

Luxembourg



General Information



Population

653 103 (World Bank 2022)

645 397 (STAT LUX 2022)



Immigration

26 668 (Eurostat 2019)

25 335 (STAT LUX 2021)



Emigration

81 757 (UN Emigration Stock 2020)

15 959 (STAT LUX 2021)



Working-age population

451 762 (World Bank 2022)

303 532 (STAT LUX 2022)



Unemployment rate

4.6 % (World Bank 2022)

4.7 % (STAT LUX 2022)



GDP

81 641 807 865.8 current prices USD (World Bank 2022)

86 710 000 000 current prices EUR (STAT LUX 2022)



Refugees and IDPs

Refugees

10 639 (UN Refugee Stock 2023)

1 561 (MAEE 2021)

Asylum Seekers

2 561 (UNHCR 2023)

1 250 (MAEE 2021)



Citizenship

By Birth: No

By Descent: Yes

Dual Citizenship: Yes

Years of Residency: 7



Territory

2 586 km² (CIA World Factbook)

Migration Authorities

Responsible Body

Ministry of Family Affairs, Integration and the Greater Region

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Line Ministries

Ministry of Social Security

Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy

Ministry of Home Affairs

Ministry of Education, Children and Youth

Ministry of Equality between Women and Men

Ministry of Higher Education and Research

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Internal Security

Agencies

National Reception Office (formerly OLAI)

Conseil National pour Étrangers

The inter-ministerial committee on integration (CII)

Key Policy Documents

2008 Law on the free movement of persons and immigration

2022 Law on free movement and immigration

2017 Law on Luxembourg citizenship

2019 Law on the establishment of the National Reception Office

2015 (2021) Law on international protection and temporary protection

2008 Law concerning the admission and integration of foreigners in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The law of 6 January 1996 on the cooperation to development

The Grand Duchy regulation of December 21, 2007 establishing a list of safe countries of origin within the context of the amended law of May 5, 2006 on the right of asylum and complementary forms of protection

The Grand Duchy Regulation of November 15, 2011 determining the methods for appointing representatives to the National Council for Foreigners, as well as their distribution by nationality

The Grand Duchy regulation of December 12, 2019 amending the Grand Duchy regulation of September 2, 2011 setting the

Located in the heart of Europe, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has the highest foreigner rate in the EU amounting to **47.4%** in 2020. With the development of the steel industry, the proportion of foreigners in Luxembourg has increased steadily over the past 100 years, and immigration has been surpassing emigration at least since 1990.

Several factors, primarily the economic opportunities and the very high standard of living, constitute a major motivation to settle in the country. The multilingual environment also encourages the integration of immigrants. The country has the highest Gallup potential net migration index among the EU Member States, with **131%** in 2015-2017. Further, the historical tradition of migration from Portugal, and cross-border movement opportunities equally account for the high immigration rate. Consequently, **80%** of the population growth in Luxembourg has been due to immigration between 2011 and 2021.

As of 1 January 2022, **304,167** foreigners lived in the Grand Duchy, of whom 13.7% were born in Luxembourg. EU citizens account for 80.8% of the total foreign population of the country. The largest group of **93,678** people (30.8%) comes from Portugal, followed by France and Italy with **49,173** and **24,116** persons respectively. The neighbouring Belgium and Germany represent the other two popular origin countries of immigrants. In 2021, **25,335** people moved to Luxembourg, of whom **1,577** were Luxembourg nationals. The largest group of immigrants who settled in Luxembourg yet again comprised Portuguese, French and Italian nationals. Meanwhile, Indians and Brazilians were the only non-European nationalities among the top 10 immigrant groups coming to Luxembourg.

In 2021, Luxembourg issued **23,965** registration certificates to EU citizens and 14,160 residence permits to non-EU nationals. The largest group of non-EU nationals holding residence permits in 2021 were Indians (**1,818**) and Chinese (**1,332**), most of whom received permits as workers (incl. EU Blue card category), family members, students, and for private reasons.

Migration in search of international protection to Luxembourg remains limited. The Immigration Department's Refugee Service recorded **2,057** asylum applications in 2012, **2,447** in 2015 and only **1,249** in 2021. The main countries of origin of refugees in 2021 were Syria, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan, while in the mid-2010s majority of refugees came from Syria, Morocco, Serbia and Algeria. On the other hand, the recognition rate exceeded **60%** in 2021, while in 2012 only **66** persons received protection out of 2,176 decisions.

