

# **Immigration and immigrants 2006**

*Bjørn Mathisen (ed.)*

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# Preface

The purpose of this publication is to present updated figures on immigrants and immigration to Norway. Time series that illustrate the development within some aspects of living conditions are presented, and updated with the most recent figures where possible. An attempt will be made to update the publication every year; every second year as a paper publication and as a web publication in the intervening years. The previous publication was SA 67 (Tronstad 2004), updated on the Internet: [http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/sa\\_innvand\\_en/sa67/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/sa_innvand_en/sa67/)

Data are mainly gathered from administrative registers at Statistics Norway, but also from sample surveys. This is explained in each chapter. Various divisions in Statistics Norway produce the statistics. The statistics on refugees are partially based on data from the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI).

Bjørn Mathisen has been the editor of the English edition of this publication on immigration and immigrants. Gunnlaug Daugstad, co-ordinator for immigrant-related statistics, was the editor of the preceding Norwegian language edition. Lars Østby, Vebjørn Aalandslid and Kristian Rose Tronstad provided valuable input throughout the process. Tanja Seland Forgaard and Minja Tea Dzamarija wrote the chapter on the immigrant population, and Trude Fjeldseth the chapter on education. Bjørn Olsen wrote the chapter on immigrants and the labour market, and Siv Irene Pedersen the chapter on income. The chapter on electoral turnout was written by Kristin Henriksen and Vebjørn Aalandslid, and Svein Blom wrote the chapter on attitudes towards immigrants. Some figures have been collected from previously published statistics on immigration and immigrants, and from text that has previously been published on the Internet under Today's statistics. The rest of the publication has been written and/or edited by Gunnlaug Daugstad. Liv G. Hansen has compiled the figures.

Emphasis has been put on presenting key figures, and for the content to be easily accessible with clearly set out tables and figures.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has sponsored the publication.

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Oslo/Kongsvinger, April 2007

Øystein Olsen



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*Gunnlaug Daugstad*

# 1. Introduction

This publication is about immigration to Norway and immigrants' living conditions in Norway, and follows on from similar publications in 2002 (Lie) and 2004 (Tronstad). When presenting publications about the immigrant population in Norway, it is very important to bear in mind that it is probably the most heterogenic group in the social statistics. By the beginning of 2006, the immigrant population consisted of people with backgrounds from 208 different states and self-governing regions. When discussing immigrants and their living conditions it is often the negative aspects that are focussed on. In the population as a whole, living conditions vary with age, sex, and level of education, but for immigrants living conditions are further complicated by other circumstances such as length of stay in Norway, country of origin and immigrant background. It is therefore important to clarify these differences in the statistics as far as is possible.

## **Why focus on immigrants?**

Statistics on immigrants can give us an idea of whether or not there are differences between immigrants and the rest of the Norwegian population. Statistics Norway believes it is important to describe and understand the development in

living conditions and differences in living conditions between relevant groups (Østby 2006). Immigrants from different parts of the world have living conditions that differ between groups, and are sometimes poorer than living conditions in the population as a whole (Østby 2006b). Statistics on immigrants compared with the population as a whole, can therefore pinpoint the immigrants' situation in the Norwegian society, and whether the situation changes during time. If there are no longer significant differences in living conditions between immigrants and the rest of the population, the reason for compiling specific statistics on immigrants will probably no longer apply.

There are several reasons why it is important to have knowledge of the immigrants' situation in Norway: lack of knowledge can give rise to unfounded opinions and false presumptions in public debates on immigration issues, more knowledge of the immigrants' background and living conditions can bring about a greater understanding between immigrants and other Norwegians. A solid base of knowledge is also important for politicians who have to make important decisions that are of concern to immigrants and on the magnitude of immigration to Norway.

### Statistics are simplifications

Many people highlight the need to focus on immigrants as individuals and argue that this focus becomes even more important when the immigrants have lived in Norway for a long time. This is a reasonable point of view, but when it comes to statistics this cannot be the guide. In this analysis we have to be able to categorise into different groups, and these groups should be mutually exclusive. Statistics simplify presentations of individuals by groups.

We should always be aware of how results of statistics are presented. Misuse of statistics *can* be stigmatising, and it is often forgotten that it is the actions of individuals we are collectively describing.

### Immigrant population = persons with two foreign-born parents

Statistics Norway currently defines the *immigrant population* as persons with two foreign-born parents, and this group will be in focus in this publication. The immigrant population can thus analytically be divided into two groups: first-generation immigrants and persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents. First-generation immigrants are, according to our definition, persons born abroad with two foreign-born parents. Persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents are now often called descendants (White paper no. 49 (2003-2004)). In this publication, the term descendants, when used, means persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents.

### How many immigrants are there in Norway?

There are different ways of defining the immigrant population. The delimitation of a group will vary according to the

purpose of the definition. There is no ideal definition that suits all purposes. Different definitions and delimitations will give different statistical results. It is important to know the delimitation in order to understand what forms the basis for the generalisation.

In this publication, we focus on the immigrant population as defined above. By 1 January 2006, there were 387 000 persons in the immigrant population. The majority (319 000) were first-generation immigrants, and 68 000 were descendants (table 1.1.). As a whole, the immigrant population made up 8.3 per cent of the whole population by the beginning of 2006, and two thirds had backgrounds from a non-western country.

Table 1.1 gives an overview of the population according to different delimitations on citizenship and immigrant background. If we also look at persons with what is defined as an immigration background, the total is 629 000 persons, or 13.5 per cent of the whole population. The largest group of persons with other immigration backgrounds is those who are born in Norway with one foreign-born parent, about 180 000 persons. If we let the country background be decided by the foreign-born parent, about 70 per cent have a background from a western country.

By 1 January 2004, there were about 200 000 foreign citizens in Norway. If citizenship is used as a criterion, persons with foreign backgrounds who have become Norwegian citizens will not be included.

By 1 January 2006, there were about 380 000 persons who were born abroad, but more than 34 500 of these were

**Table 1.1. Different delimitations of persons with immigrant background/foreign background, by citizenship and immigrant category. 1 January 2006**

	Persons with immigrant background	Foreign citizens	Foreign born
<b>Total population: 4 640 219</b>			
<b>Immigrant population</b>			
First-generation immigrants .....	318 514	193 461	318 514
Persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents .....	68 185	13 100	-
Immigrant population, total .....	386 699	206 561	318 514
<b>Persons with other immigrant background</b>			
Foreign born with one parent born in Norway .....	27 295	3 769	27 295
Born in Norway with one foreign-born parent .....	180 107	9 674	
Born abroad with one foreign-born parent <sup>1</sup> .....	34 558	540	34 558
Persons with other immigrant background, total .....	241 960	13 983	61 853
Persons with immigrant background, total .....	628 659	220 544	380 367

<sup>1</sup> Category also contains those who were adopted abroad.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

adopted by or born abroad to two Norwegian-born parents. In addition, 27 000 of the persons born abroad had one Norwegian-born parent.

### **Terminology is regularly reviewed**

Society and the demography of the population change over time, as do terminology, meaning, and the need for statistics on different groups. Statistics Norway reviews the terminology and categorisations from time to time. More extensive revisions are also carried out from time to time. Statistics Norway endeavours to be as non-biased in its presentations of data as possible. The standard for immigrant categories was adopted in 1994 (Statistics Norway 1994) and some revisions were undertaken in 2000.

### **Should we produce statistics on immigrants' descendants and include them in the immigrant population?**

In many cases it is not relevant to view first-generation immigrants and their descendants (persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents) as a

whole. It is, after all, only first-generation immigrants that have immigrated to Norway, and their descendants do not necessarily differ from other persons born in Norway in any significant way. For many reasons it is therefore more appropriate to look at these groups separately, and where this has been possible and practical, we have done so in this publication. Descendants were included in the immigrant population because there was a need to focus particularly on this group with regard to integration, and to see if this group follows the pattern of first-generation immigrants or the population at large.

Descendants are, however, still young and not a relevant group in all regards. By 1 January 2006, 86 per cent (58 000) of them were still below 20 years of age. In this publication, we will focus on descendants at some central arenas. For instance, non-western descendants at the age of 20-24 years have an employment level of 66.5 per cent, only 5 percentage points lower than young persons at the same age in the rest of the population,

but nearly 17 percentage points higher than for first-generation immigrants at the same age.

### **Country background**

Statistics Norway makes categorisations on the basis of country background. In this publication, we have chosen to focus on groups with different country backgrounds. Statistics Norway does not gather information on ethnicity, race or colour, or on whether persons in any other physical way differ from the majority of the population. Neither do we produce statistics based on such categorisations.

When distinctions between people with different country backgrounds are taken into consideration, significant differences are often found in living conditions between such groups. This has to do with differences in length of stay, the fact that people come from different societies under different circumstances, and have different preconditions for coping in the Norwegian society. It is necessary, however, to stress that such categorisations also represent a generalisation. A housewife in a little village in Norway might have just as much in common with a woman the same age from the USA as with a teenage girl in Oslo.

For some purposes, countries of origin are lumped together into larger groups. Immigrants from the Nordic countries are often looked upon as a separate group. Despite political changes, Europe is divided into east and west due to the fact that the distinction still has relevance when it comes to immigration issues. The terms western and non-western are used for geographical and substantial categorisations. Nordic countries, West Europe (except Turkey), North America and

Oceania are considered western countries, whereas East Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America and Turkey are considered to be non-western. Turkey and Asia are grouped together as the migration flows between Norway and Turkey do not follow a West European pattern in a demographic perspective. The USA and Canada form one group and in some cases Oceania, which basically consists of Australia and New Zealand, is grouped together with North America. Rough categorisations such as these are not appropriate if the differences within the group are larger than those between the groups.

### **Persons with refugee backgrounds**

While some immigrants have come to Norway for employment reasons or as family members of such immigrants, others are refugees. Persons with refugee backgrounds are included in the statistics for the immigrant population, and defined as first-generation immigrants. However, sometimes it is relevant to look at persons with refugee backgrounds as a separate group. Many refugees seem to have significantly worse living conditions than the rest of the population, especially if they have stayed in Norway for only a short time. This makes it particularly important to follow the development over time.

The definition of refugee varies. Statistics Norway uses the term when referring to people born in a foreign country who have fled to Norway and have been permitted to stay in the country as a refugee or on humanitarian grounds. Family members that later have been reunited with refugees in Norway are also regarded as refugees. Asylum seekers are not included until they are granted

permission to stay and are Norwegian residents.

Some of the statistics on persons with refugee background are collected from publications by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI). There may be slight discrepancies in the figures from Statistics Norway and UDI because of the methodology applied. Statistics Norway updates the information by linking it to files from the National Population Register.

### Choice of statistics in this publication

In this publication we have emphasised the possibility of comparing information on immigrants from year to year, with

regularly produced statistics as a starting point. This is done to be able to follow the development on different aspects of living conditions over time. Some aspects, such as health and living conditions, are analysed through special surveys on living conditions, which are carried out less frequently. The results of these surveys are presented in separate reports published by Statistics Norway (see for example Blom 1998). A new special survey on living conditions in the ten largest immigrant groups is being carried out in 2006/2007, and the first results are expected to be published by the end of 2007.

We have as far as possible used the most recent figures available, however inter-

### Concepts and definitions

**First-generation immigrants:** persons born abroad with two foreign-born parents. First-generation immigrants immigrated to Norway at some point.

**Persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents:** persons born in Norway with two parents born abroad, and in addition have four grandparents born abroad.

**Immigrant population:** the sum of the two preceding groups, and includes persons who have two foreign-born parents, or more precisely persons who neither have parents nor grandparents born in Norway. The immigrant population thus covers first-generation immigrants and persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents.

**Persons with immigrant background:** covers a larger group than the immigrant population. The following classifications are used for persons with immigrant backgrounds:

- First-generation immigrants with no Norwegian background
- Persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents
- Persons born abroad with one Norwegian-born parent
- Persons born in Norway with one foreign-born parent
- Persons born abroad with Norwegian-born parents

**Immigration category:** refers to various delimitations of persons without/with an immigrant background. «Persons without immigrant background» is a group in addition to the groups listed under «Persons with immigrant background».

**Country of birth:** mainly the mother's place of residence at the time of the birth of the child.

**Country background:** the person's own, their mother's or possibly their father's country of birth. Persons without an immigrant background only have Norway as their national background. When both parents are born abroad they are in most cases born in the same country. In cases where the parents have different countries of birth the mother's country of birth is chosen.

vals and time of data collection vary. Labour market statistics are produced quarterly, and other areas, such as education and income, are updated annually.

In some chapters we have focused on persons with refugee backgrounds as a separate category, but not in all. Descendants are so young that they are not relevant for analysis in all cases.

At the beginning of 1990, the immigrant population consisted of equal parts of persons with western and non-western backgrounds; today three out of four have a non-western background. In chapter two, we describe some demographic aspects of groups of immigrants, such as first-generation, descendants, and persons with refugee backgrounds. It is important to look at the composition with regard to sex, age, country of origin, length of stay in Norway, reason for immigration, where in the country they live etc. We do also describe demographic changes with special focus on changes in the immigrant population. This includes figures on immigration and emigration, naturalisation and changes in marital status in the immigrant population. The last part of the chapter includes figures on persons with refugee backgrounds and asylum seekers.

There are differences in the educational level in the immigrant population, and the one with higher education has more education than average in the Norwegian population. The education of 27 per cent of the immigrant population between the ages of 30 and 44 years is unknown because this is not something that is collected systematically for immigrants who immigrated as adults. However, we do know a lot about immigrants' paths through the education system, which is

covered in chapter three. We look at language stimulation at kindergarten, language at primary school and immigrants' educational activity and completing of tertiary schooling and higher education. The chapter will show that there are large differences between first-generation immigrants and descendants.

The labour market is probably the most important arena of integration of immigrants. In chapter four, the employment and unemployment for the last five years are described. The unemployment among non-western immigrants is higher than for the population as a whole. However, there is an increasing number of employed immigrants, and the majority have backgrounds from a non-western country. Primarily, we look at figures for first-generation immigrants. We do also look at non-western descendants separately to some extent, for whom the employment rate in most age groups is almost the same as for the rest of the population. Further we look at employment by country background and trade, and employment of persons with refugee backgrounds. The employment rates among refugees are generally lower than immigrants who have not come as refugees.

Since a lot of those with immigrant backgrounds are unemployed, their income is generally lower than for the population in general. Immigrants with non-western backgrounds are three times more likely to be in the low-income group compared with the population as a whole. There is a clear connection between duration of stay and financial independence. In chapter five we first look at some economic indicators based on The Income and Property Survey for Households. Indicators are given for non-western immigrants as a whole, and with refugees



singled out as one group. The chapter is concluded with register data based on the income of western immigrants and the total population in order to show differences in income levels and types for immigrants by some family categories, and by country of origin.

Further in chapter six we describe electoral participation among Norwegian citizens with immigrant backgrounds in the general election in 2005, with some comparisons with other Storting elections. The electoral participation in the immigrant population is considerably lower than the participation in the whole population, but there are large differences concerning country background, gender and age in the immigrant population. The participation among immigrants with western country backgrounds was 76 per cent in 2001, and for non-western immigrants 49 per cent. The differences are due to the fact that non-western immigrants are younger and have shorter times of stay in Norway than the immigrants with western backgrounds.

In chapter seven, we describe the attitudes towards immigrants and immigration during 1993-2005, with some comparisons to other European countries. The change in attitudes towards immigration and immigrants during the period is probably affected by economical fluctuations in business cycles, the number of refugees seeking residence permits in Norway, to what extent the official refugee policy appears humane and just in the eyes of the public, and the image created by the refugees themselves as a result of their own conduct. Compared to attitudes in other European countries, the opinion in Norway is generally more liberal or tolerant. The notion that immigration contributes to an increase in

crime is however more common in Norway than in other European countries, and the Norwegian population are generally more negative towards cross-cultural marriages than the population in many other European countries.

For an overview of immigrant-related statistics published by Statistics Norway, see chapter 8.



*Tanja Seland Forgaard and Minja Tea Dzamarija*

## 2. Immigrant population

### 2.1. Population structure

- At the beginning of 2006, the immigrant population in Norway totalled 387 000; 8.4 per cent of the total population.
- Three out of four persons with immigrant backgrounds had backgrounds from a non-western country. The non-western immigrant population made up 6.1 per cent of the total population.
- The largest groups in the immigrant population were persons with backgrounds from Pakistan, Sweden, Iraq and Denmark.
- Three out of four in the immigrant population are below 20 years of age, while one out of five in the entire population were in this age group. There are large differences within the immigrant population.
- 47 per cent of the immigrant population are Norwegian citizens.
- Every fourth citizen in Oslo has an immigrant background, and one third of the immigrant population lives in Oslo.
- 36 per cent of the non-western immigrant population live in Oslo. If Akershus is included, 46 per cent live in the area.
- First-generation immigrants totalled 318 500; 6.9 per cent of the total population.
- Two out of three first-generation immigrants come from a non-western country.
- The largest groups of first-generation immigrants are Swedes, Vietnamese, Pakistanis and Danes.
- First-generation immigrants from western countries have a generally longer time of residence in Norway than those from non-western countries.
- One third of the first-generation immigrants from non-western countries have lived in Norway less than five years, but there are large differences. For example, 80 per cent of all Afghans have lived in Norway less than five years, while 31 per cent of those from Pakistan have lived in the country more than 25 years.
- Persons born in Norway of two foreign-born parents (descendants) totalled 68 200; 1.5 per cent of the population.
- Nine out of ten descendants had parents from a non-western country.
- Three out of four descendants are below 15 years of age, and only four per cent are 30 years or older.

- There is a majority of descendants in Norway with parents from Pakistan, Vietnam, Turkey; Sri Lanka and Somalia.
- Where those with other immigrant background are included, such as those with one Norwegian and one foreign-born parent, adopted abroad and persons born abroad of Norwegian-born parents, the figure is 628 700, or almost 14 per cent of the population.

### **8.3 per cent of Norway's population have immigrant backgrounds**

At the beginning of 1970, the immigrant population in Norway totalled 59 000, which was about 1.5 per cent of the population. At the beginning of 2006, the number had increased to 387 000; 8.3 per cent of the population. Persons with non-western immigrant backgrounds made up 6.1 per cent of the population (table 2.1.3 and figure 2.1.1).

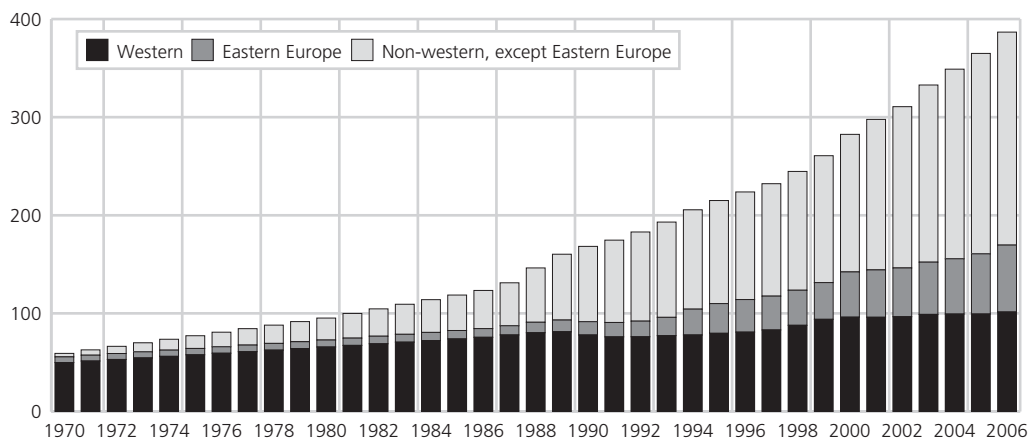
The structure of the immigrant population has changed a lot since 1970. The western immigrant population has increa-

sed from about 50 000 in 1970 to 101 000 in 2006, while the non-western immigrant population increased from 9 000 in 1970 to almost 285 000 in 2006. In 1970, people of non-western origin counted for 16 per cent of the immigrant population, while in 2006 the figure was 74 per cent.

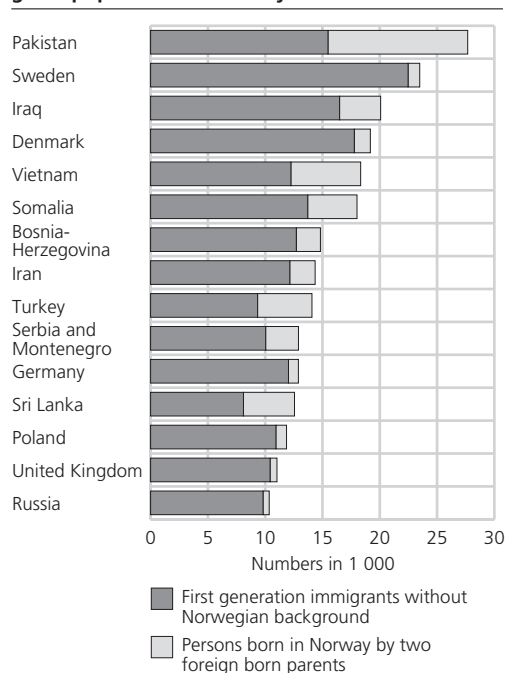
At the beginning of 2006, 40 per cent of the people in the immigrant population had Asian backgrounds, making these the largest group. Then followed persons with backgrounds from Eastern Europe (18 per cent), The Nordic countries (14 per cent), Africa (12 per cent) and Western Europe (10 per cent), see table 2.1.2. A total of 15 single groups consisted of more than 10 000 persons at the beginning of 2006. Persons with Pakistani immigrant backgrounds still make up the largest group with 27 000 persons, followed by persons with backgrounds from Sweden (23 500), Iraq (20 000) and Denmark (19 100), see table 2.1.1 and figure 2.1.2. Danes have for several years made up the third largest immigrant

**Figure 2.1.1. The immigrant population, by country background. 1970-2006**

Numbers in 1 000



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Figure 2.1.2. The 15 largest groups in the immigrant population. 1 January 2006**

Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

group in Norway, but this year Iraqis made up a larger group. There has been a large increase in the number of people with backgrounds from Iraq in recent years.

### **1 in 6 born in Norway**

A total of 318 500 of persons in the immigrant population are first-generation immigrants who have immigrated to Norway, while 68 200 persons are born in Norway of two foreign-born parents (herein referred to as descendants). This means that every sixth person in the immigrant population is born in Norway. Approximately one out of three first-generation immigrants come from a western country. At the beginning of 2006, most first-generation immigrants living in Norway came from Sweden (22 500), Denmark (17 800), Iraq

(16 500) and Pakistan (15 500). The number of Iraqis has increased the most in the past five years.

Persons with parents born in Pakistan formed the largest group of descendants with 12 200, an increase of 800 in two years. Descendants with parents from Vietnam made up the second largest group with 6 100, followed by those with parents from Turkey, Sri Lanka and Somalia. Descendants with parents from Sweden and Denmark totalled 1 000 and 1 400 respectively. There are few descendants with Swedish and Danish parents compared with the other large immigrant groups because Swedes and Danes to a greater extent have children with someone without an immigrant background. Also, when two Swedes or two Danes form a couple and have children together, they more often move back home to their country of origin. At the beginning of 2005, nine out of ten descendants had parents from a non-western country (table 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and figure 2.1.2).

Among the largest immigrant groups, those with backgrounds from Pakistan have the largest proportion of descendants, with 45 per cent. Among those with backgrounds from Morocco, India, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Vietnam, the proportion of descendants is more than 30 per cent. Among persons with backgrounds from Thailand, USA and Sweden, less than five per cent are descendants. These differences are to some extent explained by the time of residence in Norway, but the different group's marital patterns also explain some of these findings (Daugstad 2006).

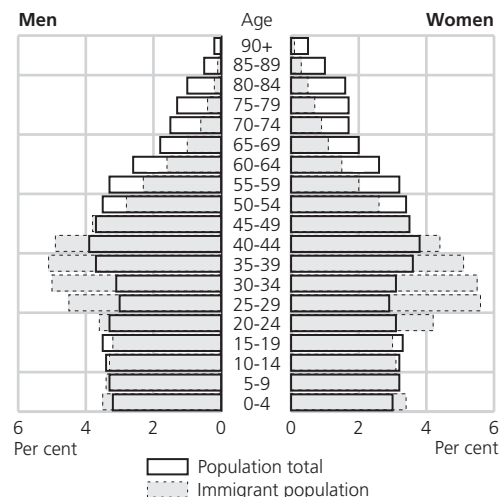
### **Half of the immigrant population is aged 20-44 years ...**

There are relatively many young adults in the immigrant population compared to the total population (see figure 2.1.3). As at 1 January 2006, almost half of the immigrant population was aged 20-44 years. The corresponding figure for the entire population was 34 per cent. In addition, there is a much higher proportion of elderly people in the entire population compared to the immigrant population. People aged 65 years and older made up 6 per cent of the immigrant population and 15 per cent of the total population. For those younger than 20 years of age, there was only a small difference. The elderly in the immigrant population mainly have western backgrounds, while most of the children have non-western backgrounds (figure 2.1.5).

