

*Gunnlaug Daugstad (ed.)*

# Documents

**Facts on immigrants and their  
descendants 2007**



# Contents

<i>Immigrants and their descendants: Why keep statistics on immigrants?</i> .....	2
<i>Immigrant population: From far and near</i> .....	4
<i>Population changes: A migrating and displaced population</i> .....	6
<i>Immigrant diversity in Norwegian municipalities: Few have many, while many have few</i> .....	8
<i>Men and women: Just as many women as men</i> .....	10
<i>Education: Taking classes</i> .....	12
<i>Employment: Good times in the labour market – for immigrants as well?</i> .....	14
<i>Income: Major differences in income levels</i> .....	16
<i>Municipal and county elections: Voting – and being elected</i> .....	18
<i>Attitudes to immigrants and immigration: Mostly positive to immigration and immigrants</i> .....	20
<i>Living conditions among immigrants and their descendants: Major variations in living conditions</i> ....	22
<b>More statistics on immigrants and their descendants?</b> .....	24
<b>Table of appendices</b> .....	25

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Figures and layout: Liv G. Hansen and Marit Vågdal

The entire data basis for this publication has been taken from Statistics Norway: Population statistics, Education statistics, Labour market statistics, Income statistics, Election statistics and data from attitude surveys.

## **Why keep statistics on immigrants?**

Immigrants and their descendants make up a considerable and rapidly increasing share of the population in Norway. At the start of 2007, more than 415,000 persons had an immigrant background, which equates to the population of the county of Rogaland, and almost 9 per cent of the entire population of Norway.

### **A composite group**

Whilst being aware that this is a simplification, we group the immigrants in this publication by country of origin for statistical purposes. It is important to remember that there are major social and cultural differences between people from the same country, as well as there often being relatively similar features across country groups. Immigrants and their descendants are a composite group – if we can even describe them as a group. As in the general population, there are many different individuals with just as many life histories. There are engineers from India, refugees from Afghanistan and waiters from Sweden. Hard-working fathers, enterprising women, frustrated housewives, happy children, townsfolk and farmers. They have backgrounds from 213 different countries and autonomous regions, and are fluent in even more languages. Commenting on what immigrants or their descendants do or think is therefore is a very far-reaching topic.

### **Why focus on immigrants and their descendants?**

There are numerous myths surrounding immigrants and their descendants. This publication is a brief collection of facts on immigrants and their descendants, which can form a basis for an initial formation of opinions, and perhaps dispel a few myths. Statistics on immigrants and their descendants can provide us with a picture of whether they differ from the rest of the population in crucial areas of society. Statistics Norway believes that it is important to describe and understand the development in living conditions and dissimilarities between relevant groups' living conditions. Persons in Norway that have immigrated from different parts of the world have different living conditions, and are sometimes much poorer than the average Norwegian. Statistics can therefore give us an indication of what type of situation immigrants and their descendants live in in present day Norwegian society, and whether the situation changes over time. See also "Immigration and immigrants 2006".

### **What the statistics say – and don't say**

Statistics Norway has numerous statistics on immigrants and their descendants that can tell us about their living conditions in Norway compared with the rest of the population. We focus on throwing light on both current trends and development over a period of time. The majority of these statistics are retrieved from administrative registers, while the statistics on attitudes to immigrants and immigration are from sample surveys. The statistics are limited by the data basis, and no data is available concerning the immigrant population's health, religion, use of time or use of cultural facilities. Furthermore, we have made a sample from the data available, and for example chosen to look at employment and unemployment instead of supplementary benefit figures.

### **Who are we actually referring to?**

This publication includes a number of terms, in accordance with Statistics Norway's descriptions.

We use the terms **immigrant** and **first-generation immigrant** in connection with persons born outside Norway to two foreign-born parents, and who have immigrated to Norway. For example, an elderly Dane that has lived in Norway since he was a child, or a young girl who arrived on her own as a minor asylum seeker from Afghanistan.

**Descendants or persons born in Norway to two foreign-born parents**, refers to those born in Norway to two first-generation immigrants, and who also have four grandparents born outside Norway.

The **immigrant population** comprises persons with two foreign-born parents, or more precisely persons who have neither parents nor grandparents that were born in Norway. The immigrant population therefore includes both first-generation immigrants and their descendants.

#### **Western or non-western background?**

**Country of origin** is the person's native country, or the native country of their mother or father. Persons with no immigrant background only have Norway as their country of origin. Where both parents are born outside Norway, they are most often born in the same country. In cases where the parents' native countries are different, it is the mother's native country that is used.

A person with a **western background** is defined as someone with a background from countries in West Europe (except Turkey), North America and Oceania.

**Non-western background** is a background from East Europe (politically defined previously), Asia (including Turkey), Africa, South and Central America and Turkey. East Europe comprises Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Estonia, Belarus, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Hungary.

The division between western and non-western backgrounds has gradually lost a great deal of its relevance, as several of the former East European countries have joined the EU. However, the division is still relevant in relation to historical figures.

## Immigrant population

### From far and near

At the start of 2007, 415,300 persons resident in Norway had either immigrated or were born into an immigrant family. This equates to 8.9 per cent of the population of Norway. Of these, 341,800 had immigrated and 73,500 were born to two immigrants. In 2006, the total immigrant population rose by 28,600, which is the highest growth ever recorded.

#### Non-western share increasing

Today, 310,000 persons have backgrounds from non-western countries, which is 6.6 per cent of the entire population in Norway (figure 1). In 1986, 1.1 per cent of Norway's population had non-western backgrounds, including East Europe. There has therefore been a considerable increase during this period. There has been no similar increase in the western immigrant population during the said period.

#### Most are from Sweden and Poland

Immigrants to Norway are mostly from Sweden, Poland and Denmark (figure 2). The group from Poland has risen by 8,900 in the past two years, and is now the sixth largest immigrant group in Norway. The number of Poles has particularly increased among first-generation immigrants, and is now the second largest group of first-generation immigrants in Norway. Iraqis make up the fourth largest group of immigrants, followed by Pakistanis. Overall, persons with a background from Pakistan were the largest immigrant group in Norway in 2007, and we also include here persons born in Norway to two parents born in Pakistan. While the Poles consist almost solely of persons who have immigrated to Norway themselves, four out of ten with an immigrant background from Pakistan are born in Norway.

Figure 1. The immigrant population, by country of origin. Percentage of the population. 1970-2007.

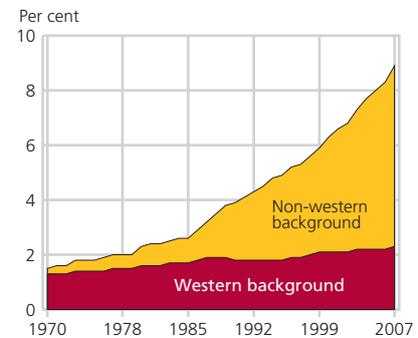
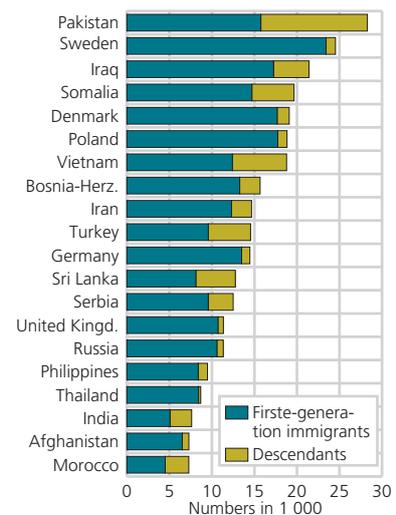


Figure 2. The 20 largest immigrant groups in Norway. 2007. Absolute figures



### Many descendants have Asian parents

Children with Asian parents make up the largest group of descendants by a large majority, with 43,000 persons. In this group, the majority were born in Norway to parents from Pakistan, 12,500 persons, followed by persons with Vietnamese parents (6,400) and Turkish parents (less than 5,000) (figure 2). By way of comparison, only 16,000 persons were born to two parents with a European background. Of these, 1,400 and 1,100 had Danish and Swedish parents respectively. These differences cannot to any great degree be explained by the size of the immigrant groups, but by the fact that when persons with a European background settle and have children in Norway, it is most often with a partner with no immigrant background. These children are therefore not included in the immigrant population.

### Younger than the general population

By European standards, Norway has a relatively short immigration history. Immigration from countries outside Europe has mostly taken place after 1970. This means that immigrants and their descendants are younger than the rest of the population (figure 3). While two out of ten people in the population are over 60, only one out of ten who have immigrated themselves, have reached the same age. Among the non-western immigrants alone, only 6 per cent have reached this age.

Furthermore, the children born in Norway to immigrant parents are also very young. Only 4.5 per cent of the descendants are over 30, and the majority of these have parents with backgrounds from other countries in Europe. Around eight out of ten are under 20.

### One out of three have lived in Norway less than five years

At the start of 2007, one out of three immigrants had lived in Norway for less than five years, while two out of ten had lived in Norway for 25 years or more (figure 4). More than half of the Danes have lived in Norway for more than 25 years, and almost as many Pakistanis have lived here just as long. The other end of the scale includes Afghans and Poles. Almost 70 per cent of the latter of the groups have lived in Norway for less than five years. Among the other large immigrant groups, there is also a large share of Russian and Somalians that have lived in Norway for less than five years, with 62 and 47 per cent respectively.

Figure 3. Population pyramid. Total immigrant population, first-generation immigrants and their descendants. 2007

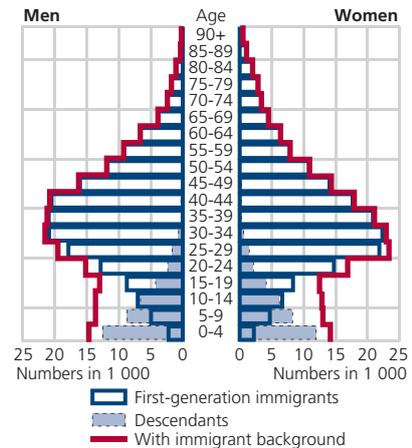
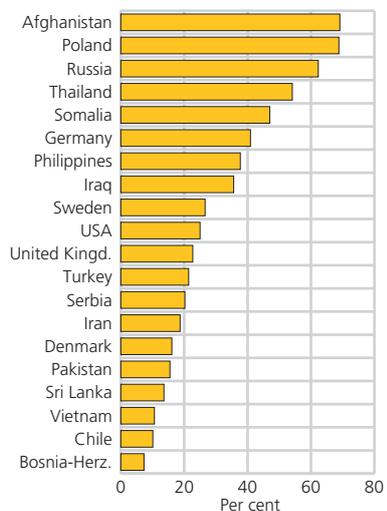


Figure 4. Share of first-generation immigrants that have lived in Norway less than 5 years. 20 largest country groups. 2007



## A migrating and displaced population

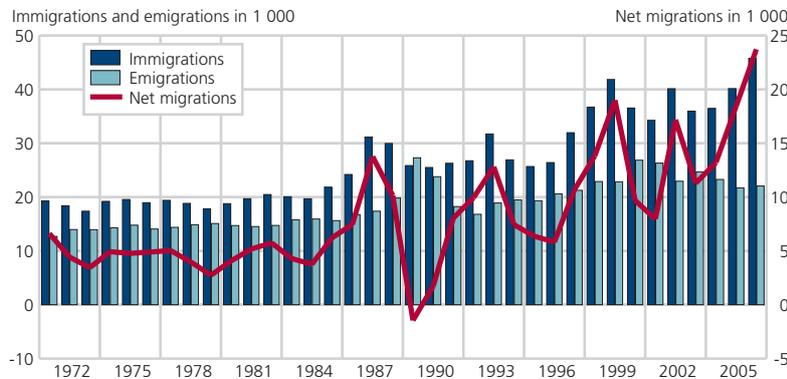
### Highest immigration ever

The population growth as at 1 October 2007 shows a net immigration of 27,000, which means that immigration to Norway is steadily increasing.

In 2006, 45,800 immigrations to Norway and 22,100 emigrations from Norway were registered. The net immigration was 23,700, i.e. 5,300 or almost 30 per cent higher than the previous year. The average for the 2000 figures up to 2006, was 13,000. Of this, 8,300 immigrations and 9,500 emigrations were registered among Norwegian citizens. This was a net emigration of 1,200.

These statistics are based on registered immigrations and emigrations in the National Population Register. However, there are many employees, perhaps from the new EEA countries in particular, that do not need to give notification if they move because they do not intend living here for very long, or those who do not register even though they should.

Figure 5. Moving to/from abroad. 1972-2006

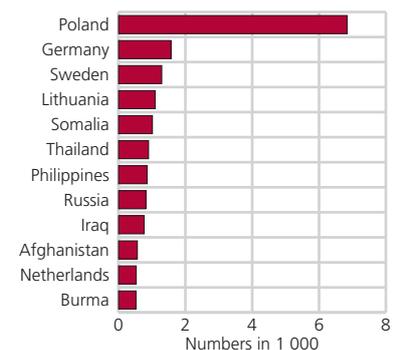


### Highest immigration from Europe

The net immigration from countries in Europe, i.e. the difference between how many come to Norway and how many leave the country, has accounted for the largest group of immigrants in recent years. In 2006, the Europeans made up 15,200 net immigrations, followed by Asians with 6,800. While the net immigration from Europe during the period 1970-2004 varied mostly between 2,000 and 5,000, it was 9,400 in 2005 before reaching 15,200 in 2006. This is partly related to the opening of the labour market within the EEA. In 2006, this particularly applied to the immigration from Poland and Lithuania.

