

Europe's Unauthorized Immigrant Population Peaks in 2016, Then Levels Off

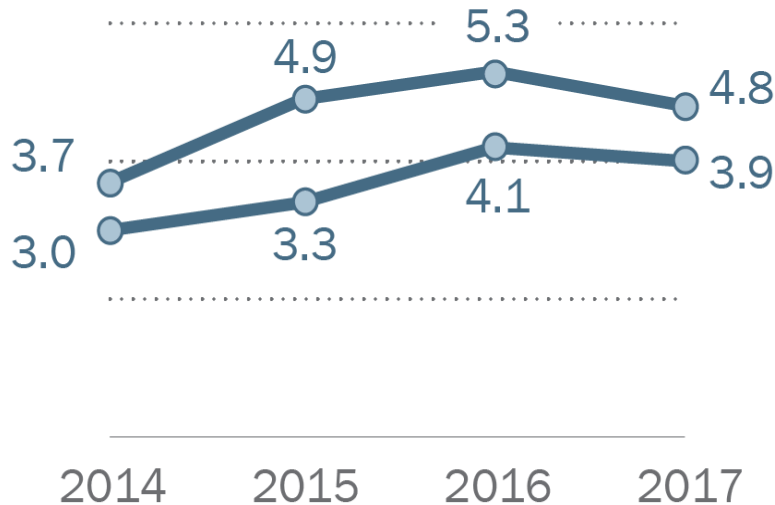
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Director, Global Migration and Demography Research

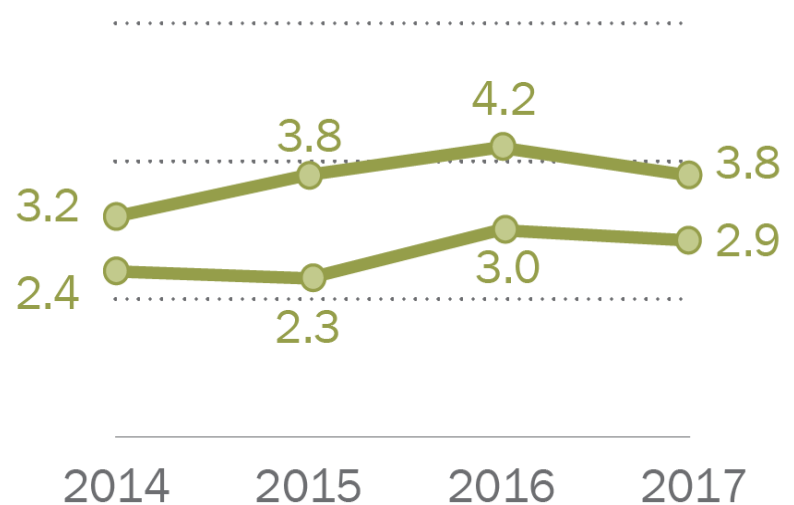
Europe's unauthorized immigrant population with and without asylum seekers

Range for the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in millions living in Europe, 2014-2017

Europe total, WITH asylum seekers



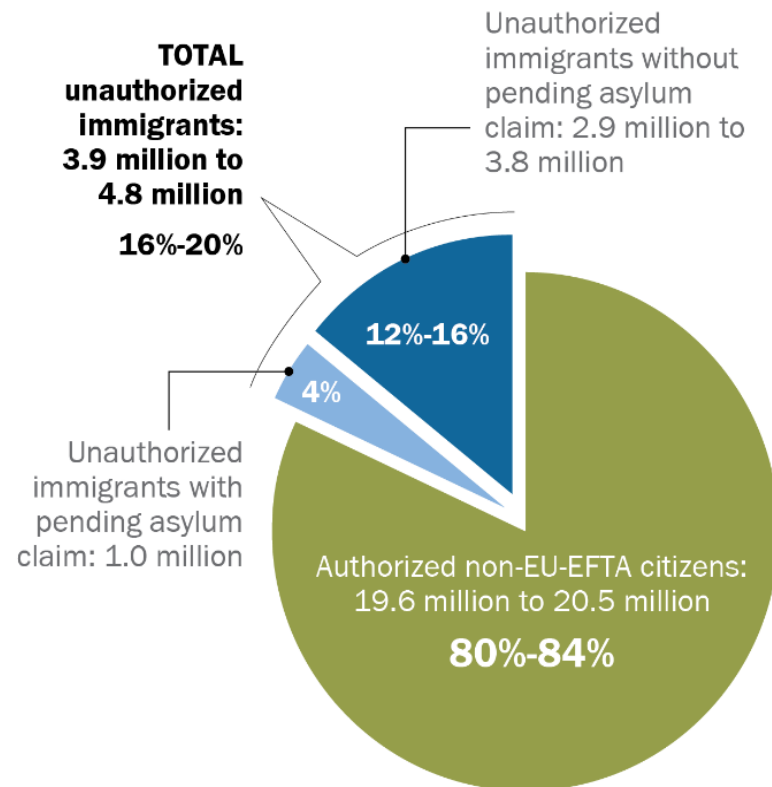
Europe total, WITHOUT asylum seekers



Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

Unauthorized immigrants in Europe account for nearly one-in-five non-EU-EFTA citizens