### **... and one third of those born in Norway are younger than five years**

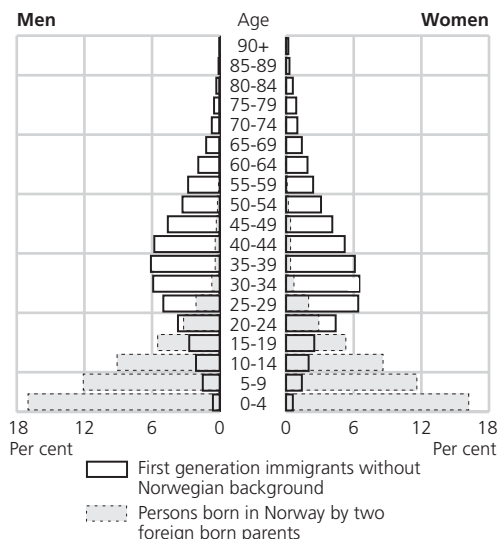
It is not only between the immigrant population and the total population that the difference in age structure is large. The differences are even larger when the first-generation immigrants and the descendants are compared (figure 2.1.4). At the beginning of 2006, 33 per cent of all descendants were younger than five years, and 75 per cent were younger than 15 years. The corresponding figures for first-generation immigrants were 1 and 8 per cent respectively. Thirteen per cent of the descendants were aged 20-44 years, while 55 per cent of the first-generation immigrants were in this age group. Almost none of the descendants are aged 60 years or more. This difference in age structure is because most immigrants are young adults when they come to Norway. There are not many children or elderly that immigrate to Norway. During the

**Figure 2.1.3. The immigrant population and the total Norwegian population, by sex and age. 1 January 2006. Per cent**



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Figure 2.1.4. First-generation immigrants and persons born in Norway of two foreign-born parents, by sex and age. 1 January 2006. Per cent**



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

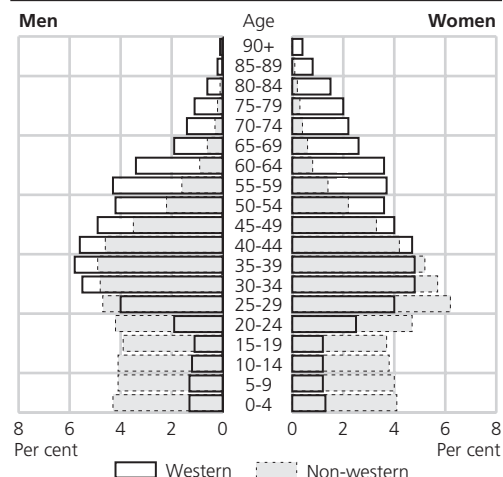
course of a few decades, these differences in age structure will diminish when the descendants grow older.

**Every third person with non-western background is younger than 20 years**

There are large differences between the western and non-western immigrant population (figure 2.1.5). About ten per cent of the western immigrant population were below 20 years of age, while the corresponding figure for the non-western immigrant population was 33 per cent. This difference in age structure is mainly a result of many descendants in the non-western immigrant population compared to the western population. For the age groups aged more than 44 years, there was a larger proportion in the western immigrant population. Many with western immigrant backgrounds have lived in Norway for a long time, and most of them arrived Norway after school age. The immigration from non-western countries did not really start until 1970, so there are few with non-western backgrounds that have had the time to become 60 years old. In a few years, the differences in age structure between the western and non-western immigrant group will probably decrease somewhat in the older age groups.

In the future, immigration is expected to be higher among people with non-western backgrounds than those with western backgrounds (Brunborg and Texmon, 2006). More children will be born with two parents from non-western countries than from western countries because women from non-western countries have a higher fertility rate, and because persons with western immigrant backgrounds to a larger extent have children with persons without immigrant backgrounds. This pattern is expected to

**Figure 2.1.5. The immigrant population, by western and non-western country background, sex and age. 1 January 2006. Per cent**



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

continue for a few years. Therefore, it is also expected that, on average, the non-western immigrant group will be younger than the western immigrant population in the future.

**Variation in the duration of residence**

One out of three first-generation immigrants have lived in Norway less than five years, one out of three have lived there 5-14 years and one out of three have lived there 15 years or longer. However, there are large differences among the different groups (table 2.1.4).

Almost half of the first-generation immigrants from Denmark have lived in Norway more than 25 years, and two thirds have lived in the country 15 years or more. Many from Chile have also lived in Norway for a long time. Three out of four have lived there 15 years or more. A military coup took place in Chile on 11 September 1973, and many fled the country. The largest proportions of Chile-

ans arrived in Norway from 1986 to 1990. The highest proportion of first-generation immigrants from non-western countries who have lived in Norway more than 25 years are found among those from Pakistan and India, with about 30 per cent. About 60 per cent of these two groups have lived in Norway 15 years or more. Immigrants from Pakistan and India were the first groups to arrive in Norway as labour immigrants. Many from Vietnam and Turkey have also lived in Norway 15 years or more, but these two groups arrived slightly later than those from Pakistan and India.

On the other end, we find first-generation immigrants from Afghanistan, where 80 per cent have lived in Norway less than five years. Among immigrants from Liberia, Burundi and Lithuania, the proportion is even higher, but these groups are still very small in numbers. Other large immigrant groups where more than half of the first-generation immigrants have lived in Norway less than five years are persons from Poland, Thailand, Ethiopia and Russia. Five out of six first-generation immigrants from Iraq have lived in Norway less than ten years. The corresponding figure for those from Somalia is three out of four.

### ***Many with non-western immigrant backgrounds live near Oslo***

There are persons with immigrant backgrounds in all Norwegian municipalities, but two municipalities have none with non-western immigrant backgrounds. In 14 of Norway's municipalities, at least 10 per cent of the population have immigrant backgrounds. Oslo has the highest proportion with 23.0 per cent, followed by Drammen (17.6 per cent) and Lørenskog (14.3 per cent). The same municipalities have the highest proportion of

persons with non-western immigrant backgrounds (tables 2.1.6, 2.1.7 and figure 2.1.6).

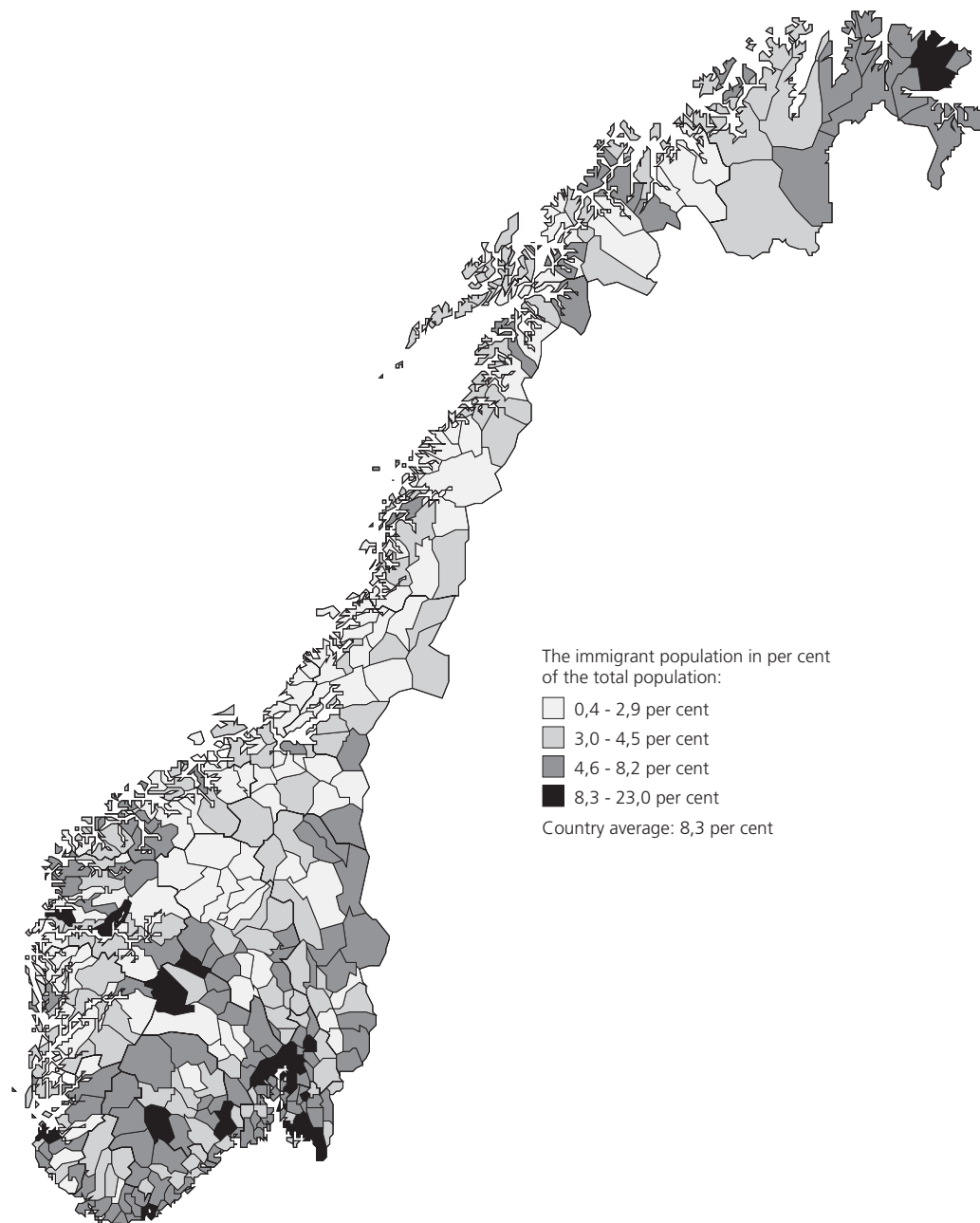
The immigrant population is clearly centralised in the area around Oslo, and many of those in the non-western immigrant population in particular live there. One third, or 123 000, of persons with immigrant backgrounds lived in Oslo at the beginning of 2006. The proportion is slightly higher for those with non-western immigrant backgrounds, but a lot lower (22 per cent) for those with western immigrant backgrounds, see table 2.1.5.

Around 45 per cent of the whole immigrant population lived in Oslo and Akershus at the beginning of 2006, while only 22 per cent of the total population lived there. The portion of persons with non-western backgrounds is 47 per cent, and for those with western backgrounds it is 31 per cent. Only five per cent of the immigrant population live in Finnmark, compared to 10 per cent of the total population. More than half of the persons with immigrant backgrounds from Asia or Africa live in Oslo and Akershus, while only 33 per cent with backgrounds from East Europe live there. A relatively large proportion of those with backgrounds from a Nordic country live in Finnmark, while a large proportion with backgrounds from Latin America and West Europe live in Rogaland.

Oslo has a much higher number of people with immigrant backgrounds than any other municipality, both in absolute and relative terms. Persons with western immigrant backgrounds made up 4.2 per cent of the population and those with non-western backgrounds 18.9 per cent. Ten years ago, at the beginning of 1996,



**Figure 2.1.6. The immigrant population as a proportion of the total population. Municipalities.  
1 January 2006. Per cent**



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.  
Digital map boundaries: Norwegian Mapping Authority.

the corresponding figures were 3.8 and 12.0 per cent respectively.

All the suburbs in Oslo have a higher proportion of persons with immigrant backgrounds than the country average of 8.3 per cent, as well as the average for the western population (2.2 per cent) and the non-western population (6.1 per cent). The Søndre Nordstrand suburb has the highest proportion of persons with non-western immigrant backgrounds with 38.4 per cent, and the Vestre Aker suburb has the lowest with 6.1 per cent (table 2.1.5). Some immigrant groups are strongly concentrated in Oslo. The figures are especially high for those with backgrounds from Morocco and Pakistan, with 75 and 71 per cent respectively.

### ***Equal gender distribution***

With regard to the population as a whole, there were almost as many men as women in the immigrant population (table 2.1.9). A few immigrant groups differ from the others. Among Thais, Philipinos and Russians there was a much higher proportion of women compared to men, with 84, 76 and 66 per cent women respectively. Many men without immigrant backgrounds marry women from these countries. Previously, there was also a clear over representation of women with Polish backgrounds, but this has decreased considerably in recent years due to an increase of Polish men coming to Norway looking for employment.

There were no land groups with many more men than women, but there were around 60 per cent men among those with backgrounds from Afghanistan, Iraq and the UK. The proportion of men among Iraqis has decreased by 10 per cent since the beginning of 2001, something that could imply that in recent years

more women have been reunified with an Iraqi man in Norway. Men often move before the women from conflict areas, and are subsequently reunified with their wife and children. There are more men from the UK because many have come to Norway alone to work in the oil industry.

### ***47 per cent of the immigrant population have Norwegian citizenship***

Forty-seven per cent of the immigrant population had Norwegian citizenship at the beginning of 2006. There were large differences among the different groups (figure 2.1.7). Ninety per cent of the Vietnamese immigrant population had Norwegian citizenship. Additionally, among those with backgrounds from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Morocco, India and Turkey, more than 70 per cent had Norwegian citizenship.

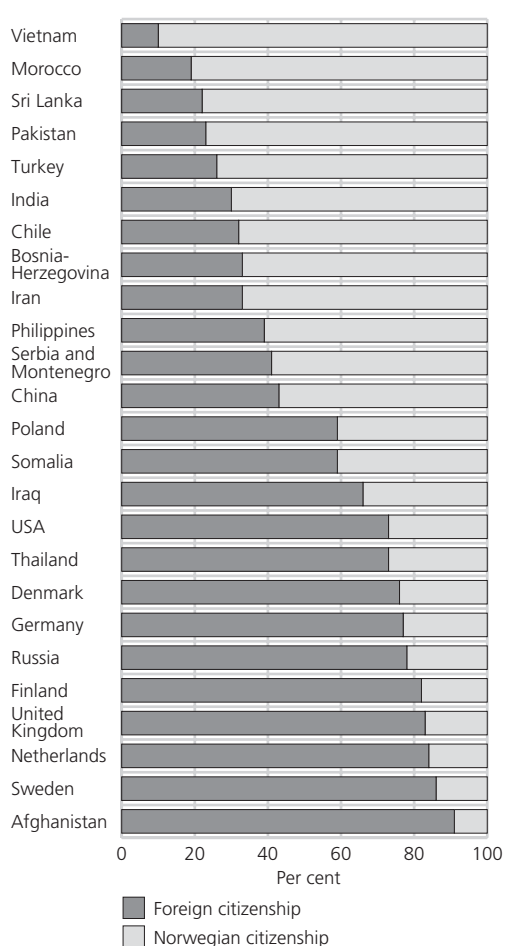
At the other end of the scale, we find people with backgrounds from Afghanistan where only nine per cent had Norwegian citizenship. Other non-western groups with a low percentage of Norwegian citizenship were those with backgrounds from Russia (22 per cent) and Thailand (27 per cent). The difference among the non-western groups is mainly due to different lengths of residence in Norway.

Two years ago, at the beginning of 2004, only 22 per cent with backgrounds from Iraq had Norwegian citizenship. At the beginning of 2006, 34 per cent were Norwegian citizens. Many Iraqis have lived in Norway more than seven years, which entitles them to apply for Norwegian citizenship.

There tends to be a large proportion of people with Norwegian citizenship

among the non-western groups that have been resident in Norway for a long time. There are very few with western backgrounds that have Norwegian citizenship, despite a lengthy residence. Few people with a western citizenship want a Norwegian citizenship because they have almost the same rights, and many do not intend to stay permanently in Norway.

**Figure 2.1.7. The immigrant population by Norwegian/foreign citizenship. The 25 largest immigrant groups. 1 January 2006. Per cent**



Source: Population Statistics. Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.1.1. The 40 largest immigrant groups, by country background. 1 January 2006**

The immigrant population		First generation immigrants		Born in Norway of two foreign-born parents	
The immigrant population, total .....		First generation immigrants, total .....		Born in Norway of two foreign-born parents, total .....	
Pakistan .....	27 675	Sverige .....	22 472	Pakistan .....	12 193
Total .....	386 699	Total .....	318 514	Total .....	68 185
Pakistan .....	27 675	Sweden .....	22 472	Pakistan .....	12 193
Sweden .....	23 489	Denmark .....	17 779	Vietnam .....	6 088
Iraq .....	20 076	Iraq .....	16 494	Turkey .....	4 747
Denmark .....	19 179	Pakistan .....	15 482	Sri Lanka .....	4 456
Vietnam .....	18 333	Somalia .....	13 712	Somalia .....	4 303
Somalia .....	18 015	Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	12 718	Iraq .....	3 582
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	14 822	Vietnam .....	12 245	Serbia and Montenegro .....	2 863
Iran .....	14 362	Iran .....	12 148	Morocco .....	2 613
Turkey .....	14 084	Germany .....	12 035	India .....	2 432
Serbia and Montenegro .....	12 905	Poland .....	10 938	Iran .....	2 214
Germany .....	12 900	United Kingdom .....	10 429	Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	2 104
Sri Lanka .....	12 560	Serbia and Montenegro .....	10 042	Denmark .....	1 400
Poland .....	11 864	Russia .....	9 813	Chile .....	1 388
United Kingdom .....	11 031	Turkey .....	9 337	Sweden .....	1 017
Russia .....	10 351	Sri Lanka .....	8 104	Philippines .....	1 005
Philippines .....	8 561	Philippines .....	7 556	Poland .....	926
Thailand .....	7 788	Thailand .....	7 553	Germany .....	865
India .....	7 154	USA .....	6 639	China .....	858
Chile .....	7 084	Finland .....	5 982	Macedonia .....	825
Morocco .....	7 031	Afghanistan .....	5 956	Eritrea .....	706
USA .....	6 884	Chile .....	5 696	Lebanon .....	628
Afghanistan .....	6 539	India .....	4 722	United Kingdom .....	602
Finland .....	6 434	China .....	4 478	Afghanistan .....	583
China .....	5 336	Morocco .....	4 418	Netherlands .....	540
Netherlands .....	4 823	Netherlands .....	4 283	Russia .....	538
Iceland .....	3 589	Iceland .....	3 259	Ethiopia .....	515
Ethiopia .....	3 185	Ethiopia .....	2 670	Finland .....	452
Croatia .....	3 015	Croatia .....	2 566	Croatia .....	449
Macedonia .....	2 904	France .....	2 475	Syria .....	408
Eritrea .....	2 653	Macedonia .....	2 079	Ghana .....	405
France .....	2 635	Eritrea .....	1 947	Hungary .....	381
Lebanon .....	2 024	Lithuania .....	1 903	Iceland .....	330
Lithuania .....	1 947	Romania .....	1 628	Gambia .....	312
Romania .....	1 753	Brazil .....	1 486	Algeria .....	271
Hungary .....	1 699	Spain .....	1 405	USA .....	245
Ghana .....	1 661	Lebanon .....	1 396	Thailand .....	235
Brazil .....	1 535	Ukraine .....	1 389	Tunisia .....	189
Spain .....	1 506	Hungary .....	1 318	Nigeria .....	182
Syria .....	1 460	Italy .....	1 284	Bangladesh .....	178
Ukraine .....	1 449	Ghana .....	1 256	Sudan .....	167

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.1.2. Population, by three categories of country background, country of birth and citizenship.  
1 January 2006**

Country background/country of birth/citizenship	Country background			Country of birth	Citizenship
	Persons with immigration background <sup>1</sup>	Immigrant population <sup>2</sup>	First generation immigrants without Norwegian background <sup>3</sup>		
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>
Norway .....	4 011 560	4 253 520	4 321 705	4 259 852	4 417 942
<b>Abroad, total .....</b>	<b>628 659</b>	<b>386 699</b>	<b>318 514</b>	<b>380 367</b>	<b>222 277</b>
The Nordic countries .....	135 331	53 551	50 287	67 139	56 505
Western Europe .....	93 798	38 635	35 979	47 735	35 272
Eastern Europe .....	81 746	68 210	59 500	60 404	34 710
Africa .....	59 234	47 532	36 768	39 307	23 413
Asia included Turkey .....	191 693	155 264	114 668	128 534	55 515
North-America <sup>5</sup> .....	27 731	14 293	12 405	18 574	5 973
South and Central America ....	36 142	8 117	7 834	17 001	8 904
Oceania .....	2 984	1 097	1 073	1 673	976
Stateless .....	-	-	-	-	941
Unknown .....	-	-	-	-	68
<b>Selected groups</b>					
Western countries <sup>4</sup> .....	268 255	101 400	95 173	133 548	101 657
Non-western countries, stateless and unknown .....	360 404	285 299	223 341	246 819	120 620
EU-25 .....	242 889	104 872	97 880	125 808	97 674
EU15 <sup>5</sup> .....	217 553	86 704	81 272	108 659	87 031
EU10 <sup>6</sup> .....	25 336	18 168	16 608	17 149	10 643
Former Yugoslavia .....	36 618	33 764	27 515	27 347	11 865
Former Sovietunion .....	20 376	17 221	16 374	16 743	13 897

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

<sup>2</sup> Own, mother's or father's country of birth (if it is foreign ) for persons with to foreign-born parents, otherwise Norway.

<sup>3</sup> Own, mother's or father's country of birth for foreign-born with two foreign born parents, otherwise Norway.

<sup>4</sup> West- Europe except Turkey, and North America and Oceania.

<sup>5</sup> EU-members prior to May 1st 2004.

<sup>6</sup> New EU-members from May 1st 2004.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.1.3. Population, by country background<sup>1</sup>. 1970-2006. Foreign country background refers to immigrant population<sup>2</sup>**

	Total	Norway	Abroad					North America, Oceania	Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey
			Abroad, total	Nordic countries	West Europe except	East Europe			
Real numbers									
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	
Per cent of immigrant population									
1.1.1970 .....			100,0	44,8	25,7	9,8	13,7	6,0	
1.1.1980 .....			100,0	32,8	23,8	7,5	12,4	23,5	
1.1.1986 .....			100,0	29,0	23,1	7,2	9,2	31,5	
1.1.1987 .....			100,0	28,9	22,0	7,1	8,6	33,4	
1.1.1988 .....			100,0	27,0	20,1	7,3	7,8	37,9	
1.1.1989 .....			100,0	25,0	18,7	7,4	7,0	41,9	
1.1.1990 .....			100,0	22,6	17,3	8,1	6,4	45,6	
1.1.1991 .....			100,0	21,3	16,1	8,4	6,0	48,1	
1.1.1992 .....			100,0	20,5	15,3	8,7	5,8	49,7	
1.1.1993 .....			100,0	19,8	14,8	9,7	5,5	50,3	
1.1.1994 .....			100,0	19,0	13,9	12,8	5,0	49,3	
1.1.1995 .....			100,0	18,9	13,4	14,1	4,7	48,9	
1.1.1996 .....			100,0	18,6	13,0	14,8	4,5	49,0	
1.1.1997 .....			100,0	18,8	12,7	14,9	4,3	49,4	
1.1.1998 .....			100,0	19,6	12,4	14,6	4,0	49,5	
1.1.1999 .....			100,0	20,1	12,2	14,4	3,8	49,6	
1.1.2000 .....			100,0	18,9	11,7	16,3	3,4	49,7	
1.1.2001 .....			100,0	18,0	11,2	16,2	3,1	51,5	
1.1.2002 .....			100,0	17,2	10,9	16,0	2,9	52,9	
1.1.2003 .....			100,0	16,3	10,6	16,0	2,8	54,3	
1.1.2004 .....			100,0	15,5	10,3	16,1	2,7	55,4	
1.1.2005 .....			100,0	14,6	10,1	16,8	2,5	56,0	
1.1.2006 .....			100,0	13,8	10,0	17,6	2,4	56,1	

<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 2.1.4. First generation immigrants<sup>1</sup>, by length of stay/first immigrations year and country background<sup>2</sup>. 1 January 2006**

Country background	Total	Length of stay, in years. Per cent					
		25+	20-24	15-19	10-14	5-9	0-4
		First year of immigration					
		1980-	1981- 1985	1986- 1990	1991- 1995	1996 - 2000	2001 - 2005
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>318 514</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>The Nordic countries, total ...</b>	<b>50 287</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>
Denmark .....	17 779	47	8	10	7	10	17
Sweden .....	22 472	22	6	9	11	26	26
<b>Western Europe, total .....</b>	<b>35 979</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>
France .....	2 475	22	6	6	8	18	39
Netherlands .....	4 283	29	7	7	9	16	32
United Kingdom .....	10 429	39	10	8	9	12	22
Germany .....	12 035	29	5	5	6	17	38
<b>Eastern Europe, total .....</b>	<b>59 500</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	12 718	1	0	1	75	16	7
Poland .....	10 938	9	9	13	10	8	51
Russia .....	9 813	1	0	1	8	24	66
<b>Africa, total .....</b>	<b>36 768</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>44</b>
Marocco .....	4 418	20	9	20	14	19	17
Somalia .....	13 712	0	0	8	14	29	49
<b>Asia included Turkey .....</b>	<b>114 668</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>
Afghanistan .....	5 956	0	0	4	2	14	81
Philippines .....	7 556	8	10	20	10	16	36
Iraq .....	16 494	0	0	4	11	45	40
Iran .....	12 148	1	2	37	15	22	24
Pakistan .....	15 482	31	13	18	10	12	17
Sri Lanka .....	8 067	2	4	35	22	20	17
Thailand .....	7 553	2	4	9	11	19	55
Turkey .....	9 337	17	8	22	13	18	23
Vietnam .....	12 245	14	21	28	20	6	11
<b>North America<sup>3</sup>, total .....</b>	<b>7 834</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>26</b>
USA .....	6 639	41	7	7	9	13	24
<b>South and Central America, total .....</b>	<b>12 405</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>
Chile .....	5 696	12	6	60	6	7	10
<b>Oceania, total .....</b>	<b>1 073</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>46</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 person's country of birth.<sup>3</sup> USA and Canada.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.1.5. Immigrant population<sup>1</sup>, by two groups of country background<sup>2</sup>. Urban districts of Oslo. 1 January 2006**

