



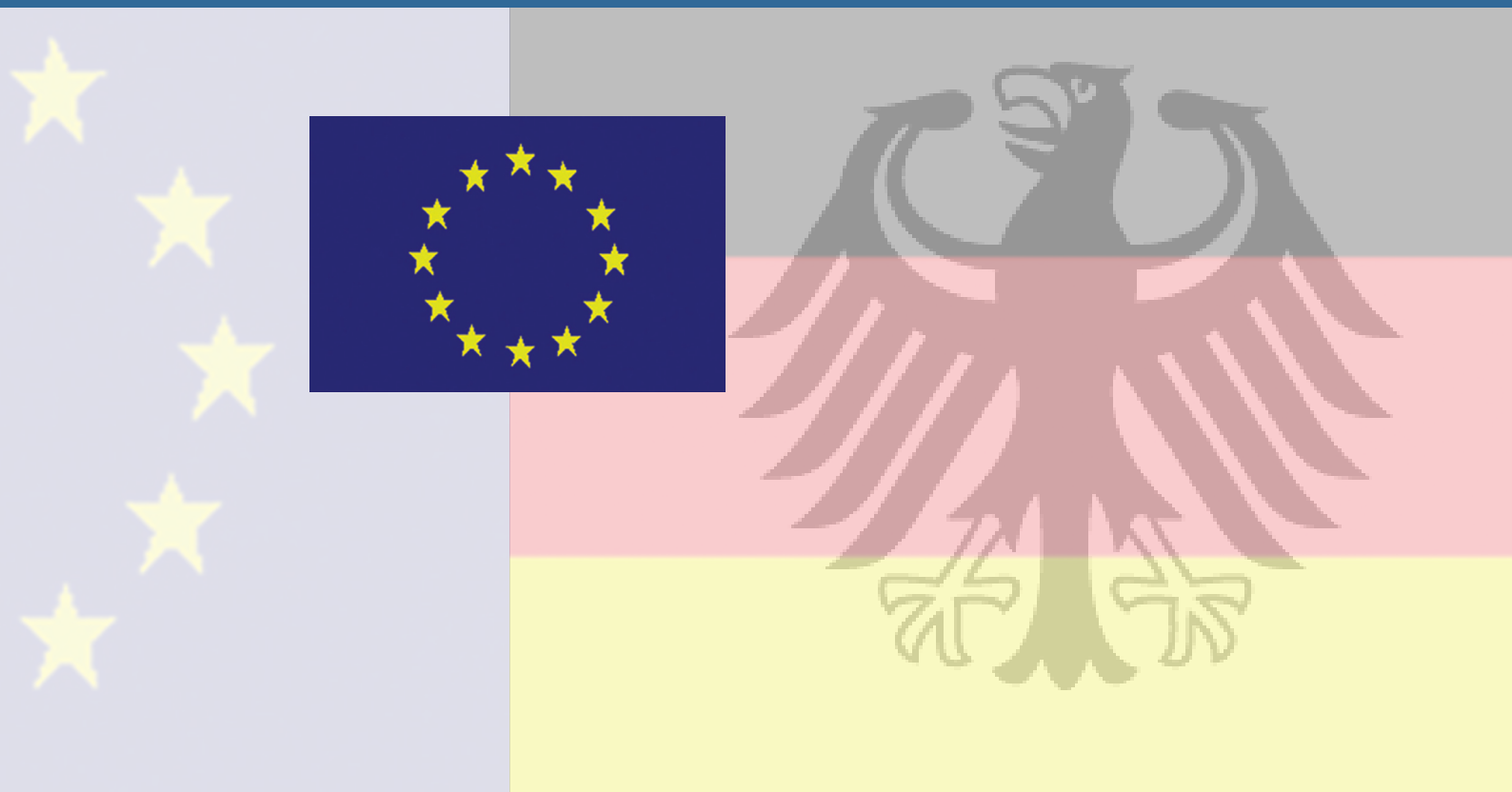
Federal Office
for Migration
and Refugees



Forschungszentrum
Migration, Integration und Asyl

Migration Report 2015

Central conclusions



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The Federal Government's Migration Report aims to provide a basis for migration policy decision-making for decision-makers and administrators by providing the most up-to-date, comprehensive and appropriately detailed statistical data possible on migration. It is also intended to inform the public about developments that have taken place in migration-related events on a yearly basis.

Including all immigrant groups, the report contains, in addition to the general migration data on Germany and the detailed portrayal of the various types of migration, a European comparison of migration-related events and of immigration for asylum purposes. In addition, the report investigates emigration by Germans and foreigners from Germany, explores the phenomenon of illegal/irregular migration, and provides information on the structure and demographics of the population with a migration background. A preceding special chapter goes into the details of the outstanding asylum-related immigration situation since the beginning of 2015, which was characterized by a high influx of persons seeking protection.

2015: Highest level of immigration of persons seeking protection

The year 2015 was particularly characterized by high immigration of persons seeking protection. In the reporting period 2015, 476,649 asylum applications (first and follow-up applications) were registered (compared to 202,834 in 2014). This represents an increase of 135 % compared to the previous year. Main country of origin is Syria. In the federal quota system EASY (Initial Distribution of Asylum- Seekers) initially as many as 1.1 million arrivals of asylum seekers were registered in 2015, whereby multiple registrations were not taken into account. After the completion of the post-registration it became clear, that the number of arrivals was indeed 890,000.

