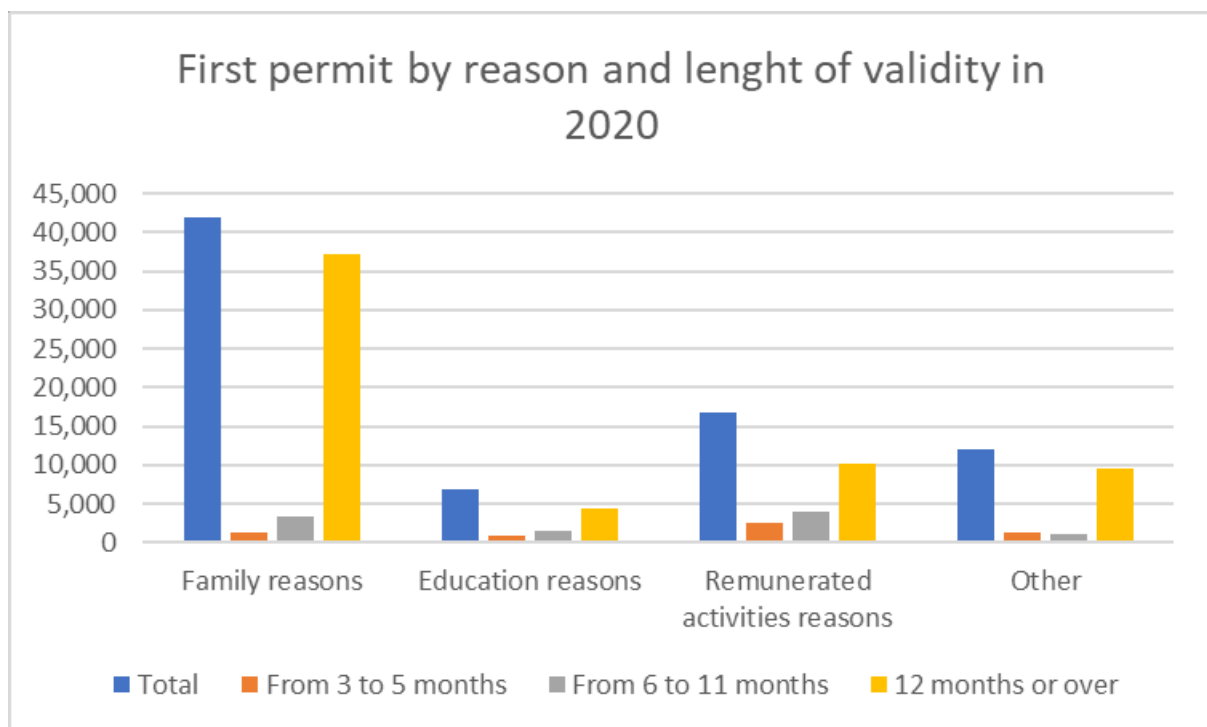
5.7 First permits by length of validity

This graph shows the first permits issued by Sweden between 2010 and 2020 for the length of validity of the permission. Firstly, it is evident that the “12 months or over” category is predominant over other categories. Moreover, the “from 3 to 5 months” and the “from 6 to 11 months” permits remained steady between 2010 and 2020 under the 20.000 units, and, except for 2020, the number of shorter period permits have been more than “from 6 to 11 months” permits. It has also to be noticed that the increase of long-term permits follows the upward trend of the total amount of first permits issued.



Source: Eurostat [migr_resfas]

It follows a more precise analysis on the relationship between the reason for first permits and their length of validity in 2020. The histogram shows that permits for 12 months or over are 61.417 over the total of 77.664. Moreover, the same category is the most issued among all reasons of permits: family reasons, educational reasons, remunerated activities reasons and others. For example, the category in which the disparity between the length of validity of permits is highest is “the family reasons” category: the total number of permissions in 2020 is 41.899 where 37.208 of them are for 12 months or more.