Estimates of people living in Europe without EU or EFTA citizenship, 2017

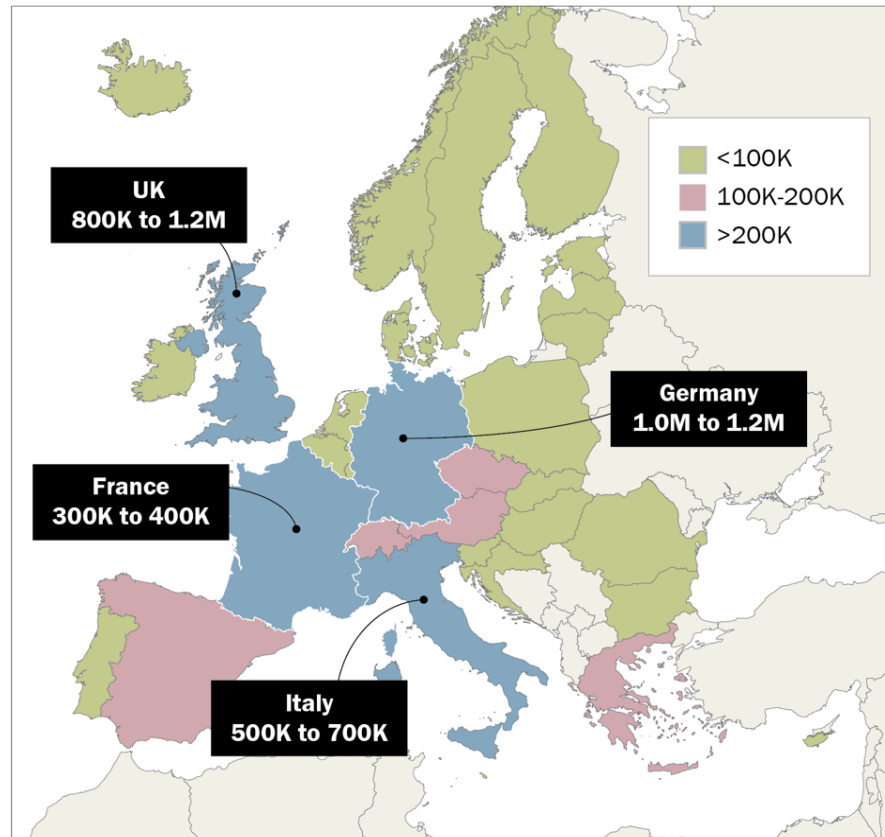


Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

NATIONAL TRENDS

More than two-thirds of Europe's unauthorized immigrants lived in Germany, the UK, Italy and France in 2017

Estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in thousands by country of residence, 2017



Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

Terminology

Europe - European Union (EU) member countries in 2017 and the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Noncitizens - residents of Europe who are not EU-EFTA citizens, most of whom were not born in EU or EFTA countries

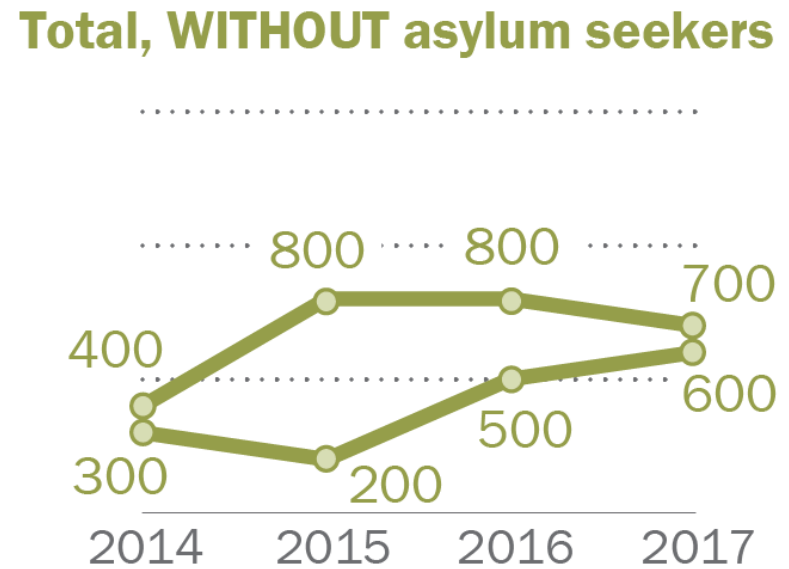
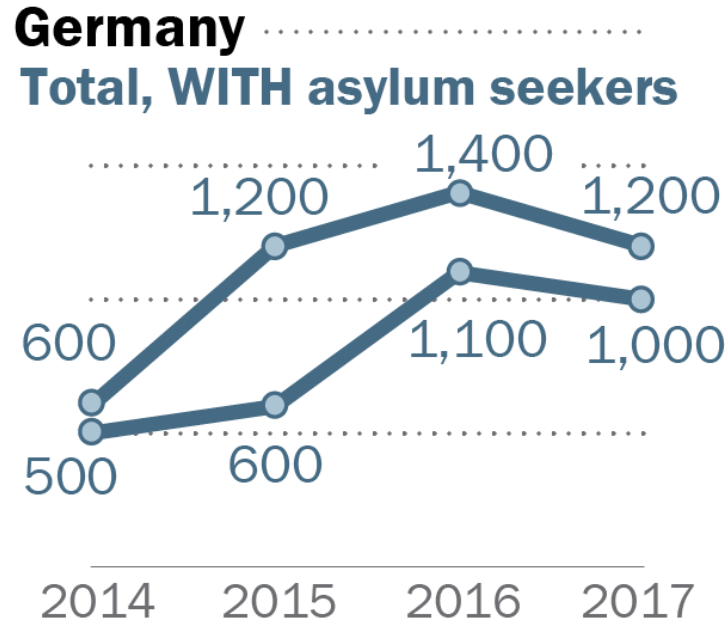
Unauthorized immigrants - noncitizens living in their country of residence without a residency permit. The estimates are for the population at the end of each year, not annual flows.