After migration figures reached their low in 2006, a continuous increase in immigration numbers has been observed since. 2.14 Million immigrants were registered in 2015 – among them many people seeking protection, but also many Union citizens from other EU countries. This corresponds to an increase of 46 % compared to the year 2014 and represents the largest number of immigrants since the start of the statistical recordings in 1950. Among the immigrants, 2.02 million people held foreign nationalities – citizens of the European Union and their family

Immigration to and emigration from Germany from 2007 to 2015

Year	Immigration			Emigration			Migration balance (immigration/emigration surplus)	
	Total	Foreigners	Share in %	Total	Foreigners	Share in %	Total	Foreigners
2007	680,766	574,752	84.4	636,854	475,749	74.7	43,912	99,003
2008 ¹⁾	682,146	573,815	84.1	737,889	563,130	76.3	-55,743	10,685
2009 ¹⁾	721,014	606,314	84.1	733,796	578,808	78.9	-12,782	27,506
2010	798,282	683,530	85.6	670,605	529,605	79.0	127,677	153,925
2011	958,299	841,695	87.8	678,969	538,837	79.4	279,330	302,858
2012	1,080,936	965,908	89.4	711,991	578,759	81.3	368,945	387,149
2013	1,226,493	1,108,068	90.3	797,886	657,604	82.4	428,607	450,464
2014	1,464,724	1,342,529	91.7	914,241	765,605	83.7	550,483	576,924
2015 ²⁾	2,136,954	2,016,241	94.4	997,551	859,278	86.1	1,139,403	1,156,963

Source: Federal Statistical Office

- 1) It should be taken into account for 2008 and 2009 that a considerable amount of correction work was carried out in the population registers in these two years because of the nationwide introduction of the personal tax identification number in 2008, and that this led to many people being removed from the registers by the authorities. Since it is impossible to statistically quantify the extent of these corrections from the reports filed by the registration authorities, the actual extent of emigration in 2008 and 2009, as well as the developments in comparison to the previous years, remains unclear (see press release No. 185 of the Federal Statistical Office of 26 May 2010).
- 2) The official migration statistics of the Federal Statistical Office start from an undercoverage of those people who arrived in Germany in 2015 in need of protection. People in need of protection are notifiable, and are therefore generally included in the migration figures. In 2015, however there may have been an undercoverage of this group of persons, which cannot be quantified (see press release No. 246 of the Federal Statistical Office of 14 July 2016).

members as well as third-country nationals. At the same time, the number of people leaving in 2015 increased in comparison to the preceding year by 9 % to 998,000, which is also the highest registered figure so far. This resulted in a migration surplus of 1,139,000 people in 2015 (migration balance 2014: +550,000).

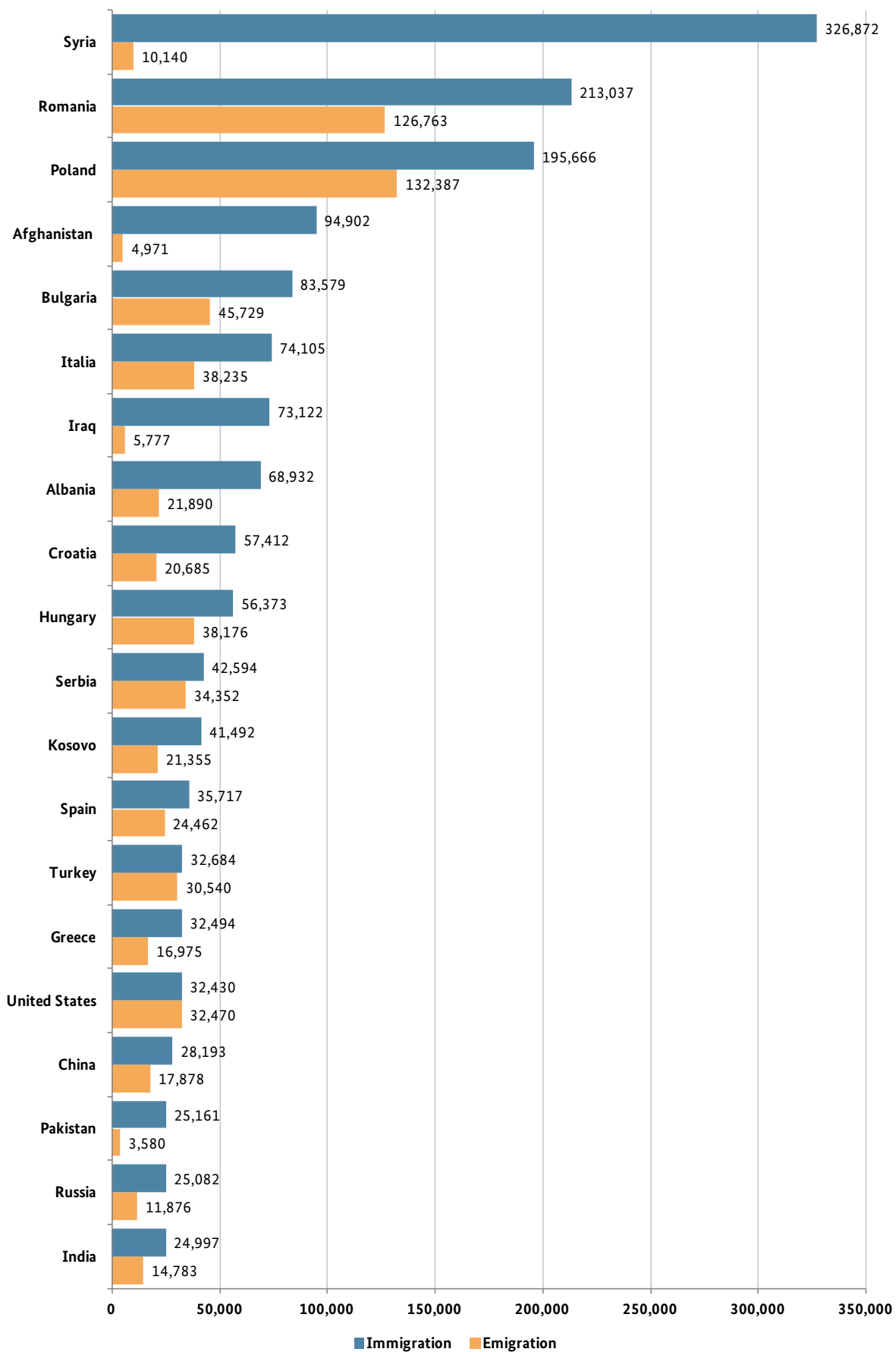
In the year 2015, Syria was the main country of origin of immigrants with 326,900 Syrians arriving in Germany, which was by far the largest group of immigrants. Compared to the previous year, the share of immigration from Syria increased by 403 % (2014: 65,000). This is due to the disproportionate increase in asylum-related immigration within this group of persons. This also applies to the strong immigration from Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan.