Source: Eurostat [migr_resfas]

6. Total number of refugees (asylum seekers, sex, age)

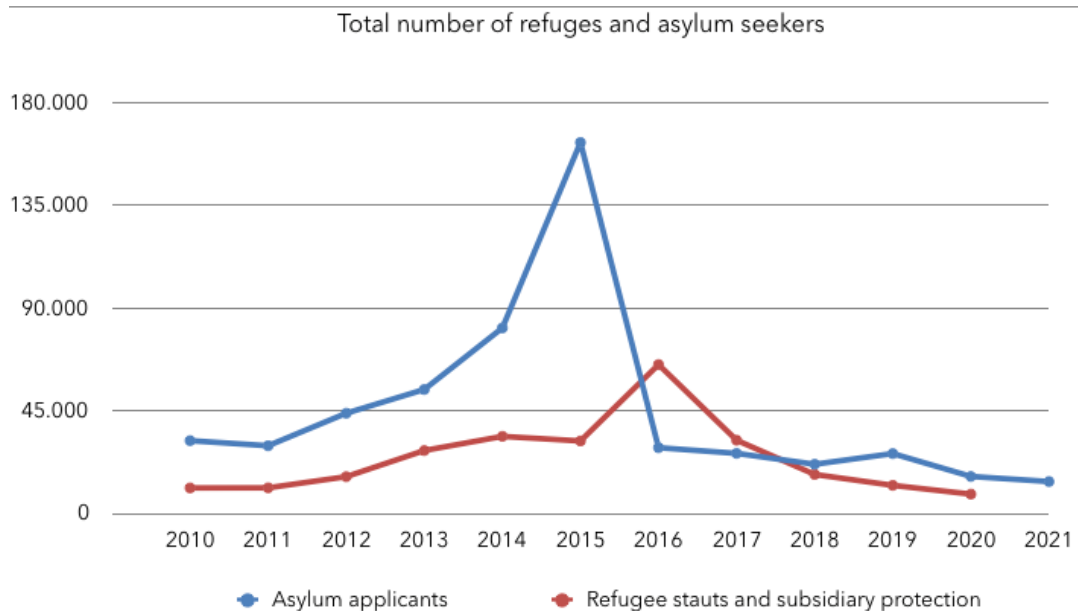
In this section, we will analyze more in depth the category of asylum seekers in Sweden. Despite the term *asylum seekers* being often used interchangeably with that of *refugees*, the latter identifies a narrower category, which is that of asylum seekers who have successfully seen their refugee status recognized from the host country. This first distinction will be illustrated in the first graph. The following charts instead will focus on the sex ratio and on the age distribution in the asylum seeker population.

6.1 Asylum seekers and refugees

The following graph shows the data on asylum applicants compared with those about permits issued for refugee status and subsidiary protection, in order to find the number of refugees over the total number of asylum seekers.

Asylum applications seem to be rather stable, peaking in 2015, the year of Europe’s refugee crisis, due to the Syrian war and the migrant flows outbreak. Consequently, in the following year, 2016,

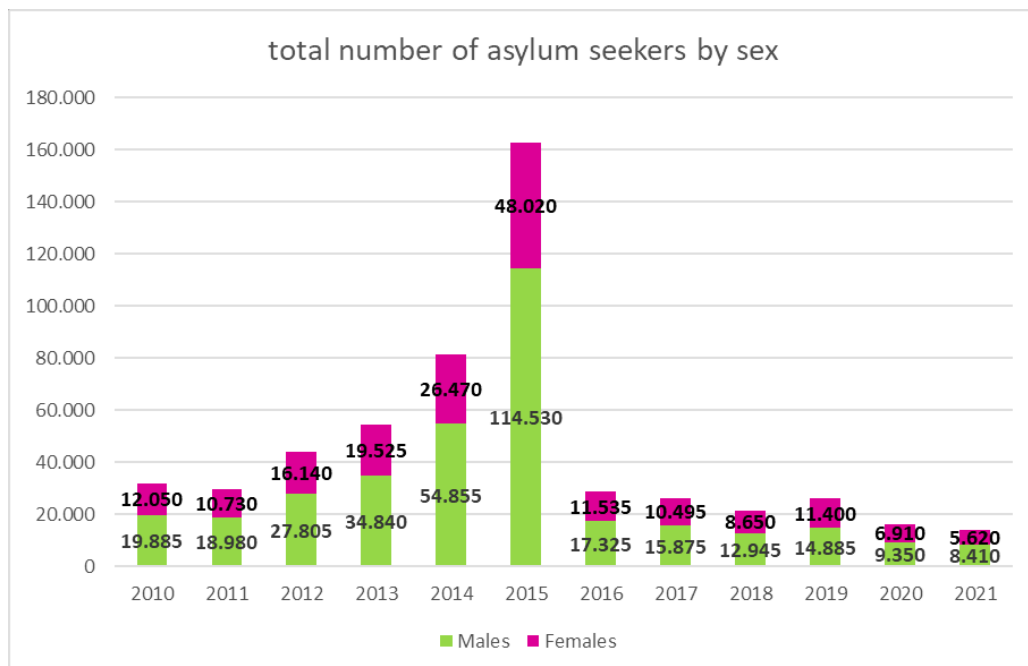
there has been an increase in the number of permits issued for refugee status and subsidiary protection. It's noticeable that, in 2017, permits for refugees were still significantly issued and were over the number of applications; moreover, we register a total decrease of both in correspondence with the Covid-19 pandemic, and we do not have data about permits referring to the year 2021.



Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctza] [migr_resoth]

6.2 Asylum seekers by sex

Considering the sex ratio of asylum seekers, from the following chart we can see that up until the year 2015 the number of women asylum seekers was much smaller than the number of their male counterparts. The difference from the two data starts getting smaller from 2016, and in the last 3 years we can register a more or less 3000 men gap.

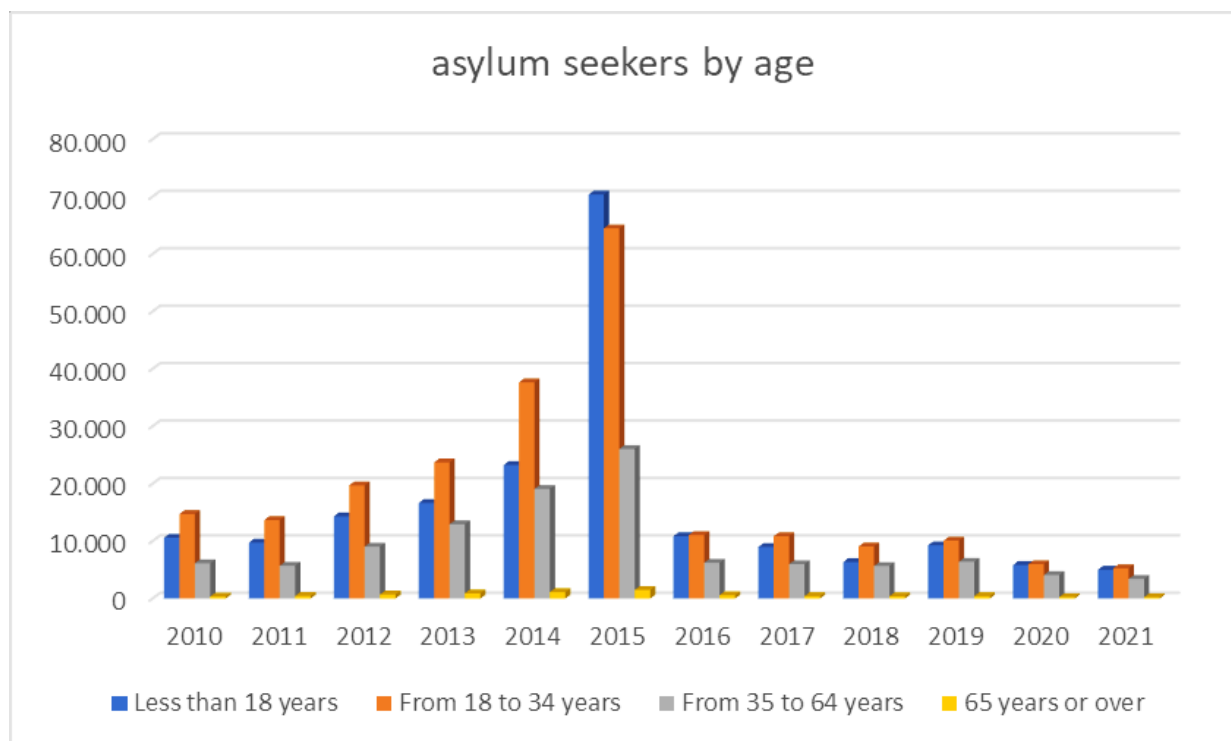


Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctza]