In previous years with high levels of immigration, there have been special situations with many refugees, partly from the Balkans, Iraq and from other countries in Asia and Africa. In the mid 1990s, immigration was high from the Balkans. In 1993 for example, there was a net immigration of 6,200 from Bosnia-Herzegovina. At the start of the millennium, the immigration of Iraqis was very high, peaking in 2000 with 4,400 net immigrations.

Figure 6. Net immigration. Foreign nationals. 2006



### Ever increasing number of Polish immigrants

The 7,400 Polish immigrants made up the largest individual group in 2006, followed by the Swedes and Germans, in the same order as the year before. Swedish citizens emigrated the most in 2006, with a total of 2,100 leaving Norway, followed by the Danes and Germans (figure 6). Poles therefore had the highest net immigration in 2006.

### Work and family

In 2006, 29,500 non-Nordic citizens immigrated to Norway. Forty per cent of these were given permission to stay due to employment (11,700) and 40 per cent because of family immigration. In the past two years, the non-Nordic labour immigration has almost tripled. The majority of these come from Poland, but many also come from Germany and Lithuania. In addition, there are also a considerable number of Nordic labour immigrants, who are not registered in the same way. Family immigrants were the other large group, with 11,400 persons. Of these, 2,500 were related to someone with a refugee background, while 2,600 had a family connection to a person with no immigrant background and the rest to other persons with immigrant backgrounds. The remainder of the immigration was divided into 3,200 that came to Norway to study, and 3,100 displaced persons. The labour immigration has increased considerably since the opening of the labour market within the EEA. At the start of the 1990s, displacement was the most common reason for residence in Norway, while family immigration has increased throughout the period.

### More than 125,000 refugees

At the start of 2007, there were 125,100 persons with a refugee background in Norway; 2.7 per cent of the total population. The majority of these were from Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iran and Vietnam. As at 1 January 2007, 75 per cent were registered as the main person (displaced person), while the remainder had a family connection to such a displaced person. The number of persons arriving as refugees has almost doubled in the past 10 years.

The term "person with a refugee background" is defined here as persons resident in Norway and that came to Norway as a displaced person (including families of refugees), regardless of whether the person has been granted refugee status in accordance with the Geneva Convention. Children born to refugees in Norway are not included. Persons who originally came for other reasons but were subsequently granted refugee status are included.

The statistics on reasons for immigration comprise all first-generation immigrants with non-Nordic citizenship that arrived in Norway for the first time between 1990 and 2006. Employees with short-term permits (less than six months) are not included in labour immigration here.

Figure 7. Resident non-Nordic citizens, by reason for immigration. 1990-2006

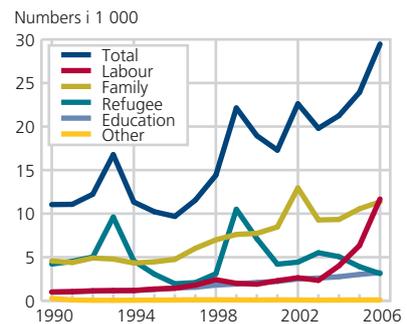
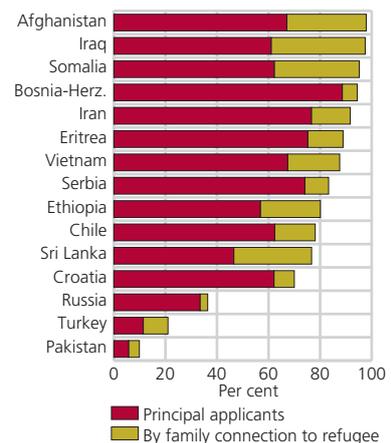


Figure 8. Share of persons with refugee background among first-generation immigrants, by country of origin and type of refugee background as at 1 January 2007



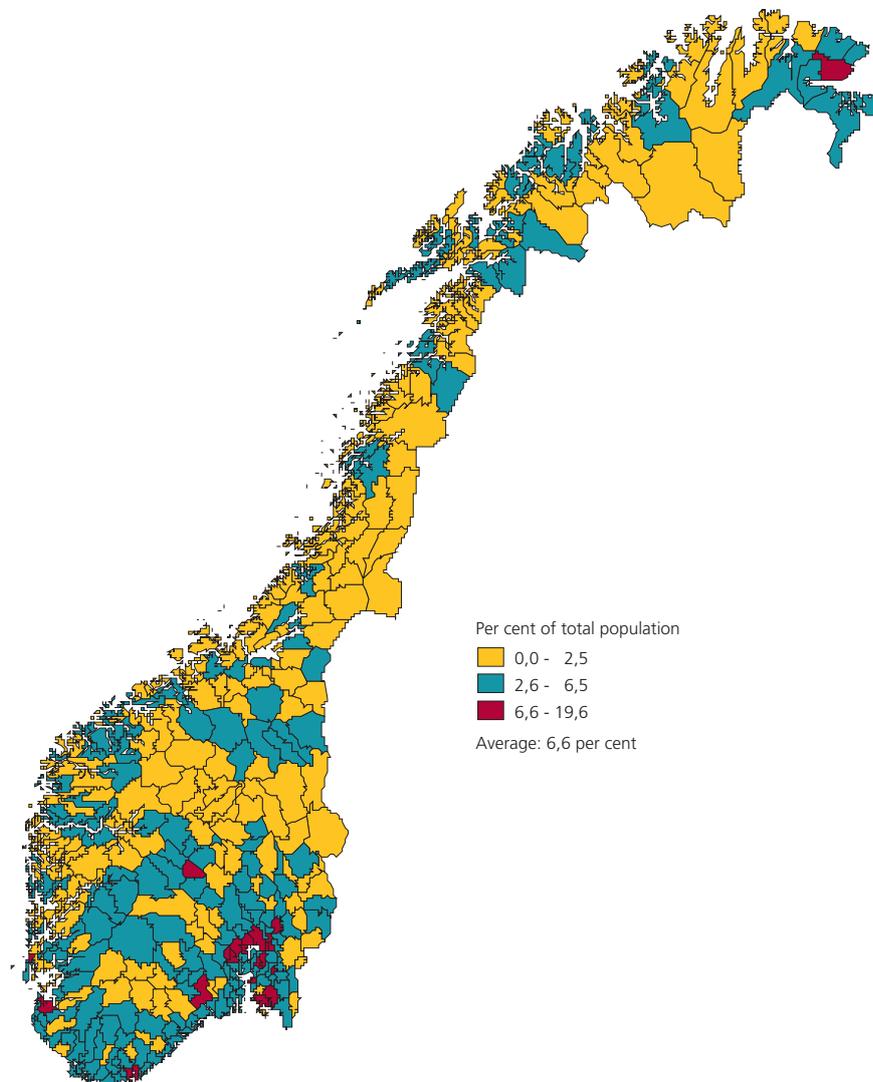
## Few have many, while many have few

### In all municipalities

All municipalities in Norway have persons with immigrant backgrounds, but the majority live in the cities. Oslo and the surrounding municipalities have a particularly high share of immigrants and their descendants. A total of 31.5 per cent of the immigrant population live in Oslo, and almost 13 per cent in Akershus. This means that every fourth Oslo citizen has an immigrant background, which equates to 131,000 persons.

Oslo also has the most non-western immigrants as a share of the population; almost 20 per cent. Drammen has 16 per cent and Lørenskog 13 per cent. Beiarn (in the county of Nordland) and Osen (Sør-Trøndelag county) are the only municipalities with no non-western immigrants (figure 9).

Figure 9. Non-western immigrant population as a share of the population, as a percentage. 2007



Copyright: Norwegian Mapping Authority

## Oslo appeals

A good ten per cent of the population of Norway live in Oslo. Oslo is far more popular among non-western immigrants – more than a third of persons in this group lived in the capital at the start of 2007. In other words, the non-western immigrant population lives far more centralised than the rest of the population, and the concentration of certain groups in the capital is extremely high. More than seven out of ten in the Pakistani and Moroccan immigrant population live in Oslo, while this only applies to 15 per cent of those from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the start of 2007, every fourth Oslo citizen had an immigrant background, and the majority of these were non-western. In addition, 28 per cent of the total population of Oslo have a refugee background. Oslo's share of all non-westerners *with no* refugee background is even higher, at 38 per cent. This means that Oslo's dominant role as the chosen place of residence is greater for other non-western immigrants than for those with a refugee background.

Persons with a refugee background are domiciled in a selection of municipalities throughout Norway when they arrive. Their settlement pattern will therefore be determined more by the authorities' policies than by their own choice, particularly in the first years.

## Major differences between the districts

Since 1 January 2005, Oslo has been made up of 17 districts, in which the distribution of the immigrant population varies. All districts have more persons with non-western than western backgrounds (table 1). However, some districts

have a relatively large share of immigrants with non-western backgrounds than others. Non-western immigrants mainly live in the east side of town. Large shares live in Søndre Nordstrand, Alna, Stovner and Grorud. Persons with western immigrant backgrounds live throughout the town, with the highest share in Frogner.

Vestre Aker had the lowest share of persons with a non-western background in Oslo; only 6.5 per cent. However, the share of non-westerners in the district was the same as the national average. There are only 22 municipalities in Norway, apart from Oslo, that have a higher share of non-western immigrants and descendants than Vestre Aker district in Oslo.

Figure 10. Share of immigrants and their descendants resident in Oslo, by largest country groups. 2007

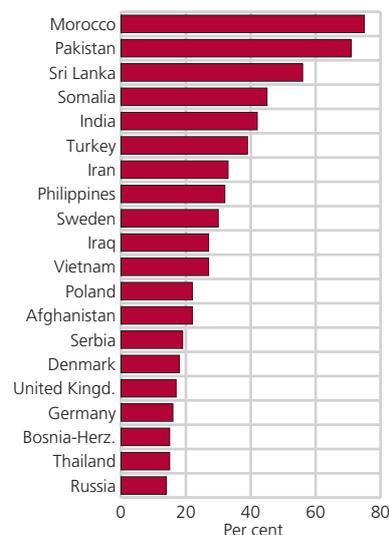


Table 1. Immigrant population in Oslo's districts, by western and non-western background. As a percentage. As at 1 January 2007

	Total population	Total immigrant population	Western background	Non-western background
Hele Oslo	548617	23,8	4,2	19,6
Gamle Oslo	37717	32,8	4,3	28,5
Grünerløkka	40406	26,5	4,8	21,6
Sagene	31428	20,6	4,0	16,5
St. Hanshaugen	29082	18,0	6,9	11,1
Frogner	46768	17,7	8,6	9,1
Ullern	28331	12,1	5,2	6,9
Vestre Aker	41302	11,6	5,1	6,5
Nordre Aker	42692	12,4	4,1	8,3
Bjerke	25530	32,5	2,8	29,7
Grorud	25359	36,1	2,1	34,0
Stovner	28936	38,5	2,1	36,4
Alna	44820	38,9	2,1	36,8
Østonsjø	44036	17,3	2,6	14,7
Nordstrand	44423	11,3	3,5	7,8
Søndre Nordstrand	34444	42,9	2,9	40,1
Sentrum, Marka and unspecified districts	3343	21,0	7,2	13,7

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway

In the districts of Søndre Nordstrand, Alna, Stovner, Grorud, Bjerke and Gamle Oslo, persons with non-western backgrounds make up between 30 and 40 per cent of the population. Persons with a Pakistani background make up the largest group in four of the six districts. As at 1 January 2007, the largest group in the district of Grorud and Bjerke were persons with a background from Sri Lanka, closely followed by the group with a Pakistani background.

## Just as many women as men

As in the total population in Norway, the figures for women and men in the immigrant population are similar. At the start of 2007, the number of men with an immigrant background was 206,500, and the corresponding number for women was 208,500.

When distinguishing between persons with a western and non-western background, the figures show two different growth trends: the non-western group in the 1970s had a clear surplus of men. This is when immigration was mainly labour immigration. The male surplus has turned into a small deficit due to family reunification and the increasing number of marriages between Norwegian men and foreign women.

The western background group had a surplus of women for a long time. However, this group now has almost the same number of women as men. The group with a refugee background still has a male surplus of 115 men per 100 women.

### Surplus of Polish and Iraqi men

The ten largest immigrant groups have a relatively clear surplus of men, with the exceptions being Sweden (89 men per 100 women), Vietnam (98 men per 100 women) and Denmark (equal numbers). The share of women for these countries is highest among the age group 20-29 (figure 12).

There is a large surplus of men among immigrants with backgrounds from Poland (155 men per 100 women), Iraq (132) and Somalia (118). A large surplus of women is found among those with backgrounds from Thailand (19 men per 100 women), the Philippines (31) and Russia (51).

### Family for women, work or displacement for men

Men and women come to Norway for some rather different reasons. While family immigration is the most common reason for women, displacement is most common for men (figure 13). From 1990 to 2006, 65 per cent of all family immigrants with a non-Nordic country background were women. This is partly because it is more common for male refugees to travel first and subsequently reunite with their families. It is also more common for men with no immigrant background to marry foreigners than women. Foreign women married to Norwegian citizens with no immigrant background are also registered as family immigrants.

Women make up a minority of those who have arrived as the main refugee. From 1990 to 2006, four out of ten refugees were women.