Includes the following groups:

- Entered without permission
- Visa overstayers
- Deferred deportees
- Asylum seekers waiting for a decision
- Children born to unauthorized immigrant parents

Number of unauthorized immigrants since 2014 is up in Germany

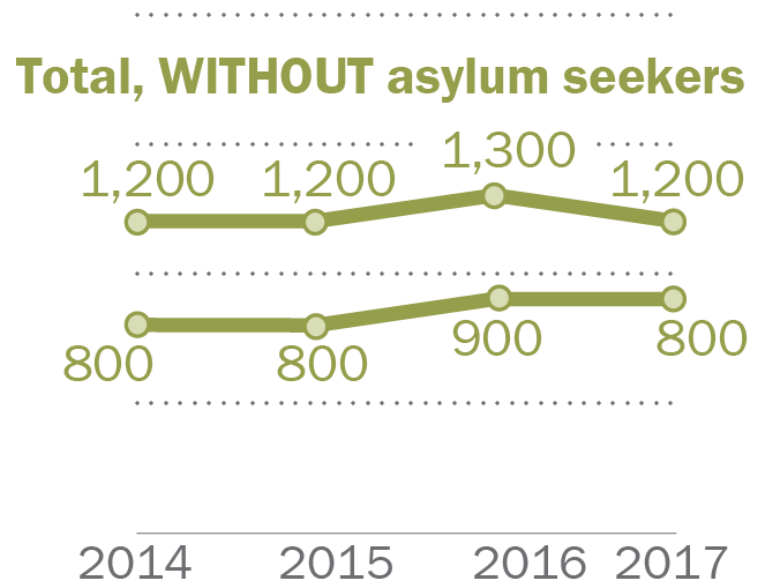
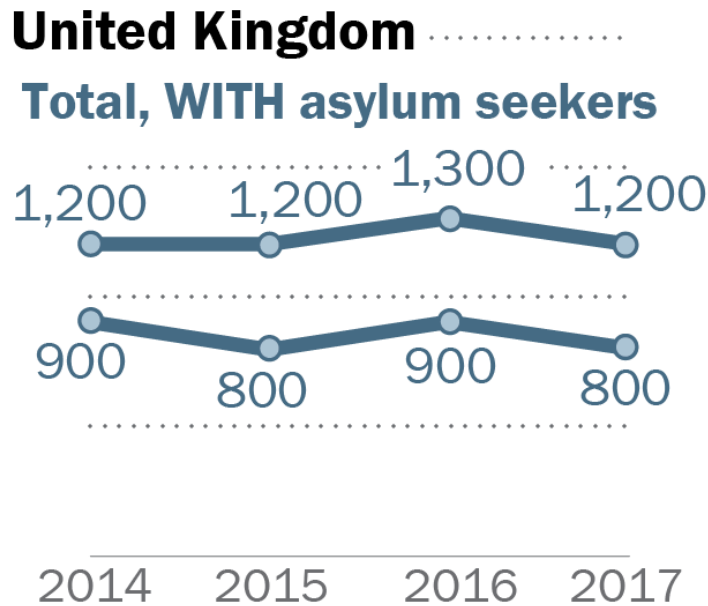
Range for the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in thousands, 2014-2017



Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

Number of unauthorized immigrants has remained stable in the United Kingdom

Range for the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in thousands, 2014-2017

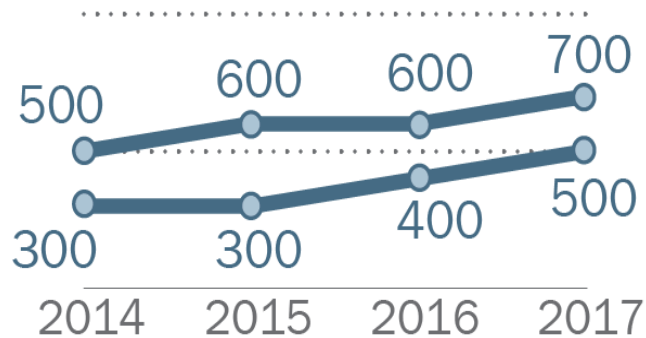


Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

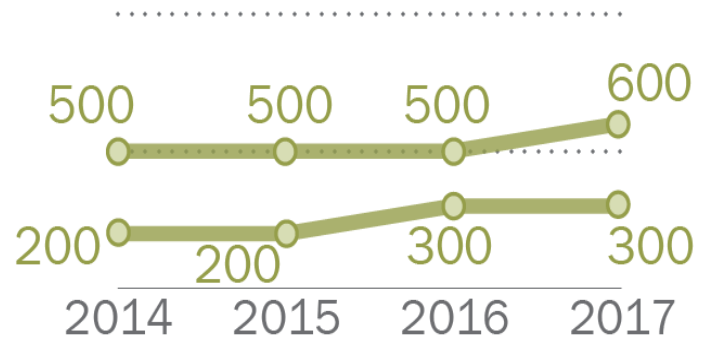
Number of unauthorized immigrants is up since 2014 in Italy