Urban district	Alle	Back-ground in Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey	Immigrant population in parts of town, per cent		Immigrant population in whole country, per cent		Population of Oslo in per cent of total population	Popu- lation total
			All	Background in Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey	All	Background in Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey		
<b>Whole Oslo .....</b>	<b>123 891</b>	<b>87 627</b>	<b>23,0</b>	<b>16,3</b>	<b>32,0</b>	<b>41,5</b>	<b>11,6</b>	<b>538 411</b>
01 Gamle Oslo ....	11 956	9 247	32,7	25,3	3,1	4,4	0,8	36 557
02 Grünerløkka ...	10 230	7 266	26,3	18,7	2,6	3,4	0,8	38 946
03 Sagene .....	6 120	4 178	20,1	13,7	1,6	2,0	0,7	30 414
04 St. Hanshaugen	4 802	2 300	17,0	8,1	1,2	1,1	0,6	28 287
05 Frogner .....	7 686	2 682	16,7	5,8	2,0	1,3	1,0	46 047
06 Ullern .....	3 170	1 239	11,5	4,5	0,8	0,6	0,6	27 599
07 Vestre Aker ....	4 606	1 806	11,3	4,4	1,2	0,9	0,9	40 878
08 Nordre Aker ...	5 042	2 599	12,1	6,2	1,3	1,2	0,9	41 656
09 Bjerke .....	7 792	6 171	31,7	25,1	2,0	2,9	0,5	24 606
10 Grorud .....	8 562	7 258	34,2	29,0	2,2	3,4	0,5	25 032
11 Stovner .....	10 463	9 156	36,5	32,0	2,7	4,3	0,6	28 656
12 Alna .....	16 619	13 945	37,4	31,3	4,3	6,6	1,0	44 482
13 Østensjø .....	7 340	5 171	16,9	11,9	1,9	2,5	0,9	43 547
14 Nordstrand ....	4 708	2 470	10,7	5,6	1,2	1,2	0,9	43 824
15 Søndre Nordstrand .....	13 994	11 707	41,3	34,6	3,6	5,6	0,7	33 863
16 Sentrum .....	261	125	43,3	20,7	0,1	0,1	0,0	603
17 Marka .....	116	24	6,0	1,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	1 924
Unknown, without permanent adress	424	283	28,5	19,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	1 490

<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 2.1.6. Immigrant population<sup>1</sup>, by country background<sup>2</sup> and municipality. Classified by size of immigrant population. 1 January 2006. Absolute numbers and per cent**

Municipality	Immigrant population		Immigrant population in per cent of total population		Immigrant population in whole country, per cent		Population, total
	All	Non-western	All	Non-western	All	Non-western	
<b>The whole country .....</b>	<b>386 699</b>	<b>285 299</b>	<b>8,3</b>	<b>6,1</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>
1 0301 Oslo .....	123 891	101 637	23,0	18,9	32,0	35,6	538 411
2 1201 Bergen .....	19 504	14 631	8,1	6,0	5,0	5,1	242 158
3 1103 Stavanger .....	13 020	8 733	11,3	7,6	3,4	3,1	115 157
4 0219 Bærum .....	12 177	7 507	11,5	7,1	3,1	2,6	105 928
5 1601 Trondheim .....	11 474	8 495	7,2	5,4	3,0	3,0	158 613
6 0602 Drammen .....	10 135	8 735	17,5	15,1	2,6	3,1	57 759
7 1001 Kristiansand .....	8 016	6 295	10,4	8,2	2,1	2,2	76 917
8 0106 Fredrikstad .....	6 036	4 582	8,5	6,5	1,6	1,6	70 791
9 0231 Skedsmo .....	5 653	4 587	13,1	10,6	1,5	1,6	43 201
10 0220 Asker .....	5 531	3 294	10,7	6,4	1,4	1,2	51 484
11 1102 Sandnes .....	4 974	3 761	8,4	6,4	1,3	1,3	58 947
12 0230 Lørenskog .....	4 419	3 615	14,3	11,7	1,1	1,3	30 929
13 0105 Sarpsborg .....	4 375	3 453	8,7	6,9	1,1	1,2	50 115
14 0806 Skien .....	4 371	3 502	8,6	6,9	1,1	1,2	50 761
15 1902 Tromsø .....	4 053	2 231	6,4	3,5	1,0	0,8	63 596
16 0104 Moss .....	3 366	2 661	11,9	9,4	0,9	0,9	28 182
17 0706 Sandefjord .....	3 269	2 338	7,9	5,6	0,8	0,8	41 555
18 0709 Larvik .....	2 860	2 118	6,9	5,1	0,7	0,7	41 211
19 0704 Tønsberg .....	2 594	1 769	7,0	4,8	0,7	0,6	36 919
20 0213 Ski .....	2 575	1 816	9,5	6,7	0,7	0,6	27 010
21 0906 Arendal .....	2 558	1 790	6,4	4,5	0,7	0,6	39 826
22 0235 Ullensaker .....	2 332	1 646	9,2	6,5	0,6	0,6	25 269
23 0101 Halden .....	2 318	1 514	8,4	5,5	0,6	0,5	27 722
24 1106 Haugesund .....	2 278	1 698	7,2	5,4	0,6	0,6	31 738
25 0805 Porsgrunn .....	2 277	1 624	6,8	4,8	0,6	0,6	33 550
26 0217 Oppegård .....	2 131	1 382	8,9	5,8	0,6	0,5	23 897
27 0625 Nedre Eiker .....	2 121	1 648	9,8	7,6	0,5	0,6	21 653
28 0626 Lier .....	2 067	1 548	9,4	7,1	0,5	0,5	21 874
29 0502 Gjøvik .....	2 004	1 618	7,2	5,8	0,5	0,6	27 819
30 0701 Horten .....	1 873	1 322	7,5	5,3	0,5	0,5	24 871
31 1504 Ålesund .....	1 869	1 291	4,6	3,2	0,5	0,5	40 801
32 0124 Askim .....	1 851	1 561	13,0	11,0	0,5	0,5	14 184
33 1804 Bodø .....	1 805	1 313	4,0	2,9	0,5	0,5	44 992
34 0214 Ås .....	1 721	1 198	11,8	8,2	0,4	0,4	14 530
35 0403 Hamar .....	1 713	1 229	6,2	4,5	0,4	0,4	27 593
36 0228 Rælingen .....	1 711	1 407	11,5	9,5	0,4	0,5	14 857
37 1124 Sola .....	1 685	969	8,4	4,8	0,4	0,3	20 138
38 0233 Nittedal .....	1 649	1 067	8,4	5,4	0,4	0,4	19 722
39 0501 Lillehammer .....	1 646	1 085	6,5	4,3	0,4	0,4	25 314
40 0605 Ringerike .....	1 630	1 114	5,8	4,0	0,4	0,4	28 197

<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 2.1.7. Immigrant population<sup>1</sup>, by country background<sup>2</sup> and municipality. Classified by proportion of inhabitants in the municipality. 1 January 2006. Absolute figures and per cent**

Municipality	Population, total	Immigrant population			Immigrant population in per cent of total population		
		All	Western countries	Non-western countries	All	Western countries	Non-western countries
<b>The whole country .....</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>	<b>386 699</b>	<b>101 400</b>	<b>285 299</b>	<b>8,3</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>6,1</b>
1 0301 Oslo .....	538 411	123 891	22 254	101 637	23,0	4,1	18,9
2 0602 Drammen .....	57 759	10 135	1 400	8 735	17,5	2,4	15,1
3 0230 Lørenskog .....	30 929	4 419	804	3 615	14,3	2,6	11,7
4 0231 Skedsmo .....	43 201	5 653	1 066	4 587	13,1	2,5	10,6
5 0124 Askim .....	14 184	1 851	290	1 561	13,0	2,0	11,0
6 0104 Moss .....	28 182	3 366	705	2 661	11,9	2,5	9,4
7 0214 Ås .....	14 530	1 721	523	1 198	11,8	3,6	8,2
8 2028 Båtsfjord .....	2 171	252	130	122	11,6	6,0	5,6
9 0228 Rælingen .....	14 857	1 711	304	1 407	11,5	2,0	9,5
10 0219 Bærum .....	105 928	12 177	4 670	7 507	11,5	4,4	7,1
11 1103 Stavanger .....	115 157	13 020	4 287	8 733	11,3	3,7	7,6
12 0220 Asker .....	51 484	5 531	2 237	3 294	10,7	4,3	6,4
13 0618 Hemsedal .....	1 947	207	127	80	10,6	6,5	4,1
14 1001 Kristiansand .....	76 917	8 016	1 721	6 295	10,4	2,2	8,2
15 0625 Nedre Eiker .....	21 653	2 121	473	1 648	9,8	2,2	7,6
16 0213 Ski .....	27 010	2 575	759	1 816	9,5	2,8	6,7
17 2003 Vadsø .....	6 114	582	143	439	9,5	2,3	7,2
18 0626 Lier .....	21 874	2 067	519	1 548	9,4	2,4	7,1
19 1418 Balestrand .....	1 406	130	75	55	9,2	5,3	3,9
20 1429 Fjaler .....	2 881	266	95	171	9,2	3,3	5,9
21 0235 Ullensaker .....	25 269	2 332	686	1 646	9,2	2,7	6,5
22 0217 Oppegård .....	23 897	2 131	749	1 382	8,9	3,1	5,8
23 0105 Sarpsborg .....	50 115	4 375	922	3 453	8,7	1,8	6,9
24 0806 Skien .....	50 761	4 371	869	3 502	8,6	1,7	6,9
25 0106 Fredrikstad .....	70 791	6 036	1 454	4 582	8,5	2,1	6,5
26 0831 Fyresdal .....	1 369	116	92	24	8,5	6,7	1,8
27 0216 Nesodden .....	16 541	1 396	727	669	8,4	4,4	4,0
28 1102 Sandnes .....	58 947	4 974	1 213	3 761	8,4	2,1	6,4
29 0620 Hol .....	4 500	379	221	158	8,4	4,9	3,5
30 1124 Sola .....	20 138	1 685	716	969	8,4	3,6	4,8
31 0101 Halden .....	27 722	2 318	804	1 514	8,4	2,9	5,5
32 0233 Nittedal .....	19 722	1 649	582	1 067	8,4	3,0	5,4
33 0617 Gol .....	4 404	355	82	273	8,1	1,9	6,2
34 1201 Bergen .....	242 158	19 504	4 873	14 631	8,1	2,0	6,0
35 0211 Vestby .....	13 159	1 047	418	629	8,0	3,2	4,8
36 0706 Sandefjord .....	41 555	3 269	931	2 338	7,9	2,2	5,6
37 0826 Tinn .....	6 247	489	143	346	7,8	2,3	5,5
38 0941 Bykle .....	874	68	40	28	7,8	4,6	3,2
39 0402 Kongsvinger .....	17 224	1 336	348	988	7,8	2,0	5,7
40 1017 Songdalen .....	5 621	432	111	321	7,7	2,0	5,7

<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 2.1.8. Immigrant population<sup>1</sup>, by five groups of country background. 1 January 2006**

	Country background					
	Total	Nordic countries	West Europe except Turkey	East-Europe	North America, and Oceania	Asia, Africa, Central and South America, Turkey
<b>Total</b>	<b>386 699</b>	<b>53 551</b>	<b>38 635</b>	<b>68 210</b>	<b>15 390</b>	<b>210 913</b>
01 Østfold	22 048	3 639	1 513	6 119	466	10 311
02 Akershus	48 364	9 030	5 553	7 875	1 706	24 200
03 Oslo	123 891	12 527	7 713	14 010	4 414	85 227
04 Hedmark	8 671	1 905	879	2 031	233	3 623
05 Oppland	8 262	1 414	994	2 117	196	3 541
06 Buskerud	22 731	3 355	2 076	4 239	805	12 256
07 Vestfold	15 073	2 548	1 736	3 457	433	6 899
08 Telemark	10 665	1 597	1 123	2 308	513	5 124
09 Aust-Agder	6 012	1 022	820	1 405	183	2 582
10 Vest-Agder	12 786	1 408	1 357	3 153	1 074	5 794
11 Rogaland	29 120	3 357	4 575	5 786	1 259	14 143
12 Hordaland	26 804	2 757	3 613	4 573	2 171	13 690
14 Sogn og Fjordane	4 517	606	812	941	326	1 832
15 Møre og Romsdal	9 593	1 261	1 424	2 175	346	4 387
16 Sør-Trøndelag	14 839	1 918	1 821	2 962	711	7 427
17 Nord-Trøndelag	3 848	693	427	728	64	1 936
18 Nordland	8 333	1 490	837	1 848	240	3 918
19 Troms Romsa	7 027	1 628	1 092	1 332	189	2 786
20 Finnmark Finnmark	4 115	1 396	270	1 151	61	1 237

<sup>1</sup> 1 Persons with two foreign-born parents.<sup>2</sup> Own, mother's or father's country of birth.

Source: Populations statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.1.9. Population by marital status, immigrant populations country of birth<sup>1</sup> and sex.  
1 January 2006**

Country background	Marital status					
	Total			Unmarried		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>The whole population, total .....</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>	<b>2 301 981</b>	<b>2 338 238</b>	<b>2 290 123</b>	<b>1 224 698</b>	<b>1 065 425</b>
Norway .....	4 253 520	2 111 302	2 142 218	2 118 821	1 132 064	986 757
<b>Immigrant population, total .....</b>	<b>386 699</b>	<b>190 679</b>	<b>196 020</b>	<b>171 302</b>	<b>92 634</b>	<b>78 668</b>
<b>Europe, total .....</b>	<b>160 396</b>	<b>77 767</b>	<b>82 629</b>	<b>64 890</b>	<b>34 646</b>	<b>30 244</b>
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	14 822	7 362	7 460	6 535	3 478	3 057
Denmark .....	19 179	9 537	9 642	5 906	3 417	2 489
Finland .....	6 434	2 599	3 835	2 696	1 264	1 432
Iceland .....	3 589	1 751	1 838	1 857	938	919
Netherlands .....	4 823	2 571	2 252	1 867	994	873
Poland .....	11 864	5 995	5 869	4 192	2 375	1 817
Russia .....	10 351	3 486	6 865	4 628	2 302	2 326
Serbia og Montenegro .....	12 905	6 706	6 199	6 761	3 633	3 128
United Kingdom .....	11 031	6 491	4 540	2 754	1 833	921
Sweden .....	23 489	10 948	12 541	11 167	5 656	5 511
Germany .....	12 900	6 372	6 528	5 262	2 873	2 389
<b>Africa, total .....</b>	<b>47 532</b>	<b>25 780</b>	<b>21 752</b>	<b>25 861</b>	<b>14 124</b>	<b>11 737</b>
Eritrea .....	2653	1379	1274	1585	842	743
Ethiopia .....	3 185	1 717	1 468	1 817	1 022	795
Morocco .....	7 031	3 929	3 102	3 221	1 776	1 445
Somalia .....	18 015	9 681	8 334	11 023	6 052	4 971
<b>Asia, total .....</b>	<b>155 264</b>	<b>76 431</b>	<b>78 833</b>	<b>72 736</b>	<b>39 642</b>	<b>33 094</b>
Afghanistan .....	6 539	3 754	2 785	3 983	2 401	1 582
Philippines .....	7 154	3 638	3 516	2 896	1 547	1 349
Iraq .....	20 076	11 521	8 555	10 882	6 305	4 577
Iran .....	14 362	7 943	6 419	6 915	4 138	2 777
Pakistan .....	27 675	14 314	13 361	13 532	7 194	6 338
Sri Lanka .....	12 560	6 472	6 088	6 016	3 225	2 791
Thailand .....	7 788	1 214	6 574	2 159	1 006	1 153
Turkey .....	14 084	7 749	6 335	5 995	3 288	2 707
Vietnam .....	18 333	9 080	9 253	9 632	5 080	4 552
<b>North-America, total .....</b>	<b>8 117</b>	<b>3 615</b>	<b>4 502</b>	<b>1 659</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>782</b>
<b>South and Central America, total .</b>	<b>14 293</b>	<b>6 461</b>	<b>7 832</b>	<b>5 774</b>	<b>3 093</b>	<b>2 681</b>
Chile .....	7 084	3 765	3 319	3 392	1 880	1 512
<b>Oceania, total .....</b>	<b>1 097</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>130</b>

**Table 2.1.9 (cont.). Population by marital status, immigrant populations country of birth<sup>1</sup> and sex.  
1 January 2006**

Country background	Marital status					
	Married			Other <sup>2</sup>		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>The whole population, total .....</b>	<b>1 684 489</b>	<b>844 710</b>	<b>839 779</b>	<b>665 607</b>	<b>232 573</b>	<b>433 034</b>
Norway .....	1 517 098	765 898	751 200	617 601	213 340	404 261
<b>Immigrant population, total .....</b>	<b>167 391</b>	<b>78 812</b>	<b>88 579</b>	<b>48 006</b>	<b>19 233</b>	<b>28 773</b>
<b>Europe, total .....</b>	<b>71 820</b>	<b>33 899</b>	<b>37 921</b>	<b>23 686</b>	<b>9 222</b>	<b>14 464</b>
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	6 859	3 432	3 427	1 428	452	976
Danmark .....	9 262	4 501	4 761	4 011	1 619	2 392
Finland .....	2 450	832	1 618	1 288	503	785
Iceland .....	1 248	606	642	484	207	277
Netherlands .....	2 397	1 282	1 115	559	295	264
Poland .....	6 025	3 173	2 852	1 647	447	1 200
Russia .....	4 662	1 049	3 613	1 061	135	926
Serbia og Montenegro .....	5 229	2 669	2 560	915	404	511
United Kingdom .....	6 001	3 556	2 445	2 276	1 102	1 174
Sweden .....	8 659	3 858	4 801	3 663	1 434	2 229
Germany .....	5 637	2 762	2 875	2 001	737	1 264
<b>Africa, total .....</b>	<b>15 606</b>	<b>8 714</b>	<b>6 892</b>	<b>6 065</b>	<b>2 942</b>	<b>3 123</b>
Eritrea .....	771	409	362	297	128	169
Ethiopia .....	1 001	522	479	367	173	194
Morocco .....	2 873	1 582	1 291	937	571	366
Somalia .....	4 983	2 905	2 078	2 009	724	1 285
<b>Asia, total .....</b>	<b>68 893</b>	<b>31 523</b>	<b>37 370</b>	<b>13 635</b>	<b>5 266</b>	<b>8 369</b>
Afghanistan .....	2 284	1 289	995	272	64	208
Philippines .....						
India .....	3 619	1 833	1 786	639	258	381
Iraq .....	7 928	4 538	3 390	1 266	678	588
Iran .....	5 484	2 926	2 558	1 963	879	1 084
Pakistan .....	12 604	6 514	6 090	1 539	606	933
Sri Lanka .....	5 962	3 016	2 946	582	231	351
Thailand .....	4 485	95	4 390	1 144	113	1 031
Turkey .....	6 694	3 651	3 043	1 395	810	585
Vietnam .....	6 911	3 310	3 601	1 790	690	1 100
<b>North-Amerika, total .....</b>	<b>4 651</b>	<b>2 142</b>	<b>2 509</b>	<b>1 807</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>1 211</b>
<b>South and Central America, total ..</b>	<b>5 868</b>	<b>2 227</b>	<b>3 641</b>	<b>2 651</b>	<b>1 141</b>	<b>1 510</b>
Chile .....	2 443	1 263	1 180	1 249	622	627
<b>Oceania, total .....</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>96</b>

<sup>1</sup> Own, mother's or father's country of birth (if it is foreign) for persons with two foreign-born parents, otherwise Norway.<sup>2</sup> Registered partner, separated, divorced or surviving partner.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

## 2.2. Population changes

- Between 1 January 2001 and 1 January 2006 the immigrant population increased by 89 000. During the same period, the population as a whole increased by 137 000.
- From 2001-2005, the immigrant population had an excess of births of 18 000 and an immigration surplus of 71 000.
- Since 2001, the number of Iraqis, Somalis and Russians has increased the most in absolute figures.
- In 2005, the immigrant population increased by 22 000, net immigration was 18 000 and the birth excess 4 000.
- Net immigration was largest among persons with Polish backgrounds (2 900), while the birth excess was largest among Iraqis (600).
- 12 700 persons were granted Norwegian citizenship, which is the highest number ever.
- During the year 2005, 23 900 marriages were contracted. Ten per cent of these marriages were contracted between two persons with immigrant backgrounds.
- About 11 600 marriages ended in divorce in 2005. In 1 100 cases, or 9 per cent, both spouses had an immigrant background.
- Total fertility rate (TFR) was 2.28 for women in the immigrant population compared to 1.84 for all women in Norway. Women with African backgrounds had the highest TFR.

### ***The immigrant population made up almost two thirds of the population growth in the last five years***

The immigrant population changes by the same factors as the Norwegian population - number of births, deaths, immigrations and emigrations. From 2001-2005, the Norwegian population increased by 136 800. The increase in the immigrant population was about 89 000. The immigrant population made up 65 per cent of the total population growth in Norway during this period. The immigrant population's birth excess was 17 900 and the immigration surplus 70 700. First-generation immigrants accounted for the entire immigration surplus, and the descendants for the excess of births. The descendants had a net emigration of 3 500 during the period. The total immigration surplus for Norway in the same time period was 68 000 (table 2.2.1).

The population growth is measured as the difference between the population 1.1.2000 and 1.1.2004 and births - deaths + immigrations - emigrations is slightly different due to data technique issues. This is also the case for the entire population and single years.

When looking at the changes during the last five years, there has been almost no increase in the numbers of people with Swedish, Danish and British immigrant backgrounds. In the same period, there has been a relatively small increase in the number of those with Pakistani and Vietnamese immigrant backgrounds. On the other hand, the number of Russians has more than doubled, and the number of Iraqis, Somalis and Poles has almost doubled. Among the largest immigrant groups, German immigrants is the only western group that has shown a large growth.

### **The immigrant population made up one fourth of the birth surplus in 2005**

The immigrant population increased by 21 900 in 2005; an increase of 6.0 per cent. In comparison, the total population increased by 34 000, or 0.73 per cent. The birth surplus of the immigrant population was 3 700 and the immigrant surplus 18 200. The immigrant population accounted for one fourth of the total birth surplus and almost the entire immigration surplus (table 2.2.2). People with immigrant backgrounds in Norway are relatively young, so there are few deaths during a year. This is the main reason for the high birth surplus.

The number of people with one foreign-born parent increased by 6 000 in 2005. At the beginning of 2006, there were 180 000 persons living in Norway with one foreign-born parent. These persons are not a part of the immigrant population.

At the beginning of 2006, 74 per cent of the immigrant population had non-western backgrounds. In absolute numbers, people with Asian backgrounds (Turkey

included) had the largest population growth in 2005, with 8 500, followed by eastern Europeans (6 800). As a percentage, the increase was largest among eastern Europeans (11.1 per cent) and Africans (8.4 per cent).

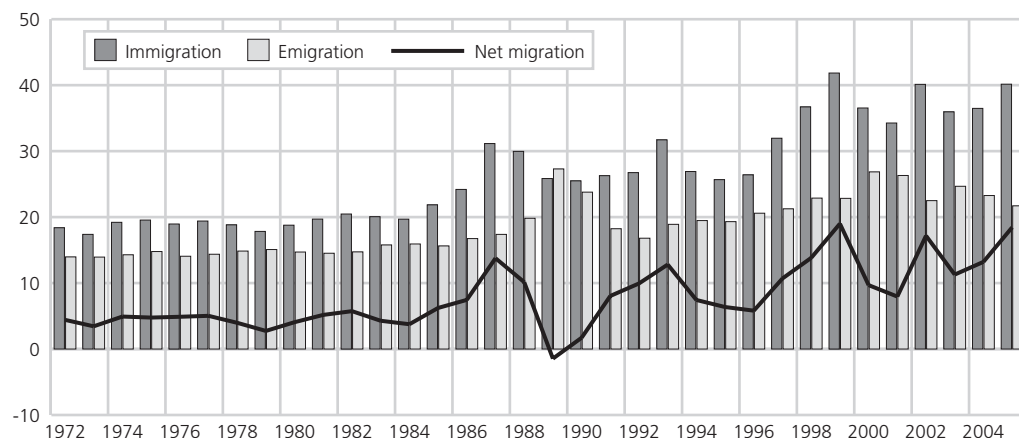
Among single immigrant groups, people with immigrant backgrounds from Poland had the largest population increase in 2005 with 2 900, followed by Iraqis (1 700), Russians (1 350), Somalis (1 200) and Germans (1 000). Among Iraqis and Somalis, both the birth surplus and the immigration surplus were large, while among those with Polish, Russian and German backgrounds the population increase was mainly due to a large immigration surplus. The population growth among people with Polish immigrant backgrounds was 33 per cent last year.

### **Second largest net immigration ever**

In 2005, 40 100 immigrations and 21 700 emigrations were registered, making the net immigration 18 400. Only once before, in 1999, have we seen a higher net immigration to Norway. The number of

**Figure 2.2.1. Immigration and emigration. 1972-2005**

Numbers in 1 000



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

emigrations was the lowest since 1997, and only in 1999 was the number of immigrations higher. Since 1971, Norway has had a migration surplus in all years except 1989 (figure 2.2.1 and table 2.2.2).