Figure 11. Gender distribution (men per 100 women) for western and non-western. 1970-2007

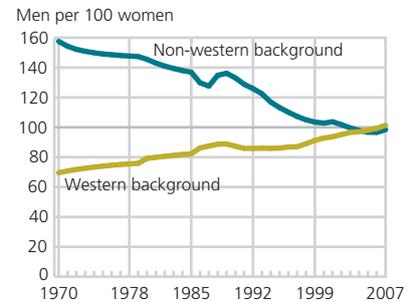


Figure 12. Number of men and women and men per 100 women in the 10 largest immigrant groups. 1 January 2007

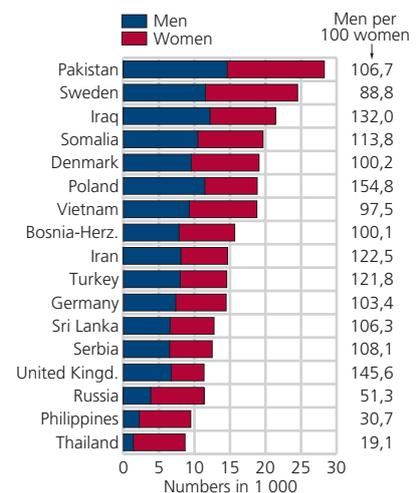
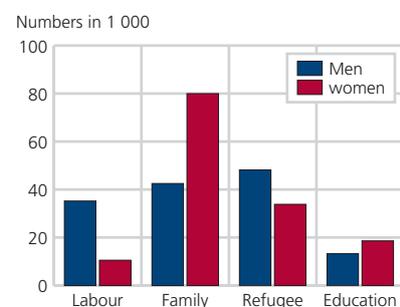


Figure 13. First-time immigration among non-Nordic citizens, by immigrant background and gender. 1990-2006



Women make up 58 per cent of foreign students for the period. The lowest share represents female labour immigrants. On average, around one out of four labour immigrants were women during the period 1990-2006.

### Prefer marriage

It is more common among women with an immigrant background to be married than women in the population in general. While 55 per cent of all women in the age group 35-44 are married, this applies to 60 per cent of western immigrant women, and 74 per cent of non-western immigrant women. It is also more common for non-western immigrant men to be married than men in the population in general. When non-western immigrants enter into relationships for the first time, they get married, while women and men with no immigrant background and western immigrants often start by living together. The marriage pattern is therefore not very suitable for comparing patterns of pair formations.

### Every third marriage with immigrant background

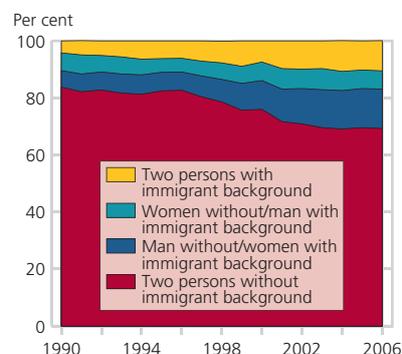
Increasing globalisation and international mobility have gradually affected the Norwegian marriage pattern. In an increasing share of the marriages that are entered into, at least one of the parties has an immigrant background. In 2006, almost seven out of ten new marriages entered into were between two parties with no immigrant background, while 11 per cent were marriages between two parties with an immigrant background, 6 per cent were between women with no immigrant background and men with an immigrant background, and 14 per cent were between men with no immigrant background and women with an immigrant background. By comparison, 84 per cent of marriages entered into in 1990 were between two parties with no immigrant background (figure 14).

### Who do they marry?

The degree to which immigrants choose spouses with the same country of origin or someone with no immigrant background, varies significantly between the country groups. Women from Thailand, the Philippines and Russia mainly marry men with no immigrant background. Nine out of ten marry men with a Norwegian background. These women mostly lived abroad when they entered into marriage. Men from these countries enter into marriages with a woman with no immigrant background to a much lesser degree.

There are very few women in other immigrant groups that marry men with no immigrant background. This applies to women from Pakistan, Iraq and Turkey, amongst others. The majority of these women lived in Norway before getting married. In the same country groups, more men than women married a partner with no immigrant background.

Figure 14. Marriages by immigrant background of spouses. 1990-2006



## Taking classes

### Almost all go to upper secondary school

Education is regarded as the key to securing a foothold in the employment market, and the level of education among the population is increasing. A total of 91.5 per cent of all 16-18 year-olds in Norway were at upper secondary school in autumn 2006. Among immigrants in the same age group, 71 per cent were in education, as were 89 per cent of the descendants. In terms of numbers however, there are far more first-generation immigrants than their descendants at upper secondary school. Young female immigrants choose to attend upper secondary school to a far greater degree than boys, which also applies to the remainder of the population.

An average for all immigrants and descendants conceals major differences. While young descendants with backgrounds from Vietnam and Morocco attend upper secondary school to a greater degree than the average for the population as a whole, and those with a Pakistani background are virtually the same as the average, those with a Turkish background have a lower rate of participation (eight out of ten).

### Growing numbers with immigrant background

The share of first-generation immigrants and descendants attending upper secondary school has continued to grow since the start of the new millennium. Among those who had immigrated themselves, seven out of ten were at upper secondary school in 2006. Six years earlier, this figure was six out of ten. The share has been extremely high throughout the period for descendants, but increased from eight to nine out of ten in the same period. This is almost as high as participation among all young people, which has been below and above 90 per cent throughout the entire period.

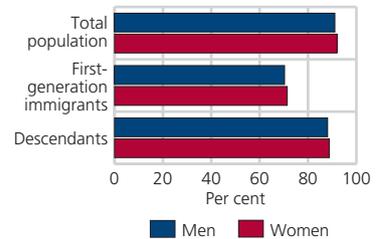
### ... but many quit

Pupils with immigrant backgrounds have a lower through-put in upper secondary schools than pupils in general. With regard to the pupils with an immigrant background that started upper secondary school in 2001, 54 per cent completed their studies and passed their leaving exams, and 29 per cent quit during the 5-year period. For everyone in the same year, 69 per cent completed their studies, and 19 per cent quit.

The girls completed their studies in the standard time to a greater extent than the boys, both among all young people (girls 65 per cent and boys 50 per cent) and among young people with an immigrant background (girls 52 per cent and boys 37 per cent).

How long the pupils take to complete their upper secondary education varies depending on the pupils' country of origin. Of the pupils that started the foundation course in autumn 2001, six out of ten of the pupils with a background from European and Asian countries completed their upper secondary schooling within five years. The majority also completed within the standard time. Pupils with backgrounds from African countries fared much worse. Five years after starting their studies, 44 per cent had completed and passed their leaving exams.

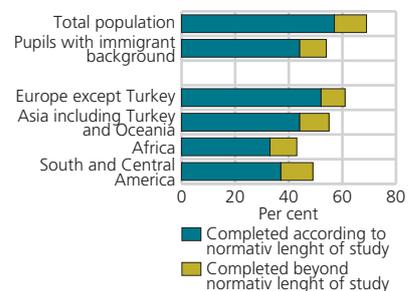
Figure 15. Pupils at upper secondary school, as a percentage of registered classes 16-18 years. 2006



Statistikk over videregående utdanning omfatter elever som deltar i en utdanning som normalt har en varighet på 300 undervisningstimer per år.

Statistikk over høyere utdanning omfatter godkjente universitet og høyskoler

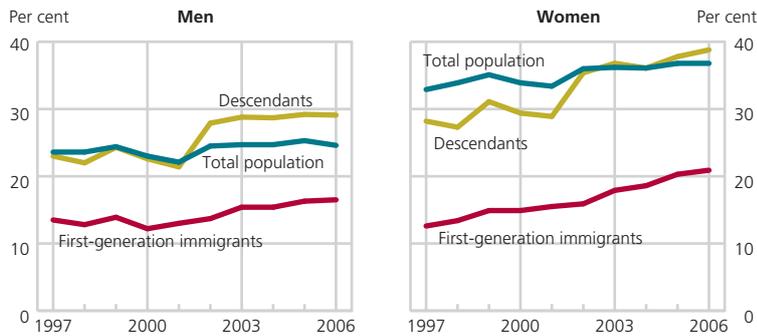
Figure 16. Share of pupils that started upper secondary school in autumn 2001 and had completed within 5 years



## Descendants take higher education

An increasing share of young people between 19 and 24 are taking higher education. Almost a third of those aged between 19 and 24 in Norway were registered as a student at a university or university college in autumn 2006. Out of those who immigrated themselves, a fifth were in higher education. Since 2002, the descendants have had the highest rate of participation, measured as a percentage of the registered years. In autumn 2006, 34 per cent of the descendants in the age group 19-24 were in education (figure 17).

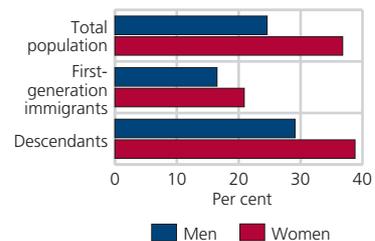
Figure 17. Students in higher education, 1997-2006. Percentage of the years 19-24 years



## ... and the women are most eager

The participation of female descendants increased by 10 percentage points from 1997 to 2006, and the corresponding figure for men was an increase of 7 percentage points. For the population as a whole, as well as first-generation immigrants and descendants, a higher share of women are in education. The share is highest among female descendants at almost 39 per cent; two percentage points higher than for the same age group in the population as a whole. Twenty-one per cent of female first-generation immigrants were in education. The participation for male descendants is five percentage points higher than for men in the population as a whole. The gender difference is smaller among those who immigrated themselves than the other groups we are discussing here (figure 18).

Figure 18. Students in higher education as a percentage of registered intake 19-24 years. 2006



## Highest number of Vietnamese descendants

Descendants study to a greater extent than those who immigrated themselves, but the average conceals major differences. Five out of ten female descendants with a background from Vietnam were in higher education, and more than four out of ten of the men. With regard to descendants with a background from Pakistan, the participation was 34 per cent of the intake of women and 27 per cent for the men. For descendants with a background from Turkey, 10 per cent of the men and 20 per cent of the women were in education.

## More interest in health-related courses than teaching

Descendants with non-western backgrounds study health and social studies, physical education and economics and administrative studies to a greater degree than other students. A total of 55 per cent of all descendants in the 19-24 age group in education in autumn 2005 studied within these specialist fields, while 38 per cent of all students chose the same. By way of comparison, only 6 per cent of descendants chose teacher training, while twice as many in the entire intake did the same.

## Good times in the labour market – for immigrants as well?

Since 2004, Norway has been experiencing a boom, with falling unemployment and a recovery in employment. Immigrants have also been affected by these trends, and low unemployment and a notable increase in employment have been registered in recent years. But has everyone benefited to the same extent?

### In excess of 21,000 more in employment in one year

The 181,000 first-generation immigrants aged between 15 and 74 in employment made up 7.6 per cent of those in employment in Norway in November 2006, when employment for immigrants was 60.1 per cent (figure 19). This was 3 percentage points higher than the previous year. In absolute figures, growth was in excess of 21,000. Employment in the population as a whole was at 70 per cent, which was an increase of 1.5 percentage points.

The employment among the western groups and those from the EU countries in East Europe was between 71 and 73 per cent. This high level must be regarded in context with the strong element of labour immigrants found in these groups. Employment among non-western immigrants was considerably lower, and this particularly applied to those from Africa for whom employment was 45.2 per cent. However, if we consider individual countries, several non-western groups show employment levels of between 60 and 70 per cent. For example, this applies to those with backgrounds from Chile, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, India, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Vietnam. The lowest employment level is found among those from Somalia, with 31.7 per cent. These are followed by those from Iraq and Afghanistan, with 40 per cent employment. A common feature of these three groups is a high number of refugees with a short period of residence in Norway, as opposed to the other groups mentioned above.

### Lowest registered unemployment in eight years

The registered unemployment among immigrants fell from 8.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2005 to 6.1 per cent in the corresponding period in 2006, and from 3.0 to 2.1 per cent in the population as a whole. The level among immigrants is the lowest that has been registered since November 1998 (figure 20). However, the relative fall among the population as a whole was also almost as strong in the past year. Thus, there is no approximation between immigrants and the population in general. Immigrants continue to have a registered unemployment level that is almost three times as high. This difference has remained fairly stable and is partly due to the fact that immigrants are a group with relatively many newcomers to the labour market, whereby the share of those in employment in the labour force is lower than in the population as a whole – also during periods of low unemployment.

**Labour force** = the sum of those in employment and those registered unemployed

**Employed person** = persons with registered income-earning work

**100% unemployed** = employable persons seeking income-earning work with NAV and are otherwise available for the work being sought. In addition, the person must have had no income-earning work in the past two weeks.

Figure 19. Employed first-generation immigrants by country of birth. As a percentage of residents aged 15-74 in each group. 4th quarter 2006

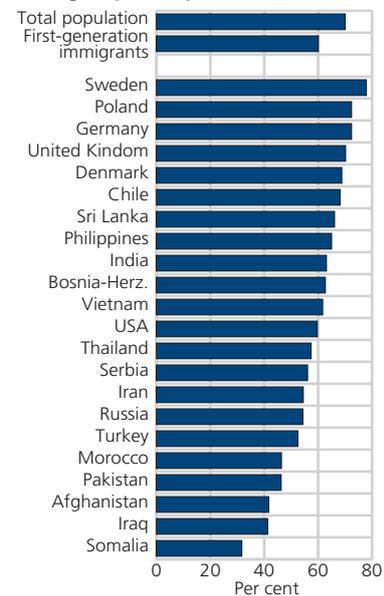
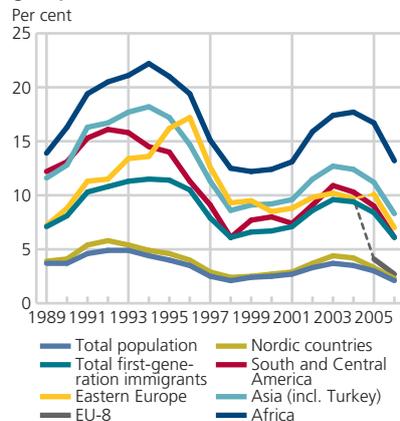


Figure 20. Registered unemployed aged 16-74 by country of origin. As a percentage of the labour force in each group. The end of November 1989-2006



<sup>1</sup> Change in definition of completely unemployed in 1999.