Range for the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in thousands, 2014-2017

Italy Total, WITH asylum seekers



..... Total, WITHOUT asylum seekers

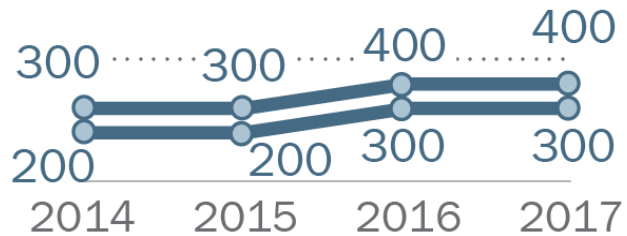


Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

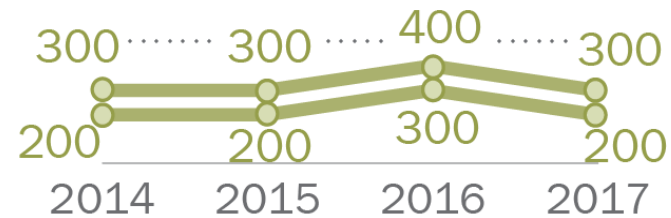
Number of unauthorized immigrants is up slightly since 2014 in France

Range for the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in thousands, 2014-2017

France Total, WITH asylum seekers



Total, WITHOUT asylum seekers

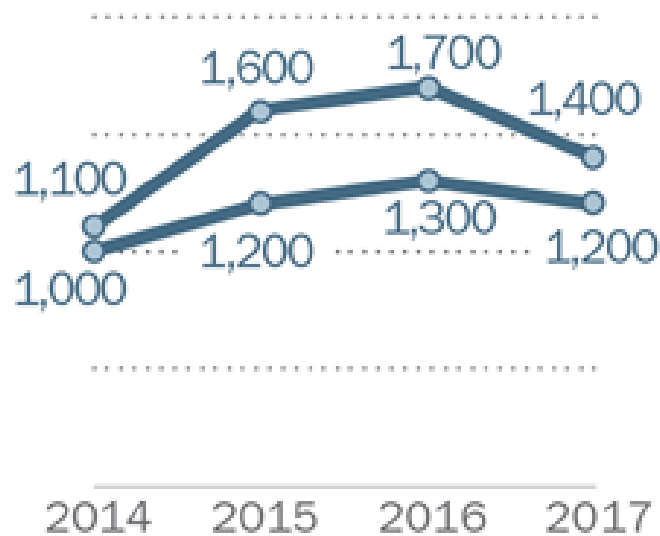


Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

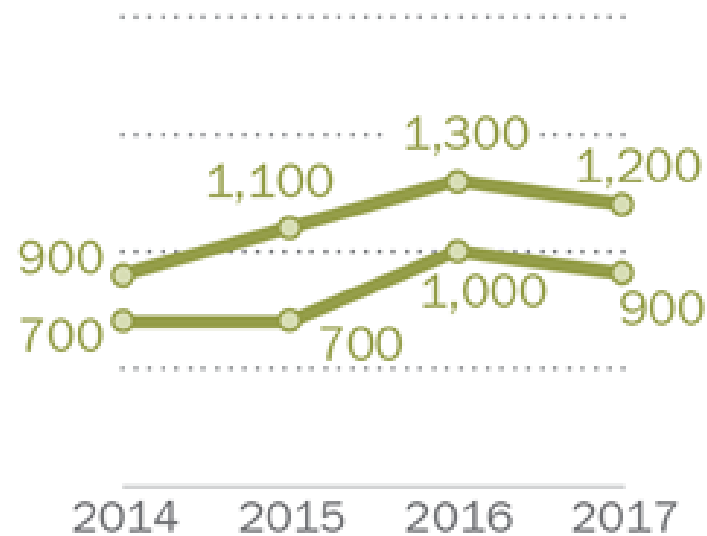
Number of unauthorized immigrants is up since 2014 in all other countries besides Germany, the UK, Italy and France

Range for the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in thousands, 2014-2017