6.3 Asylum seekers by age

In the following chart, it is possible to observe the distribution of asylum seekers under four age groups, the minors, the younger part of the adults up to 34 years, the 35-64 years-old, and the older part above 65 years. From the observation of the groups, it stands out that most of the asylum seekers until 2015 belong to the age group 18-34 years, and the amount is ascending through the years; in 2015, however, the major group is that of minors, and this is connected to the migrants crisis, which led to the spread of the issue of refugee children¹¹. Contrarily, the older age group, 65 years or over, is a steady amount through the years.

Starting from 2016, the total number of asylum seekers decreases, as shown in the first chart, and so does the difference among the age groups.



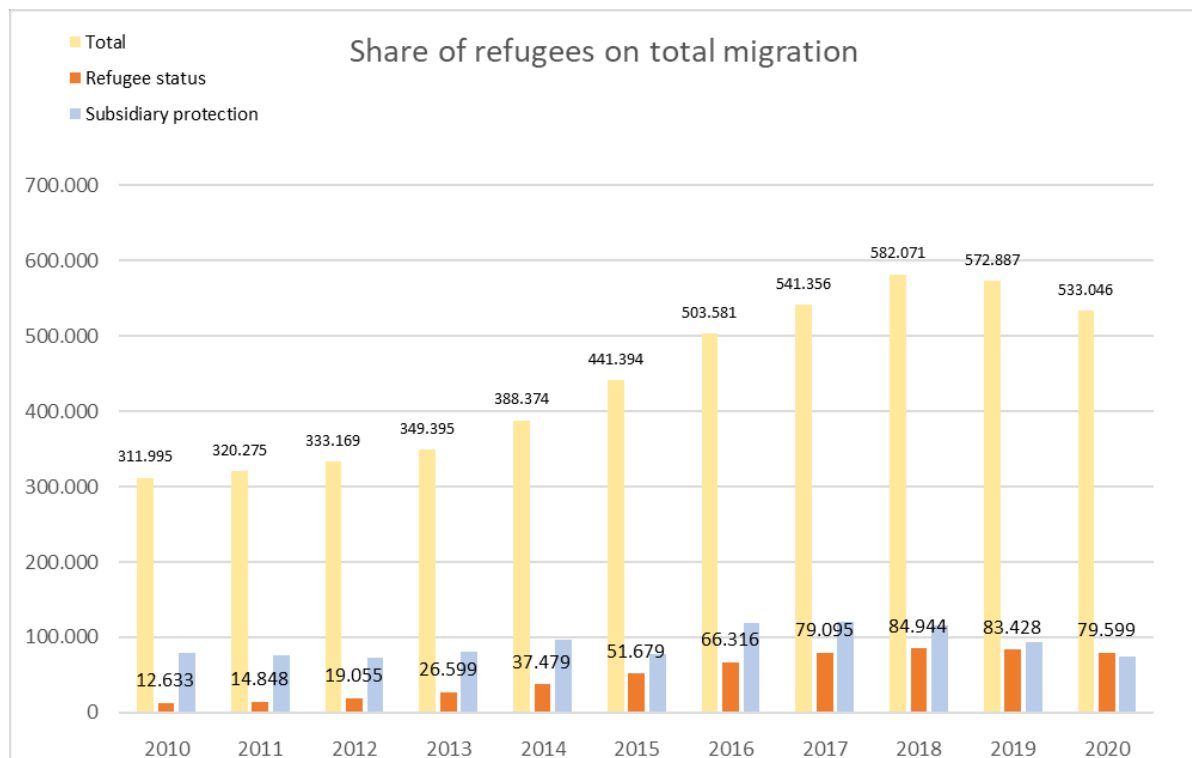
Source: Eurostat [migr_asyapptctza]

7. Asylum seekers on total migration

In the following chart we can observe the share of asylum seekers on the number of the total migration, throughout 10 years and until 2020, since we have no evidence for the year 2021 yet. It's interesting to notice that the share keeps going steadily in the years from 2017.