### ...but still highest among those from Africa

Unemployment was highest among those from Africa, at 13 per cent, while the corresponding figure for Asians was 8 per cent. Immigrants from non-EU countries in East Europe had unemployment of 7 per cent, and in the group from South and Central America, the figure was 6 per cent. The western groups were much nearer the national average, with unemployment between 2.3 and 2.5 per cent. The immigrants from the EU countries in East Europe were also around this level, with 2.7 per cent unemployment. The low level of unemployment in these groups is due to the dominance of labour immigrants, while the non-western groups mainly consist of refugees and family reunifications with varying periods of residence in Norway.

### Residence exceeding 4 years means better opportunities

The longer a person's period of residence in Norway, the more likely they are to find work. Those who have lived in Norway for five years or more have a level of employment above average for immigrants and almost 65 per cent among those with a period of residence between 10 and 15 years (figure 21). However, in the group with the longest period of residence, i.e. 15 years or more, we see a slightly lower level. This is due to a higher average age, particularly among westerners. The period of residence, however, does not balance out all the differences between the various country groups. Also in the group with the longest period of residence, those from Africa had an employment level of 53 per cent, while those from Asia had 59 per cent.

### Major gender differences

Other factors also affect the level of employment. The low employment level among relatively established immigrants with a background from Pakistan, is primarily a result of the very low employment among the women, which is only 29 per cent, while for men it is 62 per cent (figure 22). In other words, the men had double the employment level of women and were near the average for male immigrants. This pattern can also be seen among the other established immigrant groups, e.g. Turkey and Morocco, even although the differences were not quite as pronounced. Similar low employment levels compared to men are also found among women with backgrounds from Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia. On the other hand, the gender differences in the groups with high employment levels mentioned above were not so pronounced.

### High employment levels among descendants

Descendants do not yet represent any large group in the labour market. In November 2006, they only accounted for 10,200 of those in employment between the ages of 15 and 74, and 7,700 of these were under 30. Descendants in the age group 20-24 have an employment level of almost 69 per cent; 12 percentage points more than first-generation immigrants in the same age group and just 4 percentage points lower than for everyone in this age group (figure 23). Descendants aged from 25 to 29 also have a higher share of employment than first-generation immigrants (72 compared to 63 per cent), but the distance to this age group in the population as a whole with almost 80 per cent employment, is slightly greater.

Figure 21. Employed first-generation immigrants by period of residence and continent. As a percentage of residents aged 15-74 in each group. 4th quarter 2006

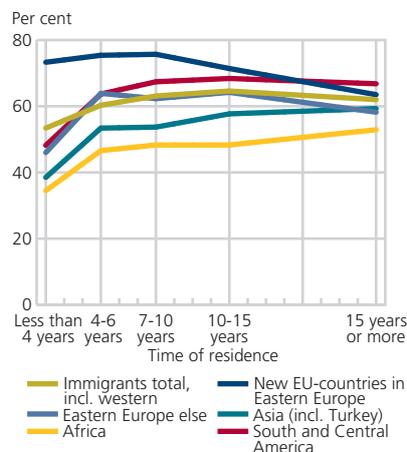


Figure 22. Employed first-generation immigrants by country of origin and gender. As a percentage of residents aged 15-74 in each group. 4th quarter 2006

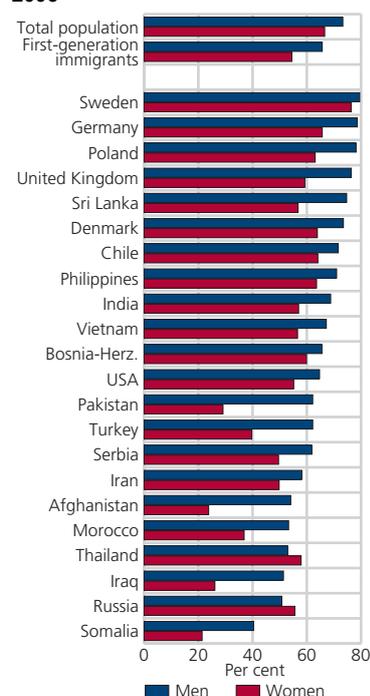
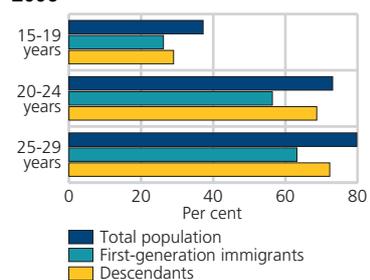


Figure 23. Employed by age and immigrant category. As a percentage of total residents in each group. 4th quarter 2006



## Major differences in income levels

There are major differences in income levels, income composition and income distribution among immigrants to Norway. Western immigrants often have an income level on a par with the general income level of the population, while non-western immigrants more often have lower incomes, mainly due to greater difficulties in gaining a foothold in the labour market.

### Non-westerners' incomes correspond to 70 per cent of national average

In 2005, the non-western immigrant population had an income level of around 70 per cent of the general income level in Norway (figure 24). The income level is measured here as median income after tax per consumption unit for persons in households where the main breadwinner is of an economically active age (25-55 years), and is either a first-generation immigrant or born in Norway to two foreign-born parents. However, the immigrant population is far from being a homogenous group. The income disparity is greater among immigrants than in the population as a whole, and where being included in or excluded from the labour market – income from employment or lack thereof - is the most important explanatory factor. Different backgrounds, period of residence in Norway and reason for immigration are all key factors in explaining such income variances.

### Major income variances – especially among non-western immigrants

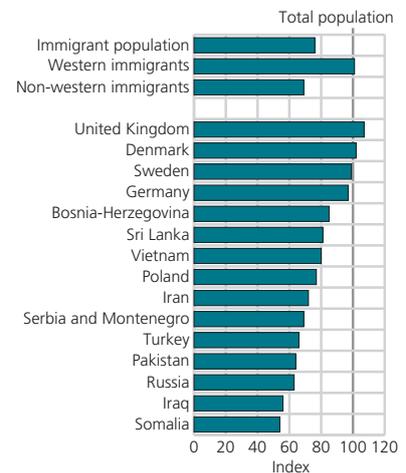
Many immigrants from western countries have an income level relatively similar to that for the population as a whole. In 2005 for example, British immigrants had an income level that was 7 per cent higher than the general income level in the population. Among immigrants from Denmark and Sweden, incomes were on average on a par with the population in general. The income variances are far greater among the largest non-western immigration countries. In 2005, immigrants with a background from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sri Lanka and Vietnam had an income level that accounted for at least 80 per cent of the general income level in the population. Among other large immigration countries such as Somalia and Iraq, the corresponding shares were well below 60 per cent. Immigrants with a background from the largest immigration country, Pakistan, had a median income after tax per consumption unit of 64 per cent of the income of the entire population.

### More economically independent as time goes by...

Major variances in income levels between non-western countries are partly related to how long they have lived in Norway. A long period of residence often leads to better integration both in the labour market and in society in general, and period of residence is one of the key factors in connection with refugees' success in the labour market. The income composition changes over time for many immigrant groups, from having a high share of benefits/subsidies, to having a higher share of income from employment. A household's total income often increases therefore as the period of residence increases.

**Income after tax** is calculated by adding a household's income from employment, income from self-employment, capital income (income from interest and returns on investments etc.) and various benefits/subsidies (pensions, social security, child allowance, housing benefit, supplementary benefit etc.). The household's assessed tax and negative transfers (child maintenance and work pension premiums) are deducted.

Figure 24. Income after tax per consumption unit. Country of origin. 2005<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> People in households where the main breadwinner has immigrant background and are at the age of 25-55 years. EU-scale. Median. Index. Total population=100.

**The EU scale** is one of several equivalence scales that are used to compare the income of households of different sizes and compositions. The EU scale gives the first adult a consumption weighting of 1, the next adult a weighting of 0.5, while each child is given a weighting of 0.3. A household with, for example, two adults and two children will thus have a consumption weighting of 2.1. This means that such a household must have an income that is 2.1 times higher than a single person in order to achieve the same level of welfare.

Many non-western immigrants become more economically independent the longer they have been in Norway (table 2). For example, supplementary benefit to Iranian households accounts for on average 13 per cent of the household income for those who have lived in Norway less than three years. When the period of residence increases to more than 10 years, the share of supplementary benefit falls to 2 per cent. At the same time, the share of income from employment of these households increases from 46 to 75 per cent. Among immigrants from Iraq, Somalia, Russia and Serbia and Montenegro, the economic significance of supplementary benefit is also reduced in favour of income from employment – as the period of residence increases. Among immigrants from Sri Lanka, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Vietnam, there are no similar changes with increasing period of residence. Among these immigrant groups, the household's income from employment is relatively high even after a short period of residence, while supplementary benefit has a lesser significance for the household's economy; only 2-3 per cent for those living in Norway for less than three years.

### ...but immigrants are strongly overrepresented in the low income group

Despite many immigrants becoming economically independent the longer they live in Norway, many immigrant groups are strongly overrepresented in the lowest income groups. More than a third of non-western immigrants (35 per cent) belong to the low income group when applying the EU's method of measurement for low income (figure 25). The share of low incomes for the population as a whole is 10 per cent. Non-western immigrants are therefore more than three times as likely to belong to the low income group than the rest of the population. Immigrants with western backgrounds are also overrepresented in the low income group, with a share of 15 per cent in 2005.

There are large variations in the low income share among the sample immigrant groups in figure 25. Six out of ten Somalian immigrants were in the low income group in 2005. The household income per consumption unit is also below the low income threshold for more than half of all Iraqi immigrants. Many of these immigrant households are, as previously shown, characterised by a poor association with the labour market and a high level of supplementary benefit claims. These immigrant groups also have short periods of residence and an average household size far in excess of many other immigrant groups and households with no immigrant backgrounds.

Among the non-western groups, the lowest numbers with low income are among those with backgrounds from Sri Lanka and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The low income share here is around 20 per cent, on a par with Germany.

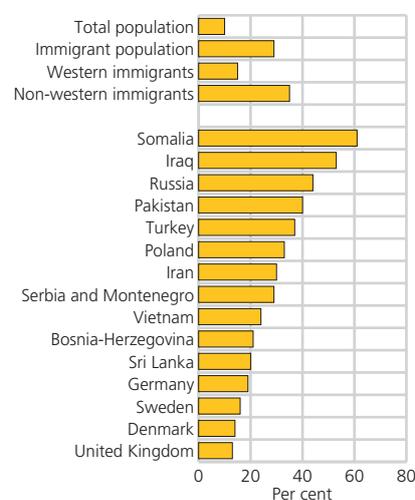
Table 2. **Received supplementary benefit and income from employment as a share of the household's total income, by period of residence. Main breadwinner belongs to the immigrant population and is aged between 25 and 55. 2005. Per cent**

Selected groups	Supp. benefit			Income from emp.		
	Res. < 3 yrs	Res. 3-9 yrs	Res. 10 yrs +	Res. < 3 yrs	Res. 3-9 yrs	Res. 10 yrs +
Sri Lanka	2	2	1	75	75	80
Bosnia-Herzegovina	3	4	3	82	79	82
Vietnam	3	4	2	77	69	77
Serbia and Montenegro	8	7	3	63	69	71
Iran	13	10	2	46	60	75
Turkey	5	3	3	72	74	66
Pakistan	4	3	2	78	76	68
Russia	13	3	1	38	79	82
Iraq	17	14	7	40	56	54
Somalia	16	18	9	19	37	50

Source: Income and property statistics for households, Statistics Norway.

**Low income** or the low income threshold is often referred to colloquially as the "breadline". There are numerous methods for calculating this threshold. One commonly used method is to define all persons with an income after tax per consumption unit lower than 50 or 60 per cent of the median income for all persons, as belonging to a low income group. The number of persons with low income will vary according to which equivalence scale is used to calculate income per consumption unit. In this section, the EU scale has been applied and the low income threshold is set at 60 per cent of the median income.

Figure 25. **Share of persons in households where the main breadwinner is part of the immigrant population, with an annual income after tax per consumption unit of less than 60 per cent of the median income. EU scale. 2005. Per cent<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Students are not included.

## Voting – and being elected

### More electors with non-western backgrounds

Out of the 3,618,000 potential electors in the local election in 2007, 279,000 had an immigrant background, which is almost 8 per cent of all electors. This was an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the previous local elections in 2003 (figure 26).

In order to vote at local elections, a person must either be a Norwegian citizen or have lived in Norway for at least three years if they are a foreign national. Nordic citizens are entitled to vote if they are included in the National Population Register in Norway and otherwise meet the requirements for being included in the national census. A total of 142,000 Norwegian citizens with an immigrant background were entitled to vote at the elections, while 137,000 were foreign nationals with at least three years residence in Norway or were citizens of another Nordic country. Fifty-one per cent of electors with an immigrant background were women; the same share as in the rest of the voting population.