Total, WITH asylum seekers



Total, WITHOUT asylum seekers

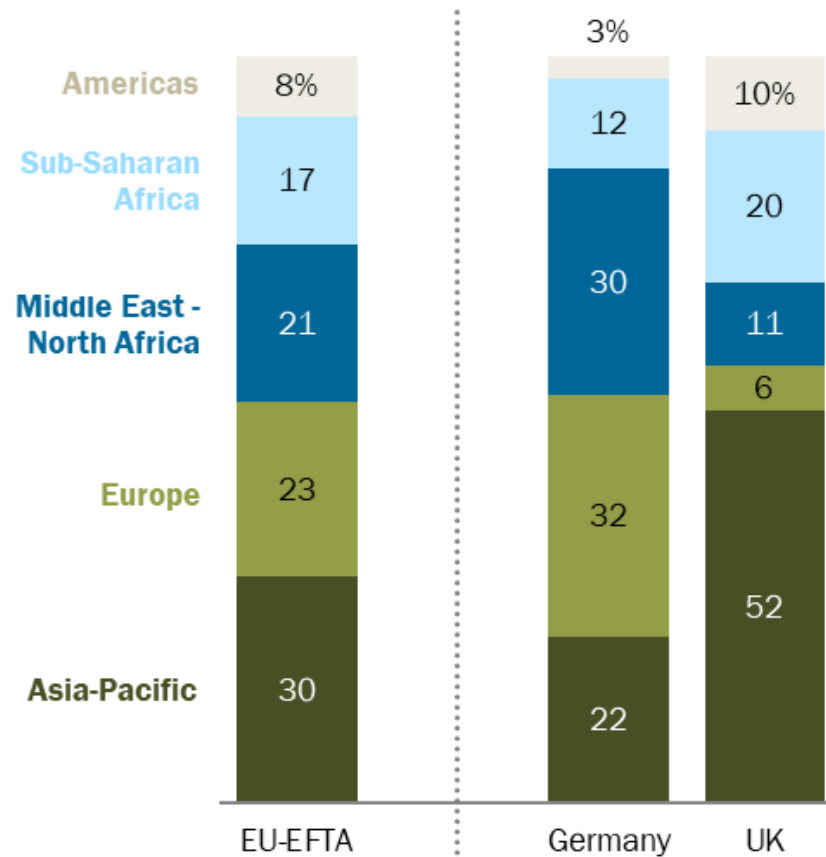


Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

CHARACTERISTICS OF EUROPE'S UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS

Many nationalities make up the unauthorized immigrant population in Europe

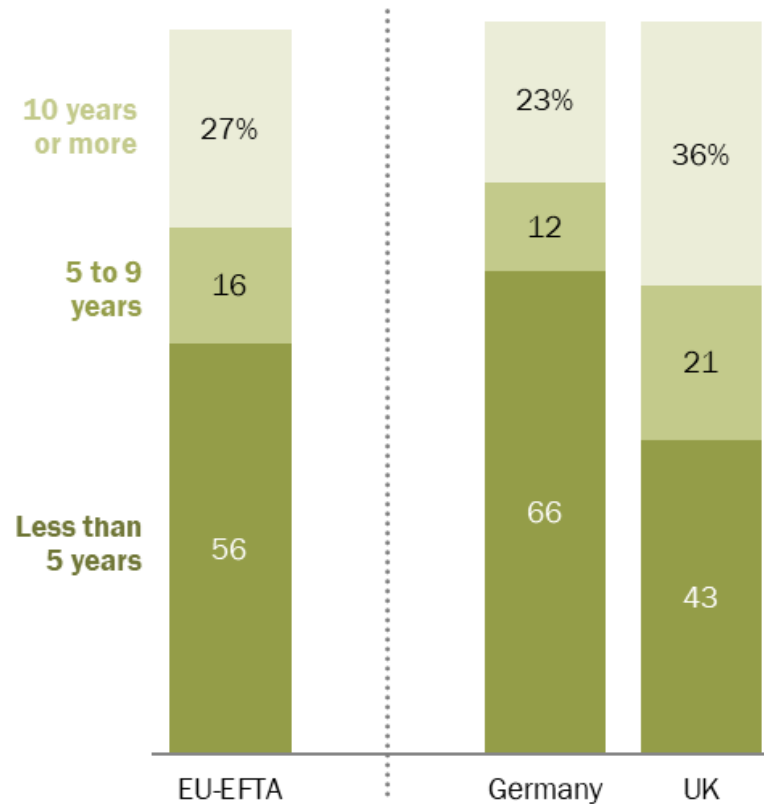
% unauthorized immigrants in 2017, by region of nationality



Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

Most unauthorized immigrants in Europe have had short periods of residence

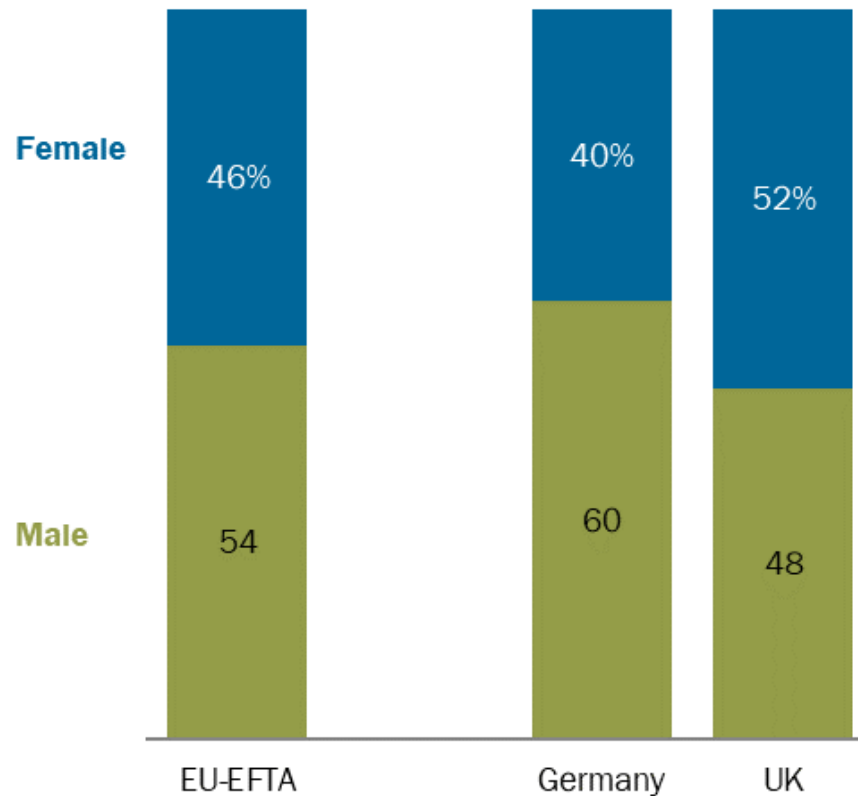
% unauthorized immigrants in 2017, by duration of residence



Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

More than half of unauthorized immigrants in Europe are male

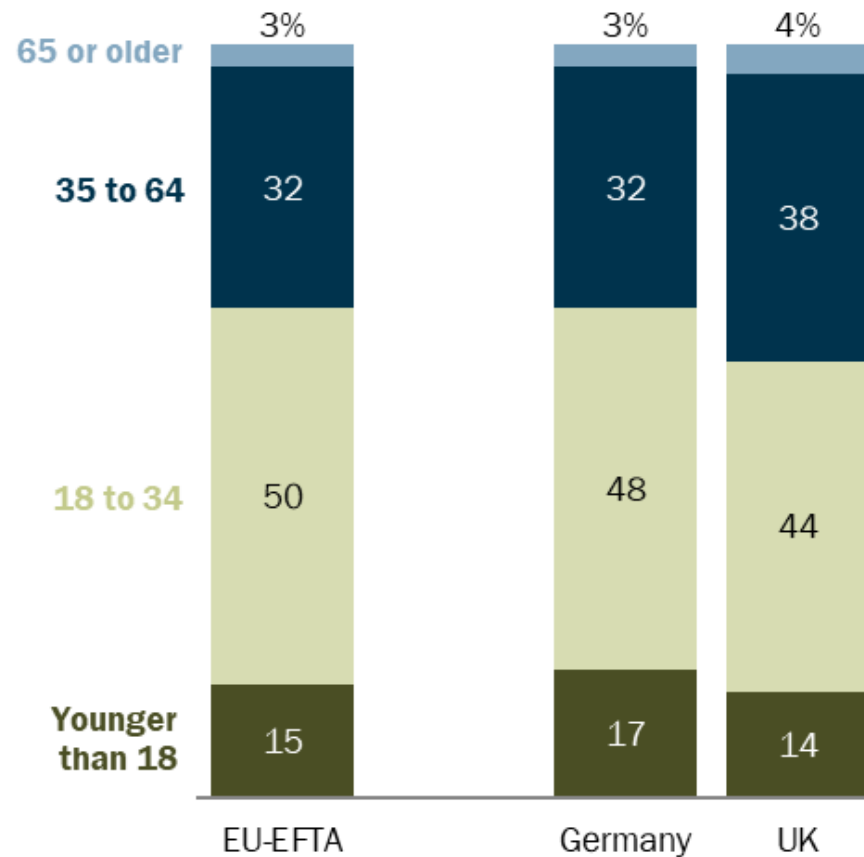
% unauthorized immigrants in 2017, by sex



Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

Most unauthorized immigrants in Europe are relatively young

% unauthorized immigrants in 2017, by age

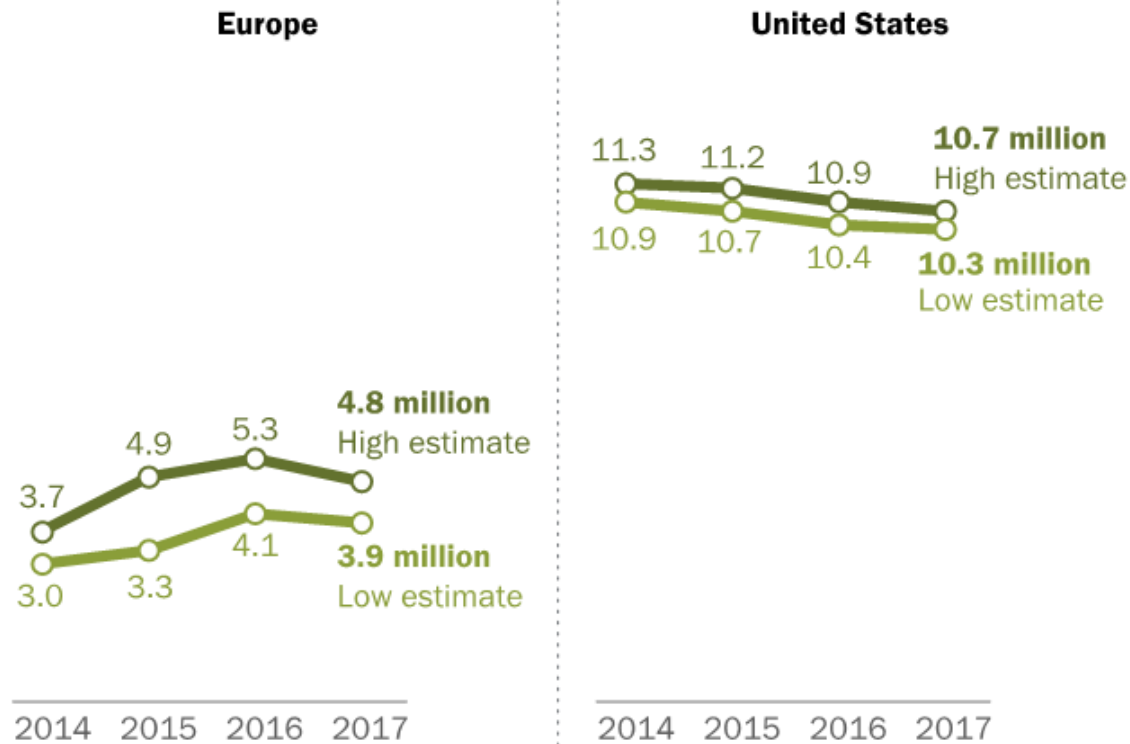


Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

EU AND US IN COMPARISON

Europe's unauthorized immigrant population is half the size of that in U.S.