The second most important country of origin in 2015 was Romania with 213,000 registered immigrants in Germany. This means a year-on-year increase by roughly 11 %. In the year before the country's accession to the EU (2006) only 23,800 immigrants from Romania were observed. With 195,700 immigrants in 2015, Poland is only the third most important country of origin. After an almost even migration balance with Poland was recorded in 2009 (+168), the following years saw rising migration surpluses. In 2015 the balance was +63,300 (2014: +59,200). With regards to Turkey a migration surplus of 2,100 persons (2014: -4,100) was recorded for the first time since 2006.

Some countries however come to note for a disproportionately large share of women or of men among immigrants. A large share of women was observed for instance among immigrants from Thailand (72 %), Kazakhstan (61 %) and the Russian Federation (60 %). A large share of men was observed for the countries of origin Pakistan (90 %), Morocco (78 %), Somalia (75 %), Afghanistan (90 %) and Syria (71 %).

The share of women is smaller than that of men, both among immigrants (share of women 36 %) and among emigrants (share of women 37 %).

Immigration and emigration according to the most common countries of origin and destination in 2015



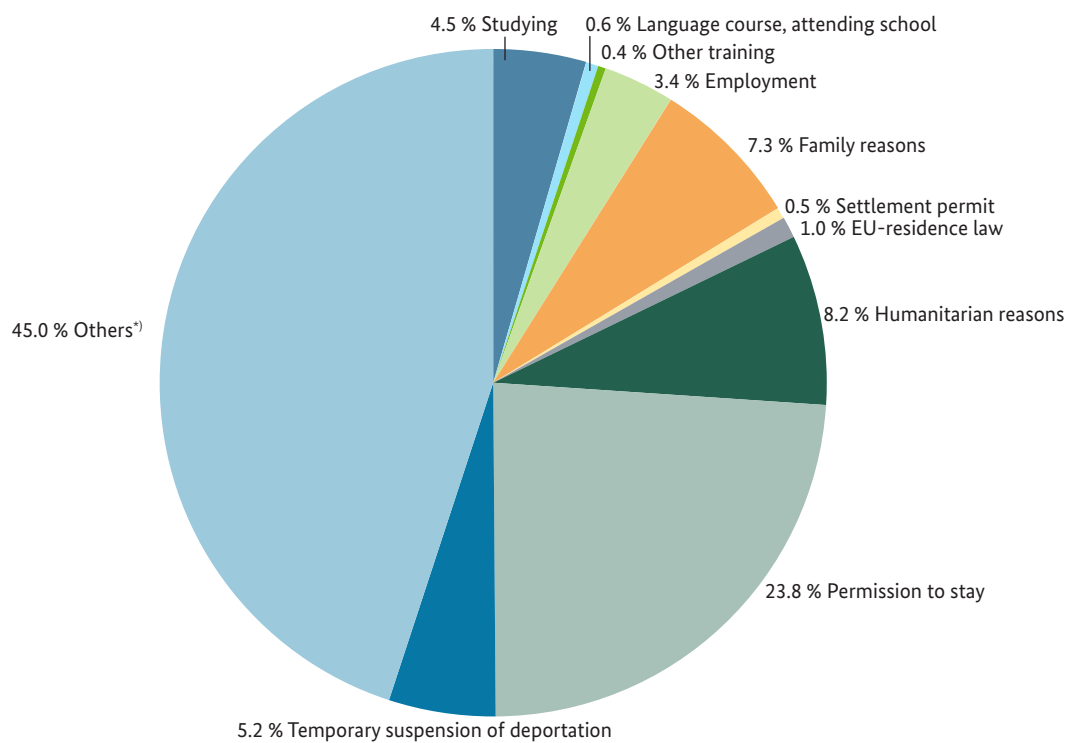
Source: Federal Statistical Office

The analysis of third-country nationals by purpose of residence shows that roughly 7 % moved to Germany for family reasons in 2015. 3 % of third-country nationals were given a residence permit for the purpose of employment, whilst 6 % moved to Germany in order to study, to attend school or a language course and for other training-related purposes. Especially because of the reception of Sy-