### Many from Europe

A total of 50,000 electors originate from other Nordic countries, while 85,000 have a background from other countries in Europe, mostly East Europe (figure 27). Overall, the electors from European countries account for almost half of all of those with an immigrant background eligible to take part in the elections. A good third of the electors in the immigrant population originate from Asia. The remainder are made up of 29,000 with an African background, 8,000 from North and Central America, and 9,000 with a South American background.

### Many with the right to vote in Oslo

The immigrant population in Oslo accounted for about a fifth of the electors. Almost 60 per cent of those with an immigrant background originated from Africa and Asia. Nord-Trøndelag was the county with the lowest share of electors with an immigrant background, with 2.6 per cent of the total electors.

### Primarily young adults

On average, the immigrant population is younger than the population as a whole, and the immigrant population among young adults in the age group 30-39 accounted for 11 per cent of the total electors. However, there are far fewer elderly electors, and in the age group 60 and over, the immigrant population only accounted for four per cent of the total electors. More than 50,000 persons with no Norwegian citizenship also had the right to vote in Norway for the first time in the local elections in 2007.

Figure 26. Electors with immigrant backgrounds by citizenship. Municipal and county elections 1999-2007

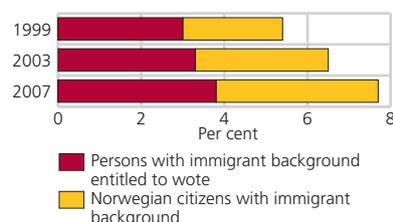
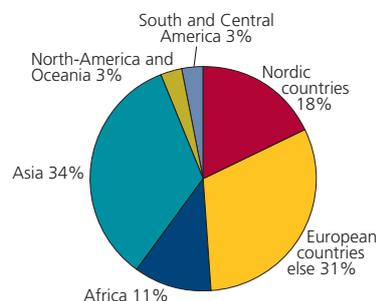


Figure 27. Electors in the immigrant population by country of origin. Municipal and county elections 2007



Statistics Norway has for the first time gained access to the electronic census and can therefore present data on listed candidates in the municipal and county elections. Election researchers have previously been dependent on sample surveys in order to show the correlation between listed candidates and those who are actually elected. We show here how the candidates are distributed by gender, age, education, industry and country of origin.

### 1,800 immigrants on the candidate lists, many women

Of the 62,500 listed candidates in the local authority elections in 2007, a total of 1,800 had an immigrant background, and more than 1,000 of these had a non-western immigrant background and made up 1.6 per cent of all listed candidates in the elections.

Forty-two per cent of the listed candidates were women, while the corresponding share was 46 per cent among non-western candidates. At 12 per cent, Oslo has the highest share of immigrant backgrounds on the lists, but even here the share of immigrants among the listed candidates was far smaller than among the population in the municipality.

### Most candidates from Iran

Among the candidates with a non-western background we find the majority from Iran (100), Bosnia-Herzegovina (77) and Pakistan (59). Compared with the number of electors, there were few candidates from Vietnam (11).

### Many women from East Europe

The relatively high share of women on the lists among those with a non-western background can to a large extent be explained by the clear predominance of women from East Europe (figure 28). More than 150 candidates on the lists were from East Europe, and two out of three of these were women. In the group with backgrounds from Russia, Romania and Poland, nine out of ten were women. At the opposite end of the scale, there was a clear predominance of men from Africa and South West Asia. The lowest share of women was among the candidates from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Ethiopia, all with less than a quarter of female candidates.

### The left focused most on immigrants

The Red Electoral Alliance and the Socialist Party had the most candidates with immigrant backgrounds. A total of 5.2 and 3.9 per cent of the listed candidates from these parties respectively had non-western immigrant backgrounds (figure 29). The Centre Party and the Progress Party had the least with a non-western background, with 0.4 and 0.8 per cent of the listed candidates respectively. Among the total 10,400 candidates put forward by the Labour Party, which had the most candidates, 232 candidates had a non-western background. This corresponds to 2.2 per cent of all candidates.

Figure 28. 28 Listed candidates by gender and country of origin. Absolute figures. Municipal and county elections 2007

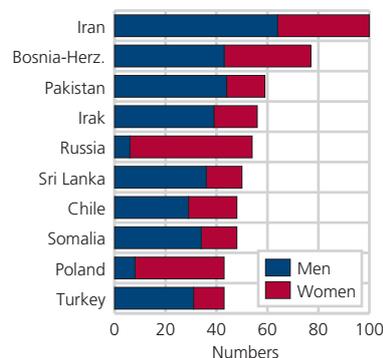
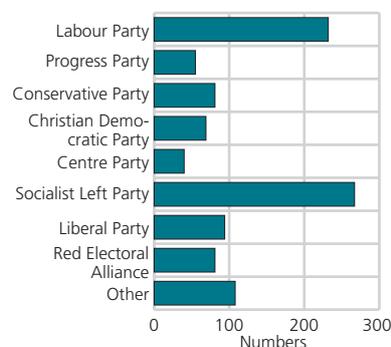


Figure 29. Listed candidates with non-western country of origin by party. Municipal and county elections 2007



## Mostly positive to immigration and immigrants

### Attitudes are affected by various conditions

A number of conditions can have an impact on attitudes to immigration and immigrants for the majority population. For example, economic recoveries can help to liberalise the attitudes to immigrants and immigration. High asylum seeker numbers are likely to have the opposite effect. Correspondingly, crime committed by immigrants will help to undermine “immigrant-friendly” attitudes. The authorities’ refugee policy also has an effect on opinions. The attitude to asylum policies is also likely to be affected by the population’s knowledge of and sympathy for the refugee groups. Despite all the different factors that can have an impact, the attitudes to immigration and immigrants are relatively stable.

#### What are attitudes?

An attitude is a disposition to react to a specific phenomenon in a specific way. Attitudes have both emotional and cognitive aspects. Attitudes form the basis for actions to varying degrees.

### Effort and cultural contributions are appreciated!

There is broad agreement of the benefit of immigrants’ labour contributions. In 2006, seven out of ten people fully or partly agreed that immigrants make a valuable contribution to Norwegian industry. Two out of ten disagreed with this, and one out of ten were uncertain. The share that agreed increased from two out of three in the years 2002-2004. Two out of three in 2006 also believed that immigrants enriched the cultural life in Norway (figure 30).

### – Should have the same employment opportunities

Almost nine out of ten in 2006 fully or partly agreed that all immigrants in Norway should have the same employment opportunities as Norwegians. Since 2002, the support for this statement has been somewhere between eight and nine out of ten (figure 31).

A temporary decline in the support for this statement after the beginning of the new millennium may be related to a simultaneous slump in the Norwegian economy. Correspondingly, the economic boom in the 1990s may have had a bearing on the increased support for the statement in the 1990s from 75 per cent in 1993 to 92 per cent in 1998.

#### About the attitude survey

Since 1993, Statistics Norway has recorded the Norwegian population’s attitudes to immigrants and immigration through interview surveys. The first interview series was carried out annually until 2000. After changing some questions, this work was restarted in 2002. There will therefore be a break in the time series.

Figure 30. Attitudes to immigrants and immigration, 2002-2006. Share that fully or partly agreed with the following statement

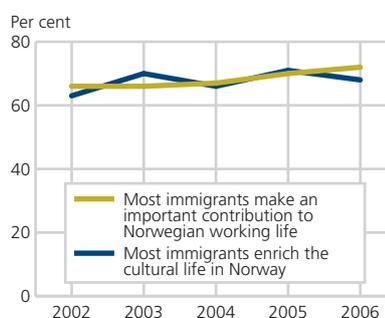
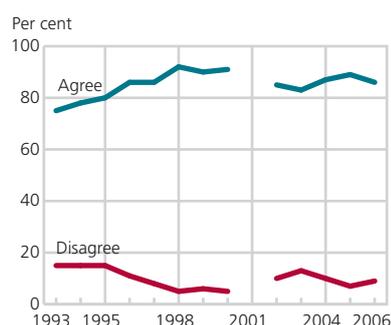


Figure 31. Attitudes to the claim "All immigrants in Norway should have the same employment opportunities as Norwegians". 1993-2000 and 2002-2006. Per cent<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> No figures in 2001.

### Fear abuse of welfare system

By comparison, one out of three people fear that immigrants abuse social welfare schemes. Half of the population rejects this claim. From 2002 to 2004, four out of ten agreed with this claim (figure 32).

### Source of insecurity?

In 2006, four out of ten also fully or partly agreed that most immigrants were a source of insecurity in society, while just less than half totally or partly disagreed. This share has remained relatively unchanged in recent years.

### Few want to make it easier for refugees

A total of 45 per cent of the population in 2006 believed that it should be made more difficult for refugees to stay in Norway, while just as many believed that permission to stay should remain the same as today (figure 33). Only 7 per cent believed that it should be made easier for refugees and asylum seekers to stay in Norway. The share that believed it should be more difficult was more than 50 per cent in 2002 and 2003. The fall in the number of asylum seekers from 17,000 in the peak year of 2002, to around 5,300 in 2006, is likely to have contributed to the reduction in the share that thought it should be more difficult for asylum seekers to stay in Norway.

### Neighbours are fine – but a son-in-law?

Nine out of ten have no objection to having an immigrant as a new neighbour. Nine out of ten also have no objection to having an immigrant as a home help for themselves or another close family member. It was assumed in these questions that the immigrant could speak Norwegian. On the other hand, having an immigrant as a son-in-law or daughter-in-law would be considered in a negative light by one out of three. The dislike of having immigrants in the family has fallen slightly since 2002, when four out of ten expressed a negative attitude.

### Contact and knowledge have an effect

The elderly and those with low levels of education are far less tolerant of immigrants than highly educated and young people/the middle aged. Persons in the most densely populated areas and particularly in Oslo/Akershus are more positive to immigrants than those living in other parts of the country. This also applies to persons with a broad contact surface with immigrants. Contact with immigrants in at least one area of society has a great bearing on what attitudes they adopt. Gender is of secondary importance, but women tend to be more positive towards immigrants' cultural contribution than men, while men are more positive to immigrants participating in the labour market.

Figure 32. Attitudes to immigrants and immigration, 2002-2006. Share that fully or partly agrees with the following statement

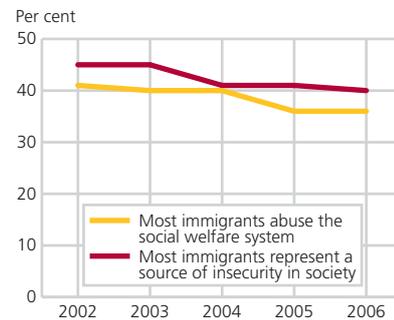
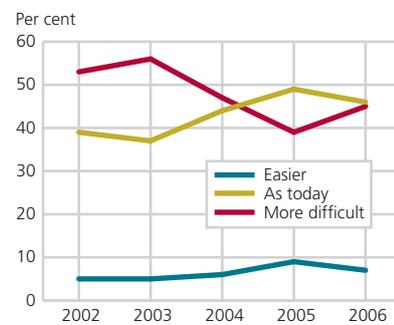


Figure 33. Attitudes to refugees' permission to stay in Norway, 2002-2006. Per cent



## **Major variations in living conditions**

We have considered some differences and similarities between various groups of immigrants and their descendant in a number of key areas, such as education, unemployment, employment and income. On the whole, we can say that although the group of immigrants and their descendants is diverse, comparisons with the population as a whole show that some groups are worse off than others in certain areas. This applies to many of the Asian and African immigrant groups, for instance.

### **The longer the period of residence, the more integrated?**

When comparing different immigrant groups, varying periods of residence can explain some of the differences between the groups, both with regard to demography and living conditions. The first labour immigrants came from the third world to Norway towards the end of the 1960s. They arrived from Turkey, Yugoslavia and Morocco first, then from India and particularly Pakistan. In 1970, Norway had 434 Moroccan citizens, 260 Turks and 212 from India and Pakistan. At the start of 2007, these four groups made up almost 58,000 of immigrants and descendants, of which Pakistanis accounted for half.

### **Higher unemployment among non-western immigrants**

The labour market is probably the most important arena for the integration of immigrants. Unemployment among non-western immigrants is considerably higher than for the population in general. However, the number of first-generation immigrants in employment is steadily increasing. Despite no regular labour immigration taking place in Norway for 30 years, immigration to Norway makes a considerable contribution to the employment, and the number of employed first-time immigrants is increasing. In autumn 2006, 181,000 of those in employment were persons who had immigrated to Norway themselves, which is 7.6 per cent of all of those in employment. One out of three of these had a background from an Asian country. From November 2005 to November 2006, 21,000 more first-generation immigrants were in employment. Persons with backgrounds from the new EU countries in the east accounted for 27 per cent of these and this was the group with the greatest growth in the number of employed in terms of percentages.

### **Employment increases with period of residence for most groups**

The employment share increases very clearly as the period of residence increases. For first-generation immigrants with a background from African countries, the share was only 30 per cent after less than four years of living in Norway. For those who had lived in Norway for more than four years, the share of employment increases to 45 per cent. The same trend can be seen among other non-western groups, but almost none of the groups are as high as the national average. Despite these groups having long periods of residence, and including many that are born in Norway, there are nevertheless considerable divisions between these groups and the rest of the population. Those who have lived in Norway for five years or more have an above average employment level for immigrants, and this increases to almost 65 per cent for those with a period of residence of between 10 and 15 years. Period of residence does not, however, explain all the reasons for the employment level being so much lower in some non-western groups with a long period of residence. On the other hand, we note that women have a low level of employment in some of the groups with the longest period of residence, and particularly among women with a background from Pakistan.

