



# STATISTICS IN FOCUS

## Population and social conditions

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### THE POPULATION OF SELECTED EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

#### Highlights

- France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands were the only countries with 1 million born outside EU-15.
- In France the foreign-born population was 42% larger than the non-national population.
- 30% of the Luxembourg population was born outside Luxembourg.
- Over 98% of the Finnish population was born in Finland.

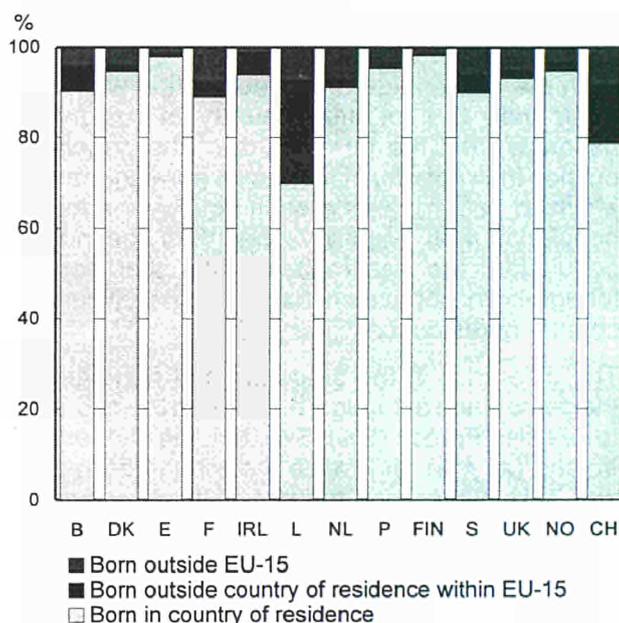
#### Where was the population born?

30% of the Luxembourg population was born outside Luxembourg, 21% of the Swiss population and 11% of the French population were also born outside their country of residence. In absolute numbers France had the highest foreign-born population, 6.2 million, followed by the UK, 3.9 million, Switzerland, 1.5 million, and the Netherlands, 1.4 million. (Figure 1).

Luxembourg also had the highest percentage of people born outside the country but within the EU-15 (EU foreign-born) at 23%. 13% of the Swiss population were born within the EU-15 and 6% of the Belgium population were EU foreign-born. For all the other countries which provided information less than 5% of the population were EU foreign-born.

France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were the only countries with more than a million people born outside the EU, however, in percentage terms Switzerland was the leader with 8% of the population foreign-born outside the EU, closely followed by France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands all with 7%. (Figure 1).

**Figure 1:**  
EU population by country of birth 1994 (or nearest available years)



Source: Eurostat



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The majority of the 4.2 million non-EU born people in France were born in the African continent, 69% (2.9 million). In the UK Asian born people dominated this category comprising 45% of the non-EU born population. 21% were born in Africa and 17% in the Americas. The origins of the 1 million people born outside the EU living in the Netherlands were more evenly spread with 29% born in the American continent, 28% in Asia and 20% in the African continent. (Figure 2).

### Why country of birth data?

Country of birth data, like country of citizenship data can be used as a measure of the influence of international migration within a population. At its simplest, country of birth data can show the numbers of people resident in one country who were born in another country. By definition these people have migrated at some point during their lives. Both country of birth data and country of citizenship data give an indication of previous migration within the stock population. Country of birth data can give an insight into the effect first generation immigrants have on the structure of the population.