rian refugees, immigration for humanitarian reasons has increased significantly (share of 8 %), as well as the number of residence permits issued in order to conduct asylum procedures (share of 24 %). Here, the increased figures of immigration for the purpose of asylum are reflected.

Arrivals of third-country nationals in 2015 by selected residence purposes

Total: 1,125,419



^{*)} Among others, this includes persons who have applied for a residence title.

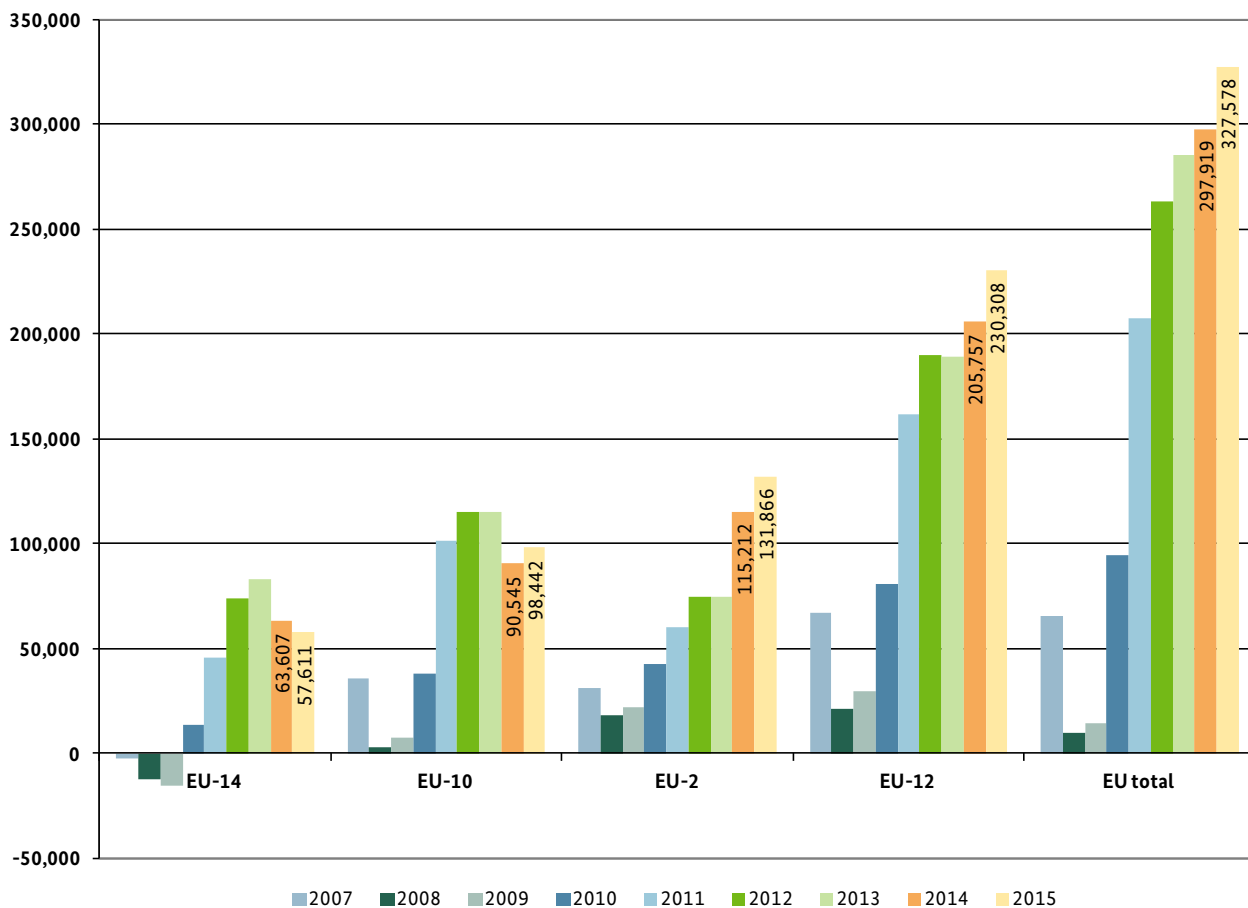
Source: Central Register for Foreigners

Internal EU migration remains strong

Germany registered a total of 846,000 arrivals among Union citizens in 2015. This meant that they accounted for a 40 % share of overall immigration. Despite the increase in the absolute number of arrivals among Union citizens, the share is declining (2014: 55 %). This is due to the disproportionate increase of arrivals of third-country nationals, in particular the strong increase in numbers of asylum-related immigration. The number of Union citizens moving away in 2015 was 518,500 (52 % of overall emigration). All in all, there was a migration surplus between Germany and the other 27 EU Member States (+328,000), which has increased again in comparison to the previous year. The migration balance with the EU-14 States is still positive,

but has fallen from +64,000 to +58,000. The positive balance with the EU-12 States increased by 12 % to +230,300 persons compared to the year 2014. A migration surplus of +98,400 was registered with the States which acceded as per 1 May 2004 (EU-10) and of +132,000 with those which acceded as per 1 January 2007 (EU-2).