### **Lower income, but improvement over time**

Because many immigrants are excluded from the labour market, their income is much lower than for the rest of the population. Non-western immigrants make up 6.6 per cent of the population, but 35 per cent of these are below the EU's low income threshold. When applying the EU's definitions of "poor", members of non-western immigrant households are three times as likely to belong to the low income group compared with the population as a whole. Families with countries of origin from Somalia and Iraq stand out with the lowest incomes, but these often have a short period of residence in Norway.

There is a clear correlation between period of residence and economic independence. The share of income from employment for immigrant families increases with the period of residence, as does the level of income.

### **Descendants get an education ...**

With regard to descendants, the school participation is more on a par with the population as a whole than for those who have immigrated themselves. The descendants are better represented than the first-generation immigrants in upper secondary schools, universities and university colleges. A larger share of descendants in the age group 19-24 are students than the same age group for the population as a whole.

### **... and have higher employment levels than young first-generation immigrants**

The descendants are at present a very young group. The oldest have just turned 30, but the vast majority are still much younger: as of 1 January 2007, 85 per cent were less than 20 years of age. The labour force participation for descendants is, however, higher than for those who immigrated themselves in the corresponding age groups, and almost as high as the employment level for the population as a whole in the same age group. Descendants aged 20-24 have an employment level of almost 69 per cent, which is 12 percentage points higher than first-generation immigrants in the same age group and only four percentage points lower than for everyone of this age.

### **Living conditions of immigrant population improve over time**

Immigrants and their descendants are probably the most diverse group in the population, and the process of integrating into society takes longer for some groups than others. In the 1970s and 80s, persons with a refugee background from Vietnam were relatively new to Norway, and many of them had the same problems in the labour market as, for example, those from Somalia have today. Persons with a background from Vietnam now have a higher level of employment than average for Asian immigrants. Despite the differences between the refugee groups, this shows that time is a vital factor in integration.

# More statistics on immigrants and their descendants?

Facts on immigrants and their descendants provide a taste of Statistics Norway's statistics that in one way or another throw light on the immigrant population's situation in Norwegian society. Our "Focus on" pages on immigration and immigrants - [http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/10/innvandring\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/10/innvandring_en/) – include a complete overview of the most recent statistics, articles and publications in various areas.

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» Main page » Statistics by Subjects » 00 » 00 » 10 National overviews

**Key figures:**

The immigrant population accounts for 8.9 per cent, or 415 000 people, of Norway's population

There are 341 800 first-generation immigrants in Norway, and 73 500 people born in Norway of two foreign-born parents

All Norwegian municipalities are home to immigrants. Oslo has the largest proportion of immigrants with 24 per cent, or 131 000 people

One in three first-generation immigrants come from western countries

Half of all first-generation immigrants from Africa, Asia (including Turkey), Eastern Europe and South and Central America arrived in Norway as refugees

**Focus on:**

## Immigration and immigrants

Norway's immigrant population consists of people from more than 200 different countries. They have come to Norway as refugees, labour immigrants or through family relations with other immigrants or Norwegians.

- The immigrant population is now 415 000. This group accounts for 8.9 per cent of Norway's population. Broken down by country, 54 000 are immigrants from other Nordic countries, 51 000 come from other countries in Western Europe and North America, 80 000 come from Eastern Europe, and 230 000 come from Turkey and countries in Asia, Africa and South America.
- The majority of first-generation immigrants are from Sweden, Poland and Denmark. 47 per cent of the immigrant population has Norwegian citizenship.
- The number of immigrants has increased in the last 50 years. The first immigrants to Norway came from Eastern Europe after the Second World War, followed by labour immigrants from Europe and the rest of the world. Since Norway introduced the ban on labour immigration in 1975, the number of refugees from non-western countries has increased. With the EU enlargement immigration from Poland has peaked over the last two years.
- The number of immigrants varies with the immigration policy pursued by the government, the needs of the labour market and global crises. Immigration increased during and after the Balkan wars of the 1990s. In recent years, the majority of new immigrants have come to Norway as a result of family reunions, to start a family with other immigrants or with Norwegians.
- Statistics Norway has published figures on immigrants since the Population Census of 1865. Back then 1.2 per cent of a total population of 1.7 million were born abroad; the majority in Sweden. In 1920, the immigrant population had increased to 2.8 per cent. During the interwar period there was little immigration, and by 1950 only 1.4 per cent of the population were born abroad.

**New statistics**

Population ▶  
Education ▶  
Employment and unemployment ▶  
Income ▶  
Political participation ▶  
Other ▶

Tables and charts ▶  
Tables from Historical statistics ▶

**Publications and articles**

Young immigrants in work and education: Are young immigrants a marginalised group? (Magazine) ▶  
Women in the immigrant population: Who are they and how are they doing? (Magazine) ▶  
Who do immigrants in Norway marry? (Magazine) ▶  
Differences in education among immigrants (Magazine) ▶  
Immigration and Immigrants 2006 (SA 87) ▶  
Immigration and Immigrants 2004 (SA 87) ▶  
Marks across lower secondary schools in Norway (RAPP 2004/11) ▶  
The demographic characteristics of immigrant population in Norway (RAPP 2002/22) ▶  
Immigrant women in Norway (RAPP 2002/23) ▶

**Other links**

Norwegian Directorate of Immigration ▶  
Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion: Immigration ▶  
International migration 2005/2006: Sopedmi-report for Norway ▶  
Statistics Sweden (SCB) ▶  
Statistics Denmark ▶  
OECD ▶  
EUROSTAT ▶  
Metropolis ▶  
UNHCR ▶  
Migration Information Source ▶  
International Organization for Migration ▶  
Comparing National Data Sources in the Field of Migration and Integration (COMPSTAT) ▶  
Norwegian Centre for Minority Health Research (NAKMI) ▶

**Explanation of terms**

The immigrant population consists of people with two foreign-born parents: first-generation immigrants who have moved to Norway and people who were born in Norway of two parents who were born abroad.

**Other immigration background** The following categories are used for people with a different immigration background: Adopted from abroad, born abroad with one Norwegian parent, born in Norway with one foreign-born parent.

**Refugee** = persons who, according to the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration's register of refugees, have refugee status and have been granted residence permit in Norway.

**Country of birth** is mainly the mother's residence country when the person was

Development 1970-2006	Immigrants in total	Totals by country	Unemployment
<b>Immigrant population by country background, 1970-2007</b>			

## Relevant publications

- *Immigrants and immigrations 2006*, Statistical analysis 87, Statistics Norway
- *Fakta om 18 innvandregrupper i Norge*, Rapport 2007/29, Statistics Norway
- *Innvandrerens demografi og levekår i 12 kommuner i Norge*, Rapport 2007/24, Statistics Norway
- *Samfunnsspeilet 4/2006*, about immigrant related statistics

Questions regarding statistics and publications can be forwarded to [innvstat@ssb.no](mailto:innvstat@ssb.no)

24

# Table of appendices

**Table 1. Population and the immigrant population by country background<sup>1</sup>. 1970-2007. Absolute figures and per cent**

Year	Total	Norway	Abroad <sup>2</sup>					North America, Oceania	Asia including Turkey, Africa, South and Central America
			Immigrant population, total	Nordic countries	Wester Europe else	Easter Europe			
<i>Real numbers</i>									
1.1.1970	3 874 133	3 814 937	59 196	26 548	15 190	5 806	8 103	3 549	
1.1.1980	4 091 132	3 995 930	95 202	31 210	22 686	7 114	11 810	22 382	
1.1.1986	4 159 187	4 035 839	123 348	35 766	28 503	8 868	11 332	38 879	
1.1.1987	4 175 521	4 044 379	131 142	37 880	28 797	9 374	11 320	43 771	
1.1.1988	4 198 289	4 051 992	146 297	39 509	29 420	10 639	11 350	55 379	
1.1.1989	4 220 686	4 060 393	160 293	40 037	29 972	11 878	11 292	67 114	
1.1.1990	4 233 116	4 064 818	168 298	38 089	29 107	13 551	10 769	76 782	
1.1.1991	4 249 830	4 075 162	174 668	37 285	28 208	14 663	10 558	83 954	
1.1.1992	4 273 634	4 090 640	182 994	37 589	28 000	15 926	10 552	90 927	
1.1.1993	4 299 167	4 106 072	193 095	38 176	28 524	18 647	10 584	97 164	
1.1.1994	4 324 815	4 119 217	205 598	39 060	28 581	26 321	10 338	101 298	
1.1.1995	4 348 410	4 133 362	215 048	40 608	28 853	30 276	10 211	105 100	
1.1.1996	4 369 957	4 146 160	223 797	41 643	29 188	33 200	10 037	109 729	
1.1.1997	4 392 714	4 160 522	232 192	43 696	29 491	34 486	9 879	114 640	
1.1.1998	4 417 599	4 172 894	244 705	47 886	30 250	35 733	9 694	121 142	
1.1.1999	4 445 329	4 184 587	260 742	52 338	31 795	37 430	9 787	129 392	
1.1.2000	4 478 497	4 196 010	282 487	53 445	33 097	46 098	9 578	140 269	
1.1.2001	4 503 436	4 205 705	297 731	53 480	33 271	48 257	9 272	153 451	
1.1.2002	4 524 066	4 213 362	310 704	53 466	33 961	49 677	9 159	164 441	
1.1.2003	4 552 252	4 219 459	332 793	54 277	35 243	53 249	9 413	180 611	
1.1.2004	4 577 457	4 228 517	348 940	53 940	35 906	56 339	9 456	193 299	
1.1.2005	4 606 363	4 241 382	364 981	53 201	36 960	61 342	9 176	204 302	
1.1.2006	4 640 219	4 253 520	386 699	53 551	38 635	68 210	9 214	217 089	
1.1.2007	4 681 134	4 265 816	415 318	54 467	41 464	79 622	9 537	230 228	
<i>Expressed as percentage of total population</i>									
1.1.1970	100.0	98.5	1.5	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	
1.1.1980	100.0	97.7	2.3	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.5	
1.1.1986	100.0	97.0	3.0	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.9	
1.1.1987	100.0	96.9	3.1	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.3	1.0	
1.1.1988	100.0	96.5	3.5	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3	1.3	
1.1.1989	100.0	96.2	3.8	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3	1.6	
1.1.1990	100.0	96.0	4.0	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3	1.8	
1.1.1991	100.0	95.9	4.1	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.2	2.0	
1.1.1992	100.0	95.7	4.3	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.2	2.1	
1.1.1993	100.0	95.5	4.5	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.2	2.3	
1.1.1994	100.0	95.2	4.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.2	2.3	
1.1.1995	100.0	95.1	4.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.2	2.4	
1.1.1996	100.0	94.9	5.1	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.2	2.5	
1.1.1997	100.0	94.7	5.3	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.2	2.6	
1.1.1998	100.0	94.5	5.5	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.2	2.7	
1.1.1999	100.0	94.1	5.9	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.2	2.9	
1.1.2000	100.0	93.7	6.3	1.2	0.7	1.0	0.2	3.1	
1.1.2001	100.0	93.4	6.6	1.2	0.7	1.1	0.2	3.4	
1.1.2002	100.0	93.1	6.9	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.2	3.6	
1.1.2003	100.0	92.7	7.3	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.2	4.0	
1.1.2004	100.0	92.4	7.6	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.2	4.2	
1.1.2005	100.0	92.1	7.9	1.2	0.8	1.3	0.2	4.4	
1.1.2006	100.0	91.7	8.3	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.2	4.7	
1.1.2007	100.0	91.1	8.9	1.2	0.9	1.7	0.2	4.9	

<sup>1</sup> Own, mother's or father's country of birth if it is foreign, otherwise Norway.

<sup>2</sup> Persons with two foreign born parents.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway

**Table 2. First generation immigrants<sup>1</sup>, by length of stay /first immigrations year and country background<sup>2</sup>. 1st January 2007**

Country background	Total	Length of stay, in years					
		25 years +	20-24 years	15-19 years	10-14 years	5- 9 years	0-4 years
		First immigration year					
		-1981	1982-1986	1987-1991	1992-1996	1997 - 2001	2002 - 2006
<b>Total</b>	<b>341 830</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>The Nordic countries, total</b>	<b>51 066</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Denmark	17 671	48	9	9	7	11	16
Sweden	23 424	22	6	8	12	25	27
<b>Wester Europe, total</b>	<b>38 642</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>
France	2 640	21	6	6	9	18	41
Netherlands	4 773	27	6	6	10	15	37
United Kingdom	10 716	39	9	7	9	12	23
Germany	13 494	26	5	4	6	18	41
<b>Eastern Europe, total</b>	<b>69 847</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>43</b>
Bosnia-Herzegovina	13 266	1	0	1	78	11	7
Lithuania	2 984	1	0	0	2	11	86
Poland	17 747	6	7	8	5	5	69
Russia	10 592	1	0	1	9	25	62
Serbia <sup>4</sup>	9 569	4	1	13	27	35	20
Ukraine	1 613	1	0	2	6	23	68
<b>Africa, total</b>	<b>39 496</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>43</b>
Eritrea	2 249	6	7	32	8	9	38
Ethiopia	2 818	3	3	11	5	34	45
Liberia	901	0	0	1	0	1	97
Marocco	4 516	22	9	21	13	20	16
Somalia	14 698	0	0	10	12	30	47
<b>Asia including Turkey, total</b>	<b>120 476</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30</b>
Afghanistan	6 520	0	1	3	1	26	69
Philippines	8 398	9	10	16	9	17	38
India	5 079	28	14	13	8	12	24
Iraq	17 246	0	0	5	11	48	36
Iran	12 308	1	4	39	12	26	19
China	4 739	9	6	19	11	13	41
Pakistan	15 752	32	14	15	9	14	16
Sri Lanka	8 115	3	10	38	18	18	14
Thailand	8 426	2	4	9	11	20	54
Turkey	9 575	18	8	23	12	18	21
Vietnam	12 409	19	19	31	14	7	11
<b>North America<sup>3</sup>, total</b>	<b>7 988</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>
USA	6 751	40	7	7	9	13	25
<b>Sout and Central America, total</b>	<b>13 093</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>
Chile	5 757	12	10	56	5	8	10
<b>Oceania, total</b>	<b>1 222</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>49</b>

<sup>1</sup> Foreign born persons with two foreign born parents.