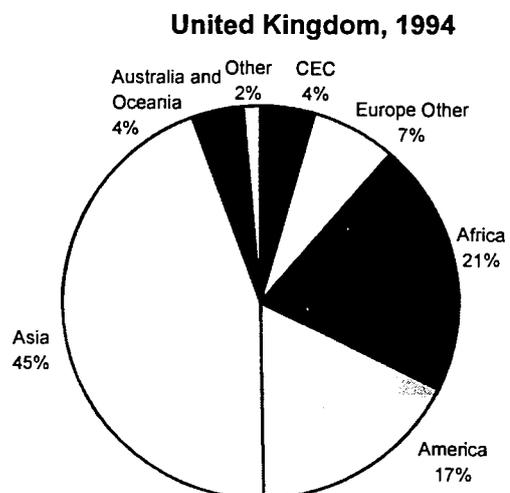
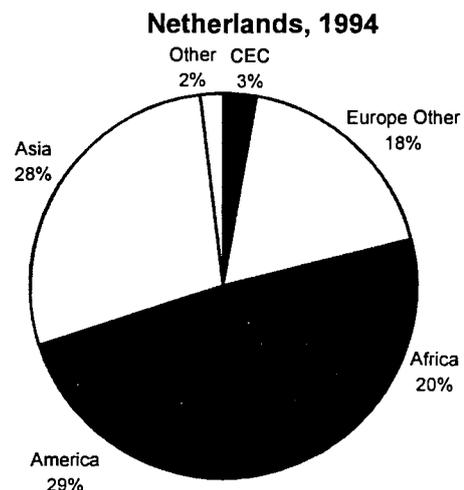
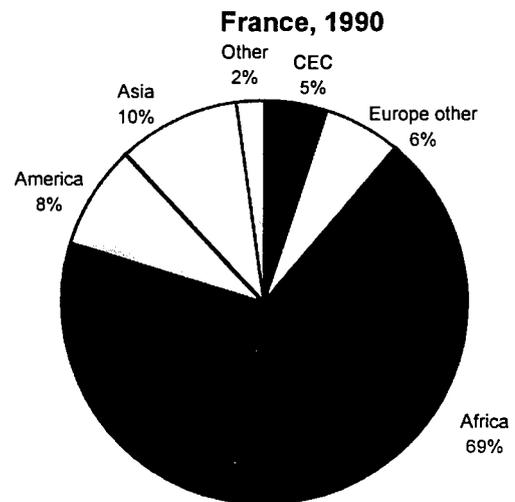
Unlike country of citizenship a person's country of birth cannot be changed (unless due to territorial redefinition). Country of citizenship, as would be recorded in a passport, is normally acquired through birth though it can often be obtained in other ways; through the citizenship of one's parents, by marriage and/or naturalisation. The methods of gaining citizenship vary depending on the legal statutes within different countries.

### Difference between foreign-born and non-national population was greatest in France

Both the percentage of the population with citizenship other than that of their country of residence (non-nationals) and the percentage of the population born outside their country of residence (foreign-born) showed a similar pattern. Within each country the foreign-born population was slightly higher than the non-national population, the assumption being that some of the foreign-born population had become citizens of their country of residence. (Figure 3)

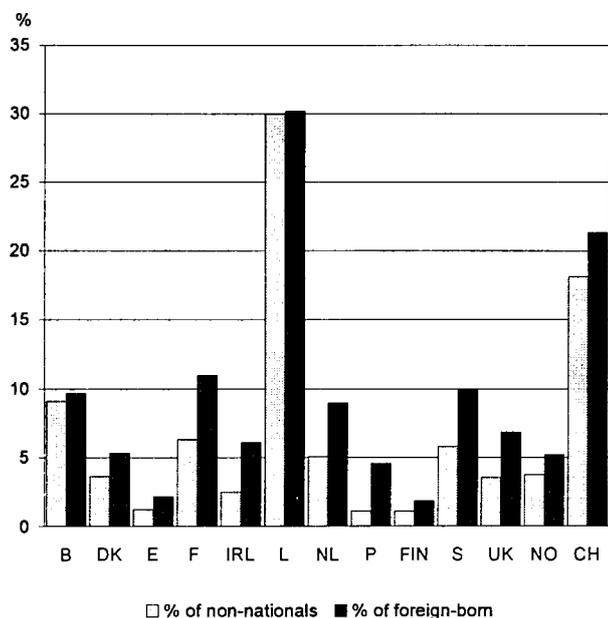
The difference in the percentage of non-nationals and the percentage of foreign-born within the population was greatest in France (5%), Sweden, the Netherlands, and Ireland (all 4%). In France the foreign born population was 42% higher than the non-national population. Belgium, Luxembourg, Finland and Spain all show differences in the two percentages, foreign born and non-national, of less than 1%. The difference between the non-national and the foreign born population may reflect the variation in ability, want, and need to become citizens of the different countries, or the differing types of migration, short and long term - short-term migrants being less likely to change citizenship.