Net migration (migration balance) by Union citizens (EU 14, EU 10, EU 2, EU 12¹, EU total²) from 2007 to 2015



- 1) EU-12: These are the States of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus (EU-10) which acceded to the EU as per 1 May 2004, as well as the States of Bulgaria and Romania (EU-2), which acceded as per 1 January 2007.
- 2) EU total already includes Croatia which acceded as per 1 July 2013.

Germany continues to be attractive for skilled foreign workers

Between 2009 and 2012 there was a steady increase in immigration of highly-skilled and highly-qualified workers from third-countries. In 2013 there was a decline to about 24,000 immigrants, which can be explained by the accession of Croatia to the EU on 1 Juli 2013 since Croatian nationals do not need residence permits as Union citizens. In 2015 there was again an increase to over 28,000 immigrated highly-skilled workers.

When also considering migrant workers who do not take up qualified employments, approximately 38,800 residence permits were issued to third-country nationals who arrived for the purpose of employment (2014: 37,300). Almost three quarters of them took up qualified employments as highly-skilled or highly-qualified workers. This shows that the EU Blue Card is highly significant. The main countries of origin were the United States, India, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia (incl. former Serbia and Montenegro).

Germany is getting more and more attractive for foreigners taking up studies

The number of persons who received their entry qualification in a country other than the country they are currently studying in started studying in Germany increased once again in 2015. A 7 % year-on-year increase was observed, amounting to almost 99,100 students – the highest number of foreign students ever registered in Germany

As had been the case in previous years, the largest groups of persons who received their entry qualification in a country other than the country they are currently studying in who started studying at a German higher education institution in 2015 was formed by students with Chinese nationality. The second-largest group was made up of persons from India. The other main countries of origin included Italy, the United States and France.

Immigration by highly-skilled and highly-qualified workers from third-countries from 2009 to 2015 (entering in the respective year under report)

Migration for employment purposes in accordance with	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Section 18 subs. 4 Residence Act (AufenthG) (qualified employment)	14,816	17,889	23,912	23,191	17,185	19,515	18,994
§ 19 of the Residence Act (highly-qualified persons)	169	219	370	244	27	31	31
Section 19a of the Residence Act in conjunction with section 2 subs. 1 No 2 letter a) of the Employment Ordinance (BeschV) (EU Blue Card, core occupations)	-	-	-	1,387	2,786	3,099	3,786
Section 19 a of the Residence Act in conjunction with section 2 subs. 1 No. 2 letter b) of the Employment Ordinance (EU Blue Card, professions for which there is a particular need)	-	-	-	803	1,865	2,279	3,006
Section 20 of the Residence Act (researchers)	140	211	317	366	444	397	409
Section 21 of the Residence Act (self-employment)	1,024	1,040	1,347	1,358	1,690	1,781	1,782
Totally highly-skilled workers	16,149	19,359	25,946	27,349	23,997	27,102	28,008

Source: Federal Statistical Office

People starting to study (persons who received their entry qualification in a country other than Germany) by selected nationalities 2000 to 2015 (in each case summer semester and following winter semester)

Country of origin	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
China	3,451	3,818	3,856	4,532	5,151	5,613	6,175	7,312	7,874	9,075	9,755	10,745
India	539	1,104	1,218	1,114	1,187	1,645	2,126	2,302	3,152	4,041	4,799	5,078
Italy	2,242	2,151	2,085	2,158	2,323	2,450	2,700	2,967	3,333	3,636	4,307	4,863
United States	2,268	2,699	2,645	2,738	3,087	3,386	3,951	4,128	4,066	4,128	4,361	4,847
France	3,136	3,459	3,404	3,205	3,597	3,685	3,784	3,869	4,049	4,315	4,579	4,546
Total	45,652	55,773	53,554	53,759	58,350	60,910	66,413	72,886	79,537	86,170	92,916	99,087