<sup>2</sup> Mainly own country of birth, but parents country of birth if both parents have same country of birth which is different from persons country of birth.

<sup>3</sup> USA and Canada.

<sup>4</sup> Serbia Montenegro is divided between Serbia (including Kosovo) and Montenegro.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway

**Table 3. Immigrant population<sup>1</sup>, by country background<sup>2</sup> sorted by municipality. 1st January 2007.  
Absolute figures and per cent**

Municipality	Immigrant population, total		Immigrant population in per cent of total population		Per cent of immigrant population in Norway		Total population
	Total	Non-western	Total	Non-western	Total	Non-western	
<b>Total country</b>	<b>415 318</b>	<b>309 850</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4 681 134</b>
1 0301 Oslo	130 690	107 755	23.8	19.6	31.5	34.8	548 617
2 1201 Bergen	21 122	16 055	8.6	6.6	5.1	5.2	244 620
3 1103 Stavanger	14 631	9 848	12.5	8.4	3.5	3.2	117 315
4 0219 Bærum	13 050	8 281	12.2	7.7	3.1	2.7	106 932
5 1601 Trondheim	12 540	9 411	7.8	5.8	3.0	3.0	161 730
6 0602 Drammen	10 754	9 337	18.3	15.9	2.6	3.0	58 730
7 1001 Kristiansand	8 533	6 776	11.0	8.7	2.1	2.2	77 840
8 0106 Fredrikstad	6 563	5 070	9.2	7.1	1.6	1.6	71 297
9 0231 Skedsmo	6 273	5 194	14.1	11.7	1.5	1.7	44 577
10 0220 Asker	6 105	3 779	11.7	7.2	1.5	1.2	52 210
11 1102 Sandnes	5 682	4 346	9.4	7.2	1.4	1.4	60 507
12 0230 Lørenskog	4 873	4 060	15.5	12.9	1.2	1.3	31 365
13 0105 Sarpsborg	4 795	3 867	9.5	7.6	1.2	1.2	50 593
14 0806 Skien	4 613	3 732	9.1	7.4	1.1	1.2	50 696
15 1902 Tromsø	4 269	2 459	6.6	3.8	1.0	0.8	64 492
16 0104 Moss	3 568	2 838	12.5	9.9	0.9	0.9	28 633
17 0706 Sandefjord	3 554	2 580	8.5	6.2	0.9	0.8	41 897
18 0709 Larvik	3 072	2 337	7.4	5.6	0.7	0.8	41 364
19 0704 Tønsberg	2 899	2 059	7.7	5.5	0.7	0.7	37 493
20 1106 Haugesund	2 819	2 208	8.7	6.8	0.7	0.7	32 303
21 0213 Ski	2 769	2 016	10.2	7.4	0.7	0.7	27 247
22 0906 Arendal	2 713	1 922	6.8	4.8	0.7	0.6	40 057
23 0235 Ullensaker	2 618	1 880	10.1	7.2	0.6	0.6	25 966
24 0805 Porsgrunn	2 484	1 814	7.3	5.3	0.6	0.6	33 977
25 0101 Halden	2 403	1 602	8.6	5.8	0.6	0.5	27 835
26 0626 Lier	2 399	1 852	10.8	8.3	0.6	0.6	22 257
27 0625 Nedre Eiker	2 278	1 803	10.4	8.2	0.5	0.6	21 877
28 0217 Oppegård	2 217	1 455	9.2	6.1	0.5	0.5	23 993
29 1504 Ålesund	2 168	1 531	5.2	3.7	0.5	0.5	41 385
30 0502 Gjøvik	2 064	1 662	7.4	6.0	0.5	0.5	27 931
31 0701 Horten	1 977	1 418	7.9	5.7	0.5	0.5	25 011
32 0124 Askim	1 973	1 680	13.8	11.7	0.5	0.5	14 329
33 1124 Sola	1 948	1 138	9.4	5.5	0.5	0.4	20 666
34 1804 Bodø	1 928	1 411	4.2	3.1	0.5	0.5	45 575
35 0403 Hamar	1 926	1 421	6.9	5.1	0.5	0.5	27 909
36 0228 Rælingen	1 874	1 530	12.4	10.2	0.5	0.5	15 062
37 0214 Ås	1 809	1 251	12.2	8.4	0.4	0.4	14 873
38 0605 Ringerike	1 800	1 260	6.3	4.4	0.4	0.4	28 385
39 0604 Kongsberg	1 772	1 091	7.5	4.6	0.4	0.4	23 644
40 0233 Nittedal	1 761	1 161	8.8	5.8	0.4	0.4	19 968

<sup>1</sup> Persons with two foreign born parents.

<sup>2</sup> Own, mother's or father's country of birth.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4. Different definitions of refugees<sup>1</sup>, by country background and refugee status. 1 January 2007**

Country background	Total	Principal applicants	By family connection to refugee <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>125 149</b>	<b>94 863</b>	<b>30 286</b>
Rest of Western Europe, except Turkey	357	207	150
Eastern Europe	30 788	27 672	3 116
North America, Oceania	91	59	32
Afrika	25 828	18 565	7 263
South and Central America	5 364	4 240	1 124
Asia med Tyrkia	62 721	44 120	18 601
<b>Selected countries</b>			
Iraq	16 806	10 516	6 290
Somalia	13 994	9 146	4 848
Bosnia-Herzegovina	12 522	11 754	768
Iran	11 284	9 430	1 854
Vietnam	10 860	8 358	2 502
Serbia	7 968	7 089	879
Afghanistan	6 380	4 373	2 007
Sri Lanka	6 224	3 776	2 448
Chile	4 492	3 591	901
Russia	3 853	3 540	313
Ethiopia	2 260	1 602	658
Turkey	2 015	1 094	921
Eritrea	1 998	1 691	307
Croatia	1 892	1 679	213
Pakistan	1 553	899	654
Burma	1 345	1 210	135
Poland	1 192	920	272
Macedonia	1 134	911	223
Congo	1 092	968	124
Lebanon	1 023	763	260
Syria	908	583	325
Liberia	872	848	24
Burundi	806	751	55
Palestinian Territory	758	530	228
Sudan	675	555	120
Hungary	642	597	45
China	527	375	152
Ghana	427	174	253
Algeria	419	322	97
India	413	207	206
Rwanda	412	365	47
Morocco	328	147	181
Uganda	321	225	96
Colombia	318	287	31
Romania	315	202	113
Sierra Leone	290	252	38
Kenya	283	199	84
Czech Republic	276	252	24
Cambodia	272	241	31
Philippines	254	188	66
Thailand	240	128	112
Ukraine	231	162	69
Indonesia	204	193	11

<sup>1</sup> The definition "refugee" refers to persons resident in Norway, who have come to Norway because of flight (family included). Children born in Norway to refugees are not included.

<sup>2</sup> Residence or work permit granted to close family members of a foreign with legal residence in Norway. This also applies to family members of Norwegian citizens. Family reunification mainly applies to spouses and children under 18 years of age.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 5. First-time immigrations among first generation immigrants<sup>1</sup> with non-Nordic citizenship, by first citizenship and reason for immigration. 1990-2006**

	Total	Labour	Family		Refugee	Education	Other
			Family i alt	Family reunified with refugee			
<b>Total</b>	<b>283 713</b>	<b>45 736</b>	<b>122 494</b>	<b>32 790</b>	<b>81 988</b>	<b>31 906</b>	<b>1 589</b>
Europe	131 930	37 565	44 165	4 821	34 126	15 102	972
Asia	87 064	2 597	46 997	18 227	29 188	8 088	194
Africa	38 589	689	16 396	8 404	17 067	4 380	57
North and Central America	15 693	3 768	8 971	175	127	2 517	310
South America	6 427	372	4 458	780	470	1 102	25
Oceania	2 380	734	976	13	8	633	29
Statsløse	1 630	11	531	370	1 002	84	2
Non-western countries	222 430	19 586	97 730	32 497	81 807	22 821	486
Western countries <sup>1</sup>	61 283	26 150	24 764	293	181	9 085	1 103
<b>Selected countries</b>							
Iraq	18 292	17	7 321	6 958	10 948	5	1
Serbia and Montenegro <sup>2</sup>	17 227	284	2 386	1 307	14 300	245	12
Poland	16 531	10 126	5 050	191	182	1 134	39
Somalia	15 626	3	6 409	5 815	9 211	2	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14 710	79	1 203	944	13 357	64	7
Germany	14 269	7 138	4 082	48	19	2 763	267
Russia	12 749	778	6 411	585	3 443	2 055	62
Great Britain	12 648	6 398	5 472	44	30	522	226
USA	11 239	3 149	6 065	48	56	1 708	261
Iran	8 777	82	2 714	2 148	5 850	129	2
Thailand	8 162	39	7 702	101	95	309	17
Pakistan	7 433	101	6 596	697	386	278	72
Philippines	6 844	381	4 341	64	156	1 938	28
Afghanistan	6 424	2	2 212	2 094	4 204	5	1
Turkey	6 219	142	5 436	856	409	199	33
Vietnam	6 088	44	3 498	2 210	2 334	203	9
Sri Lanka	5 948	58	3 733	2 505	1 749	400	8
China	5 464	530	2 359	161	303	2 257	15
Netherlands	5 411	2 406	2 443	34	10	447	105
France	5 057	2 266	2 015	25	16	715	45
Lithuania	3 767	1 864	1 000	20	9	889	5
Ethiopia	3 539	30	1 219	831	1 640	646	4
India	3 433	606	2 136	193	86	588	17
Morocco	2 624	23	2 410	179	82	88	21
Romania	2 225	223	1 019	98	231	746	6
Croatia	2 082	109	472	202	1 434	65	2
Brazil	2 031	165	1 476	11	14	370	6
Italy	1 987	937	549	9	8	455	38
Canada	1 955	495	1 051	.	2	372	35
Ghana	1 909	29	978	243	35	863	4
Australia	1 844	625	728	13	4	460	27
Spain	1 800	634	522	10	11	604	29

<sup>1</sup> Foreign born with two foreign born parents.

<sup>2</sup> Serbia and Montenegro was divided 1 November 2006 but is together in this table.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 6. Pupils in upper secondary education<sup>1</sup>, by immigration category and sex. Per cent of registered cohort, 16-18 years. 2000-2006**

	Total pupil population			First generation immigrants			Descendants		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
2000	89.0	88.3	89.8	63.7	61.6	66.1	82.1	81.9	82.3
2001	89.1	88.4	89.9	68.0	66.4	69.7	82.2	83.2	81.1
2002	89.6	88.9	90.2	66.2	64.3	68.2	84.8	85.2	84.3
2003	89.9	89.2	90.6	68.4	66.8	70.2	86.5	85.7	87.3
2004	89.8	89.2	90.5	69.1	67.9	70.5	86.7	85.8	87.6
2005	90.2	89.7	90.7	70.6	69.6	71.8	87.9	87.7	88.1
2006	91.5	91.1	92.0	70.8	70.3	71.4	88.4	88.1	88.8

<sup>1</sup> Pupils and apprentices under the Upper Secondary Education Act.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 7. Immigrants who started a basic course for the first time in 2000 and 2001, by completed upper secondary education within five years, gender and country background. Per cent**

Gender and country background	2000					
	Total	Completed according to normativ length of study <sup>1</sup>		Did not complete general or vocational education		
		Completed according to normativ length of study	Completed beyond normativ length of study	Still in upper secondary education 2005	Completed final year but failed examinations	Dropped out before or within final year
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 345</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>
Europe except for Turkey	899	47	12	5	8	28
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania	1 777	46	13	6	10	24
Africa	492	30	14	8	10	38
South and Central America	160	35	13	11	8	34
North America	17	41	12	12	-	35
<b>Men</b>	<b>1 747</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35</b>
Europe except for Turkey	468	40	12	5	10	34
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania	907	38	13	7	11	32
Africa	278	24	13	9	11	43
South and Central America	85	27	15	9	8	40
North America	9	33	-	11	-	56
<b>Women</b>	<b>1 598</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>
Europe except for Turkey	431	55	12	4	6	22
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania	870	56	13	4	10	17
Africa	214	37	17	6	9	30
South and Central America	75	44	9	12	7	28
North America	8	50	25	13	-	13