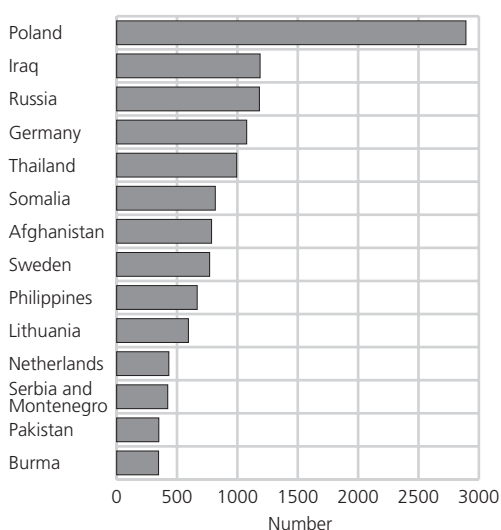
In most years since 1958, there has been a net emigration from Norway among Norwegian citizens. The net emigration was highest in 1989 when 9 300 more Norwegian citizens moved from Norway than to it. The reverse has been true among foreign citizens. In 2005, 9 100 Norwegian citizens moved from Norway while 8 800 moved to the country, giving a net migration of -300. Net migration of Norwegian citizens is thereby a lot lower than in previous years. For several years, there was a large migration loss of Norwegian citizens to Spain, but this has now changed. When a country has a stable and growing economy, as is the case in Norway at the moment, fewer people tend to emigrate. When the economy is good it is easier to get a job. This partly explains the decrease in the number of emigrations in recent years.

### **Highest net immigration of Polish citizens**

Among the foreign citizens, Poles had the highest net migration with 2 900. This is almost double compared with 2004. Since the expansion of the EU in 2004, there has been a large increase in the number of Polish labour immigrants, especially men. There has also been an increase in Polish women coming to Norway to be reunited with their Polish husbands. In 2003, there was a slight decrease in the number of immigrants from Poland compared with 2002. This is probably because they expected immigration to Norway to be easier after the expansion of the EU.

Iraqi and Russian citizens had the second largest net migration to Norway in 2005, with 1 200 each. Net migration of Russians decreased in 2005 compared to the past two years when net migration among Russians was high. Iraqis have shown a high net migration to Norway for many years, except for 2003 and 2004. German citizens also showed a high net migration with 1 000 (figure 2.2.2).

**Figure 2.2.2. Net migration of foreign citizens. 2005**



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway

### **Highest number of naturalizations ever**

A total of 12 700 persons became Norwegian citizens in 2005; the highest number ever registered. Nine out of ten had previously held citizenship in a non-western country. Former Iraqi citizens made up the largest group with 2 100, followed by Somalis (1 300). These two groups also had the highest increase in the number of naturalizations from 2004 to 2005, with 1 500 and 700 respectively.



### Change of citizenship

As a main rule, foreign citizens aged 18 years or older, who have lived in Norway more than seven years, can apply for Norwegian citizenship. A few groups may apply for Norwegian citizenship earlier. This includes:

- Persons married to a Norwegian citizen (at least two years of residence in Norway, and marriage and residence in Norway must add up to eight years)
- Persons with Nordic citizenship (two years of residence)
- Persons who have previously been Norwegian citizens (two years of residence)

Many Iraqis and Somalis immigrated to Norway in 1998, meaning their first opportunity to apply for Norwegian citizenship was in 2005. The main rule to qualify for Norwegian citizenship is continuous residence in Norway for the past seven years.

### *The number of contracted marriages between two persons from immigrant population is stable*

The number of contracted marriages between two persons from the immigrant

population has steadily increased during recent years in line with the increase in the immigrant population. In 2005, 23 900 marriages were contracted, 250 fewer than in 2004. A total of 10.2 per cent of these marriages were contracted between two persons with immigrant backgrounds.

The number of persons with immigrant backgrounds marrying a person from the same region is steadily increasing. This is especially noticeable for persons with backgrounds from Asia and East Europe.

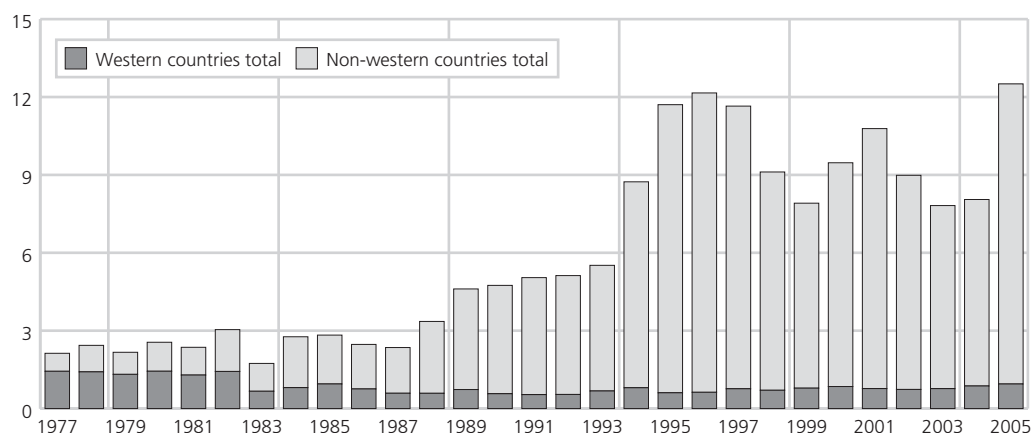
### *Thai, Russian and Philippine women more likely to marry*

The number of people without immigrant backgrounds who get married to persons from the immigrant population has steadily increased during recent years. In 1990, 12 per cent of all contracted marriages were such marriages. In 2005, the percentage was 20.

The increase is especially large for marriages between men without immigrant backgrounds and women with immigrant

**Figure 2.2.3. Western and non-western citizens who have received Norwegian citizenship. 1977-2005**

Numbers in 1 000



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

backgrounds. In 1990, 1 270 such marriages were contracted. In 2005, the number was 3 300.

The number of men without immigrant backgrounds that marry women from Thailand, Russia and Philippines increased substantially in the period 1990-2005. In 2005, 1 300 men without immigrant backgrounds married a woman with a background from one of these three countries.

About 11 600 marriages ended in divorce in 2005. In 1 100 cases, or 9 per cent, both spouses had an immigrant background (table 2.2.8). Marriages among immigrants seem to be stable. Cross-national marriages seem to have a more mixed divorce pattern. Some years ago the divorce rate for marriages between Norwegian women and African men was so high that many suspected that it was related to pro-forma marriages. This pattern is not as evident any more (Østby 2001b).

### ***Highest fertility rate among women with African immigrant backgrounds***

Since the mid 1970s, the total fertility rate (TFR) in Norway has been lower than 2.1. 2.1 is the number of children each woman on average needs to give birth to in order to stabilise the population in Norway when immigration and emigration are not taken into account. The TFR was lowest at the beginning of the 1980s; slightly below 1.7, and was between 1.8 and 1.9 in the 1990s. At the turn of the century, the TRF decreased slightly, then increased again. In 2005, The TFR in Norway was 1.84.

Generally speaking, women without immigrant backgrounds have had a lower TFR than average for Norway, while

### **Definition of Total Fertility Rate (TFR)**

Average number of babies born alive per woman in the course of her life, under the provision that the fertility pattern in the period applies to the woman's entire reproductive period (15-49 years) and that deaths do not occur. To prevent a decrease in the population in a long-term perspective, when immigration and emigration are not included, TRF should be around 2,08.

women in the immigrant population have had a higher TFR. This was also the case in 2005. Women without immigrant backgrounds had a TFR of 1.78 and those who belong to the immigrant population had a TFR of 2.28.

There were large differences in the TFR among the various groups in the immigrant population. Women with western backgrounds had a lower TFR rate than those with non-western backgrounds, with 1.88 compared to 2.35 in 2005. African women had the highest TFR with 3.24, followed by Asian women with 2.60. Only these two groups have a considerably higher TFR than that for the whole country. Women from West Europe had the lowest TFR with 1.83, slightly higher than that for all women in Norway. Women from the other Nordic countries, Latin America and East Europe had a TFR just below 2 (table 2.2.9).

The TFR varies somewhat from one year to another, especially in groups where there are few fertile women. A few births can give large variations in the TFR. The TRF among women with African backgrounds has been stable for the past five years, while it has decreased slightly for women with Asian backgrounds. For more information on fertility among women in the immigrant population, see Hurlen Foss (2006) and Lappegård (2004).

**Table 2.2.1. Population 1 January 2001 and 2006 and changes for the period 2001-2005, by immigrant category**

Country background	Population 1 January 2001	Livebirths	Deaths	Excess of births	Immigrations	Emigrations	Net migrations	Increase in population <sup>1</sup>	Population 1 January 2006
<b>Population, total .....</b>	<b>4 503 436</b>	<b>282 295</b>	<b>213 356</b>	<b>68 939</b>	<b>186 973</b>	<b>118 909</b>	<b>68 064</b>	<b>136 783</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>
Without immigrant background .....	3 997 568	228 141	205 035	23 106	28 113	35 305	-7 192	13 992	4 011 560
<b>With immigration background, total ....</b>	<b>505 868</b>	<b>54 154</b>	<b>8 321</b>	<b>45 833</b>	<b>158 860</b>	<b>83 604</b>	<b>75 256</b>	<b>122 791</b>	<b>628 659</b>
First generation immigrants without Norwegian background	249 904	229	5 942	-5 713	143 215	68 969	74 246	68 610	318 514
Persons born in Norway with two foreign born parents .....	47 827	24 055	202	23 853	1 863	5 387	-3 524	20 358	68 185
Foreign born with one parent born in Norway	23 143	10	246	-236	5 224	2 315	2 909	4 152	27 295
Born in Norway with one foreign born parent	153 006	30 059	1 736	28 323	3 930	6 106	-2 176	27 101	180 107
Born abroad with both parents born in Norway <sup>2</sup>	31 988	1	195	-194	4 628	827	3 801	2 570	34 558
<b>Immigrant population<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>297 731</b>	<b>24 084</b>	<b>6 144</b>	<b>17 940</b>	<b>145 078</b>	<b>74 356</b>	<b>70 722</b>	<b>88 968</b>	<b>386 699</b>
Non immigrant population .....	4 205 705	258 211	207 212	50 999	41 895	44 553	-2 658	47 815	4 253 520

<sup>1</sup> The population increase is different if you take the difference between 1 January 2004 and 1 January 2003, or using births - deaths + immigration - emigration. This is due to data technical issues.

<sup>2</sup> Foreign adopted persons are included here.

<sup>3</sup> Sum of the categories «First generation immigrants» and «Persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents».

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.2.2. Population 1 January 2005 and 2006 and changes in 2005, by immigrant category and country background**

Country background	Population 1 January 2005	Live births	Deaths	Excess of births	Immi- gra- tions	Emi- gra- tions	Net mig- rations	Increase in popu- lation <sup>1</sup>	Popu- lation 1 January 2006
<b>Population, total .....</b>	<b>4 606 363</b>	<b>56 756</b>	<b>41 232</b>	<b>15 524</b>	<b>40 148</b>	<b>21 709</b>	<b>18 439</b>	<b>33 963</b>	<b>4 640 219</b>
Without immigrant background .....	4 007 543	44 994	39 499	5 495	5 328	6 143	-815	4 680	4 011 560
With immigration background, total .....	598 820	11 762	1 733	10 029	34 820	15 566	19 254	29 283	628 659
First generation immigrants without Norwegian background .....	301 045	16 <sup>2</sup>	1 202	-1 186	31 660	12 847	18 813	17 627	318 514
Persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents	63 936	4 943	35	4 908	382	1 017	-635	4 273	68 185
Foreign-born with one parent born in Norway .....	26 468	5	42	-37	1 224	438	786	749	27 295
Born in Norway with one foreign born parent .....	173 741	6 798	409	6 389	760	1 129	-369	6 020	180 107
Born abroad with both parents born in Norway <sup>3</sup> ...	33 630	-	45	-45	794	135	659	614	34 558
<b>Immigrant population<sup>4</sup> ..</b>	<b>364 981</b>	<b>4 959</b>	<b>1 237</b>	<b>3 722</b>	<b>32 042</b>	<b>13 864</b>	<b>18 178</b>	<b>21 900</b>	<b>386 699</b>
Non immigrant population	4 241 382	51 797	39 995	11 802	8 106	7 845	261	12 063	4 253 520
<b>Immigrant population by country background<sup>5</sup></b>									
Total .....	364 981	4 959	1 237	3 722	32 042	13 864	18 178	21 900	386 699
Nordic Countries .....	53 201	217	375	-158	4 584	4 040	544	386	53 551
Eastern Europe .....	61 342	814	239	575	7 940	1 713	6 227	6 802	68 210
Western Europe .....	36 960	220	191	29	4 123	2 335	1 788	1 817	38 635
Asia with Turkey .....	146 851	2 555	208	2 347	9 149	3 014	6 135	8 482	155 264
Afrika .....	43 794	1 082	57	1 025	4 142	1 493	2 649	3 674	47 532
South and Central America	13 657	12	28	-16	1 078	446	632	616	14 293
North America .....	8 092	58	134	-76	822	649	173	97	8 117
Oceania .....	1 084	1	5	-4	204	174	30	26	1 097
<b>Selected groups within the immigrant population</b>									
Pakistan .....	26 950	431	52	379	755	426	329	708	27 675
Sweden .....	22 859	88	148	-60	2 408	1 698	710	650	23 489
Denmark .....	19 197	47	178	-131	1 338	1 215	123	-8	19 179
Iraq .....	18 369	572	16	556	1 480	308	1 172	1 728	20 076
Vietnam .....	17 864	268	35	233	355	125	230	463	18 333
Somalia .....	16 765	553	20	533	1 240	549	691	1 224	18 015
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	14 641	154	63	91	208	118	90	181	14 822
Iran .....	13 983	193	15	178	420	224	196	374	14 362
Turkey .....	13 504	283	12	271	503	198	305	576	14 084
Serbia and Montenegro ....	12 455	263	16	247	565	128	437	684	12 905
Sri Lanka .....	12 288	270	16	254	329	310	19	273	12 560
Germany .....	11 879	109	83	26	1 695	667	1 028	1 054	12 900
United Kingdom .....	11 069	30	87	-57	777	735	42	-15	11 031
Russia .....	8 993	164	4	160	1 423	235	1 188	1 348	10 351
Poland .....	8 933	87	46	41	3 299	416	2 883	2 924	11 864

<sup>1</sup> The population increase is different if you take the difference between 1.1. 2005 and 1.1.2004, or using births - deaths + immigration - emigration. This is due to data technical issues.<sup>2</sup> These persons have re-registered. They should only have been birth-registered. <sup>3</sup> Foreign-adopted persons are included here.<sup>4</sup> Sum of the categories «First generation immigrants» and «Persons born in Norway with two foreign-born parents».<sup>5</sup> Due to changes in the variable country background, there can occur deviation for the population growth.

**Table 2.2.3. Migrations to and from abroad, by county. 1996-2005**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Immigration .....	26 407	31 957	36 704	41 841	36 542	34 264	40 122	35 957	36 482	40 148
Emigration .....	20 590	21 257	22 881	22 842	26 854	26 309	22 498	24 672	23 271	21 709
<b>Net migration .....</b>	<b>5 817</b>	<b>10 700</b>	<b>13 823</b>	<b>18 999</b>	<b>9 688</b>	<b>7 955</b>	<b>17 174</b>	<b>11 285</b>	<b>13 211</b>	<b>18 439</b>
01 Østfold .....	226	541	590	554	244	101	315	279	616	797
02 Akershus .....	652	1 309	1 643	1 703	554	839	1 289	814	1 409	1 857
03 Oslo .....	1 910	3 106	2 156	2 472	549	688	3 610	863	1 555	3 001
04 Hedmark .....	191	333	349	880	526	145	575	376	546	589
05 Oppland .....	95	239	506	893	478	259	672	615	499	767
06 Buskerud .....	234	552	548	813	484	368	767	622	683	789
07 Vestfold .....	205	434	505	692	324	261	646	227	542	730
08 Telemark .....	187	451	530	721	478	405	451	640	522	525
09 Aust-Agder .....	43	114	241	556	210	141	386	288	394	451
10 Vest-Agder .....	166	187	390	1 023	451	294	838	693	641	786
11 Rogaland .....	27	404	1 513	1 453	- 87	671	973	998	1 317	1 761
12 Hordaland .....	- 170	338	1 142	1 701	1 087	926	1 500	1 169	877	2 005
14 Sogn og Fjordane .....	263	236	387	294	352	417	541	272	338	376
15 Møre og Romsdal .....	260	399	618	758	832	454	1 045	665	738	804
16 Sør-Trøndelag .....	234	507	642	1 001	603	439	1 036	388	800	1 055
17 Nord-Trøndelag .....	137	153	435	514	389	212	401	408	303	412
18 Nordland .....	499	708	615	1 453	1 076	739	990	1 025	801	785
19 Troms Romsa .....	367	319	563	827	460	301	706	639	405	763
20 Finnmark Finnmarku .....	291	370	450	691	678	295	433	304	225	186

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.2.4. Naturalisations by previous citizenship and world region. 1977-2005**

	Western countries					Non-western countries			
	Total	Western countries, total	The Nordic countries	Western Europe, else	North America and Oceania	Non-western countries total	Eastern Europe	Africa, Asia, Turkey and South and Central America	Stateless and unknown
<b>1977-2003</b>	<b>176 033</b>	<b>24 980</b>	<b>12 287</b>	<b>10 155</b>	<b>2 538</b>	<b>149 141</b>	<b>30 438</b>	<b>118 703</b>	<b>1 912</b>
1977 .....	2 213	1 436	814	491	131	693	168	525	84
1978 .....	2 501	1 414	710	584	120	1 021	230	791	66
1979 .....	2 242	1 318	592	599	127	850	136	714	74
1980 .....	2 680	1 438	553	721	164	1 116	165	951	126
1981 .....	2 441	1 291	541	574	176	1 069	138	931	81
1982 .....	3 095	1 430	534	735	161	1 611	192	1 419	54
1983 .....	1 754	667	374	234	59	1 072	128	944	15
1984 .....	2 798	807	387	361	59	1 959	262	1 697	32
1985 .....	2 851	948	470	397	81	1 882	213	1 669	21
1986 .....	2 486	756	365	318	73	1 715	186	1 529	15
1987 .....	2 370	590	308	229	53	1 761	165	1 596	19
1988 .....	3 364	588	271	255	62	2 768	272	2 496	8
1989 .....	4 622	733	366	302	65	3 875	600	3 275	14
1990 .....	4 757	572	279	248	45	4 173	433	3 740	12
1991 .....	5 055	538	251	227	60	4 506	441	4 065	11
1992 .....	5 132	544	252	236	56	4 578	485	4 093	10
1993 .....	5 538	678	337	266	75	4 839	610	4 229	21
1994 .....	8 778	802	403	316	83	7 932	1 054	6 878	44
1995 .....	11 778	608	283	265	60	11 097	1 343	9 754	73
1996 .....	12 237	627	248	294	85	11 530	1 049	10 481	80
1997 .....	12 037	763	351	322	90	10 887	1 178	9 709	387
1998 .....	9 244	705	351	275	79	8 408	1 111	7 297	131
1999 .....	7 988	786	467	239	80	7 125	1 728	5 397	77
2000 .....	9 517	849	494	274	81	8 619	2 818	5 801	49
2001 .....	10 838	770	473	222	75	10 014	4 724	5 290	54
2002 .....	9 041	737	394	286	57	8 248	2 523	5 725	56
2003 .....	7 867	768	433	249	86	7 051	2 994	4 057	48
2004 .....	8 154	870	453	302	115	7 183	1 925	5 258	101
2005 .....	12 655	947	533	334	80	11 559	3 167	8 392	149

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.2.5. Marriages contracted<sup>1</sup>, by immigrant background<sup>2</sup> of male and female. 2005**

Country background of male	Total	Country background of female								
		Norway	The rest of the Nordic countries	Eastern Europe	Western Europe	Asia including Turkey	Africa	North America and Oceania	South and Central America	Stateless and unknown
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>23 890</b>	<b>18 180</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>1 193</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>2 405</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>359</b>
Norway .....	19 918	16 634	366	744	207	1 233	119	138	367	110
The rest of the Nordic countries .....	425	328	49	13	3	19	2	1	4	6
Eastern Europe .....	505	114	1	340	4	10	1	1	4	30
Western Europe .....	429	308	4	19	56	21	9	3	6	3
Asia including Turkey ..	1 468	259	9	31	11	986	16	1	4	151
Africa .....	517	174	4	8	5	16	249	4	3	54
North America and Oceania .....	188	159	4	6	1	12	2	1	1	2
South and Central America .....	157	98	2	6	-	1	-	-	47	3
Stateless and unknown	283	106	5	26	2	107	36	-	1	.

<sup>1</sup> At least one of the spouses resident in Norway.<sup>2</sup> If not Norway, then the person has two foreign-born parents and four foreign-born grandparents. If foreign, own, mother's or father's country of birth is used.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.2.6. Marriages contracted<sup>1</sup>, by immigrant background<sup>2</sup>. 1990**

Country background of male	Total	Country background of female								
		Norway	The rest of the Nordic countries	Eastern Europe	Western Europe	Asia including Turkey	Africa	North America and Oceania	South and Central America	Stateless and unknown
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>21 926</b>	<b>19 736</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>881</b>
Norway .....	19 635	18 367	302	66	116	147	12	54	39	532
The rest of the Nordic countries .....	281	222	38	2	3	3	1	-	1	11
Eastern Europe .....	143	83	4	21	1	3	-	-	-	31
Western Europe .....	205	170	4	5	11	2	-	2	1	10
Asia including Turkey ..	610	120	4	4	2	245	3	1	3	228
Africa .....	222	109	4	3	-	3	42	1	-	60
North-America and Oceania .....	61	54	1	1	3	2	-	-	9	-
South and Central America .....	56	35	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	9
Stateless and unknown	713	576	6	9	5	93	13	2	9	.

<sup>1</sup> At least one of the spouses resident in Norway.<sup>2</sup> If not Norway, then the person has two foreign-born parents and four foreign-born grandparents. If foreign, own, mother's or father's country of birth is used.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.2.7. Marriages contracted<sup>1</sup>, by immigrant background<sup>2</sup> of male and female. Selected nationalities. 2005**

	Both with same country background	Country background of male is Norwegian and country background of female is foreign	Country background of female is Norwegian and country background of male is foreign
Norway .....	16 634	16 634	16 634
Denmark .....	9	84	136
Sweden .....	23	216	158
Bosnia- Herzegovina .....	71	13	13
Serbia and Montenegro .....	71	17	32
Russia .....	39	339	8
Turkey .....	124	25	93
Philippines .....	24	277	4
Iraq .....	99	6	28
Iran .....	87	24	24
Pakistan .....	183	:	17
Sri Lanka .....	70	7	6
Thailand .....	5	661	:
Vietnam .....	144	47	5
Morocco .....	40	9	28
Somalia .....	61	:	:

<sup>1</sup> At least one of the spouses resident in Norway.

<sup>2</sup> If not Norway, then the person has two foreign-born parents and four foreign-born grandparents. If foreign, own, mother's or father's country of birth is used.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.2.8. Divorces<sup>1</sup>, by country background of male and female<sup>2</sup>. 2005**

Country background of male	Country background of female							
	Total	Norway	Europe, except Turkey	Asia include Turkey	Africa	North America and Oceania	South and Central America	Unknown
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>11 619</b>	<b>9 627</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>85</b>
Norway .....	9 652	8 721	480	255	43	64	84	5
Europe, except Turkey .....	562	353	164	15	3	.	3	24
Asia, including Turkey .....	750	232	29	445	6	1	3	34
Africa .....	344	143	11	5	166	1	1	17
North America and Oceania ....	83	78	2	.	.	1	.	2
South and Central America .....	103	52	4	.	.	.	44	3
Unknown .....	125	48	16	23	37	.	1	.

<sup>1</sup> At least one of the spouses resident in Norway, and at least one of the spouses with two parents born in a foreign country.

<sup>2</sup> If born in a foreign country, own, mother's or father's country of birth.

Source: Population statistics, Statistics Norway.



**Table 2.2.9. Total fertility rate<sup>1</sup>. 2001-2005**

Country background	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Total population .....</b>	<b>1,78</b>	<b>1,75</b>	<b>1,80</b>	<b>1,83</b>	<b>1,84</b>
Non immigrant population .....	1,73	1,69	1,73	1,77	1,78
Immigrant population, total <sup>2</sup> .....	2,33	2,32	2,36	2,35	2,28
<b>Country background of immigrant population</b>					
Nordic countries .....	1,89	1,85	1,89	1,93	1,95
Western Europe .....	1,90	2,03	1,75	2,06	1,83
Eastern Europe .....	1,84	1,83	1,90	1,88	1,91
North America and Oceania .....	2,05	1,86	2,11	2,07	1,59
South and Central America .....	2,29	1,91	2,05	2,01	1,97
Asia, including Turkey .....	2,61	2,58	2,60	2,50	2,36
Africa .....	3,18	3,13	3,24	3,25	3,23
Western countries .....	1,90	1,91	1,88	1,98	1,88
Non-western countries .....	2,47	2,43	2,49	2,42	2,35

<sup>1</sup> Total of one-year-age-specific fertility rates 15-49 years. The average number of live-born children born to a woman passing through the child-bearing period exposed at each age to the existing fertility but not exposed to mortality.

<sup>2</sup> The fertility of women who have two foreign born-parents and four foreign-born grandparents.

Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

### 2.3. Persons with refugee backgrounds

- About 117 000 persons with refugee backgrounds were living in Norway at the beginning of January 2006, thereby making up 2.5 per cent of the total population.
- 89 000 of the refugees were registered as principal applicants, while the remainder (28 000) came to Norway as relatives of refugees.
- 74 per cent of the refugee population came from third world countries, and 25 per cent came from East Europe. The two largest groups were refugees from Iraq and Somalia with 15 900 and 13 000 respectively.
- 50 per cent of the refugees were registered with Norwegian citizenship on 1 January 2006.
- Persons with refugee status aged 20-49 made up 66 per cent of the refugee population, while only 5 per cent were 60 years or older.
- There were approximately 8 700 more male than female refugees.
- 55 per cent of the refugee population has lived in Norway less than ten years.
- Oslo was the county with the highest number of refugees, with 32 500, which represents 28 per cent of all the refugees in Norway and 6 per cent of the capital city's population.
- In 2005, Norway received around 5 400 applications for asylum. A total 102 countries were represented among the persons applying for asylum.
- Around 320 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in 2005. Compared with 2004, there was a decrease of a little over 100 such applications.

**117 000 with refugee backgrounds**

During 2005, the number of persons with refugee backgrounds increased by 10 000. At the beginning of January 2006, Norway's refugee population totalled 117 000. With an increase of 1 600 and 1 400 respectively, the Iraqi and Somali refugee population had the strongest growth.

A total of 89 000 persons with refugee backgrounds came to Norway as resettlement refugees or asylum seekers, while the remaining 28 000 came to Norway as relatives of refugees. Children born in Norway to persons with a refugee background are not included in our statistics. A total of 8 900 persons were living in Norwegian reception facilities for asylum seekers, and these are not included in our statistics.

**Most from Iraq and Somalia**

The term "refugee" or "person with refugee background" refers to first-generation immigrants (family included), who have come to Norway because of flight. Refugees made up 52 per cent of the total non-western population of the first-generation immigrants on 1 January 2006. They are included in statistics on the immigrant population. Around 25 per cent of the refugee population came from East Europe, while the rest came from third world countries (Asia, Africa, South and Central America and Turkey). A total of 158 countries were represented among persons with a refugee background. Refugees from Iraq and Somalia were the two largest groups, with 15 900 and 13 000 respectively (table 2.3.1).

**Approximately every second refugee has Norwegian citizenship**

As at 1 January 2006, 50 per cent of refugees had Norwegian citizenship

(table 2.3.2). This percentage varies according to country background. Refugees from Iraq made up the largest group of foreign nationals, with 11 300. The largest number of people who have taken out Norwegian citizenship are found among the Vietnamese, with 9 700.

**More than half with less than 10 years of residence**

At the beginning of 2006, 55 per cent of refugees had lived in Norway for less than ten years. A total of 32 per cent have lived in the country less than five years, while only 7 per cent have had 20 years of residence or more (table 2.3.2.).

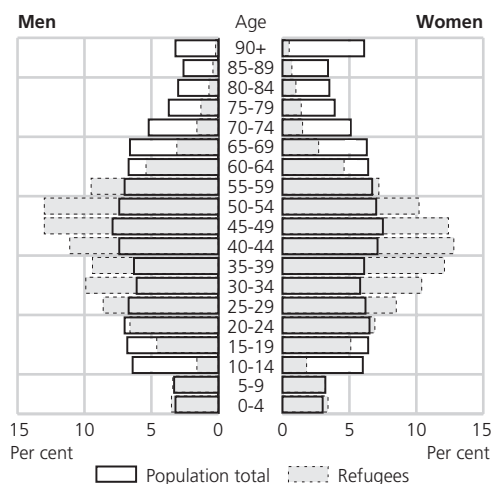
Forty per cent of the Vietnamese refugees have more than 20 years of residence. Among those with the shortest stays, i.e. less than five years, are the Russian and Afghani refugees with more than 90 per cent.

**Few old people among the refugees**

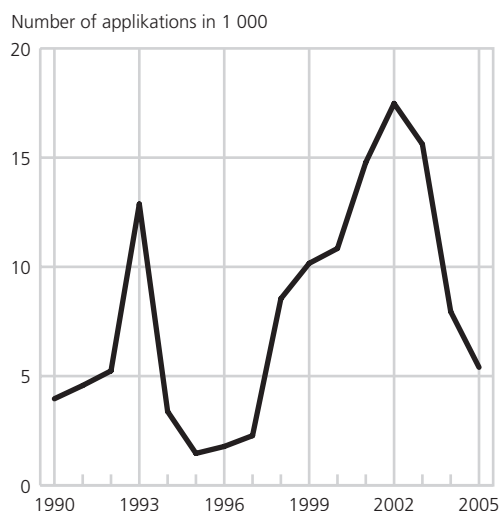
The refugee population is younger than the Norwegian population: 43 per cent of the refugees were aged 30 or under compared with 37 per cent for the entire population. Only 5 per cent of the refugees belonged to the age group 60 years or older compared with 20 per cent for the entire population (figure 2.3.1).

**More men**

Men were over-represented among the refugees. By 1 January 2006, there were approximately 8 700 more men than women. The male surplus is particularly strong among refugees from third world countries, such as Iraq, Somalia, Iran and Afghanistan, while the gender balance is more equal among the East European refugees, due to the fact that refugees from the Balkans often constitute whole families.

**Figure 2.3.1. Population total and refugees by age and sex. 1 January 2006. Per cent**

Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Figure 2.3.2. Number of asylum applications to Norway. 1990-2005**

Source: The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration.

### ***Oslo has the largest refugee population***

Oslo is still the county with the largest refugee population. Around 32 500 refugees lived in Oslo, which accounts for 28 per cent of the total number of refugees in Norway and 5.2 per cent of the city's total population. Expressed in absolute figures, most refugees lived in Oslo and Akershus (12 700). The fewest number of refugees are found in Finnmark and Sogn og Fjordane, with 900 and 1 400 respectively (table 2.3.3).

### ***Decline in the number of applications for asylum***

In 2005, Norway received around 5 400 applications for asylum. This represented a fall of 32 per cent compared with 2004 (figure 2.3.2). A total of 102 countries were represented among the persons applying for asylum in 2005. The highest number of applications for asylum came from persons with a background from Iraq (671) followed by Somalia (667) and Russia (545).

### ***Decline in the number of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers***

Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers are persons who, on arrival in Norway, declare that they are under 18 years of age and are not accompanied by parents or others with parental responsibility. Around 320 unaccompanied minors applied for asylum in 2005 (table 2.3.5). Compared with 2004, there was a decrease of slightly more than 100 such applications. In 2005, as in previous years, the number of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers followed approximately the development of the total number of asylum seekers. The majority of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers came from Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

### About the statistics

The statistics are compiled to distinguish persons with a refugee background from other immigrants, and were published for the first time in 1999 (refugees 1 January 1998). These statistics are not intended as a replacement of the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration's statistics on decisions and legal grounds. The figures do not necessarily concur with the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration's statistics on decisions and legal grounds.

For more information:

<http://www.ssb.no/emner/02/01/10/flyktninger/>

### Definitions

**Refugee.** In the legal sense, the term "refugee" applies to resettlement refugees and asylum seekers who have been granted asylum. In connection with refugee assistance in Norway, the term "refugee" is used for resettlement refugees and persons who, following an application for asylum, have been granted asylum, protection or residence on humanitarian grounds.

**Asylum seeker** is a person who on his or her own initiative, and without prior notification, asks the authorities for protection and recognition as a refugee. The person is called an asylum seeker until a decision has been made on the application.

**Resettlement refugees** are refugees who are permitted to come to Norway following an organised selection process, normally in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). At the Government's proposal, the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget) sets a quota for the number of resettlement refugees to be received by Norway each year.

**Family immigration permit** is a permit that is granted to persons who are or will be close family members of a Norwegian citizen or foreign national with legal residence in Norway.

Source: Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, Facts and figures 2005.

**Table 2.3.1. Different definitions of refugees<sup>1</sup>, by country background and refugee status.**

**1 January 2006**

Country background	Refugees		
	Total	Principal applicants flykt-	By family connection to refugee <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>117 231</b>	<b>88 891</b>	<b>28 340</b>
Of these from			
Eastern Europe .	29 435	26 174	3 261
Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey	87 247	62 358	24 889
<b>Selected countries</b>			
Iraq .....	15 917	9 862	6 055
Somalia .....	12 958	8 675	4 283
Bosnia- Herzegovina .....	12 006	11 215	791
Iran .....	11 107	9 235	1 872
Vietnam .....	10 672	8 224	2 448
Serbia and Montenegro .....	8 117	7 014	1 103
Sri Lanka .....	6 033	3 659	2 374
Afghanistan .....	5 766	4 134	1 632
Chile .....	4 465	3 579	886
Russia .....	3 405	3 094	311
Ethiopia .....	2 122	1 536	586
Croatia .....	1 776	1 541	235
Eritrea .....	1 669	1 379	290
Turkey .....	1 660	855	805
Pakistan .....	1 410	821	589
Poland .....	1 157	912	245

<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 2.3.2. Refugees<sup>1</sup>, by country background, citizenship and duration of residence in Norway.  
1 January 2006**

Country background	Refugees, total	Refugees with Norwegian citizenship	Refugees with foreign citizenship	Duration of residence. Year. Per Cent			
				0-4	5-9	10-19	20-
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>117 231</b>	<b>58 143</b>	<b>59 088</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>
The Nordic countries .....	151	112	39	10	14	51	25
Rest of Western Europe, except Turkey .....	309	71	238	36	8	35	20
Eastern Europe .....	29 435	16 258	13 177	22	22	52	5
North America, Oceania .....	89	15	74	33	8	35	25
Asia, Africa, Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey .....	87 247	41 687	45 560	36	23	34	8
<b>Selected countries</b>							
Iraq .....	15 917	4 660	11 257	39	46	14	0
Somalia .....	12 958	4 069	8 889	50	29	22	0
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	12 006	7 932	4 074	6	15	79	0
Iran .....	11 107	7 293	3 814	22	22	54	2
Vietnam .....	10 672	9 673	999	7	5	47	40
Serbia and Montenegro .....	8 117	4 288	3 829	21	36	43	0
Sri Lanka .....	6 033	4 298	1 735	13	21	61	6
Afghanistan .....	5 766	345	5 421	81	14	5	0
Chile .....	4 465	3 151	1 314	4	3	73	20
Russia .....	3 405	165	3 240	93	5	2	0
Ethiopia .....	2 122	704	1 418	50	25	19	5
Croatia .....	1 776	734	1 042	18	68	14	0
Eritrea .....	1 669	1 028	641	34	7	51	8
Turkey .....	1 660	1 093	567	22	21	55	3
Pakistan .....	1 410	660	750	36	13	46	5
Poland .....	1 157	967	190	5	5	50	41
Macedonia .....	1 052	905	147	10	3	86	1
Lebanon .....	931	744	187	18	15	67	1

<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.

Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.3.3. Refugees<sup>1</sup>, by county. 1 January 2006**

	Refugees	Per cent of population
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>117 231</b>	<b>2,5</b>
01 Østfold .....	8 417	3,2
02 Akershus .....	12 680	2,5
03 Oslo .....	32 478	6,0
04 Hedmark .....	3 162	1,7
05 Oppland .....	3 270	1,8
06 Buskerud .....	6 789	2,8
07 Vestfold .....	5 180	2,3
08 Telemark .....	4 248	2,6
09 Aust-Agder .....	2 215	2,1
10 Vest-Agder .....	5 478	3,4
11 Rogaland .....	8 687	2,2
12 Hordaland .....	8 540	1,9
14 Sogn og Fjordane .....	1 372	1,3
15 Møre og Romsdal .....	2 843	1,2
16 Sør-Trøndelag .....	4 954	1,8
17 Nord-Trøndelag .....	1 422	1,1
18 Nordland .....	2 895	1,2
19 Troms Romsa .....	1 721	1,1
20 Finnmark Finnmark .....	880	1,2

<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.

KildSource: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 2.3.4. Asylum applications to Norway, by country background. 1995-2005**

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1 460</b>	<b>1 778</b>	<b>2 273</b>	<b>8 543</b>	<b>10 160</b>	<b>10 843</b>	<b>14 782</b>	<b>17 480</b>	<b>15 613</b>	<b>7 950</b>	<b>5 402</b>
<b>Selected countries</b>											
Bosnia-Herzegovina ...	106	73	90	236	161	272	907	810	657	119	52
Bulgaria .....	6	5	9	14	6	12	950	359	110	28	22
Croatia .....	29	..	55	2 452	60	16	1 216	139	51	20	18
Romania .....	10	8	19	77	153	712	203	247	206	33	16
Russia .....	69	50	39	141	318	471	1 318	1 718	1 893	938	545
Serbia and Montenegro	146	76	343	1 666	1 152	4 188	928	2 460	2 180	860	468
Ukraine .....	15	8	8	13	34	131	1 027	772	92	44	20
Ethiopia .....	18	30	48	81	126	96	173	325	287	148	100
Somalia .....	189	180	552	955	1 340	910	1 080	1 534	1 601	957	667
Afghanistan .....	10	3	16	45	172	326	603	786	2 032	1 059	466
Iraq .....	99	113	272	1 317	4 073	766	1 056	1 624	938	413	671
Iran .....	163	120	138	270	350	327	412	450	608	393	279
Pakistan .....	31	16	26	146	265	220	186	216	92	48	33
Sri Lanka .....	90	413	196	173	112	165	164	87	64	58	58
Turkey .....	35	24	44	131	279	164	204	257	235	149	111
Stateless .....	59	19	42	85	164	120	194	391	366	298	209

Source: The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration: «Fact and Figures 2005».

**Table 2.3.5. Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers arriving in Norway. 1995-2005**

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>322</b>
Afghanistan .....	1	1	1	3	7	36	41	144	306	141	46
Albania .....	-	4	1	-	2	3	17	2	10	2	1
Algeria .....	2	2	4	4	3	7	9	26	11	9	1
Angola .....	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	28	7	5
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	3	-	12	11	-	4	4	3	1	0	1
Burundi .....	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	11	6	9
Eritrea .....	-	1	8	14	13	9	25	37	24	10	7
Ethiopia .....	1	10	25	24	26	22	44	59	57	14	9
Guinea .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	10	2	1
Belarus .....	-	-	-	1	1	9	5	12	11	1	0
Iraq .....	3	3	24	36	141	80	87	190	108	30	46
Iran .....	5	1	10	12	4	9	4	10	11	8	9
Croatia .....	1	-	2	36	-	-	1	-	-	2	0
Lithuania .....	2	1	4	1	1	6	5	5	10	3	3
Mongolia .....	-	-	-	-	-	1	18	10	9	0	0
Nigeria .....	-	-	2	-	1	4	1	12	14	6	4
Romania .....	-	-	2	1	2	13	5	6	1	0	0
Russia .....	1	1	3	13	4	20	37	21	26	17	18
Serbia and Montenegro .....	3	5	34	65	22	93	15	29	19	5	3
Sierra Leone .....	-	-	-	1	3	18	2	2	5	4	2
Slovakia .....	-	-	-	-	1	16	1	2	-	0	0
Somalia .....	55	33	139	154	103	114	99	133	117	80	74
Sri Lanka .....	2	24	66	72	34	58	60	39	20	15	16
Stateless .....	10	2	5	2	2	2	12	13	18	4	11
Sudan .....	3	1	4	2	-	3	5	9	4	1	3
Others .....	13	18	30	13	15	28	59	118	85	57	53

<sup>1</sup> Age stated on arrival.

Source: The Norwegian Directorate: «Fact and Figures 2005».





Trude Fjeldseth and Cassie Trewin

### 3. Education

*This chapter describes the immigrant population's path through the educational system. Initiatives undertaken in pre-schools to improve lingual stimulation, language training in elementary schooling, and the immigrants' attendance and accomplishments with regard to the school system are described. The figures show big differences between first-generation immigrants and their descendants when it comes to attendance in upper secondary and tertiary education.*

- In 2005, 14 000 children with minority backgrounds attended pre-school in Norway. This proportion has grown from around 5 per cent to more than 6 per cent in 2005. A total of 45 per cent of children with minority backgrounds received assistance for lingual stimulation in pre-schools.
- Around 620 000 pupils attended elementary school in autumn 2005. Six per cent of these pupils received special training in Norwegian, and over 3 per cent received training in their native language and/or bilingual training. This training was most often given in Urdu, Somalian and Arabic.
- In autumn 2005, more than 16 000 pupils with immigration backgrounds were in upper secondary education in Norway. Seventy-three per cent of these pupils were first-generation immigrants.
- Pupils with backgrounds from Iraq, Somalia and Iran are the biggest groups among the first-generation immigrants in upper secondary education. The biggest group of descendants had a Pakistani background.
- In 2005, 90 per cent of all 16-18 year olds in Norway attended upper secondary education. Among the first-generation immigrants the proportion was 70 per cent, while it was 88 per cent among the descendants.
- From 2000 to 2005 the proportion of 16-18 year olds attending upper secondary education increased by 6 percentage points, both for first-generation immigrants and immigrant descendants.
- For pupils with immigration backgrounds, the accomplishment rate is lower, and the percentage of students dropping out is higher than for pupils as a whole in upper secondary education.
- Figures from 2005 show how pupils with immigration backgrounds more often than pupils as a whole continued in tertiary education the same autumn as they completed upper secondary education. While the proportion was 30 per cent for first-generation immigrants

and 45 per cent for descendants, the share was 23 per cent for the pupils as a whole.

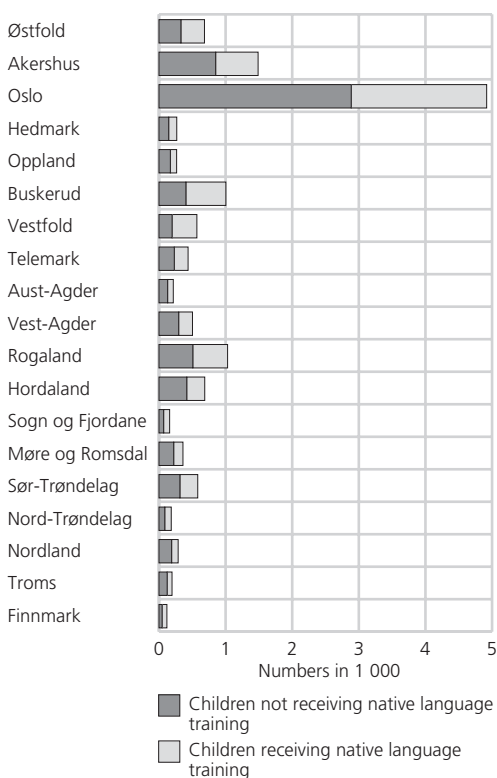
- In autumn 2005, 18 per cent of all first-generation immigrants and 33 per cent of descendants aged 19-24 were in tertiary education. In comparison, the percentage in the same age group for the whole population was 30 per cent.
- The biggest group of first-generation immigrants, aged 19-24, originate from Bosnia-Herzegovina. There were also many pupils with backgrounds from Iran, China and Russia. Among the descendants in this group, the biggest groups were from Pakistan, Vietnam and Turkey.

### 6 per cent of all children in pre-school originated from a linguistic minority

In 2005, there were 223 500 children attending pre-school in Norway. Almost 14 000 of these children had a minority background, meaning they had a native language other than Norwegian, Sami, Swedish, Danish or English. The proportion of children with minority backgrounds has increased from less than 5 per cent in 2000 to more than 6 per cent in 2005 (table 3.1). In the public pre-schools, this proportion was 9 per cent, while it was 4 per cent in the private pre-schools. These percentages are increasing in both public and private pre-schools (table 3.2). Thirty-five per cent of the children in the pre-schools in Oslo spoke languages other than English or a Scandinavian language (figure 3.1/table 3.3). The large number of children with minority backgrounds in Oslo dramatically increases the national average.

The previous arrangement with earmarked subsidies for bilingual assistance to

**Figure 3.1. Pre-school children from linguistic and cultural minorities. Number of children receiving bilingual assistance, by county. 2005**



<sup>1</sup> Children with a native language other than Norwegian, Sami, Swedish, Danish or English.

Source: Education Statistics, Statistics Norway.

children in pre-schools with linguistic minority backgrounds was replaced on 1 August 2004. A subsidy to attempt language stimulation aimed at all children of a pre-school age (1-5 years) was introduced. In 2000, 44 per cent of the children in pre-schools that spoke a minority language received bilingual assistance. This proportion decreased to 37 per cent in 2003, and increased again to 45 per cent in 2005 (table 1). Children with minority backgrounds attending public pre-schools receive initiatives for language stimulation to a greater extent than those attending private pre-schools.

**Linguistic minorities in pre-schools**

The municipalities receive subsidies for providing bilingual assistance to pre-school children (1-5 years) with minority backgrounds. From 2004, this subsidy is no longer earmarked for measures for pre-school children, but can also be used for measures aimed at children who do not attend pre-school. The subsidy can now be included in the municipalities' service aimed at all minority children. Examples are information aimed at parents and drawing up offers across the existing services. The subsidy arrangement enables language stimulation to be offered to children who do not attend pre-school. One example is in conjunction with established family centres or Norwegian language training for the parents. The pre-school is considered to be an important arena for integration and language training. The condition for assignment of subsidy therefore states that initiatives in the pre-school shall be preferred. An important target is to increase the recruitment of children with minority backgrounds to pre-schools.

Children with minority backgrounds are defined here as children with a language and cultural background other than Norwegian, except for children with Swedish, Danish or English as a native language. Newly arrived children refugees are covered by a separate subsidy arrangement, and are therefore not included in the statistics.

**6 per cent of pupils in elementary school received special training in Norwegian**

Of nearly 620 000 pupils in elementary schools during the school year 2005/2006, only 6 per cent received special training in Norwegian. This proportion has increased steadily in recent years. Back in 1997/1998, only 4 per cent of pupils received special training in Norwegian (table 3.5). In 2005/2006, 3 per cent of elementary school pupils attended

**Linguistic minorities in the elementary school**

People with a native language other than Norwegian and Sami are defined as linguistic minorities in the elementary schools. This definition also includes Scandinavians and other West Europeans. Native languages are languages spoken daily in the home of the person. Pupils with native languages other than Norwegian and Sami have the same right to adapted training as other pupils in elementary schools. The term "linguistic minority" is not in use today in the elementary school statistics. The registration of minority pupils was based on gender, except for those pupils who participated in distinctive Norwegian training or native language training. In 2003, the registration changed to only cover pupils who attended different initiatives in language training.

**Training in native languages**

Training in native languages is training in the native language for pupils from linguistic minorities. This is a duty that the municipalities are obliged to offer according to the Education Act. Adults from linguistic minorities who are attending elementary education are not included in the system of native language training.

**Special Norwegian training for linguistic minorities**

Special training in Norwegian as a second language includes both training for those with Norwegian as a second language and other offers of training in Norwegian for people with a linguistic minority background. The intention is to offer lingual training to linguistic minority pupils in order to enable them to achieve the skills needed to follow ordinary schooling.

training in native language and/or bilingual training. It is most common to receive special language training in Urdu and Somalian. Other common languages are Arabic, Kurdish, Vietnamese, Albanian and Turkish (table 3.6).

There are big differences between counties regarding the number of pupils who receive special training in Norwegian, first language training and/or bilingual training. In Oslo, 20 per cent of 53 000 pupils in elementary school received special training in Norwegian, 2 per cent received native language training and 8 per cent received bilingual training<sup>1</sup>. Akershus, Hordaland and Rogaland all have many elementary school pupils. The proportion of pupils in these counties who receive special training in Norwegian is low compared with Oslo. Akershus is the county with the most elementary school pupils, where 5 per cent of about 72 400 pupils received special language training in Norwegian, less than 1 per cent received native language training, and 2 per cent received bilingual training.

### **More and more 16-18 year-olds with immigration backgrounds undertake upper secondary schooling**

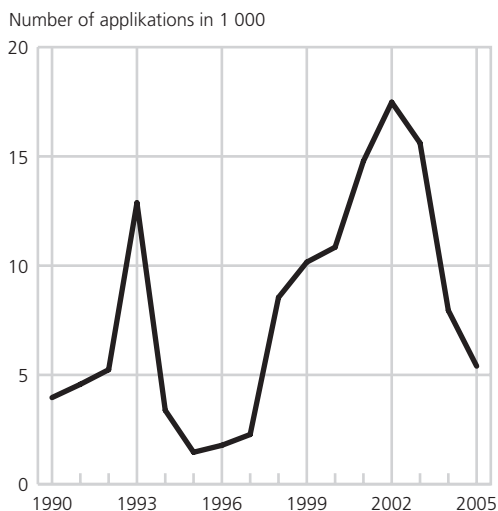
In 2005, 90 per cent of all 16-18 year-olds attended upper secondary education. While this proportion of the population has been stable since 2000, the proportion of 16-18 year-olds with immigration backgrounds in upper secondary education has increased in the last five years (figure 3.2). The proportion of first-generation immigrants between 16 and 18 in upper secondary education has increased from 64 per cent in 2000 to more than 70 per cent in 2005. Descendants in the same age group in upper secondary education have increased from 82 per cent in 2000 to 88 per cent in 2005 (table 3.9). The small proportion of first-generation immigrants in upper secondary education compared with descendants must be seen in connection with the complexity of the first-generation immigrant group. For example, in

relation to the period of time living in Norway, language and educational background, and the fact that many of the first-generation immigrants attend upper secondary schooling later on.

More girls than boys with immigration backgrounds in the cohort 16-18 years attended upper secondary education in autumn 2005. Of all first-generation pupils, 66 per cent of the girls and 62 per cent of the boys attended upper secondary education. Among the descendants, the difference between genders was smaller. Just over 82 per cent of the girls and just below 82 per cent of the boys attended upper secondary education.