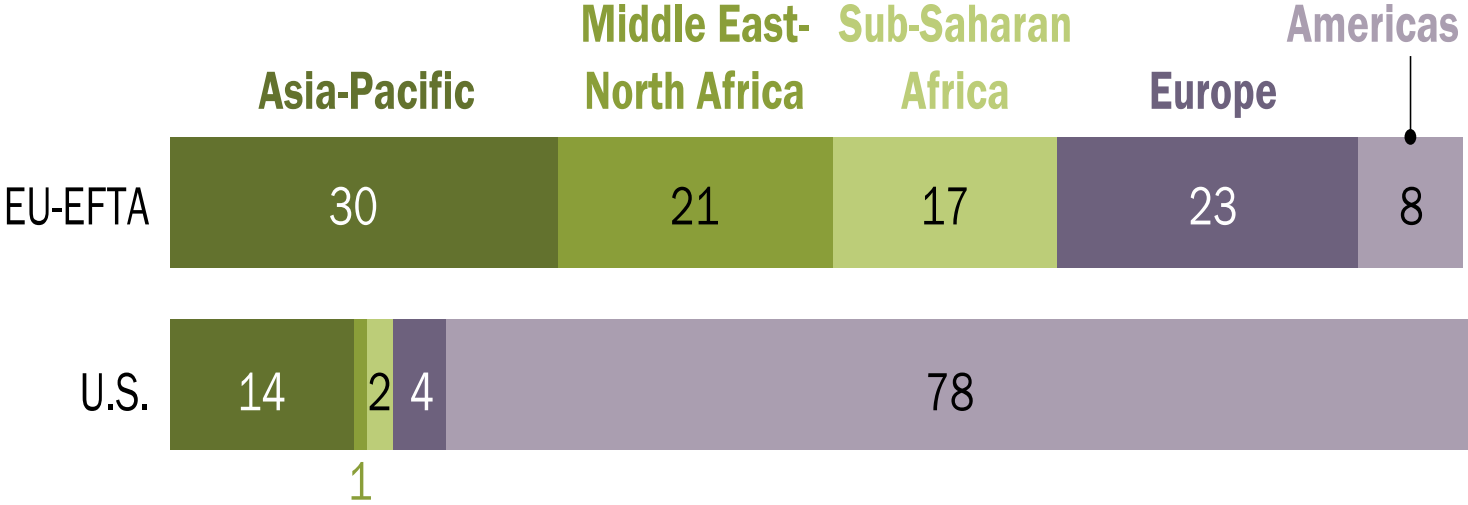
Range for the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in 2017, in millions



Source: Pew Research Center estimates for Europe based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data. Pew Research Center estimates for U.S. based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

National origins of unauthorized immigrants are more diverse in Europe than in the U.S.

% unauthorized immigrants in 2017, by region of nationality



Source: Pew Research Center estimates for Europe based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data. Pew Research Center estimates for U.S. based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

Contact Information

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European unauthorized immigrant population estimates with waiting asylum seekers, 2014-2017

Estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in thousands by country of residence

	2017			2016			2015			2014		
	Low	High	Asylum	Low	High	Asylum	Low	High	Asylum	Low	High	Asylum
Austria	100	200	58	100	200	77	100	200	80	--	<100	30
Belgium	--	<100	19	--	<100	25	--	100	36	--	<100	15
Bulgaria	--	<100	3	--	<100	16	--	<100	10	--	<100	7
Croatia	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Cyprus	--	<100	5	--	<100	3	--	<100	2	--	<100	2
Czech Republic	100	200	<1	100	200	<1	100	200	<1	100	200	<1
Denmark	--	<100	4	--	<100	7	--	<100	15	--	<100	8
Estonia	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
France	300	400	38	300	400	44	200	300	34	200	300	37
Finland	--	<100	9	--	<100	15	--	<100	28	--	<100	2
Germany	1,000	1,200	444	1,100	1,400	602	600	1,200	425	500	600	221
Greece	100	200	48	100	200	40	100	200	26	100	200	32
Hungary	--	<100	<1	--	<100	3	--	<100	37	--	<100	16
Iceland	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Ireland	--	<100	6	--	<100	4	--	<100	5	--	<100	4
Italy	500	700	152	400	600	100	300	600	60	300	500	46
Latvia	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Liechtenstein	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Lithuania	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Luxembourg	--	<100	2	--	<100	2	--	<100	2	--	<100	1
Malta	--	<100	2	--	<100	1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Netherlands	--	<100	7	--	<100	12	--	<100	30	--	<100	9
Norway	--	<100	3	--	<100	7	--	<100	25	--	<100	4
Poland	--	<100	3	100	200	3	--	<100	3	--	<100	3
Portugal	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Romania	--	<100	2	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Slovakia	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Slovenia	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1	--	<100	<1
Spain	100	200	39	100	200	20	100	200	16	100	200	8
Sweden	--	100	51	100	200	83	100	200	157	--	<100	54
Switzerland	100	200	24	100	200	31	--	200	34	--	<100	19
United Kingdom	800	1,200	33	900	1,300	37	800	1,200	34	900	1,200	32
Total EU-EFTA	3,900	4,800	954	4,100	5,300	1,137	3,300	4,900	1,061	3,000	3,700	552