Source: Federal Statistical Office

Sharp increase in the number of asylum applications

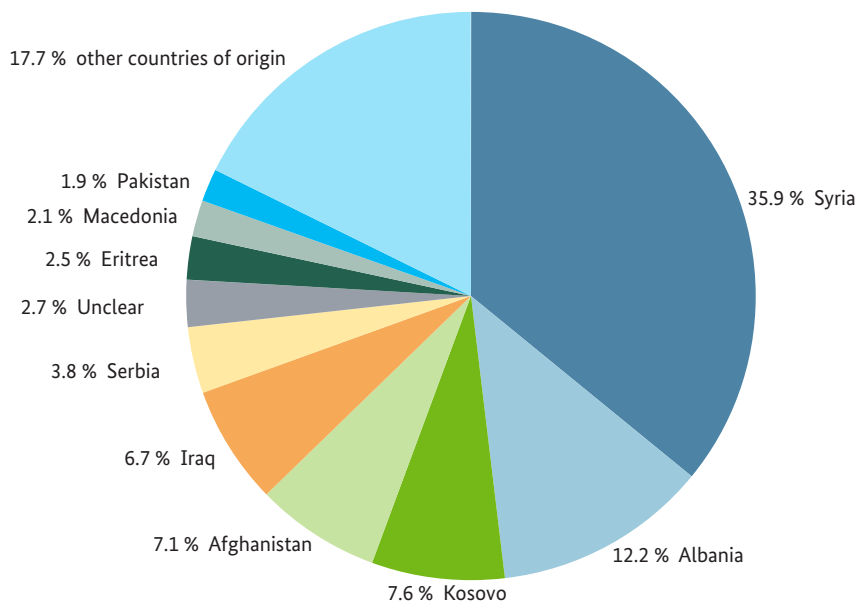
Considerable increases were observed in the number of asylum applications. In 2015, the number of first asylum applications reached a historical peak with 441,900 persons (compared to 1992: 438,200 applications) and increased by 155 % in comparison to 2014 (173,100 first asylum applications). Germany is thus the Member State of the European Union which received the largest number of applications. However, the number of asylum-seekers was significantly higher than the number of asylum applications. According to the EASY quota system (Initial Distribution of Asylum-Seekers) initially as many as 1,091,900 arrivals of asylum seekers were registered. However, errors

in counting and double counting, as well as onward- or return travels could not be excluded when registering in the EASY quota system, since no personal data is recorded in EASY. Only after the completion of the post-registration in September 2016 it became clear, that the number of arrivals was indeed 890.000.¹

The main countries of origin were Syria, Albania, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Within the five-year period from 2011

¹ See the press release of the BMI from the 30 September 2016.

Asylum applicants (first applications) by the ten most common countries of origin in 2015



Source: Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

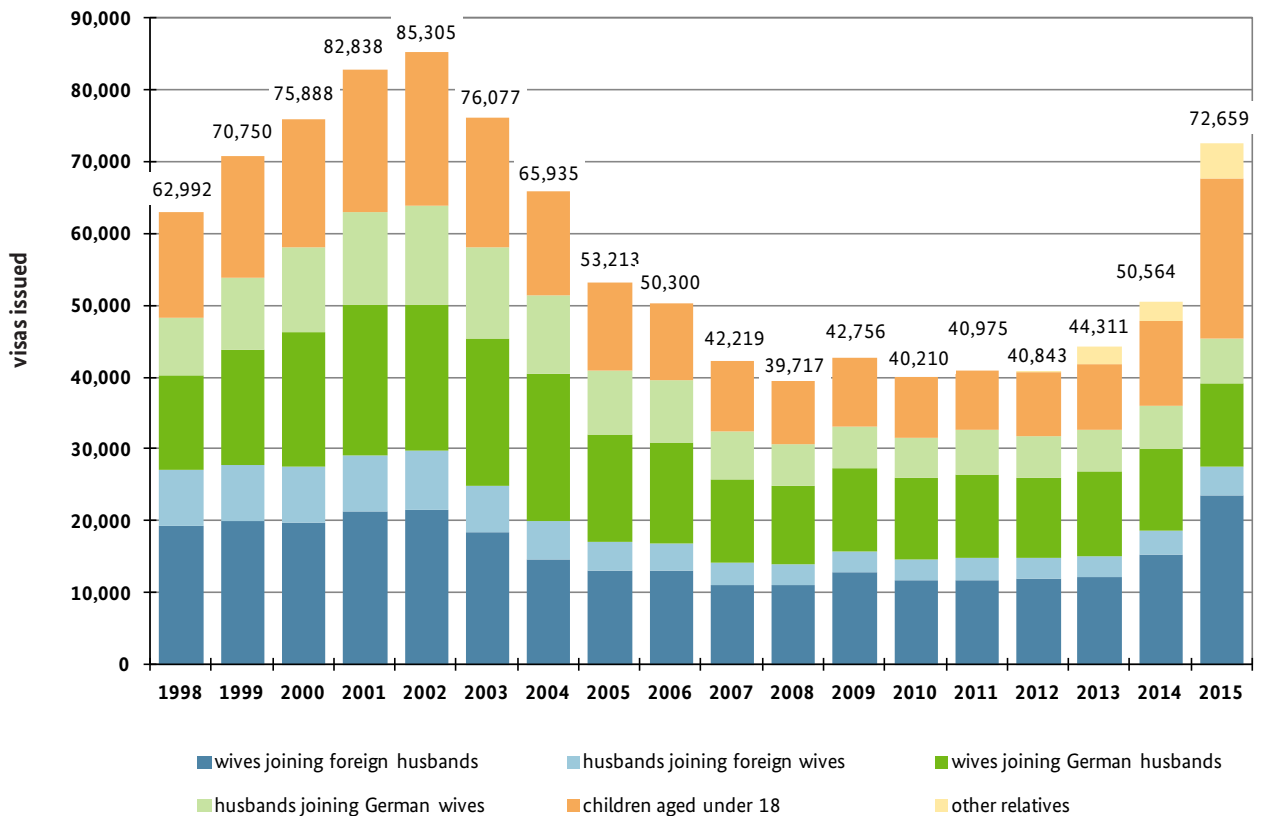
to 2015, the largest number of asylum seekers were from Syria (26 %), Afghanistan and Albania (both 8 %). The total asylum grant rate (all positive decisions in accordance with Art. 16a para. 1 of the Basic Law [GG] and in accordance with section 3 subs. 1 of the Asylum Procedure Act [AsylG] as well as in accordance with section 4 subs. 1 of the Asylum Procedure Act [AsylG] in conjunction with section 60 subs. 5 and 7 of the Residence Act) was noticeably higher in 2015 (50 %) than in the preceding year (2014: 32 %). Above-average asylum grant rates were registered for asylum-seekers from Syria (96 %), Eritrea (92 %), Iraq (89 %) and Afghanistan (48 %).