**Figure 2 :**  
**Persons born outside EU-15, selected countries**



Source: Eurostat

**Figure 3 :**  
**Percentage of non-nationals within the population compared with the percentage of foreign-born population**



Source : Eurostat



## People migrate to areas speaking the same language

Another obvious trend has been for foreign-born population to be resident in countries speaking the same or similar languages as their country of origin. This can be seen with: the French born population in Belgium; the Algerian and Moroccan population in France; the United Kingdom, American and Canadian born population in Ireland; the Argentinian, Venezuelan and Cuban born population in Spain; the Swedish born population in Finland and vice versa. (Table 1).

## Colonial and historic ties

Some colonial ties seem significant in attracting the foreign born population to European countries. This was particularly apparent in countries with higher proportions of non-EU born populations; the Netherlands, France and the UK though it was also clear in Spain and Portugal. The two largest foreign-born populations in the Netherlands came from Indonesia and Surinam, the sixth highest proportion coming from the Netherlands Antilles. Within France the Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian born population were prevalent and the UK still has a large proportion of the foreign born population from the Commonwealth; Pakistan, India, Jamaica, Kenya and Bangladesh. Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde and Brazil provided nearly 66% of the foreign-born population in Portugal and Morocco, Argentina, Venezuela and Cuba providing 25% of the Spanish foreign-born population. (Table 1).

## People move over shorter distances

The following table gives more detailed information on the top birthplaces for the foreign-born population in each country which provided data. (Table 1). The table indicates a number of different explanations for the presence and origin of foreign-born people within each country. As with any form of migration there are a variety of factors working either in isolation or combination, some of which are mentioned below.

In general people moving from their country of birth went to neighbouring countries. France, Germany and the Netherlands all border Belgium and provided it with a third of the foreign-born population. The same effect can be seen between Ireland and the UK; the UK provided Ireland with over 75% of the foreign-born population. This pattern was seen again in Luxembourg with a foreign-born population from France, Germany and Belgium; in Switzerland with a foreign-born population from Both Italy and Germany and the Swedish born population resident in Finland and Norway reciprocated by the Finnish and Norwegian populations in Sweden.

## Labour recruitment

The effects of labour recruitment at the end of the sixties and the beginning of the seventies along with the subsequent family reunification are apparent in the composition of the foreign-born populations in several countries. The Turkish born 'guest workers' in the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland and the numbers of Moroccan-born residents of the Netherlands, Belgium and France are all examples of the important role that labour recruitment has played on the structure of the population. (Table 1).

It is obvious from looking at the small selection of factors above that none were working in isolation. Neighbouring countries often speak the same or similar languages as do those with colonial ties. Labour recruitment took place from countries with colonial ties. Often a multiplier effect would occur. A country with an established foreign-born population would attract others from the same population. Finally, the size of the origin country cannot be ignored, the more populous a country the more people with the potential to migrate. Germany was one of the top ten providers of foreign-born population in all 13 countries.

**Table 1:**  
**Population by country of birth in some selected european countries**



<b>Belgium, 1994</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio
Total population	10 100.6	na	95.7
Native-born population	9 120.9	na	95.7
Total foreign-born population	979.7	100	95.9
EU-15 foreign-born population	577.1	58.9	89.1
France	149.1	15.2	74.7
Italy	142.3	14.5	113.3
Morocco	87.4	8.9	126.5
Netherlands	82.7	8.4	88.5
Germany	82.2	7.7	75.9
Turkey	55.7	5.7	110.9
Zaire	55.2	5.6	102
Spain	39.7	4	93.5
United Kingdom	26.5	2.7	93.8
Portugal	19.1	1.9	100

<b>Finland, 1994</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio
Total population	5 077.9	na	94.7
Native-born population	4 983.3	na	94.6
Total foreign-born population	94.6	100	103.1
EU-15 foreign-born population	34.1	36.1	117.3
Sweden	25.8	27.3	103
former Soviet Union	25	22	61.1
USA	2.7	2.8	98
Germany	2.6	2.8	148.4
Somalia	2.6	2.7	169.7
former Yugoslavia	2.4	2.5	148.5
Vietnam	2.2	2.3	105.5
United Kingdom	1.9	2	196.6
China	1.2	1.2	122.2
Poland	1.1	1.2	87.5