¹¹

“400.000 refugee minors arrived in Europe in 2015” <https://openmigration.org/en/analyses/400-000-refugee-minors-arrived-in-europe-in-2015/>



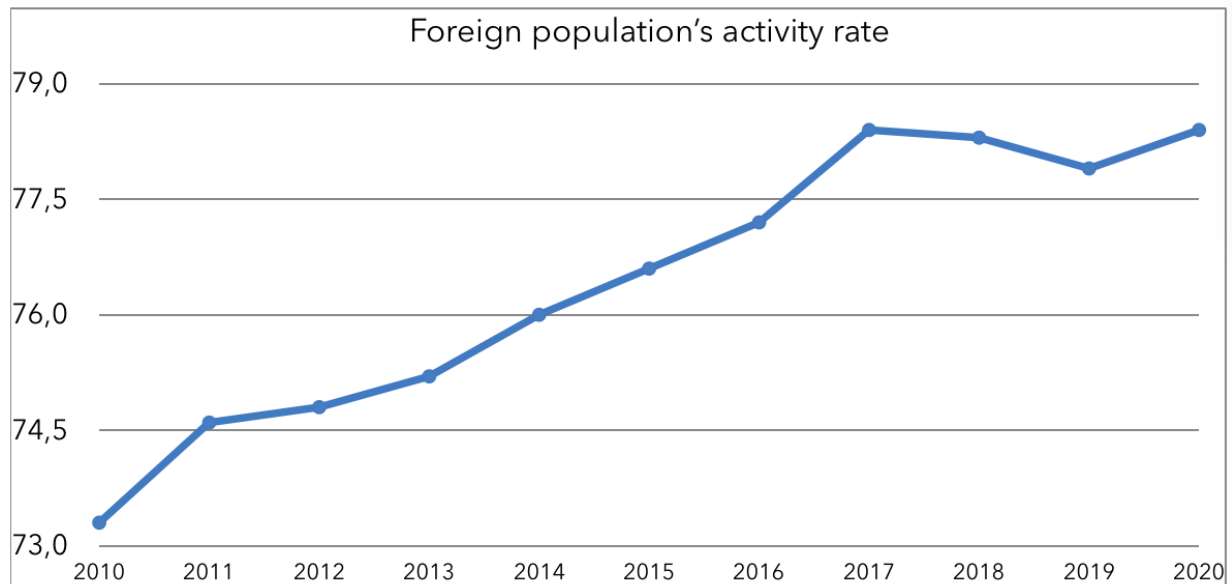
Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid]

8. Migrant's integration indicators

In the following section, we will analyze more specifically the migrant's integration. We will do it thanks to indicators which unfold, in a statistical sense, the trend of two phenomenon correlated with the immigrant's labor market integration in the time of the last ten years: activity and unemployment.

Subsequently, in order to investigate deeper into the most affected categories, we related the two rates found (activity rate and unemployment rate) with the additional variables of sex and country of origin: the first, depending on whether men or women were taken as reference and the second, depending on whether we were referring to foreigners coming from an EU-28 country of origin or a non EU-28 country of origin. Furthermore, we were forced to consider the decade 2009-2019 because the 2020 data, with the correlated covid-pandemic effects, were still not available on the Eurostat Dataset.