The numbers from 2005 show that 96 per cent of all pupils started upper secondary education immediately after completing elementary school. The transitional percentage among descendants was also 96 per cent, but this percentage was 89 per

**Figure 3.2. Pupils in upper secondary education, percentage of registered cohorts (16-18 years), by immigration category. 2000-2005**

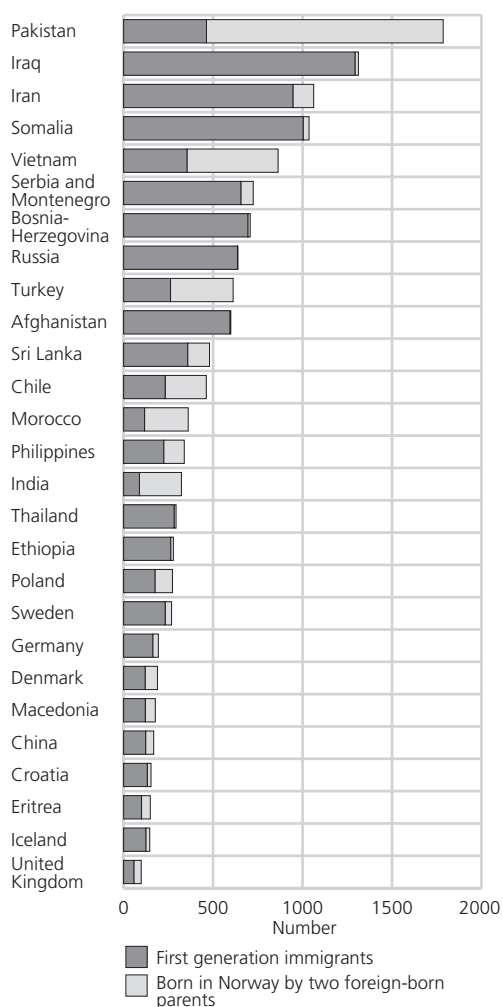


Source: The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration.

cent for first-generation immigrants (table 3.7).

More than 16 000 pupils with minority backgrounds attended upper secondary education in Norway in autumn 2005. Of these, 73 per cent were first-generation immigrants and 27 per cent were descendents. The low participation of descen-

**Figure 3.3. Pupils in upper secondary education, by immigration category and country of origin. 1 October 2005.**



<sup>1</sup> Includes pupils under the Upper Secondary Education Act.  
Source: Education Statistics, Statistics Norway.

dents in upper secondary education must be seen in connection with the immigration populations' composition and age structure. Still there are relatively few descendents that are old enough to start an upper secondary education. The age differences among the registered descendents in upper secondary education were approximately equal in 2005 for persons without immigration backgrounds. Compared with the pupils without immigration backgrounds, there were many more older pupils among the first-generation immigrants.

From first-generation immigrants in upper secondary education, pupils from Iraq, Somalia and Iran formed the biggest groups. Among the descendents, the biggest group had a Pakistani background (figure 3.3/ table 3.8).

### Large differences in upper secondary education

By comparing information on when the pupils start and complete upper secondary education, information about the throughput of pupils can be obtained. The completion rate is lower and the percentage of pupils dropping out is higher for pupils with immigration backgrounds than for the whole group of pupils in upper secondary education.

Less than half of the pupils with immigration backgrounds that started upper secondary education in 1998 and 1999, completed within the normal time frame. Almost 40 per cent left within five years. In comparison, nearly 60 per cent of all pupils in cohort 1998 and 1999 completed within the normal time frame, and 24 per cent left within five years (table 3.11). In upper secondary education, the drop out rate for immigrant boys is much greater than for girls. Among boys, 43

per cent dropped out of the 1998 cohort and 46 per cent dropped out of the 1999 cohort. Among girls, the percentages were 31 and 29 respectively.

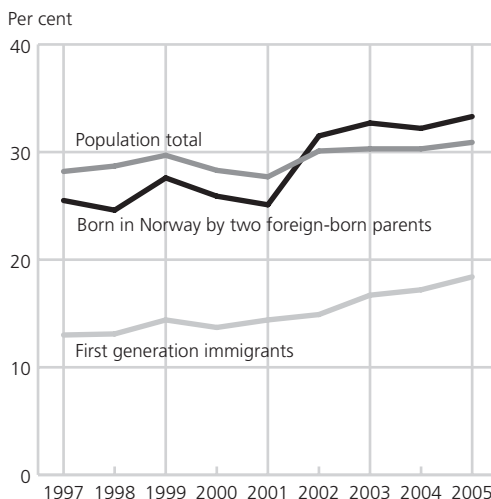
*Completed education* means that the pupil/apprentice has passed all the years of an upper secondary education that result in a certificate or certificate of apprentice/advanced craft certificate. *Discontinued education* means that the pupil/apprentice did not complete the education and is no longer registered as a pupil/apprentice in upper secondary education. The data material does not give a basis for illustrating the different kinds of drop outs. Therefore, the statistics that are presented in the category *discontinued* will include pupils who never intended to complete the education, pupils who fail in some or many classes, or pupils who have started a different kind of education.

Støren (2005) points out that the picture of minority youth in Norwegian education is ambiguous. The time the person has lived in the country has a large impact on whether the person is attending education, but is less relevant to the performance. Different demographic and social backgrounds such as parents' education level, income and labour market connection, explain more of the performance differences between minority and majority youths than the immigration background. Among the young people who do complete upper secondary education, the proportion with immigration backgrounds is just as high or higher than for majority youths.

### Every third pupil with an immigration background continued in tertiary education after completing upper secondary education

Of pupils with an immigration background that completed upper secondary education (Advanced Course II and qualifying examination) during 2005/2006, 30 per cent of the first-generation pupils and 45 per cent of the descendants continued in tertiary education in Norway or abroad. For all pupils who completed the same year, the transition rate was over 23 (table 3.12). This means that it was more common for pupils with immigration backgrounds to continue tertiary education after completing upper secondary education, than for all pupils in total. Almost 7 per cent of the descendants who completed upper secondary education immediately started tertiary education abroad. In comparison, this accounts for only 1 per cent of pupils in total.

**Figure 3.4. Students in tertiary education as percentage of registered cohort (19-24 years), by immigration category. 1997-2005**



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

Source: Education Statistics, Statistics Norway.

### **Female descendents dominate tertiary education**

More than 30 per cent of Norway's 19-24 year-olds were attending tertiary education in 2005. The descendents' attendance was higher than the cross-section (33 per cent). Among first-generation immigrants, only 18 per cent were in education (table 3.13). Among the first-generation immigrants who completed upper secondary education, the tendency to continue further education was high. The reason for low attendance from first-generation immigrants can be supposed to stem from earlier in the education process: when few start upper secondary education and many discontinue education, the basis for recruitment to tertiary education is smaller.

Women are better represented than men in tertiary education. This is true both for the immigration population and the population in total. Numbers from the whole population show that 37 per cent of the women and 25 per cent of the men in the registered cohort (19-24 years) were enrolled in tertiary education in autumn 2005. Numbers from 1997-2005 indicate that women were better represented during this period. The relative difference between men and women slightly increased at the end of the 90s, and has been stable since 2001 (table 3.13).

Among the first-generation immigrants studying until 1998, the proportion of women was greater than for men. In 1998, the percentage of women in tertiary education was 13.4 per cent and 12.8 per cent for men. Since 1998, the difference between men and women has been increasing. In 2005, the difference between genders was four percentage points – 20 per cent of females and 16 per cent

of males were enrolled from all first-generation immigrants.

Female descendents were better represented in tertiary education in 2005, with 38 per cent. From the male descendents, the percentage was 29. Both female and male descendants participated in tertiary education to a greater extent than the cross-section of the population. In 1997, the female attendance among the descendents was nearly 5 per cent lower than for the average women.

### **Immigrants with Chinese background study the most**

From cohort 19-24 years in 2005, people with a Chinese background have the largest enrolment rates in tertiary education, both for first-generation immigrants (59 per cent) and descendants (60 per cent). Next to the Chinese, first-generation immigrants from Bosnia (38 per cent), Russia (31 per cent), Germany (29 per cent) and Iran (27 per cent) have the highest enrolment rates. Enrolment rates among descendants in tertiary education are high among persons with backgrounds from India (53 per cent), Iraq (50 per cent), Sri Lanka (50 per cent) and Vietnam (47 per cent) (table 3.15).

The proportions must be interpreted carefully, because the statistics do not include the different reasons for immigration. This means that persons who come to Norway to study are included in first-generation immigrants together with persons who have stayed in Norway for other reasons, for instance refugees.

### **Differences in choice of academic environment**

Henriksen (2006) points out the differences in choice of academic environment between students with different back-



grounds. Pharmacy and dentistry were more popular for students with minority backgrounds than for the other students. In these academic environments, the minority students made up 20 and 14 per cent respectively of the total students in autumn 2005. Technical subjects like mathematics, physics, statistics and chemistry were also more popular fields of study among the minority students than for the rest of the students.

Henriksen (2006) shows that a conspicuous feature of the choice of academic environment is the small proportion of students with minority backgrounds who choose education as a field of education, including pre-school, general teaching and vocational teacher programmes. Most evident is the low enrolment rate of male students with non-western backgrounds in these programmes. Only 2.7 per cent choose a teaching programme, compared with 5.8 per cent of all men.

### **Big differences in education levels of immigrant population**

Among all immigrants from Asia, Africa, South and Central America in the cohort 30-44 years, 10 per cent had completed elementary education, 38 per cent had completed upper secondary education and 19 per cent had completed tertiary education as their highest attained level of education as at 1 October 2004 (table 3.18). Further interpretation of the figures for the immigration population's education level is problematic due to lack of information on education completed abroad for large parts of this group<sup>2</sup>. Almost 21 per cent of the information on people from 16 and older with immigration backgrounds is missing (table 3.17). The proportion of missing information is almost 27 per cent for all people with immigration backgrounds in the cohort 30-44 years, and 40 per cent for persons with east European backgrounds in this cohort (table 3.18).

#### **About the statistics**

The pre-school statistics embrace all approved pre-schools and all forms of ownership; municipal, county authority, public and private:

The annual data concerning elementary schools is retrieved from the information system for primary and lower secondary education. The elementary school statistics include data on all elementary school training that takes place under the provisions of the Education Act, and adult education that is at elementary education level. All ownerships are included in these statistics; municipal, inter-municipal, county authority, public and government-dependent private schools approved by the Ministry of Education and Research according to the Education Act.

Upper secondary statistics embrace pupils who attend an upper secondary programme of at least 300 teaching hours per year. This is independent of whether the education is publicly approved or receives public support.

Tertiary education statistics embrace approved universities and university colleges. Data concerning education level, enrolments and completed education are retrieved from the Norwegian National Education Database (NUDB). This register includes the population's highest educational level and embraces all persons 16 years and older living in Norway as at 1 October.

In areas with good administrative systems, these are the main source for the education statistics. In other areas, the education institutions form the data source. Statistics Norway also receives education data from other administrative organs, such as the Directorate of Labour and the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund, but also from independent education institutions.



## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Some students receive both native language training and bilingual training. They are therefore included in both groups.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics on level of education are based on register information on completed education. Statistics Norway does not have register-based information on education from abroad before immigration. This information has been gathered through surveys aimed at immigrants. The last survey was carried out in 1999. The information on people who immigrated after 1999 and who have not been in contact with the Norwegian education system is therefore insufficient.

## References (in Norwegian only):

Henriksen, Kristin (2006): "Studievalg I innvandrerbefolkningen – Bak apotekerdisken, ikke foran tavla" Published in *samfunnsspeilet* 4/2006, Statistics Norway.

Støren, Liv Anne (2005): "Ungdom med innvandrerbakgrunn i norsk utdanning – ser vi en fremtidig suksesshistorie?" in *Utdanning 2005 – deltakelse og kompetanse, Statistiske analyser* no. 74, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.1. Pre-school children from linguistic and cultural minorities<sup>1</sup>. Absolute figures and per cent. 2000-2005**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>All children .....</b>	<b>189 837</b>	<b>192 649</b>	<b>198 262</b>	<b>205 172</b>	<b>213 097</b>	<b>223 501</b>
Children from linguistic and cultural minorities .....	8 992	9 784	10 953	12 069	12 572	13 958
Children from linguistic and cultural minorities, per cent	4,7	5,1	5,5	5,9	5,9	6,2
Of which children who received bilingual assistance	3 931	3 801	4 147	4 400	4 899	6 339
Of which children who received bilingual assistance, per cent .....	43,7	38,8	37,9	36,5	39,0	45,4

<sup>1</sup>Children with mother-tongues other than Norwegian, Sami, Danish or English.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.2. Pre-school children from linguistic and cultural minorities, by school ownership. 2000-2005**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>All children .....</b>	<b>189 837</b>	<b>192 649</b>	<b>198 262</b>	<b>205 172</b>	<b>213 097</b>	<b>223 501</b>
Children in public kindergartens .....	112 999	115 427	116 229	118 642	120 401	122 455
Number of children from linguistic and cultural minorities .....	7 243	8 058	8 815	9 565	9 787	10 452
Of which children who received bilingual assistance	3 320	3 291	3 571	3 708	4 104	5 124
Children in private kindergartens .....	76 838	77 222	82 033	86 530	92 696	101 046
Number of children from linguistic and cultural minorities .....	1 749	1 726	2 138	2 504	2 785	3 506
Of which children who received bilingual assistance	611	510	576	692	795	1 215

<sup>1</sup>Children with mother-tongues other than Norwegian, Sami, Danish or English.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.3. Children in kindergartens from linguistic and cultural minorities<sup>1</sup>. Children with bilingual assistance, by county. 2005**

	Children from linguistic and cultural minorities without bilingual assistance	Children from linguistic and cultural minorities with bilingual assistance
Østfold .....	329	354
Akershus .....	851	637
Oslo .....	2886	2033
Hedmark .....	146	121
Oppland .....	171	94
Buskerud .....	404	600
Vestfold .....	197	372
Telemark .....	230	207
Aust-Agder .....	130	85
Vest-Agder .....	296	207
Rogaland .....	508	522
Hordaland .....	417	270
Sogn og Fjordane .....	70	90
Møre og Romsdal .....	221	139
Sør-Trøndelag .....	314	268
Nord-Trøndelag .....	87	97
Nordland .....	190	98
Troms Romsa .....	123	73
Finnmark Finnmarku ..	47	72

<sup>1</sup> Children with another mother tongue than Norwegian, Sami, Danish or English.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.4. Pupils in primary and lower secondary education with native language training, bilingual education and additional training in Norwegian, by county. 1 October 2005<sup>1</sup>**

	Total number of pupils	Pupils with native language training <sup>1</sup>	Pupils with bilingual education <sup>2</sup>	Pupils with additional training in Norwegian <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>619 640</b>	<b>11 824</b>	<b>14 350</b>	<b>37 342</b>
Østfold .....	34 242	1 112	1 826	2 517
Akershus .....	72 381	638	1 510	3 570
Oslo .....	52 998	1 140	3 985	11 248
Hedmark .....	24 014	432	303	840
Oppland .....	23 499	482	285	853
Buskerud .....	31 847	627	911	2 337
Vestfold .....	30 066	632	840	1 480
Telemark .....	21 618	481	655	1 196
Aust-Agder .....	14 585	185	228	653
Vest-Agder .....	23 568	121	619	1 514
Rogaland .....	58 973	1 618	642	2 976
Hordaland .....	62 513	1 790	503	2 539
Sogn og Fjordane .....	15 427	238	247	638
Møre og Romsdal .....	33 840	489	424	1 184
Sør-Trøndelag .....	36 779	769	705	1 630
Nord-Trøndelag .....	18 480	240	90	432
Nordland .....	32 939	328	287	856
Troms Romsa .....	21 259	309	134	454
Finnmark Finnmarku .....	10 385	163	156	408
Svalbard .....	192	-	-	17

<sup>1</sup> Native language training is additional training in the mother tongue of foreign language pupils.

<sup>2</sup> Bilingual education is education conducted in the pupil's mother tongue.

<sup>3</sup> Additional training in Norwegian or Norwegian language tuition for foreign language pupils.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.5. Pupils in primary and lower secondary education with native language training and additional training in Norwegian. 1992/1993 to 2005/2006 school years<sup>1</sup>**

School year	Total number of pupils	Pupils with native language and/or bilingual education <sup>2</sup>	Pupils with additional training in Norwegian <sup>3</sup>
1992/93 .....	463 309	10 045	.
1993/94 .....	466 605	9 933	.
1994/95 .....	470 779	10 204	.
1995/96 .....	477 236	11 276	.
1996/97 .....	487 398	12 770	.
1997/98 .....	558 247	15 810	24 599
1998/99 .....	569 044	17 008	25 311
1999/00 .....	580 261	17 306	28 242
2000/01 .....	590 471	18 176	31 113
2001/02 .....	599 468	18 611	32 855
2002/03 .....	610 297	18 734	33 833
2003/04 .....	617 577	19 695	35 374
2004/05 .....	618 250	19 713	35 632
2005/06 .....	619 640	20 717	37 342

<sup>1</sup> Linguistic minority pupils who are registered by local governments are included in figures.

<sup>2</sup> Native language training is additional training in the pupil's mother tongue. Bilingual education is education where the pupil's mother tongue is used in the education.

<sup>3</sup> Additional training in Norwegian or Norwegian language tuition for foreign language pupils.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.6. Pupils receiving native language training or bilingual education<sup>1</sup>, by native language. 1 October 2005<sup>2</sup>**

Mother tongue	Number of pupils	Mother tongue	Number of pupils
<b>Total</b> .....	20 717	Serbian .....	155
Urdu .....	2 521	Swahilli .....	149
Somali .....	2 175	French .....	135
Arabic .....	1 830	Chinese .....	121
Kurdish .....	1 735	Portuguese .....	107
Vietnamese .....	1 551	Finnish .....	94
Albanian .....	1 288	Tigrinia .....	82
Turkish .....	1 026	Icelandic .....	76
Bosnian .....	806	Lithuanian .....	70
Tamil .....	764	Burmese .....	58
English .....	654	Oromo .....	57
Russian .....	639	Berber .....	56
Spanish .....	572	Amharic .....	54
Thai .....	531	Cantonese .....	51
Persian .....	519	Hindi .....	42
Dari .....	493	Croatian .....	38
Polish .....	353	Kirundi .....	36
Chechen .....	299	Romanian .....	25
German .....	262	Bengali .....	22
Punjabi .....	229	Greek .....	21
Dutch .....	180	Malaysian .....	21
Phillipine .....	172	Other .....	485
Pashto .....	163		

<sup>1</sup> Native language training is additional training in the pupil's mother tongue. Bilingual education is education where the pupil's mother tongue is used in the education.

<sup>2</sup> Linguistal minority pupils who are registered by local governments are included in figures.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.7. Transition from lower secondary school to a higher level of education, by immigration background. 2005. Absolute figures and per cent**

	Total	Upper secondary school <sup>1</sup>	Folk high school	Other upper secondary education <sup>2</sup>	Tertiary education	Not in education
Absolute figures						
<b>All pupils</b> .....	<b>61 495</b>	<b>59 092</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2 211</b>
<b>Pupils with immigration background</b> .....	<b>4 633</b>	<b>4 200</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>384</b>
First generation immigrants .....	2 994	2 631	6	39	1	317
People born in Norway by two foreign-born parents .....	1 639	1 569	-	3	-	67
Per cent						
<b>All pupil</b> .....	<b>100,0</b>	<b>96,1</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>3,6</b>
<b>Pupils with immigration background</b> .....	<b>100,0</b>	<b>90,7</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,9</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>8,3</b>
First generation immigrants .....	100,0	87,9	0,2	1,3	0,0	10,6
People born in Norway by two foreign-born parents .....	100,0	95,7	-	0,2	-	4,1

<sup>1</sup> Consists of pupils and apprentices, including pupils studying abroad.

<sup>2</sup> Includes employment training courses.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.8. Pupils in upper secondary education<sup>1</sup>, by immigration category and country of origin. 1 October 2005**

Country of origin	All pupils with immigration background	First generation immigrants	Pupils born i Norway by two foreign-born parents
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>16 107</b>	<b>11 809</b>	<b>4 298</b>
Of this			
Pakistan .....	1 786	463	1 323
Iraq .....	1 312	1 293	19
Iran .....	1 062	946	116
Somalia .....	1 036	1 003	33
Vietnam .....	863	354	509
Serbia and Montenegro .....	724	655	69
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	707	694	13
Russia .....	639	636	3
Tyrkia .....	612	262	350
Afghanistan .....	599	594	5
Sri Lanka .....	480	358	122
Chile .....	462	232	230
Morocco .....	361	117	244
Philippines .....	339	224	115
India .....	323	88	235
Thailand .....	293	282	11
Ethiopia .....	278	263	15
Poland .....	273	175	98
Sweden .....	268	232	36
Germany .....	194	163	31
Denmark .....	189	120	69
Macedonia .....	177	121	56
China .....	168	123	45
Croatia .....	153	132	21
Eritrea .....	149	100	49
Iceland .....	146	124	22
United Kingdom .....	98	57	41

<sup>1</sup> Includes pupils under the Upper Secondary Act.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.9. Pupils in upper secondary education<sup>1</sup>, by immigration category and sex. 2000-2005. Per cent of registered cohort, 16-18 years**

	Pupils, percentage of population			First generation immigrants, percentage of population			Pupils born in Norway by two foreign-born parents, percentage of population		
	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

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

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.10. Pupils in upper secondary education<sup>1</sup> by immigration category, age and sex.  
1 October 2005**

	Total	Immigration category			
		Without immigration background	First generation immigrants without Norwegian background	People born in Norway of two foreign-born parents	Other <sup>2</sup>
<b>Both sexes .....</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>
-16 years .....	32,4	33,2	17,6	36,2	34,5
17 " .....	30,3	31,1	20,0	31,6	30,6
18 " .....	22,6	22,8	19,2	21,6	23,2
19 " .....	4,8	4,4	9,6	5,7	4,6
20 " .....	2,4	2,1	6,6	2,0	2,0
21 " .....	1,3	1,1	4,3	0,9	1,2
22-24 years .....	1,7	1,5	5,6	1,2	1,3
25-29 " .....	1,2	1,0	5,6	0,5	0,9
+30 years .....	3,3	2,8	11,4	0,2	1,8
<b>Menn .....</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>
-16 years .....	33,9	34,9	18,2	36,7	35,4
17 " .....	32,0	32,9	20,7	32,3	31,9
18 " .....	21,0	21,0	20,2	19,9	21,9
19 " .....	4,8	4,3	10,6	6,1	4,4
20 " .....	2,4	2,0	7,4	2,3	2,0
21 " .....	1,4	1,2	4,7	1,0	1,2
22-24 years .....	1,6	1,3	5,6	1,2	1,2
25-29 " .....	1,0	0,8	4,7	0,5	0,7
+30 years .....	2,0	1,6	7,9	0,1	1,2
<b>Kvinner .....</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>
-16 years .....	31,0	31,7	17,0	35,7	33,6
17 " .....	28,8	29,4	19,2	31,0	29,2
18 " .....	24,1	24,5	18,3	23,4	24,5
19 " .....	4,8	4,5	8,6	5,2	4,8
20 " .....	2,3	2,1	5,8	1,7	1,9
21 " .....	1,3	1,1	3,9	0,8	1,1
22-24 years .....	1,9	1,6	5,7	1,3	1,5
25-29 " .....	1,5	1,2	6,6	0,5	1,0
+30 years .....	4,5	4,0	14,9	0,4	2,4

<sup>1</sup> Apprentices and other secondary education not included.

<sup>2</sup> Includes persons adopted from abroad, persons born abroad of one Norwegian-born parent, persons born in Norway of one foreign-born parent and persons born abroad of two Norwegian-born parents.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.11. Pupils with immigration background that started a basic course for the first time in 1998 and 1999, by completed upper secondary education within five years, sex and country background. Per cent**

Gender and country background	1998					1999				
	Number of students, total	Completed according to normativ length of study	Completed beyond normativ length of study	Still in upper secondary education 2001	Dropped out from upper secondary education	Number of students, total	Completed according to normativ length of study	Completed beyond normativ length of study	Still in upper secondary education 2004	Dropped out from upper secondary education
Total	2 814	45	12	7	37	2 958	46	11	5	38
Europe except for Turkey .....	693	52	9	7	32	765	55	10	3	33
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania .	1 573	45	13	6	36	1 648	47	11	6	37
Africa .....	369	31	11	10	48	389	30	13	7	51
South and Central America .....	154	37	16	5	42	144	35	11	10	44
North America .....	25	40	8	-	52	12	75	8	-	17
<b>Males .....</b>	<b>1 410</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1 534</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46</b>
Europe except for Turkey .....	337	47	7	8	39	379	47	11	3	39
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania .	786	38	14	7	41	850	40	9	6	44
Africa .....	193	23	15	10	52	225	24	8	8	60
South and Central America .....	80	35	11	3	51	75	23	9	11	57
North America .....	14	43	-	-	57	5	80	-	-	20
<b>Females .....</b>	<b>1 404</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1 424</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>
Europe except for Turkey .....	356	56	11	7	26	386	61	10	3	26
Asia, including Turkey and Oceania .	787	52	11	5	31	798	54	12	5	29
Africa .....	176	40	8	10	43	164	37	18	5	39
South and Central America .....	74	39	20	8	32	69	48	13	10	29
North America .....	11	36	18	-	45	7	71	14	-	14

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.12. New education activity as at 1 October 2005**

	New education activity <sup>1</sup> per 1 October 2005										
	Total	Appren- tice ship	Folk high school	Other upper second- ary educa- tion <sup>2</sup>	Upper second- ary school	Univer- sity college	Univer- sity	Upper second- ary educa- tion abroad	Higher educa- tion abroad	Voca- tional school	Not in educa- tion 1 Octo- ber 2005
Absolute figures											
<b>All pupils .....</b>	<b>57 868</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>3 363</b>	<b>1 086</b>	<b>3 146</b>	<b>7 616</b>	<b>5 254</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>35 563</b>
Pupils with immi- gration background	3 794	17	43	69	370	619	515	5	103	8	2 045
First generation immigrants .....	3 082	16	36	47	324	480	380	3	55	7	1 734
Persons born in Norway by two foreign-born parents	712	1	7	22	46	139	135	2	48	1	311
Per cent											
<b>All pupils .....</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>5,8</b>	<b>1,9</b>	<b>5,4</b>	<b>13,2</b>	<b>9,1</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>1,0</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>61,5</b>
Pupils with immi- gration background	100,0	0,4	1,1	1,8	9,8	16,3	13,6	0,1	2,7	0,2	53,9
First generation immigrants .....	100,0	0,5	1,2	1,5	10,5	15,6	12,3	0,1	1,8	0,2	56,3
Persons born in Norway by two foreign-born parents	100,0	0,1	1,0	3,1	6,5	19,5	19,0	0,3	6,7	0,1	43,7

<sup>1</sup> Pupils who have completed advanced courses II or vocational examinations under the Upper Secondary School Act.