<b>Denmark, 1994</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio
Total population	5 196.6	na	97.4
Native-born population	4 919.9	na	97.4
Total foreign-born population	276.8	100	95.9
EU-15 foreign-born population	73	26.4	91.5
Germany	25	9	79.4
Turkey	24.5	8.8	113.6
Sweden	17.5	6.3	63.6
Norway	14.1	5.1	63.2
United Kingdom	11.7	4.2	136.8
Lebanon	11.1	4	127.5
Iran	10	3.6	184
Poland	9.6	3.5	56.8
former Yugoslavia	9.5	3.4	109.9
Pakistan	8.3	3	125.5

<b>France, 1990</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio
Total population	56 652	na	94.8
Native-born population	50 427.8	na	93.8
Total foreign-born population	6 224.2	100	103
EU-15 foreign-born population	2 008.9	32.3	92.2
Algeria	1 352.9	21.7	111.2
Morocco	648.5	10.4	123.5
Portugal	606.1	9.7	109.4
Italy	513.6	8.3	97.6
Spain	423.3	6.8	88.2
Tunisia	360	5.8	119
Germany	208.7	2.8	126.3
Turkey	172	2.2	59.2
Poland	137.4	2	69.9
Belgium	126.4	1.9	68.3

<b>Spain, 1991</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio
Total population	38 872.3	na	96
Native-born population	38 026.3	na	96.1
Total foreign-born population	846	100	91.6
EU-15 foreign-born population	397.1	46.9	88.2
France	133.9	15.8	86.2
Morocco	108	12.8	109
Germany	90.6	10.7	90.6
United Kingdom	66.3	7.8	85.1
Argentina	53.8	6.4	89.9
Venezuela	42.3	5	90.5
Portugal	42.3	5	92.2
Switzerland	40.5	4.8	99.6
Cuba	24.1	2.8	79.5
Belgium	18.6	2.2	89.4

<b>Ireland, 1991</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio
Total population	3 502.4	na	98.9
Native-born population	3 288.7	na	99.3
Total foreign-born population	213.7	100	92.9
EU-15 foreign-born population	180.6	84.5	91.3
United Kingdom	167.6	78.4	91.7
USA	12.8	6	83.6
Germany	4.6	2.2	86.0
Canada	2.5	1.1	88.1
France	2.4	1.1	69.2
Australia	2.1	1	96.4
Netherlands	1.8	0.8	111.8
India	1.5	0.7	118.2
Italy	1.3	0.6	139.3
Spain	1.2	0.6	53.7