8.1 Foreign Population's Activity rate

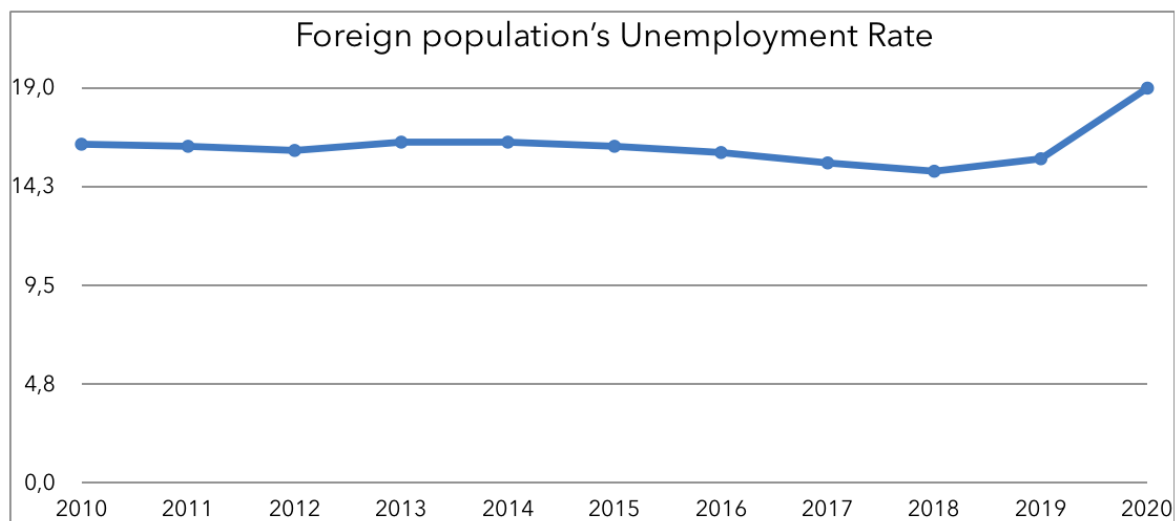


Source: Eurostat [Ifsa_argacob]

In the chart above, as we anticipated in the introduction of this paragraph, we can have a quick and intuitive frame about the activity trend of people with foreign origin in the decade 2010-2020. The activity rate (in percentage, %), which includes all people of working age (from 15 to 64) without distinction between employed and unemployed, increases from the 73,3% of 2010 to the slightly different 78,4% of the 2020's one. During the decade there was a continuous growth and a peak in 2017 with the percentage of 78,4%.

8.2 Foreign Population's Unemployment Rate

Next, we moved to study the unemployment portion of the immigrant's activity rate and we discovered that it consistently increased in the decade of reference and especially in the last years, (2020) we could observe an increase. In 2010 the foreign population's unemployment rate was 16,3 % and now it increased at 19,0%,

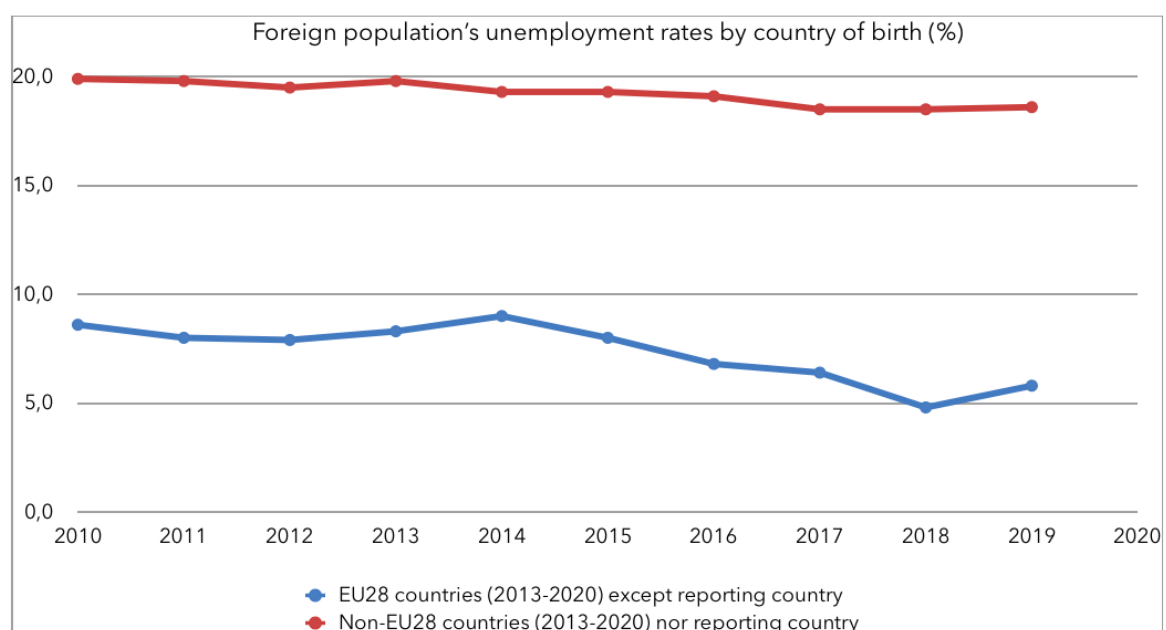


Source: Eurostat [lfsa_urgacob]