Due to the war in Ukraine, Luxembourg started granting **temporary protection status** for one year to persons who fled the war. Recipients can at any time renounce this status and voluntarily return home or apply for international protection. Beneficiaries of temporary protection have free access to the labour market and can register as job seekers with the Employment Development Agency. They have access to the support of the National Reception Office, including accommodation, adequate food and clothing, a monthly allowance, and access to medical care. At the end of August 2022, **over 6,000** Ukrainians received temporary protection in Luxembourg.

Irregular migration in the country is rather inconsiderable. For the past decade, no more than **10 persons** per year were refused entry to the country. A much higher proportion of irregular migrants is identified inside the country. In 2021, Luxembourg saw a record of **1,045** persons who stayed

conditions of application and implementation of the admission and integration contract

Relevant Publications

UNICEF, Luxembourg. Migration profiles Part I. Global legal instruments related to international migration

OECD, International Migration Outlook 2021, Luxembourg

Luxembourg: Immigration and Asylum Report 2021 (French)

Migrant Integration Policy Index 2020. Luxembourg

Migration Data Portal. Luxembourg

illegally, twice as many as in 2019 and seven times as many as in 2016. Even though Luxembourg has been issuing between **700 and 1050** orders to leave per year in recent times, the return rate remains low. Returns in 2021 concerned **201** individuals, of whom **143** were returned voluntary and **58** forcibly. The total number of returns in 2020 was **220** and **330** in 2019.

In terms of out-migration, in 2021, **15,959** persons left Luxembourg, of whom **3,063** were Luxembourg nationals and **12,896** foreigners, mainly **Portuguese, French and Italians** as also the case for immigration flows. Going abroad to study is one of the most significant reasons for emigration. Nearly one in two Luxembourg students (**48%**) goes abroad for education purposes. Germany and France represent the two most popular destinations in this regard. Furthermore, many Luxembourgers emigrate for professional reasons. Since the 1990s, more Luxembourg nationals have been leaving the country than returning. Between 2020 and 2022, the stock of Luxembourgers abroad increased by 32.9% exceeding **108,000** persons in 2022. Most of them live in France, Belgium, and Germany, as well as Brazil. Besides, a large number of non-residents have acquired Luxembourg citizenship, which further expands the stock of Luxembourgers abroad. Until the early 2000s, the acquisition of Luxembourg nationality was very limited, but the adoption of the law on dual nationality in 2009 boosted naturalization rates. The year 2018 saw a peak of **11,876** acquisitions. In 2022, the proportion of Luxembourgers with two nationalities reached **18.4%**. Among Luxembourg residents, the French are the most numerous to have acquired Luxembourg nationality. From 2009 to 2021, out of a total of **86,811** acquisitions, **20.8%** had French nationality, **17.7%** had Portuguese nationality and **17.2%** were Belgians. Luxembourg ancestry is behind a large number of naturalizations among Brazilian and American non-residents. Brexit also led to an increase in naturalizations, with **1,875** British nationals acquiring Luxembourg citizenship since 2016.

Luxembourg adopted the Global Compact for Refugees, as well as the Global Compact for Migration and other UN legal instruments on international migration. At the European and international level, the National Reception Office is responsible for representing the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in various organizations and institutions. Luxembourg's cooperation on migration is largely coordinated within the EU framework. Luxembourg continues to participate in the missions of the European Union Asylum Agency and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), as well as supports the development of the Common European Asylum System.

Luxembourg concluded **bilateral agreements** with its neighbours to ensure the free movement of cross-border workers, who are employed in the health sector. In 2019, Grand Duchy initiated long-term visas facilitating the movement of third-country nationals without the requirement to apply for a residence permit. Additionally, to ensure the legal status of British citizens, largely present in the banking and service sectors, it passed 4 laws clarifying their status.

In 2018, Luxembourg adopted the **new National Action Plan for Integration**, which encourages the strengthening of local actors and support for municipalities, and the implementation of shared responsibility for integration in the host society by promoting intercultural exchanges. Proposed by the Ministry of Family, Integration and the Greater Region, **the Welcome and Integration Contract** is a voluntary integration program for non-Luxembourgers, which aims to encourage signatories to engage with Luxembourg society.