Note: All numbers are rounded; see Methodology for rounding rules. The total number of unauthorized immigrants includes asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their case. "Low" and "High" show the range of estimates for the unauthorized immigrant population. "--" shown for "Low" indicates a population estimate below 100,000. "Asylum" are the number of asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their case, rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

"Europe's Unauthorized Immigrant Population Peaks in 2016, Then Levels Off"

European unauthorized immigrant population estimates without waiting asylum seekers, 2014-2017

Estimated number of unauthorized immigrants in thousands by country of residence

	2017		2016		2015		2014	
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Austria	--	<100	--	<100	--	100	--	<100
Belgium	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Bulgaria	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Croatia	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Cyprus	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Czech Republic	100	200	100	200	100	200	100	200
Denmark	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Estonia	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
France	200	300	300	400	200	300	200	300
Finland	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Germany	600	700	500	800	200	800	300	400
Greece	100	200	--	100	<100	100	<100	100
Hungary	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Iceland	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Ireland	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Italy	300	600	300	500	200	500	200	500
Latvia	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Liechtenstein	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Lithuania	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Luxembourg	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Malta	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Netherlands	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Norway	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Poland	--	<100	100	200	--	<100	--	<100
Portugal	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Romania	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Slovakia	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Slovenia	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Spain	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100	100	200
Sweden	--	100	--	<100	--	<100	--	<100
Switzerland	--	<100	<100	100	<100	100	--	<100
United Kingdom	800	1,200	900	1,300	800	1,200	800	1,200
Total EU-EFTA	2,900	3,800	3,000	4,200	2,300	3,800	2,400	3,200

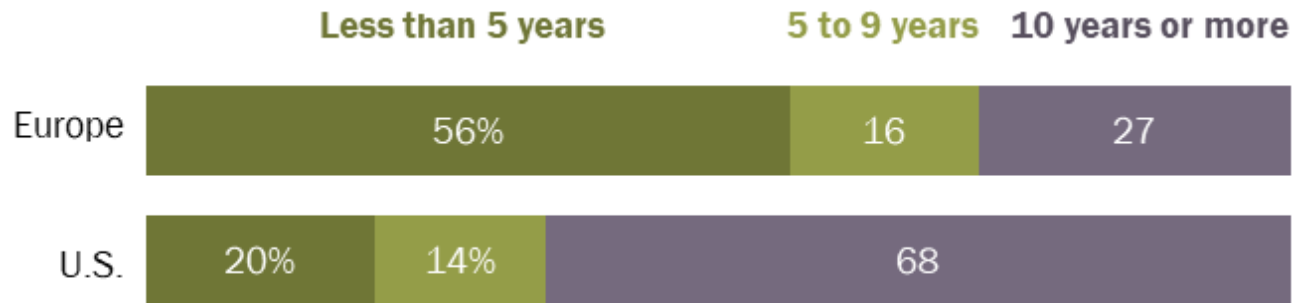
Note: All numbers are rounded; see Methodology for rounding rules. "Low" and "High" show the range of estimates for the unauthorized immigrant population. "--" shown for "Low" estimate indicates a population estimate below 100,000.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data.

"Europe's Unauthorized Immigrant Population Peaks in 2016, Then Levels Off"

Unauthorized immigrants in Europe have had shorter periods of residence than unauthorized immigrants in the U.S.

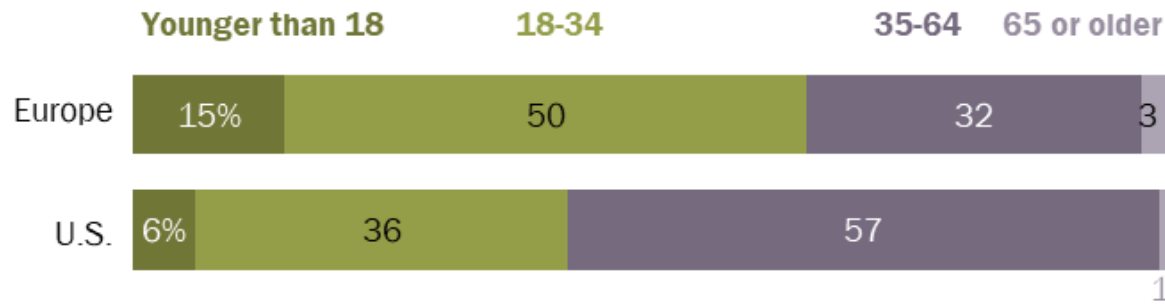
% unauthorized immigrants in 2017, by duration of residence



Source: Pew Research Center estimates for Europe based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data. Pew Research Center estimates for U.S. based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

Unauthorized immigrants in Europe are younger than those in the U.S.

% unauthorized immigrants in 2017, by age



Source: Pew Research Center estimates for Europe based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data. Pew Research Center estimates for U.S. based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

Slight majorities of unauthorized immigrants in both Europe and the U.S. are male

% unauthorized immigrants in 2017, by sex



Source: Pew Research Center estimates for Europe based on Eurostat and European labor force survey data. Pew Research Center estimates for U.S. based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

Estimates rely on four primary methods

Primary method, by country



Note: Percentages are for 2017 estimates.