**Table 1:**  
**Population by country of birth in some selected european countries (continuation)**



<b>Luxembourg, 1991</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio	<b>Portugal, 1991</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio
Total population	384.6	na	96.2	Total population	9 867.1	na	93.1
Native-born population	268.6	na	95.7	Native-born population	9 414.7	na	93.2
Total foreign-born population	116	100	97.3	Total foreign-born population	452.5	100	91.6
EU-15 foreign-born population	88.1	75.9	97.1	EU-15 foreign-born population	102.4	77.4	90.4
Portugal	29.4	25.3	116.6	Angola	145.6	32.2	88.7
France	13.8	11.9	80.1	Mozambique	76.9	17	92.2
Germany	12.1	10.4	60.5	France	60	13.3	94
Italy	12	10.3	130.9	Cape Verde	31	6.9	111.1
Belgium	10.7	9.3	90.7	Brazil	24.4	5.4	76.5
Netherlands	3	2.6	99	Germany	16.5	3.6	96.4
United Kingdom	2.3	1.9	109.7	Venezuela	15.4	3.4	93.3
former Yugoslavia	1.9	1.6	133.5	Spain	11.3	2.5	64.8
Spain	1.8	1.6	105.6	United Kingdom	7.1	1.6	93
Denmark	1.2	1	87.8	Guinea Bissau	6.8	1.5	133.1
<b>Netherlands, 1994</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio	<b>Sweden, 1994</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio
Total population	1 5341.6	na	97.8	Total population	8 745.1	na	
Native-born population	13 966.2	na	97.4	Native-born population	7876	na	
Total foreign-born population	1 375.4	100	102.5	Total foreign-born population	869.1	100	93.8
EU-15 foreign-born population	302	22	87.7	EU-15 foreign-born population	341.9	39.3	
Indonesia	183.7	13	90	Finland	209.5	24.1	73.80686
Surinam	182.9	13	94.5	former Yugoslavia	51.7	6	107.6454
Turkey	166	12	124	Iran	48	5.5	133.225
Morocco	139.4	10	136.4	Norway	47.1	5.4	70.36488
Germany	129.4	9	68.4	Denmark	41	4.7	109.7425
NL Antilles	64.7	5	101	Poland	38.5	4.4	73.80686
United Kingdom	44.8	3	122.7	Germany	35.8	4.1	77.5488
Belgium	44	3	77.4	Turkey	28.4	3.3	110.7095
former Yugoslavia	29.7	2	102.1	Chile	27.7	3.2	101.1694
Spain	17.5	1	119.9	Lebanon	21.1	2.4	129.3716
<b>United Kingdom, 1994</b>	absolute (1 000)	% of all foreign-born	sex ratio				
Total population	57 4488.8	na	96.4				
Native-born population	53 554.7	na	96.8				
Total foreign-born population	3 934.1	100	91.3				
EU-15 foreign-born population	135.6	28.9	77.5				
Ireland	569.3	14.5	88.2				
India	405.1	10.3	94.2				
Pakistan	266.9	6.8	105.8				
Germany	241.4	5.5	67.1				
Jamaica	133.6	3.4	81.8				
Kenya	119.2	3	115.3				
Bangladesh	118.3	3	100.4				
USA	106.4	2.7	90.5				
Italy	91	2.3	108.4				
South Africa	83.5	2.1	77.1				

Source: Eurostat

## More women than men born abroad

The male/female sex ratios for both those born within the country of residence and those born outside the country of residence were reasonably homogenous. In all countries there were slightly more females than males born within the country of residence, with the sex ratios (number of males for every 100 females) ranging from 93 in Portugal to 99 in Ireland. In 6 of the 13 countries there were more males than females born outside their country of residence, however, the differences between the proportion of males and females were still slight. In total 8 025 000 men and 8 161 000 women were born outside their country of residence. (Figure 4).

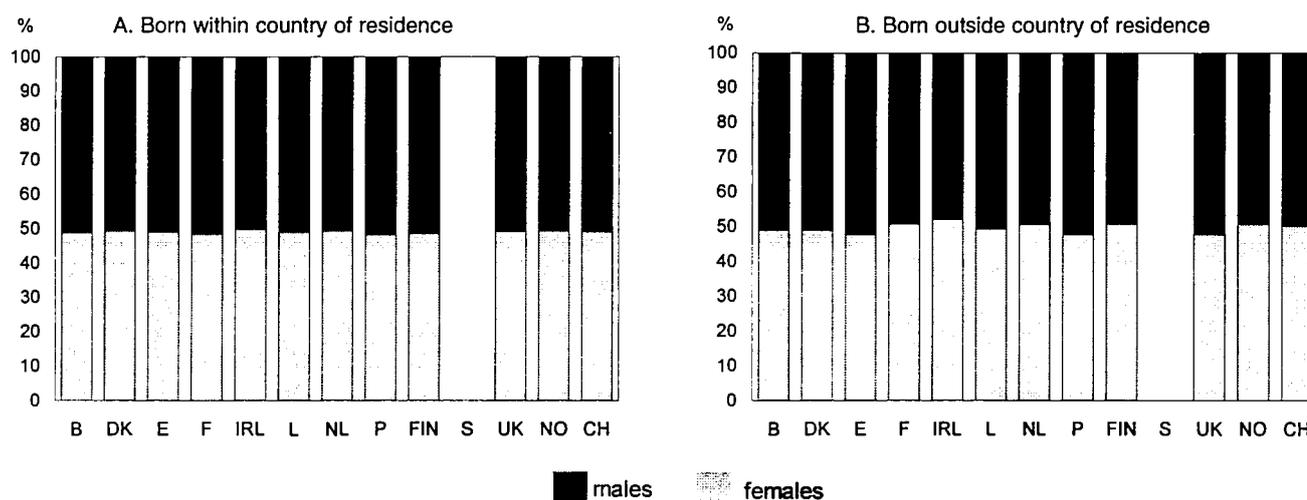
Those born within Central Europe or within Africa and resident within the selected European countries showed a greater range of sex ratios.