<sup>2</sup> Includes employment training courses and other upper secondary education.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.13. Students in tertiary education<sup>1</sup> as a per cent of registered cohort (19-24 years), by immigration category and sex. 1997-2005**

	Student population, total			First generation immigrants			Students born in Norway by two foreign-born		
	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

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

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.



**Table 3.14. Students in tertiary education<sup>1</sup> as a per cent of registered cohort (25-29 years), by immigration category and sex. 1997-2005**

	Total student population			First generation immigrants			Students born in Norway by two foreign-born parents		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
1997 .....	12,8	12,2	13,4	8,1	9,0	7,3	14,5	17,2	11,6
1998 .....	13,4	12,5	14,3	8,0	8,9	7,2	16,7	15,0	18,5
1999 .....	14,4	13,2	15,6	9,0	9,4	8,7	18,3	18,9	17,8
2000 .....	14,4	12,9	15,9	8,7	8,5	8,8	15,6	15,3	15,9
2001 .....	15,4	13,9	16,9	9,3	9,2	9,5	18,5	19,2	17,6
2002 .....	16,3	14,8	17,7	9,6	8,9	10,2	17,7	17,0	18,6
2003 .....	16,4	15,3	17,6	10,6	10,1	11,0	17,5	17,6	17,4
2004 .....	17,1	15,9	18,4	11,2	10,5	11,7	19,4	18,5	20,5
2005 .....	16,2	14,7	17,8	11,1	10,2	11,8	18,2	17,0	19,5

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

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.15. Students in tertiary education<sup>1</sup> with an immigration background, by immigration category, sex, country and origin. 1 October 2005. 19-24 years. Absolute figures and per cent**

Country of origin	First generation immigrants			Students born in Norway by two foreign-born parents		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>5 272</b>	<b>2 149</b>	<b>3 123</b>	<b>1 752</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>951</b>
Of these						
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	555	241	314	3	-	3
Iran .....	431	201	230	5	3	2
China .....	352	151	201	27	14	13
Russia .....	348	110	238	-	-	-
Vietnam .....	273	116	157	282	142	140
Pakistan .....	251	117	134	604	277	327
Sweden .....	207	61	146	24	11	13
Sri Lanka .....	192	91	101	35	15	20
Serbia and Montenegro .....	167	73	94	10	7	3
Iraq .....	167	82	85	1	1	-
Poland .....	166	62	104	62	31	31
Germany .....	132	52	80	11	5	6
Denmark .....	127	46	81	36	15	21
Chile .....	122	44	78	13	7	6
Turkey .....	86	33	53	77	25	52
India .....	61	29	32	191	88	103
USA .....	53	20	33	7	2	5
Finland .....	50	9	41	14	9	5
United Kingdom .....	48	24	24	22	14	8
Marocco .....	19	10	9	53	16	37
Per cent of population 19-24 years						
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>18,4</b>	<b>16,3</b>	<b>20,3</b>	<b>33,3</b>	<b>29,2</b>	<b>37,8</b>
Of these						
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	37,6	33,4	41,5	13,0	-	23,1
Iran .....	26,8	24,7	28,8	35,7	33,3	40,0
China .....	58,6	57,4	59,5	60,0	70,0	52,0
Russia .....	30,8	24,2	35,3	-	-	-
Vietnam .....	23,6	23,0	24,1	46,9	44,1	50,2
Pakistan .....	15,6	16,3	15,1	30,3	26,7	34,3
Sweden .....	13,2	10,9	14,6	45,3	42,3	48,1
Sri Lanka .....	24,5	22,6	26,6	50,0	35,7	71,4
Serbia and Montenegro .....	13,2	11,7	14,5	20,8	24,1	15,8
Iraq .....	8,0	6,7	9,8	50,0	50,0	-
Poland .....	21,8	17,1	26,1	46,6	43,1	50,8
Germany .....	28,6	26,0	30,7	32,4	25,0	42,9
Denmark .....	20,2	18,4	21,3	31,6	25,0	38,9
Chile .....	17,3	12,7	21,8	17,8	16,7	19,4
Turkey .....	7,7	6,3	8,9	15,3	10,2	20,2
India .....	24,6	25,7	23,7	52,5	47,8	57,2
USA .....	21,1	18,0	23,6	33,3	22,2	41,7
Finland .....	21,6	9,8	29,3	36,8	39,1	33,3
United Kingdom .....	25,9	23,3	29,3	36,7	37,8	34,8
Marocco .....	6,7	8,1	5,6	17,1	9,8	25,2

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

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.16. First generation immigrants in tertiary education<sup>1</sup>, by sex and country of origin. 1 October 2005. 25-29 years. Absolute figures and per cent**

Country of origin	Total	Men	Women
Absolute figures			
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3 892</b>	<b>1 567</b>	<b>2 325</b>
Of these			
Sweden .....	269	87	182
Russia .....	249	46	203
Vietnam .....	212	105	107
Bosnia-Herzegovina ..	192	78	114
Iran .....	187	90	97
China .....	179	74	105
Denmark .....	130	64	66
Pakistan .....	129	84	45
Germany .....	122	37	85
Poland .....	111	34	77
USA .....	64	25	39
Iraq .....	63	38	25
India .....	62	25	37
Finland .....	59	8	51
Chile .....	59	19	40
Sri Lanka .....	57	28	29
Turkey .....	48	18	30
Serbia and Montenegro	43	23	20
United Kingdom .....	35	13	22
Marocco .....	29	16	13
Per cent of population 25-29 years			
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>11,1</b>	<b>10,2</b>	<b>11,8</b>
Of these			
Sweden .....	10,2	7,3	12,6
Russia .....	21,2	13,5	24,3
Vietnam .....	12,2	14,8	10,5
Bosnia-Herzegovina ..	15,4	12,3	18,7
Iran .....	16,3	17,1	15,6
China .....	37,3	41,6	34,8
Denmark .....	13,3	11,0	16,6
Pakistan .....	6,9	9,6	4,6
Germany .....	13,0	8,6	16,6
Poland .....	8,0	4,6	11,8
USA .....	17,3	14,9	19,3
Iraq .....	3,8	4,6	3,0
India .....	11,5	11,0	11,9
Finland .....	12,7	4,7	17,5
Chile .....	10,7	7,1	14,1
Sri Lanka .....	7,3	11,3	5,5
Turkey .....	3,1	2,1	4,5
Serbia and Montenegro	4,0	4,2	3,8
United Kingdom .....	7,6	4,3	14,1
Marocco .....	5,1	6,6	4,0

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

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.17. Population 16 years and over, by highest education completed and country of origin, grouped by world region. 2005. Per cent**

Country of origin	Total	Unknown	No completed education	Primary and secondary level	Upper secondary level	Short tertiary education <sup>1</sup>	Long tertiary education <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3 642 888</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>18,9</b>	<b>54,8</b>	<b>18,0</b>	<b>5,2</b>
Norway .....	3 219 441	0,4	0,1	19,8	56,5	18,2	5,0
<b>Abroad, total .....</b>	<b>423 447</b>	<b>21,1</b>	<b>0,9</b>	<b>12,5</b>	<b>42,2</b>	<b>16,7</b>	<b>6,5</b>
Nordic countries .....	102 660	14,0	0,3	12,5	45,2	20,9	7,0
Western Europe (except Turkey)	69 176	14,9	0,2	9,5	41,5	23,1	10,8
Eastern Europe .....	52 499	30,1	0,5	10,8	40,1	12,5	6,1
North America and Oceania ...	30 460	10,4	0,3	10,3	44,9	23,4	10,6
Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey .....	168 652	27,1	1,8	14,6	40,9	11,6	3,9

<sup>1</sup> Tertiary education, short, comprises higher education up to 4 years in duration.

<sup>2</sup> Tertiary education, long, comprises higher education more than 4 years in duration.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 3.18. Population 30 to 44 years, by highest education completed and country of origin, grouped by world region. 2005. Per cent**

Country of origin	Total	Unknown	No completed education	Primary and secondary level	Upper secondary level	Short tertiary education <sup>1</sup>	Long tertiary education <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1 026 473</b>	<b>4,7</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>6,3</b>	<b>55,2</b>	<b>25,6</b>	<b>8,1</b>
Norway .....	860 874	0,4	0,0	6,2	58,4	26,9	8,1
<b>Abroad, total .....</b>	<b>165 599</b>	<b>26,9</b>	<b>0,6</b>	<b>7,3</b>	<b>38,1</b>	<b>18,9</b>	<b>8,3</b>
Nordic countries .....	37 784	16,6	0,2	5,7	42,6	25,6	9,3
Western Europe (except Turkey)	27 073	22,8	0,1	4,7	33,4	25,1	14,0
Eastern Europe .....	21 313	39,7	0,2	5,8	34,9	12,7	6,7
North America and Oceania ...	9 366	13,5	0,1	4,1	40,5	27,9	13,9
Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey .....	70 063	31,8	1,3	10,0	38,1	13,5	5,3

<sup>1</sup> Tertiary education, short, comprises higher education up to 4 years in duration.

<sup>2</sup> Tertiary education, long, comprises higher education more than 4 years in duration.

Source: Education statistics, Statistics Norway.

*Bjørn Olsen*

## 4. The labour market

- The number of employed first-generation immigrants rose by 10 200 from 4th quarter 2004 to 4th quarter 2005.
  - This constituted a growth of about one percentage point, from 56.6 to 57.5. The growth for the total population was a mere 0.1, from 69.3 to 69.4. Immigrants from the new EU countries in East Europe had the largest increase by 4 percentage points, and are now at the same level as immigrants from West Europe (excluding the Nordic countries).
  - Nordic first-generation immigrants had the highest level of employment, with 72.4 per cent.
  - The lowest level of employment is among immigrants from Africa at 41.8 per cent. This low level is probably partly due to the large portion of refugees with a short average time of residence.
  - In the population as a whole, men and women had an employment rate of 72.6 and 66.0 per cent respectively. Among first-generation immigrants, the corresponding figures were 62.5 and 52.6 per cent.
  - For non-western immigrants, longer time of residence gives a substantial increase in the level of employment.
- There is a sizeable difference between those with less than four years of residence and those with more. However, a long period of residence does not eliminate the difference between groups. For immigrants who have been in Norway for more than 15 years, the lowest level of employment is still among persons from Africa and Asia; correspondingly 51 and 57 per cent.
- Non-western descendants (persons born in Norway by foreign-born parents) aged 20-24 had an employment rate of 66.5 per cent. Among first-generation immigrants of the same age, 49.7 per cent were employed. For the population as a whole in this age group, the figure was 71.7 per cent. The descendants are thus to a higher degree resembling the whole population than the first-generation immigrants.
  - All the western immigrant groups have a 6 per cent rate of self-employment; one per cent higher than the population as a whole. For Asians, the rate is 3.8 per cent. The remaining groups lie around 2 per cent.
  - There were about 11 000 self-employed immigrants. Of these, 6 044 had a non-western background and 3 840 were Asian.

### About the statistics

Employment statistics for immigrants include all **first-generation immigrants** aged 16-74 years resident in Norway. Some of the tables specify descendants. **Descendants** are defined as persons born in Norway to two foreign-born parents. The descendant's country background is given by the mother's place of birth.

**Employed** – This chapter is based on the register-based statistics for immigrants published annually on [www.ssb.no](http://www.ssb.no). The statistics include employees as well as self-employed persons. Drafted military personnel are also counted as employed.

**Registered unemployed** are defined by entries in The Directorate of Labour's administrative registers, as is the number of people participating on ordinary labour market schemes (job programmes).

**Percentages** are calculated of the total corresponding population aged 16-74 years old.

- The rate of registered unemployment among first-generation immigrants fell from 9.3 per cent 4th quarter 2004 to 8.4 per cent in the same quarter 2005. All groups saw a reduction. African immigrants had the highest unemployment rate in the last quarter of 2005 at 16.7 per cent. Next to this group we find the Asian immigrants with a rate of 11.2 per cent, followed by East Europe with 8.4 and South and Central America with 9.0. The total was 3.0 per cent for the population as a whole.

### Employment among immigrants on the rise

During the period 4th quarter 2001 to 4th quarter 2003, the Norwegian economy saw a downturn that affected all groups in the labour market (Figure 4.1.). The share of employed first-generation immigrants fell from 59.3 to 56.6 per cent, a decrease of 2.7 percentage points. In certain non-western groups, the decrease was even larger. For instance, employment among immigrants from Africa fell from 46.2 to 41.7 per cent (4.5 percentage points). For immigrants from South and Central America, the decrease was 3.5 percentage points. The setback in

employment for the population as a whole was more moderate. It fell from 70.9 to 69.4 per cent.

The temporary economic downturn was coming to an end by the 4th quarter of 2004. There are only marginal changes for most of the groups. One exception is the employment rate of immigrants from the new East European EU countries. This group saw an increase in employment by 3.1 percentage points due to the influx of work-related immigration.

By the 4th quarter of 2005, we see a general increase in employment benefiting all groups in the labour market, though to a varying degree. The economic growth gave an increase in the level of employment among first-generation immigrants from 56.6 to 57.5 per cent. In absolute figures, this increase constituted 10 200 more employed immigrants. In the population as a whole there was a marginal increase from 69.3 to 69.4 per cent.

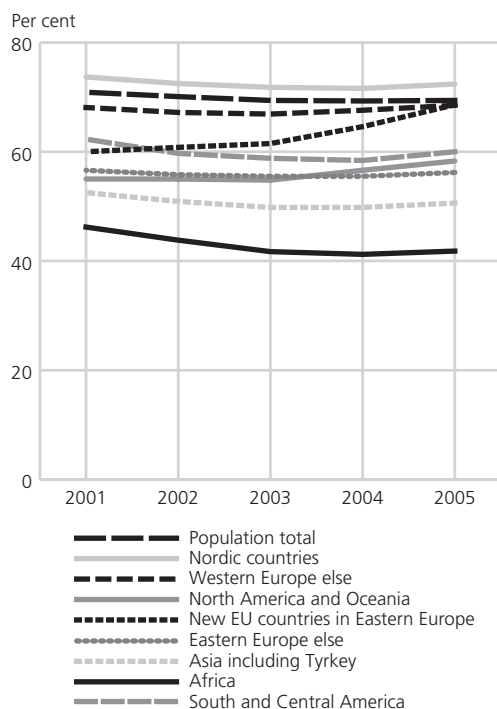
In the underlying main groups we find the strongest growth among the immigrants from the new EU countries. Their

employment rate increased by 4 percentage points from 4th quarter 2004 to 4th quarter 2005. The other groups scored just below one percentage point, except for the North and Latin American groups, with 1.7 and 1.6 percentage points growth respectively. The increased employment rate was much higher among male than female immigrants; 1.5 and 0.4 percentage points respectively.

The strong growth in employment among immigrants from East European new EU countries brought this group to about the same level of employment as West European immigrants, at 68.6 per cent. Immigrants from the remaining East European countries had a slightly lower level of

employment, at 56.2 per cent. The highest employment rate was among immigrants from the neighbouring Nordic countries at 72.4; three percentage points higher than for the population as a whole. The lowest employment rate is among African immigrants at 41.8 per cent. Among non-western immigrants, those from South and Central America had the highest level of employment at 60 per cent, while among Asian immigrants 50.6 per cent were employed. At 58.3 per cent, immigrants from North America and Oceania had a relatively low employment rate for a western group. However this is a small group with a high average age. The extraordinary low level of employment among African immigrants must be viewed in relation to the flow of refugees from Somalia since 2000.

**Figure 4.1. Employed first-generation immigrants by world region. As a percentage of all persons 16-74 years old. 4th quarter 2001-2005**



Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

In the population as a whole, men and women had an employment rate of 72.6 and 66 per cent respectively. The corresponding figures for all immigrants were 62.5 and 52.6 per cent (Figure 4.2.) The difference between the genders was in other words more significant among immigrants, with 10 percentage points compared to 6.6. The largest gender difference is among Asian immigrants, with 13 percentage points in favour of men, followed closely by West Europeans at 12.5. However, it should be borne in mind that the level of employment among both men and women from West Europe is much higher, making the relative gender difference smaller. Taking this into consideration, immigrants from Africa and Asia have the largest gender difference in favour of men.

### Duration of residence in Norway makes for a higher level of employment

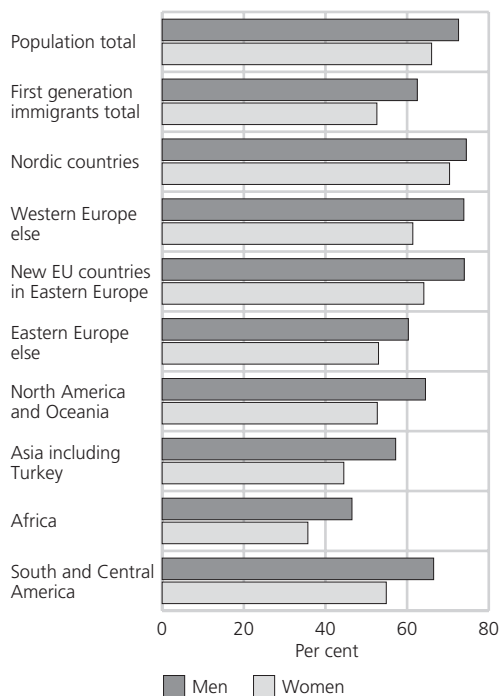
An element of major significance to the immigrant groups' level of employment is of course the length of time the immigrants have lived in Norway. This is because the success rate in the labour market increases with language skills, general knowledge of society and acquired professional skills. We see this clearly in the figures showing employment rates by time of residence. For the immigrant population as a whole there is a considerable rise in employment after four years (Table 4.3.). The rate goes up from 47.6 per cent for those resident less than four years, to 59 per cent for those resident for four to six years. In other words, the

first four years appear to be crucial for adapting to the Norwegian labour market. Although this mainly applies to non-western immigrants who mostly come to Norway as refugees. It does not apply to western immigrants who to a large extent have a work-related reason to immigrate. Western immigrants have a relatively high level of employment from year one. This also seems to apply for immigrants from the new EU countries in East Europe.

For non-western immigrants, the rate continues to increase for groups exceeding four years of residence in Norway, but the level stagnates in groups with 10 to 15 years of residence from South and Central America and East Europe. The rate is still increasing among Asian and African immigrants. Among those with 15 years of residence and more, there has been a decline in the employment rate among the two first groups mentioned, while there is a slight increase in the other groups. This is probably a result of higher percentages of elderly among groups from South and Central America and East Europe, who have the longest duration of residence compared to the other non-western groups.

The level of employment increases with length of residence for most groups, especially for non-western groups consisting of refugees. However, there are no signs that length of residence evens out the differences between the groups. Looking at immigrants resident more than 15 years, the lowest employment is among African immigrants, with 51 per cent, followed by Asians with 57 per cent. For the remaining three non-western groups it is more suitable for the purpose to look at residency periods of 11 to 15 years. All the groups have more than 60

**Figure 4.2. Employed first-generation immigrants by world region and sex. As a percentage of all persons 16-74 years old. 4th quarter 2005**



Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.



per cent employment: new EU countries in East Europe (68.8 per cent), South and Central America (67 per cent) and East Europe outside the EU (64 per cent). Immigrants from South and Central America were on a par with the western group from North America and Oceania (67.5 per cent). However, beyond that there was a difference of about 10 percentage points in relation to the other western groups, which was close to an employment rate of 80 per cent for those resident 11 to 15 years.

### **Large variation in employment between immigrants with different national backgrounds**

Looking at the share of employed first-generation immigrants from a selection of countries, we find an employment rate of 70 per cent or more for the Nordic countries (except Denmark) together with the Netherlands and Germany. The largest immigrant group from the new EU countries, i.e. those from Poland, is also on the same level with 70.3 per cent. For this group, the level rose by 3.8 percentage points from the 4th quarter in 2004 to 2005.

Several non-western groups have an employment rate above the average for all immigrants, and even close to the level of West-Europeans. This is the case for instance for immigrants from Chile, the Philippines, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Romania and Croatia, which all have well above 60 per cent employment. Immigrants from Vietnam and Bosnia have about 60 per cent employment. These groups are much larger in Norway than the ones mentioned above, at about 11 000 employed persons each. All of these groups have a relatively long period of residence in Norway with the

exception of Croatia from where more than 70 per cent arrived after 1999.

At the other end of the employment scale are Somalia, Afghanistan and Iraq, with 28, 34 and 37 per cent employment respectively. These groups consist to a large degree of refugees with a short period of residence in Norway. This applies especially to the latter two Asian groups.

The period of residence is of major importance for the level of employment, but not the only significant factor. The largest non-western group of immigrants in Norway is from Pakistan and these have the longest average period of residence. Taking that into account, an employment rate of 44.6 per cent might seem low. This is primarily due to a very low level of employment among women at only 28 per cent. Men on the other hand are 60 per cent employed, which is about average for all immigrants. The same pattern is repeated for immigrants from Turkey, another group with a long period of residence. Turkish men and women had 58.8 and 37 per cent employment respectively, a difference of almost 22 percentage points. The gender differences are much smaller in the non-western groups mentioned above with a high level of employment.

### **Non-western employees overrepresented in hotel and restaurant industry**

When distributed according to industry, there are several similarities between employment among first-generation immigrants and the population as a whole. The largest share in both groups is employed in health and social services. The proportions in manufacturing, sales and transport are also quite similar.

However, in certain industries, first-generation immigrants are highly over-represented. For instance, 12 per cent of all employed first-generation immigrants are employed in the hotel and restaurant industry. The corresponding figure for the population as a whole is 3.3 per cent. The difference is even greater in industrial cleaning. Just 0.8 per cent of the population works in this industry, while 6.3 per cent of employed non-western immigrants do, i.e. eight times as many. For western first-generation immigrants, there are no significant differences from the working population as a whole.

Descendants of first-generation immigrants were on the other hand 19.6 per cent employed in the retail industry, compared to 8 per cent of the whole population. Among non-western descendants, as many as 23 per cent worked in retail. However, it should be borne in mind that a large part of the employees in this industry work part time. Furthermore, the majority of descendants are young and likely to combine work and education. Because of that, a comparison with the whole population would not be relevant.

### **Patterns for non-western descendants are more similar to the non-immigrant youth**

Table 4.6 shows the number of employed by age and immigrant category. We see that non-western descendants have about the same employment level as non-western first-generation immigrants; 52.7 and 52.2 per cent respectively. This could be misinterpreted to mean that descendants born and raised in Norway have not adapted notably better to the labour market than persons who have immigrated. However, it is in fact due to the age distribution in the group. Forty per cent

of the descendants aged 16-74 are below 20 years old, and thus most likely to be in upper secondary school. It therefore makes more sense to compare persons above 20 years of age.

Looking at the age group 20-24, the numbers tell a completely different story. Employment among descendants in this age group is 66.5 per cent, compared to 49.7 per cent for first-generation immigrants. The 20-24 age group without an immigrant background had 71.7 per cent employment. The employment rate among descendants in this age group is thus just 5 percentage points below that of non-immigrants and almost 17 percentage points above that of first-generation immigrants.

For the next age group, 25-29 years old, descendants have 69.6 per cent employment compared to first-generation immigrants at 54.3 per cent. The gap between descendants and non-immigrants (who had 80 per cent employment) increased, and the gap to first-generation immigrants decreased.

Another interesting aspect of descendant employment is the high rate of employment among younger women. There is a distinct difference from first-generation immigrants. For all descendants, the level of employment was 54.1 per cent for men and 51.3 per cent for women; a marginal gender difference of 3 percentage points. Among non-western first-generation immigrants, this gender gap constituted 10.2 per cent (57.5 for men and 47.3 for women), and among non-immigrants 6.3 per cent (73.6 compared to 67.3).

Among descendants between 20 and 24 years of age, we find a slightly higher rate of employment for women of non-

western descent; 67.4 to 65.7, while first-generation immigrants have a more traditional gender distribution with 54.5 to 45.6 per cent in the favour of men. Corresponding figures for non-immigrants were 71.4 for men and 72.0 for women.

However, this pattern does not seem to repeat itself in the next age group, 25-29 years. In this group, the employment level of female descendants is somewhat lower at 64.8 per cent, with males at 74 per cent; a difference of about 9 percentage points.