Family reunification increase

72,700 visas for the purpose of spousal and family reunification were issued in 2015. As a result, the number of visas for the purpose of spousal and family reunification increased by 44 % compared to the preceding year, as fa-

family reunification of third-country nationals had been at a relatively constant level between 2007 and 2013. Turkey still remains the country where most of the visas for the purpose of spousal and family reunification are issued. However, both, the absolute number (since 2002) as well as the share (since 2005) of visas for the purpose of spousal and family reunification, issued in German diplomatic representations in Turkey, has declined until 2014. In 2015 however, the figure rose by 102 % from 7,900 to 15,900 visas. The country with the second largest number of visas issued to Turkey was Lebanon with 10,700 visas in 2015. In 2014 the proportion was still 5 %. Overall, the number of visas issued from Lebanon has increased by 317 %. Both for the German diplomatic representations in Turkey and in Lebanon there is a growing number of Syrian nationals applying for visas for the purpose of spousal and family reunification. In addition, data from the Central Register of Foreigners shows that the number of relatives with Syrian citizenship increases significantly, and meanwhile

Visas for the purpose of spousal and family reunification to Germany from 1998 to 2015



Source: Federal Foreign Office

represents the largest group in the context of spousal and family reunification (from 2014 to 2015 by 427 %). This mostly refers to the family reunification to recognized asylum seekers.

Resettlement of Ethnic Germans to Germany remains on a low level

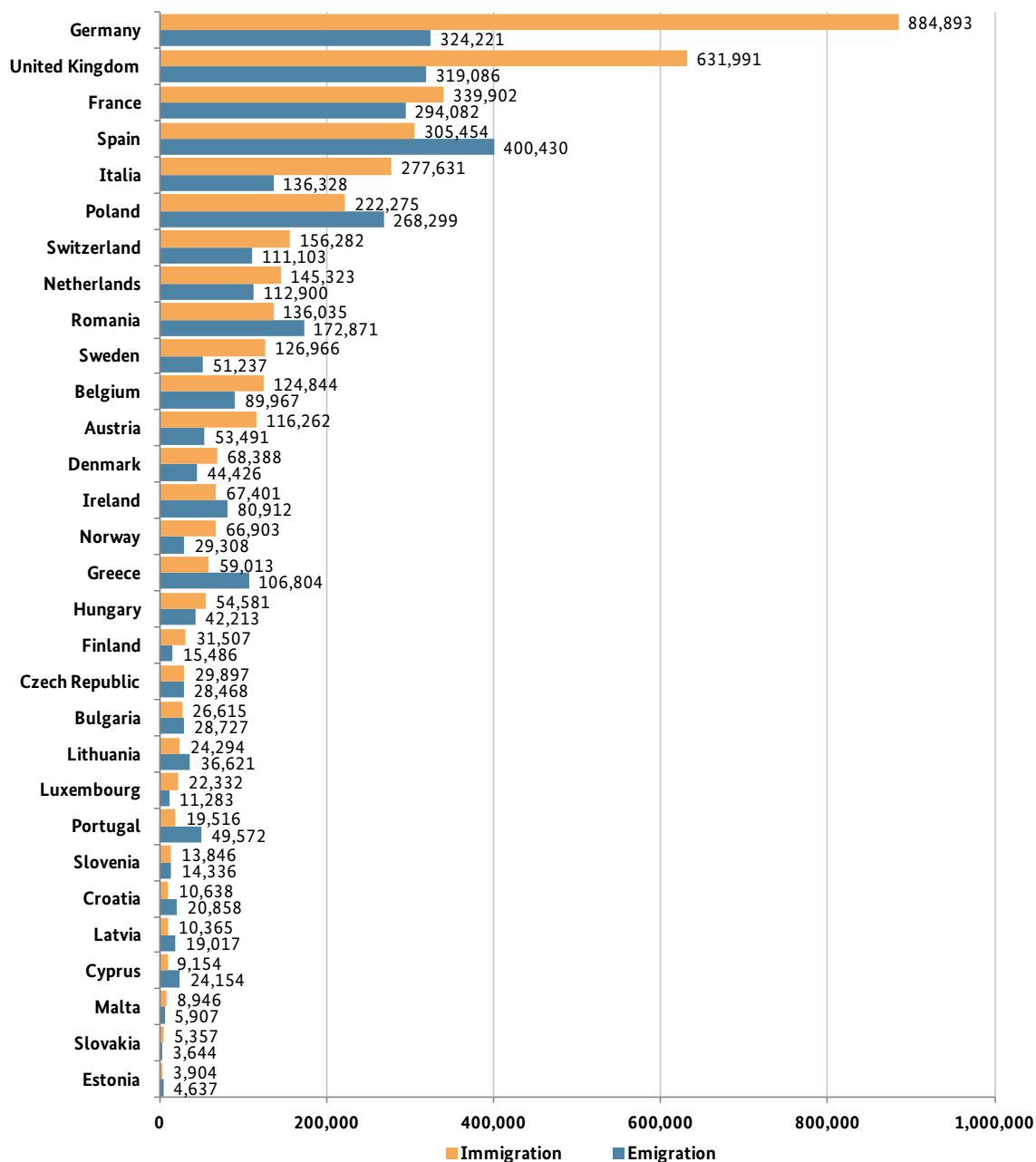
After a continuous decline from 2001 (98,500 persons) to 2012 (1,800 people), in the two subsequent years a slight reemergence of immigration of ethnic German resettlers