## Concentration of foreign-born aged 15-45

The proportion of foreign-born and native-born within each age group showed very different patterns. There was a distinct concentration of the foreign born population within the 15-45 years age categories, the first half of working ages. Very low proportions were witnessed in the 0-14 category.

The age structure of the foreign-born within the countries could be divided into broad groups. Portugal had a very young foreign-born population, with 47% aged 15-29. Ireland and Finland also had a young foreign-born population and like Portugal the majority were aged 15-45 with very few over the age of 50. Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland all showed very similar patterns. The bulk of their foreign-born population was aged 15-64. France and the UK had the oldest foreign-born population. (Figure 5, Table 2).

**Figure 4:**  
Male/Female ratios of persons resident in the EU

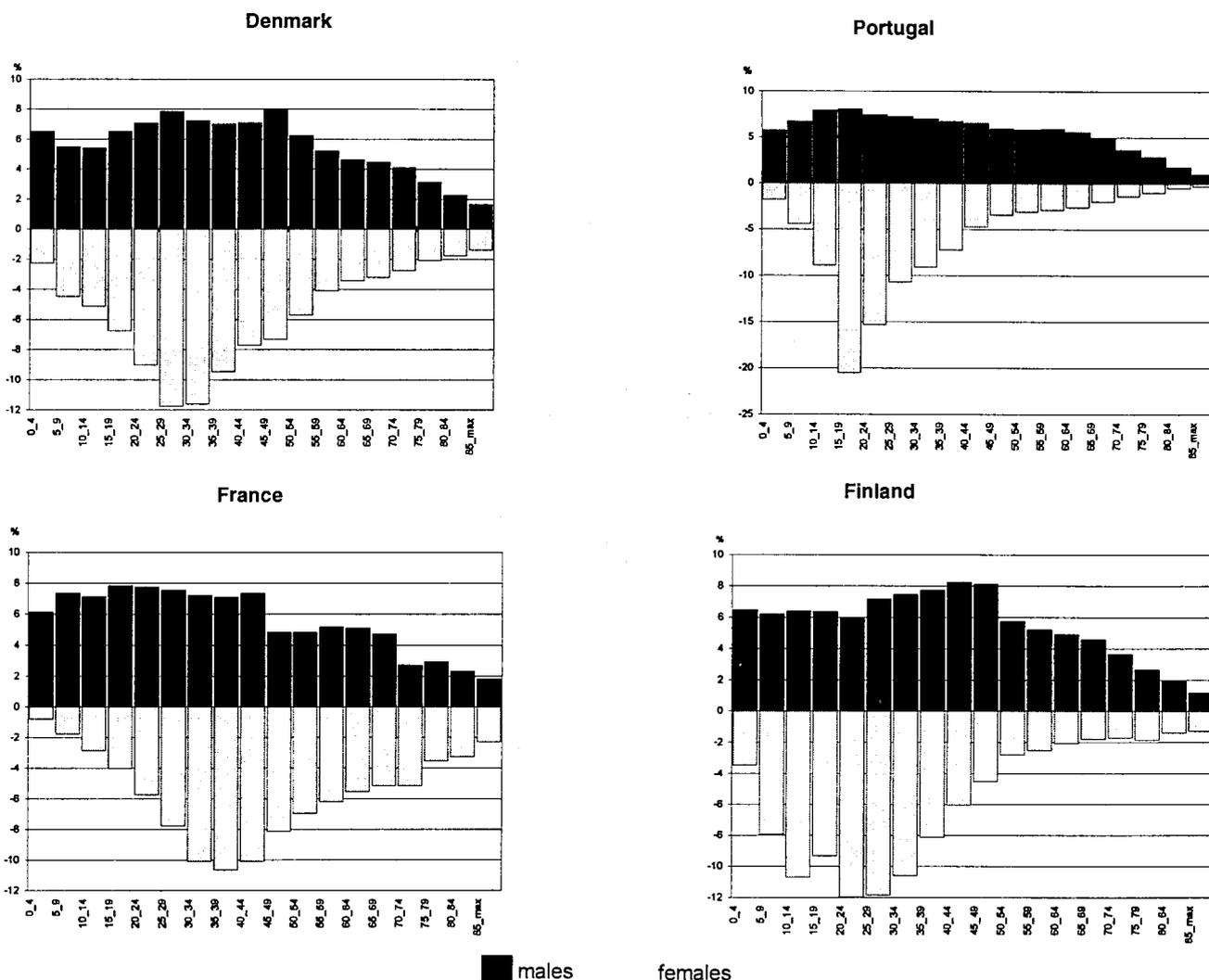


Source: Eurostat

**Table 2:**  
Percentage of foreign born within each broad age group (percentage of native born within each age group in brackets)

	0-14 %	15-29 %	30-45 %	50-64 %	5+	Modal age group foreign-born	Modal age group native-born
B	8 (19)	20 (21)	31 (22)	21 (17)	20 (21)	35-39	30-34
DK	12 (17)	28 (21)	29 (21)	17 (20)	15 (20)	25-29	45-49
F	6 (21)	18 (23)	32 (22)	22 (15)	26 (20)	35-39	15-19
IRL	12 (27)	37 (23)	25 (20)	13 (14)	13 (17)	20-24	10-14
L	9 (21)	23 (21)	32 (20)	19 (17)	14 (21)	30-34	25-29
NL	9 (19)	27 (21)	31 (32)	17 (17)	16 (21)	30-34	25-29
P	15 (20)	47 (23)	21 (20)	9 (18)	8 (20)	15-19	15-19
FIN	22 (19)	33 (19)	25 (23)	10 (19)	10 (19)	20-24	40-44
UK	8 (21)	21 (21)	31 (21)	21 (17)	20 (20)	30-34	25-29
NO	14 (18)	23 (21)	30 (21)	15 (16)	12 (23)	25-29	25-29
CH	7 (19)	21 (22)	29 (20)	25 (16)	18 (23)	25-29	30-34

**Figure 5:**  
Age breakdown by country of birth



Source: Eurostat

### Sources and definitions

This publication, produced by NiDi (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute) and Eurostat gives summary results on the information supplied by Belgium, Denmark, Spain (no age breakdown was supplied), Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Norway and Switzerland. Greece also provided data but it only covered non-nationals and therefore was not included in this publication as the data would not be useful in comparative analysis.