Gender and country background	2001					
	Total	Completed according to normativ length of study <sup>1</sup>		Did not complete general or vocational education		
		Completed according to normativ length of study	Completed beyond normativ length of study	Still in upper secondary education 2005	Completed final year but failed examinations	Dropped out before or within final year
<b>Total</b>	<b>3643</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>
Europe except for Turkey	922	52	9	5	7	26
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania	1974	44	11	6	11	27
Africa	548	33	10	8	10	38
South and Central America	172	37	12	5	13	33
North America	27	26	4	4	11	56
<b>Men</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>
Europe except for Turkey	442	48	10	5	8	30
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania	1083	37	9	8	12	34
Africa	295	24	8	9	10	48
South and Central America	78	31	10	4	14	41
North America	11	9	-	9	18	64
<b>Women</b>	<b>1734</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>
Europe except for Turkey	480	57	9	5	7	23
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania	891	53	12	4	11	20
Africa	253	44	12	7	11	26
South and Central America	94	43	13	6	13	26
North America	16	38	6	-	6	50

<sup>1</sup> Completed education means that the pupil/apprentice has passed all examinations and eligible for high school  
Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 8. Students in tertiary education<sup>1</sup> as a per cent of registered cohort (19-24 years), by immigration category and sex. 1997-2006**

	Total student population			First generation immigrants			Decendants		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1997	28.2	23.6	32.9	13.0	13.5	12.6	25.5	23.0	28.2
1998	28.7	23.6	33.9	13.1	12.8	13.4	24.6	22.0	27.3
1999	29.7	24.4	35.1	14.4	13.9	14.9	27.6	24.3	31.1
2000	28.3	23.0	33.9	13.7	12.2	14.9	25.9	22.6	29.4
2001	27.7	22.1	33.4	14.4	13.0	15.5	25.1	21.4	28.9
2002	30.1	24.5	36.0	14.9	13.7	15.9	31.5	27.9	35.4
2003	30.3	24.7	36.2	16.7	15.4	17.9	32.7	28.8	36.8
2004	30.3	24.7	36.1	17.2	15.4	18.6	32.2	28.7	36.1
2005	30.9	25.3	36.8	18.4	16.3	20.3	33.3	29.2	37.8
2006	30.6	24.6	36.8	18.8	16.5	20.9	33.9	29.1	38.8

<sup>1</sup> Doctorate students are not included.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 9. Employed, by immigrant background, region of birth and sex. Q42005 and Q42006. Absolute figures and per cent of persons aged 15-74 years**

	2005			2006			Change 2005-2006		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Males
<i>Absolute figures</i>									
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2 308 000</b>	<b>1 217 646</b>	<b>1 090 354</b>	<b>2 389 000</b>	<b>1 263 091</b>	<b>1 125 909</b>	<b>81 000</b>	<b>45 445</b>	<b>35 555</b>
<b>First generation immigrants, total</b>	<b>159 792</b>	<b>85 361</b>	<b>74 431</b>	<b>181 444</b>	<b>98 728</b>	<b>82 716</b>	<b>21 652</b>	<b>13 367</b>	<b>8 285</b>
The Nordic countries	32 302	15 900	16 402	33 497	16 653	16 844	1 195	753	442
Western Europe else	21 477	13 150	8 327	23 920	14 789	9 131	2 443	1 639	804
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	10 310	5 076	5 234	16 171	9 772	6 399	5 861	4 696	1 165
Eastern Europe else	20 231	9 506	10 725	22 864	10 612	12 252	2 633	1 106	1 527
North America and Oceania	4 166	2 218	1 948	4 530	2 416	2 114	364	198	166
Asia including Yurkey	51 525	28 097	23 428	57 784	31 353	26 431	6 259	3 256	3 003
Africa	12 872	8 048	4 824	15 030	9 474	5 556	2 158	1 426	732
South and Central America	6 909	3 366	3 543	7 648	3 659	3 989	739	293	446
<b>Norwegian born to foreign born parents, total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>8 756</b>	<b>4 619</b>	<b>4 137</b>	<b>10 218</b>	<b>5 397</b>	<b>4 821</b>	<b>1 462</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>684</b>
The Nordic countries	1 140	592	548	1 199	635	564	59	43	16
Western Europe else	749	418	331	819	457	362	70	39	31
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	535	277	258	569	305	264	34	28	6
Eastern Europe else	480	223	257	567	266	301	87	43	44
North America and Oceania	111	56	55	126	60	66	15	4	11
Asia including Turkey	4 900	2 642	2 258	5 908	3 161	2 747	1 008	519	489
Africa	644	315	329	768	375	393	124	60	64
South and Central America	197	96	101	262	138	124	65	42	23
<i>Per cent</i>									
<b>Total population</b>	<b>68.5</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>First generation immigrants, total</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>
The Nordic countries	72.1	74.3	70.2	73.5	75.8	71.3	1.4	1.5	1.1
Western Europe else	68.4	73.9	61.3	70.9	76.3	63.6	2.5	2.4	2.3
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	68.4	73.6	64.1	71.3	76.2	65.0	2.9	2.6	0.9
Eastern Europe else	55.6	59.3	52.6	59.2	62.9	56.3	3.6	3.6	3.7
North America and Oceania	58.2	64.3	52.5	61.1	67.1	55.4	2.9	2.8	2.9
Asia including Yurkey	50.3	56.8	44.3	53.3	60.4	46.8	3.0	3.6	2.5
Africa	41.5	46.2	35.4	45.2	51.3	37.5	3.7	5.1	2.1
South and Central America	59.9	66.5	54.8	62.6	69.4	57.4	2.7	2.9	2.6
<b>Norwegian born to foreign born parents, total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>
The Nordic countries	71.1	71.8	70.3	72.1	73.6	70.6	1.0	1.8	0.3
Western Europe else	63.8	66.0	61.2	67.7	70.2	64.8	3.9	4.2	3.6
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	63.8	63.7	63.9	64.0	67.2	60.7	0.2	3.5	-3.2
Eastern Europe else	57.8	57.2	58.4	60.4	59.0	61.7	2.6	1.8	3.3
North America and Oceania	59.4	65.9	53.9	65.3	67.4	63.5	5.9	1.5	9.6
Asia including Turkey	47.4	49.7	45.0	50.2	52.2	48.0	2.8	2.5	3.0
Africa	47.2	45.1	49.5	47.1	45.2	49.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.4
South and Central America	32.9	30.6	35.4	37.1	37.8	36.3	4.2	7.2	0.9

<sup>1</sup> By mothers native country.

Source: Labour market statistics, Statistics Norway

**Table 10. Employed first generation immigrants by region of birth and years of residence in Norway. Absolute figures and in per cent of persons aged 15-74 years in each group. Q42006**

	Total	The Nordic countries	Western Europe else	New EU countries in Eastern Europe	Eastern Europe else	North America and Oceania	Asia including Turkey	Africa	South and Central America
<i>Absolute figures</i>									
<b>Total</b>	<b>181 444</b>	<b>33 497</b>	<b>23 920</b>	<b>16 171</b>	<b>22 864</b>	<b>4 530</b>	<b>57 784</b>	<b>15 030</b>	<b>7 648</b>
Less than 4 years	40 448	6 181	6 262	10 082	3 845	983	8 476	3 355	1 264
4 until 7 years	25 603	3 792	2 931	1 375	3 514	515	9 572	2 991	913
7 until 10 years	21 044	4 887	2 522	723	3 574	441	6 146	2 103	648
10 until 15 years	26 685	4 259	2 387	924	9 096	585	7 007	1 787	640
15 years or more	67 664	14 378	9 818	3 067	2 835	2 006	26 583	4 794	4 183
<i>Per cent</i>									
Less than 4 years	53.4	75.6	69.4	73.3	46.0	49.1	38.5	34.5	48.2
4 until 7 years	60.3	79.5	78.1	75.4	63.9	64.1	53.4	46.6	63.7
7 until 10 years	63.1	80.4	80.2	75.7	62.3	65.8	53.7	48.3	67.4
10 until 15 years	64.6	81.0	79.7	71.4	64.2	73.1	57.7	48.3	68.4
15 years or more	62.0	67.5	66.3	63.5	58.2	63.8	59.3	52.9	66.8

Source: Labour market statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 11. Employed by immigrant background, region of birth and age. Q42006. Per cent of persons in total and in absolute figures**

	Total	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30 years and more
<i>Absolute figures</i>					
<b>Total population</b>	<b>2 389 000</b>	<b>114 374</b>	<b>203 132</b>	<b>230 621</b>	<b>1 840 873</b>
First generation immigrants, total	181 444	4 472	15 487	24 872	136 613
The Nordic countries	33 497	394	1 934	3 810	27 359
Western Europe else	23 920	171	638	2 175	20 936
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	16 171	159	1 360	3 252	11 400
Eastern Europe else	22 864	1 186	2 772	3 401	15 505
North America and Oceania	4 530	15	122	447	3 946
Asia including Turkey	57 784	1 933	6 094	8 355	41 402
Africa	15 030	473	1 866	2 295	10 396
South and Central America	7 648	141	701	1 137	5 669
Norwegian born by foreign born parents, total <sup>1</sup>	10 218	2 398	3 061	2 241	2 518
The Nordic countries	1 199	105	129	149	816
Western Europe else	819	69	127	97	526
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	569	65	82	53	369
Eastern Europe else	567	119	105	142	201
North America and Oceania	126	13	16	14	83
Asia including Turkey	5 908	1 679	2 247	1 527	455
Africa	768	227	297	196	48
South and Central America	262	121	58	63	20
<i>Per cent</i>					
<b>Total population</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>72.5</b>
First generation immigrants, total	60.1	26.2	56.4	63.2	62.7
The Nordic countries	73.5	35.7	73.9	81.2	73.6
Western Europe else	70.9	24.2	51.0	77.5	72.3
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	71.3	26.5	68.0	73.9	72.8
Eastern Europe else	59.2	30.6	60.3	65.6	62.1
North America and Oceania	61.1	8.0	33.7	62.0	64.2
Asia including Turkey	53.3	26.6	53.7	56.3	55.3
Africa	45.2	16.9	45.7	46.5	48.5
South and Central America	62.6	26.1	59.1	63.4	65.2
Norwegian born by foreign born parents, total <sup>1</sup>	53.8	29.0	68.7	72.3	79.3
The Nordic countries	72.1	37.2	67.5	74.9	82.4
Western Europe else	67.7	27.8	67.9	71.9	82.2
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	64.0	30.4	57.3	67.1	81.5
Eastern Europe else	60.4	31.2	75.5	84.5	80.1
North America and Oceania	65.3	30.2	64.0	73.7	78.3
Asia including Turkey	50.2	29.3	69.1	70.9	70.4
Africa	47.1	25.8	70.7	74.2	73.8
South and Central America	37.1	24.0	60.4	78.8	76.9

<sup>1</sup> By mothers native country.

Source: Labour market statistics, Statistics Norway

**Table 12. Registered unemployed with immigrant background by region of birth, aged 16-74 year. Absolute figures and in per cent of the labour force. By 4th quarter 1999-2006**

	Registered unemployed, total	Registered unemployed first-generation immigrants								
		Total	Nordic countries	Western Europe else	EU-countries in Easter Europe	Easter Europe else	North America and Oceania	Asia inclusive Turkey	Africa	South and Central America
1999	55 761	8 575	870	621		1 796	146	3 553	1 158	429
2000	58 027	9 411	913	617		1 846	138	4 031	1 376	490
2001	64 112	10 486	965	662		2 071	152	4 597	1 560	479
2002	77 706	13 114	1 243	860		2 455	179	5 760	2 006	611
2003	87 349	15 239	1 492	995		2 746	243	6 670	2 344	749
2004	83 616	15 328	1 412	932		2 799	200	6 760	2 503	722
2005	72 342	14 274	760	407		2 704	190	6 379	2 483	667
2006	50 236	11 218	754	550	387	772	59	2 566	1 433	229
1999	2.4	6.6	2.5	3.3		9.5	3.5	9.1	12.2	7.7
2000	2.5	6.7	2.7	3.2		8.5	3.5	9.2	12.4	8.0
2001	2.7	7.1	2.9	3.4		8.8	3.9	9.6	13.1	7.4
2002	3.3	8.6	3.7	4.3		9.7	4.4	11.5	15.8	9.1
2003	3.7	9.6	4.4	4.8		10.2	6.0	12.7	17.4	10.8
2004	3.5	9.3	4.2	4.4		9.6	4.8	12.4	17.7	10.2
2005	3.0	8.4	3.3	3.5		8.4	4.6	11.2	16.7	9.0
2006	3.0	8.3	3.3	3.4	4.1	10.1	4.5	11.1	16.5	9.0

Source: Labour market statistics, Statistics Norway

**Table 13. Persons entitled to vote of immigrant population at the municipal council and county council election 2007, by age, sex and country background**

	Total	18-29 years		30-39 years		40-49 years		50-59 years		60 years and older	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
<b>The whole country</b>	<b>276 950</b>	<b>29 826</b>	<b>31 831</b>	<b>32 637</b>	<b>37 563</b>	<b>34 023</b>	<b>31 346</b>	<b>20 896</b>	<b>19 203</b>	<b>17 758</b>	<b>21 867</b>
Other Nordic countries	49 615	3 176	3 810	5 501	5 424	5 198	5 258	4 358	3 985	5 174	7 731
Other European countries	85 077	7 731	8 787	9 446	10 718	9 811	9 770	7 223	6 664	6 729	8 198
Africa	29 109	4 282	4 119	4 618	4 525	4 771	2 621	1 828	864	913	568
Asia	94 694	13 245	13 430	11 349	14 622	12 130	11 342	5 941	6 029	3 432	3 174
North and Central America	8 396	311	507	694	982	814	999	643	808	1 032	1 606
South America	9 290	1 049	1 143	866	1 215	1 187	1 289	839	797	428	477
Oceania	769	32	35	163	77	112	67	64	56	50	113

Source: Election statistics, Statistics Norway.