and their families could be recorded. 2015 the number of Ethnic German resettlers increased by 8 % in comparison to the preceding year to 6,100 persons.

Germany is the main destination country in European comparison

A European comparison shows that Germany remains and is to an increased extent a main migration destination country and that it has become much more attractive in comparison to the other European states in recent years.

Immigration and emigration in 2014 (according to the UN's definition*) in selected EU States, plus Switzerland and Norway



* The UN definition differs from the definition used in the official migration statistics, which does not take the (intended) stay into account, in that it requires an (intended) stay of at least one year. This means that temporary forms of migration are not included as a rule, so that the figures for Germany are lower than was previously the case, both for immigration and for emigration.

Source: Eurostat (26 September 2016)

By contrast, immigration to Spain, which was the primary host country from 2006 to 2008, has fallen rapidly. The United Kingdom, France and Italy also record high immigration figures.

When comparing the immigration rates of the different states with regard to their population sizes, it is obvious for 2014 that Luxemburg (above all immigration of Union citizens), Malta, Switzerland, Ireland and Austria recorded high immigration figures per 1,000 inhabitants.

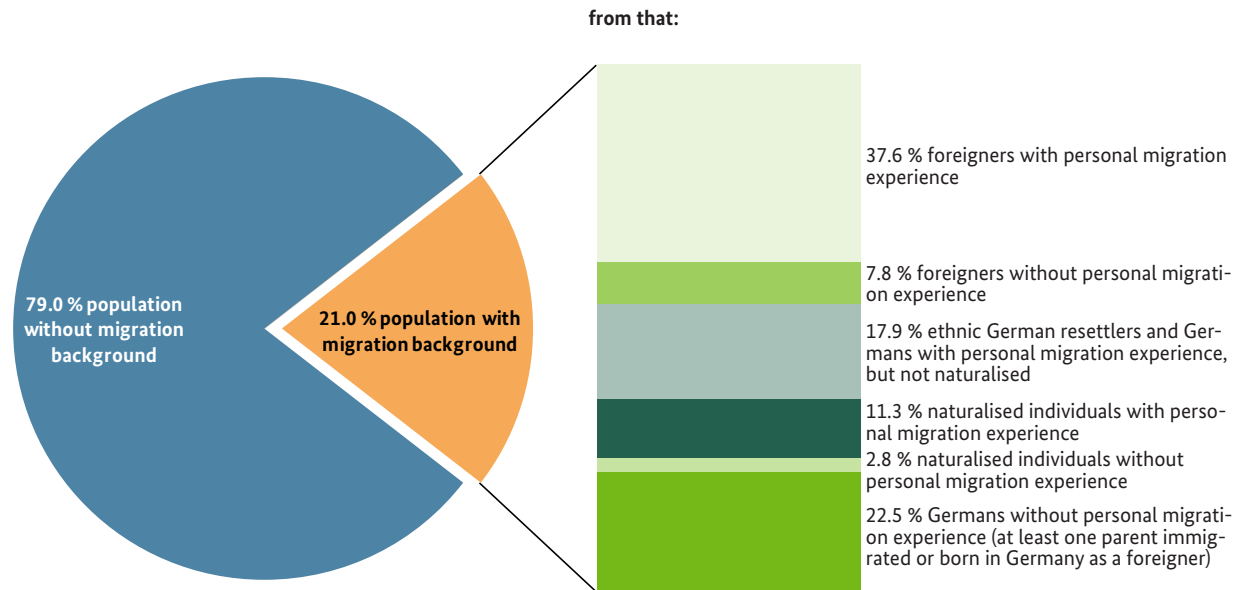
One-fifth of the population has a migration background

A European comparison shows that Germany remains and is to an increased extent a main migration destination country and that it has become much more attractive in comparison to the other European states in recent years. By contrast, immigration to Spain, which was the primary host country from 2006 to 2008, has fallen rapidly. The United Kingdom, France and Italy also record high immigration figures.

In 2015, roughly 17.1 million out of Germany’s population of 81.4 million had a migration background, which accounts for approximately one fifth of the population. All in all, roughly 45 % of the population who have a migration background are foreign nationals and 55 % are Germans. In the case of children under the age of ten, one-third has a migration background.

Two-thirds of persons with a migration background have immigrated themselves (first generation), whilst almost one-third were born in Germany (second or third generation).

Composition of persons with a migration background in Germany in 2015



Source: Federal Statistical Office, Microcensus 2015

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