National population registers were used as the data source for the country of birth information from Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway and Sweden. In all cases except Sweden the data refer to 1 January 1994, in the case of Sweden data refer to 31 December 1993 but for the purposes of this publication this has been taken as 1 January 1994.

In other countries the only available source of country of birth data was from the census of population. Spain, Luxembourg, Portugal and Ireland all supplied 1991 Census data, Switzerland and France 1990 Census data.

The country of birth data supplied by the UK was from the Spring 1994 Labour Force Survey. The data was grossed up from a sample and should be used with caution. As with any survey, the Labour Force Survey data was considered less reliable than data from either a census or a population register. Ireland also supplied 1994 data from the Labour Force Survey but the Irish 1991 Census data supplied was more comprehensive and considered more reliable and has therefore been used within this publication.

The definition of country of birth is the country in which the person concerned was actually born, irrespective of their country of citizenship. The one exception to this was Norway where the definition of country of birth was taken as the mother's usual place of residence. In practice, the extent to which this definition is applied is not known.

The age definition which has been assumed is the 'age at last birthday', the number of completed years at the time of enumeration (register, census or survey).

The data on country of birth was requested in a similar form to the country of citizenship data which Eurostat had collected for several years. The 15 Member States and the EFTA countries were asked to provide 1994 population data broken down by country of birth, sex and five year age group. Although the data was requested for 1994 for some countries the only available source of data was the last 1990/1991 Census of Population. Countries were also asked to provide information on the source of the data and the definitions used, these are outlined in the section at the end of this publication.

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