8.3 Foreign Population's Unemployment Rate by country of birth and sex

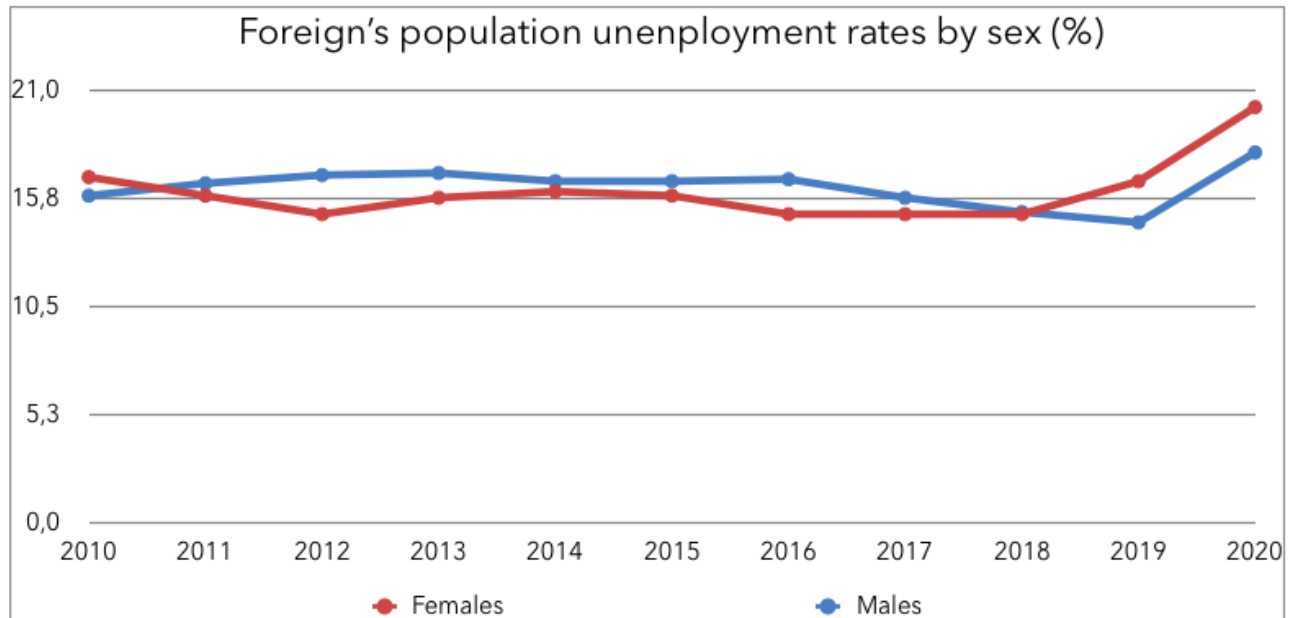
For the successful outcome of our paper, we crossed the immigrant's unemployment rate with the two other variables "country of origin" and "sex", to better understand on which subcategory of the foreigners this phenomenon applies the most. As we could foresee, the unemployment problem affects more the immigrants with a country of origin different from the ones of European Union (EU28). During the referred period, the difference between the two categories was massive and substantial (with an approx. average difference of more than 10 percentage points) with a peak in 2018 when the values became more disproportional, reaching 4,8% for the EU28 countries of origin and 18,5% for the non-EU 28 countries of origin.

Unemployment rates by country of birth (%)



Source: Eurostat [lfsa_urgacob]

Unemployment rates by sex (%)



Source: Eurostat [Ifsa_urgacob]

Completely different scenario as regard to categorization by gender. In the chart above we can surprisingly see that the immigrants' unemployment rate in Sweden is not showing a considerable gender gap. Before the intersection in 2010-2011, the females' unemployment rate was slightly higher (16,8% females, 15,9% male). Both in 2012 and in 2016 we could observe the highest gap of ≈ 2 percentage points in disfavor of males,

Nowadays, after the intersection in 2018 when the males and females' unemployment rate was $\approx 15,0\%$, the situation is inverted and if we refer to 2019-2020 both have increased substantially of ≈ 4 percentage points.