Among non-western, first-generation male immigrants, the level of employment has risen distinctly in this age group to 65 per cent, while the increase for women is smaller at one percentage point to 46.5 per cent. In the non-immigrant population, the level of employment for men and women was 82 and 78 per cent respectively; a gender difference of 4 percentage points.

The group of non-western descendants aged 30 and over is too small to be included in the statistics. The effect of random variation will be too large to make rational comparisons to corresponding age groups among first-generation immigrants and the non-immigrant population.

### **Western immigrants had highest rate of self-employed**

Of the 57.5 per cent immigrants in employment in 2005, 53.5 per cent were employees and 4.0 per cent were self-employed. The latter equates to 11 000 persons (table 4.7). There were also major differences in this group between those with western and non-western backgrounds. Western first generation

immigrants had the highest rates of self-employment at 6 per cent, exceeding the rate in the population as a whole by one percentage point. Among the non-western immigrants, those from Asia had the highest rate of self-employment with 3.8 per cent. The other groups had rates of about 2 per cent.

In numbers the group of self-employed immigrants is constituted by 6 044 non-westerners (55 percent). The largest group is from Asia, 3 840 persons or 35 percent. The second largest group is immigrants from the Nordic countries at 2 694 persons (24 percent).

Only 322 descendants (2.1 percent) are self-employed. The low rate is most likely due to the low average age of this group.

The proportion of self-employed immigrant men stood at 5.3 per cent compared to 2.7 per cent among the immigrant women. However, in the population as a whole, this gender difference was even more pronounced, with 7.2 per cent among men compared to 2.8 per cent among women. The level of self-employment among women is in other words almost the same irrespective of immigrant background.

The distribution of self-employed immigrants by industry deviates from the population as a whole (table 4.8). The hotel and restaurant trade is the most typical non-western immigrant industry among the self-employed. Eleven per cent of all self-employed immigrants work in this industry as opposed to 3 per cent of the total self-employed population. Asian immigrants constitute the main immigrant group within this industry, with 24 per cent of all self-employed Asians in this group. There were also a high per-

centage of self-employed Asians within the retail trade – 15.7 per cent compared to 8 per cent among the entire self-employed population.

### **Lower unemployment rate among immigrants from 2003**

The 4th quarter of 1999 marks the start of a period of rising unemployment following a decline all through the late 1990s. From 4th quarter 1999 to 4th quarter 2003, registered unemployment in Norway rose from 2.4 to 3.7 per cent (figure 4.3. and table 4.9.). For first-generation immigrants, the percentage rose from 6.6 to 9.6. After 2003, the unemployment rate started to decrease. From 2003 to 2005, total unemployment fell from 3.7 to 3.0 per cent, while the corresponding decrease for first-generation immigrants was 9.6 to 8.4. The relative difference between the groups, though, was not reduced. Both in 4th quarter 1999 and 4th quarter 2005 first-generation immigrants had a registered unemployment 2.8 times as high as the entire population. There was no variation in this proportion over the period.

With regard to the non-western groups in the period of increasing unemployment, i.e. from 4th quarter 1999 to 2003, the smallest increase was among East Europeans at 0.7 percentage points.

During the period of falling unemployment from 4th quarter 2003 to 2005, again we see the most favourable development for East European immigrants, with a relative reduction from 10.2 to 8.4 per cent unemployment. This group has thereby the lowest level of unemployment among non-western immigrants for the 4th quarter of 2005. This is probably due to the increasing work-related immigration from the new East European EU

countries. In addition, the largest group of refugees from East Europe (those from Bosnia-Herzegovina) is beginning to be quite established in the Norwegian labour market.

Immigrants from Africa had the smallest decline, from 17.4 to 16.7 per cent, thus still having the highest rate of unemployment by the 4th quarter of 2005. This development must be viewed in context with the relatively large influx of new refugees from Somalia since 2000.

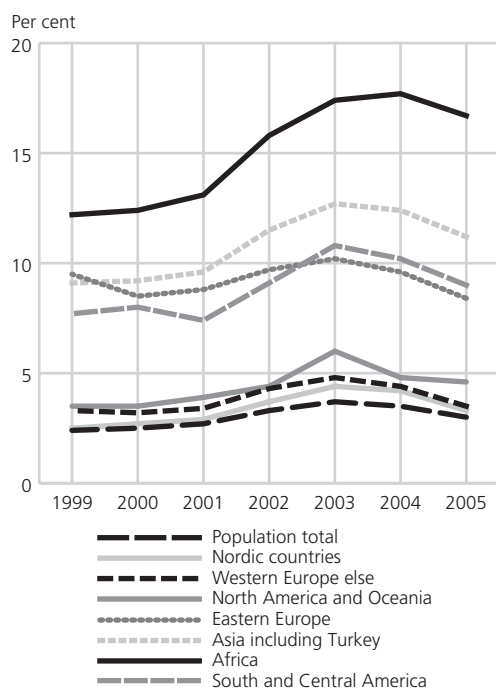
Immigrants from South and Central America had a decrease in unemployment from 10.8 to 9.0 per cent from 4th quarter 2003 to 2005. This was the second highest relative decrease. With 9 per cent, this group had the second lowest unemployment rate among non-western immigrants. This trend is closely related to the fact that this group consists of a relatively large share of Chilean refugees with a long period of residence in Norway.

Immigrants from Asian countries saw a decrease from 12.7 to 11.2 per cent registered unemployment, which is somewhat less than the aforementioned group. With 11.2 per cent, they had the second highest unemployment, but were still a whole 5 percentage points below the unemployment rate of African immigrants. In the Asian group, it is the newly-arrived refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan that have particularly reduced the decrease in unemployment.

### **Refugees and the labour market 4th quarter 2004**

A total of 33 650 refugees (settled after 1986) were registered as employed in the 4th quarter of 2004. These people constituted 46.5 per cent of the refugee popula-

**Figure 4.3. Registered unemployed aged 16-74 years, by country of origin. As a percentage of the labour force. End of November 1999-2005**



Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

tion between 16 and 74 years settled after 1986. This represented about the same rate compared to the 4th quarter in the preceding year. At the same time, the employment rate for the entire population was 69.3 and 56.6 per cent for all immigrants, much the same rate as the preceding year.

In the main refugee groups by country background, refugees from Chile and Croatia had the highest employment rates, with almost 65 per cent (figure 4.4.). These rates exceed the employment rate for all immigrants and are just 4 percentage points below that of the total population. Refugees from Sri Lanka are also in the higher stratum with 64 per cent employment. Employment is also

high among refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina at 60 per cent. The lowest rates of employment among refugees are for those from Somalia and Afghanistan; 27.6 and 28.4 per cent respectively.

These differences must be seen as a reflection of differences in periods of residence in Norway since the first two groups mentioned are the most established refugees in Norway while the last two consist of many newcomers. Refugees from Afghanistan have a settlement rate of 76 per cent since 2000. The corresponding figure for Somali refugees is 41, and 37 for Iraqis. Refugees from Croatia seem to be deviating from this pattern to the greatest extent. Among these refugees, 63 per cent were settled during 1999 and 2000 and 10 per cent after that. Still they have an employment rate close to the Chilean refugees who to a large degree settled in the late 1980s. Croatian refugees are however the smallest group presented in table 4.4, with only 1 358 persons.

### Large variation in unemployment rates among refugees

In the 4th quarter of 2004, 6 374 refugees were registered as unemployed, which constituted 8.8 per cent of the refugee population between 16 and 74 years (table 4.10); 3 per cent higher than the rate for all immigrants. Unemployed refugees made up 41 per cent of all unemployed immigrants.

In the population as a whole, this unemployment rate was 2.5 per cent. Refugees from Somalia and Iraq had the highest rates, with about 11 per cent for both groups. Refugees from Serbia and Montenegro, Eritrea and Sri Lanka had an unemployment rate just below this level at about 10 per cent. The lowest level of

unemployment was among refugees from Afghanistan at 6.6 per cent.

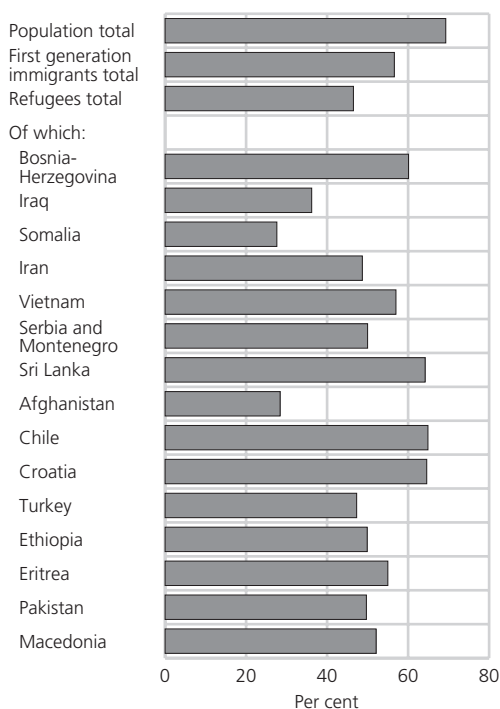
These rates may appear inconsistent since refugees from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan are, as we have seen, quite different with regard to employment. The low unemployment rate among the Afghans must be seen in relation to the short period of residence among members in this group, which means that not very many have registered at the labour exchange yet. In other words, this is a refugee group with a relatively high percentage outside the labour force, and mainly occupied with learning the language and job training. The refugees from Sri Lanka are on the contrary an established group with many employed persons and also many active registered jobseekers. Many of these jobseekers are probably not newcomers to the Norwegian labour market and have previously been employed. They will therefore be entitled to unemployment benefits and will register themselves as unemployed more frequently than first-time jobseekers. With regard to the Somali refugees, we find a more “consistent” pattern characterised by a high level of unemployment and a low degree of employment. This group also consists of many newcomers, but many of these have, however, a longer period of residence in Norway than the Afghans. Therefore more people are registered as unemployed, but as first time jobseekers they are less likely than the more established refugees to qualify for unemployment benefit or to get a job.

The total registered unemployment rate for refugees decreased by 0.7 percentage points from the 4th quarter of 2003 to the 4th quarter of 2004. The Vietnamese had the largest reduction with 2.4 percentage points. Chile, Sri Lanka and

Turkey also had around a 2 percentage points reduction.

The registered unemployment rate was higher for males than for females, 10.5 and 6.5 respectively by the 4th quarter of 2004. This gender difference is found over time both in the refugee population and the general immigrant population, and is due to lower job seeking activity among women. Since these women have a lower employment rate, a larger portion of them are completely outside the workforce.

**Figure 4.4. Employed refugees settled after 1986, by selected countries of birth and employed immigrants in total and employed in total as a percentage of the population 16-74 years. 4th quarter 2004**



Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.



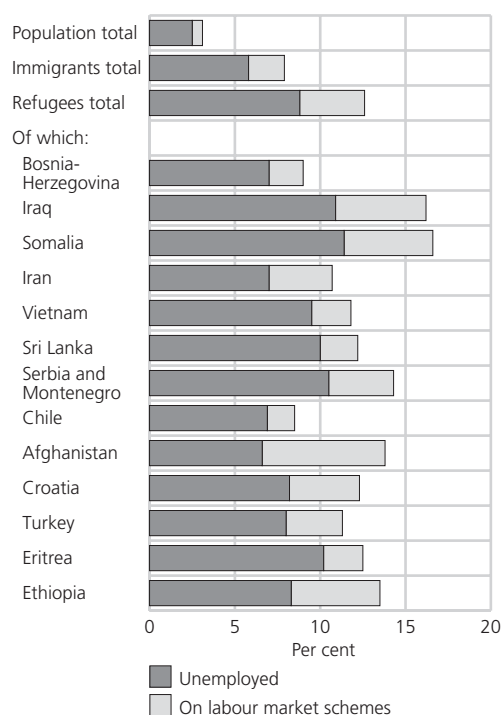
## Refugees as participants on labour market schemes

In total, 2 738 refugees were registered as participants on labour market schemes in the 4th quarter of 2004. These people constituted half of all participants who were immigrants. Measured as a percentage of the population in the respective groups, refugees had a proportion of 3.8 per cent participants compared to 2.1 per cent among first-generation immigrants in total (table 4.11). In the population as a whole, the participation rate was 0.6 per cent. Many of the labour market

schemes are specially arranged for refugees, hence the higher rate of participants in this group and among newcomers.

Looking at some selected groups of refugees (table 4.11), we see the greatest degree of participation among refugees from Afghanistan with 7.2 per cent by the 4th quarter of 2004, followed by Iraq and Somalia with 5.3 and 5.2 per cent respectively. Chile and Bosnia-Herzegovina had the lowest rates of participants at 1.6 and 2.0 per cent respectively. Refugees from Sri Lanka also had a relatively low degree of participation at 2.2 per cent. The figures clearly show that the labour market schemes are particular aimed at newly-arrived refugee groups.

**Figure 4.5. Registered unemployed and participants on labour market schemes who are refugees, by country of birth and unemployed and participants on labour market schemes in total and those who are immigrants. As a percentage of persons in total aged 16-74 years. 4th quarter 2004**



Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

## Registered unemployed and participants on labour market schemes combined (gross unemployment)

Figure 4.5 shows the gross unemployment rate (registered unemployed *and* participants on labour market schemes) in the 4th quarter of 2004. Refugees as a whole had a higher rate than immigrants as a whole, with 12.6 and 7.9 per cent respectively. For the entire population, the gross unemployment was 3.1 per cent. Refugees from Somalia and Iraq had the highest rates, with 16.6 and 16.2 per cent respectively. Refugees from Serbia and Montenegro and Afghanistan also had a relatively high rate of gross unemployment at 14.3 and 13.8 per cent, with the latter being the only group with more participants in schemes than registered unemployed. Those from Chile and Bosnia-Herzegovina had the lowest rates, with 8.5 and 9.0 per cent respectively.

**Table 4.1. Employed by region of birth. 4th quarter 2002 and 4th quarter 2003. Per cent of persons aged 16-74 years and in absolute figures**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Total population .....</b>	<b>70,9</b>	<b>70,1</b>	<b>69,4</b>	<b>69,3</b>	<b>69,4</b>
First generation immigrants, total ...	59,3	57,7	56,6	56,6	57,5
The Nordic countries .....	73,7	72,5	71,8	71,6	72,4
Western Europe else .....	68,1	67,2	66,9	67,6	68,5
New EU countries in Eastern Europe	60,0	60,8	61,5	64,6	68,6
Eastern Europe else .....	56,6	55,8	55,5	55,5	56,2
North America and Oceania .....	55,0	55,0	54,8	56,6	58,3
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	52,5	50,9	49,8	49,8	50,6
Africa .....	46,2	43,8	41,7	41,2	41,8
South and Central America .....	62,3	59,7	58,8	58,4	60,0

<sup>1</sup> Including Turkey.

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.



**Table 4.2. Employed by immigrant background, region of birth and sex. 4th quarter 2004 and 4th quarter 2005. Per cent of persons aged 16-74 years and in absolute figures**

	4th quarter 2004			4th quarter 2005			Change 2004-2005		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Per cent									
<b>Total population .....</b>	<b>69,3</b>	<b>72,5</b>	<b>66,0</b>	<b>69,4</b>	<b>72,6</b>	<b>66,0</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>First generation immigrants, total .....</b>	<b>56,6</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>52,2</b>	<b>57,5</b>	<b>62,5</b>	<b>52,6</b>	<b>0,9</b>	<b>1,5</b>	<b>0,4</b>
The Nordic countries .....	71,6	73,6	69,8	72,4	74,5	70,4	0,8	0,9	0,6
Western Europe else .....	67,6	72,7	61	68,5	73,9	61,4	0,9	1,2	0,4
New EU countries in									
Eastern Europe .....	64,6	69,6	61,5	68,6	74	64,1	4,0	4,4	2,6
Eastern Europe else .....	55,5	59	52,7	56,2	60,3	53	0,7	1,3	0,3
North America and Oceania ..	56,6	63,5	50,3	58,3	64,5	52,7	1,7	1,0	2,4
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	49,8	55,8	44	50,6	57,2	44,5	0,8	1,4	0,5
Africa .....	41,2	45,6	35,5	41,8	46,5	35,7	0,6	0,9	0,2
South and Central America ..	58,4	63,7	54,1	60	66,5	54,9	1,6	2,8	0,8
<b>Norwegian born to foreign born parents, total<sup>2</sup> .....</b>	<b>56,8</b>	<b>58,1</b>	<b>55,4</b>	<b>55,9</b>	<b>57,3</b>	<b>54,4</b>	<b>-0,9</b>	<b>-0,8</b>	<b>-1,0</b>
The Nordic countries .....	72,1	73,8	70,3	72,8	73,4	72,2	0,7	-0,4	1,9
Western Europe else .....	69,1	72,3	65,4	66,2	68,4	63,7	-2,9	-3,9	-1,7
New EU countries in									
Eastern Europe .....	66,8	66	67,7	66,8	66,4	67,1	0,0	0,4	-0,6
Eastern Europe else .....	67,7	67	68,3	63,6	62,3	64,8	-4,1	-4,7	-3,5
North America and Oceania ..	63,7	67,9	60	62,7	69,1	57,3	-1,0	1,2	-2,7
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	51,7	53,6	49,6	51,6	54,1	49	-0,1	0,5	-0,6
Africa .....	51,2	48,2	54,5	51,5	49,3	53,9	0,3	1,1	-0,6
South and Central America ..	40	40,7	39,2	37,4	34,7	40,3	-2,6	-6,0	1,1
*Absolute figures									
<b>Total population .....</b>	<b>2 274 000</b>	<b>1 199 188</b>	<b>1 074 812</b>	<b>2 298 000</b>	<b>1 212 680</b>	<b>1 085 320</b>	<b>24 000</b>	<b>13 492</b>	<b>10 508</b>
<b>First generation immigrants, total .....</b>	<b>149 022</b>	<b>79 075</b>	<b>69 947</b>	<b>159 260</b>	<b>85 137</b>	<b>74 123</b>	<b>10 238</b>	<b>6 062</b>	<b>4 176</b>
The Nordic countries .....	31 884	15 559	16 325	32 251	15 872	16 379	367	313	54
Western Europe else .....	20 587	12 486	8 101	21 497	13 179	8 318	910	693	217
New EU countries in									
Eastern Europe .....	7 731	3 165	4 566	10 289	5 066	5 223	2 558	1 901	657
Eastern Europe else .....	18 631	8 804	9 827	20 117	9 478	10 639	1 486	674	812
North America and Oceania ..	4 068	2 187	1 881	4 155	2 212	1 943	87	25	62
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	47 927	26 342	21 585	51 313	27 999	23 314	3 386	1 657	1 729
Africa .....	11 780	7 400	4 380	12 765	7 987	4 778	985	587	398
South and Central America ..	6 414	3 132	3 282	6 873	3 344	3 529	459	212	247
<b>Norwegian born to foreign born parents, total<sup>2</sup> .....</b>	<b>7 753</b>	<b>4 080</b>	<b>3 673</b>	<b>8 566</b>	<b>4 519</b>	<b>4 047</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>374</b>
The Nordic countries .....	1 087	563	524	1 125	583	542	38	20	18
Western Europe else .....	767	431	336	767	423	344	0	-8	8
New EU countries in									
Eastern Europe .....	505	264	241	528	275	253	23	11	12
Eastern Europe else .....	453	209	244	474	220	254	21	11	10
North America and Oceania ..	109	55	54	111	56	55	2	1	1
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	4 175	2 231	1 944	4 768	2 570	2 198	593	339	254
Africa .....	509	248	261	604	299	305	95	51	44
South and Central America ..	148	79	69	189	93	96	41	14	27

<sup>1</sup> Including Turkey. <sup>2</sup> By mothers native country.

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4.3. Employed first generation immigrants, by sex, country background and residence time.  
4th quarter 2005**

	Total	The Nordic countries	Western Europe else	New EU countries in Eastern Europe	Eastern Europe else	North America and Oceania	Asia <sup>1</sup>	Africa	South and Central America
Absolute figures									
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>159 260</b>	<b>32 251</b>	<b>21 497</b>	<b>10 289</b>	<b>20 117</b>	<b>4 155</b>	<b>51 313</b>	<b>12 765</b>	<b>6 873</b>
Under 4 years	32 176	5 894	4 960	4 952	3 539	870	7 941	2 964	1 056
4 - 6 years .....	23 202	4 149	2 646	964	4 026	435	7 786	2 407	789
7 - 10 years ...	20 266	5 432	2 744	773	3 069	550	5 343	1 731	624
11 - 15 years .	25 455	3 318	1 861	965	7 494	460	8 582	2 043	732
Over 15 years	58 161	13 458	9 286	2 635	1 989	1 840	21 661	3 620	3 672
Per cent									
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>60</b>
Under 4 years .....	48	75	66	71	42	46	35	30	45
4 - 6 years .....	59	79	75	75	60	61	51	45	62
7 - 10 years .....	62	80	78	73	59	68	51	44	64
11 - 15 years .....	62	79	77	69	64	68	57	48	67
Over 15 years .....	60	66	64	61	54	61	57	51	64

<sup>1</sup> Turkey included.

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4.4. Employed first generation immigrants, by selected countries of birth. Absolute figures and in per cent of persons in total 16-74 years. 4th quarter 2004 and 2005**

	4th quarter 2004			4th quarter 2005			Per- centage change
	Population	Employed	Employ- ment rate	Population	Employed	Employ- ment rate	
<b>The whole population .</b>	<b>3 282 342</b>	<b>2 274 000</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3 313 113</b>	<b>2 298 000</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>First generation immi- grants, total .....</b>	<b>263 512</b>	<b>149 022</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>277 163</b>	<b>159 260</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1</b>
Thereof .....							
Afghanistan .....	3 556	1 044	29	4 129	1 400	34	5
Bosnia-Herzegovina ....	11 143	6 689	60	11 306	6 935	61	1
Brasil .....	1 119	564	50	1 271	646	51	0
Chile .....	5 412	3 418	63	5 467	3 548	65	2
Denmark .....	15 478	10 381	67	15 221	10 324	68	1
Eritrea .....	1 536	872	57	1 714	988	58	1
Ethiopia .....	2 051	1 047	51	2 255	1 209	54	3
The Philippines .....	6 459	4 124	64	7 017	4 486	64	0
Finland .....	5 630	3 966	70	5 461	3 820	70	0
France .....	2 139	1 396	65	2 141	1 438	67	2
Ghana .....	1 100	693	63	1 156	736	67	4
India .....	4 366	2 680	61	4 435	2 760	62	1
Iraq .....	11 574	4 203	36	12 526	4 664	37	1
Iran .....	10 673	5 209	49	10 971	5 463	50	1
Iceland .....	2 849	2 003	70	2 791	1 997	72	1
Italy .....	1 164	713	61	1 169	745	64	2
China .....	3 787	2 086	55	4 027	2 231	55	0
Croatia .....	2 113	1 341	63	2 193	1 408	64	1
Lebanon .....	1 252	493	39	1 286	522	41	1
Lithuania .....	1 151	749	65	1 621	1 162	72	7
Macedonia .....	1 890	993	53	1 954	1 018	52	0
Morocco .....	4 122	1 826	44	4 188	1 883	45	1
Netherlands .....	3 343	2 444	73	3 553	2 595	73	0
Pakistan .....	14 130	6 214	44	14 423	6 434	45	1
Poland .....	7 269	4 837	67	9 581	6 738	70	4
Romania .....	1 396	842	60	1 507	948	63	3
Russia .....	6 687	3 247	49	7 665	3 761	49	1
Serbia and Montenegro .	7 691	3 963	52	8 156	4 307	53	1
Soamlia .....	10 076	2 736	27	10 633	2 994	28	1
Spain .....	1 305	817	63	1 294	808	62	0
Sri Lanka .....	7 702	4 675	61	7 743	4 865	63	2
United Kingdom .....	9 256	6 172	67	9 192	6 202	67	1
Sweden .....	19 881	15 118	76	20 407	15 673	77	1
Thailand .....	5 693	3 132	55	6 443	3 549	55	0
Turkey .....	8 563	4 092	48	8 809	4 355	49	2
Germany .....	9 669	6 703	69	10 396	7 295	70	1
USA .....	5 242	2 876	55	5 153	2 907	56	2
Hungary .....	1 146	581	51	1 154	594	51	1
Vietnam .....	11 453	6 685	58	11 639	6 955	60	1

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4.5. Employed aged 16-74 years, by selected industries, immigrant background and region of birth. 4th quarter 2005. Per cent**

		Employed population, total	Employed by region of birth					
			First generation immigrants			Norwegian born by foreign born parents¹		
			Total	Western²	Non- Western³	Total	Western²	Non- Western³
<b>0-9</b>	<b>Total incl. not provided .....</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>01-05</b>	<b>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</b>	<b>3,4</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>1,6</b>	<b>1,1</b>	<b>0,6</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>0,5</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas .....</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,2</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>0,8</b>	<b>0,3</b>
<b>10,12-37</b>	<b>Manufacturing and mining ....</b>	<b>11,6</b>	<b>10,8</b>	<b>10,1</b>	<b>11,3</b>	<b>6,4</b>	<b>9,2</b>	<b>5,6</b>
Thereof								
15-16	Manufacture of food, beverages and tobacco .....	2,2	3,6	2	4,5	1,8	1,1	2
27-28	Manufacture of metals and metal products .....	1,4	1,2	1,1	1,3	0,6	0,8	0,5
34-35	Manufacture of vehicles and transport equipment .....	1,6	1,5	1,8	1,3	0,4	0,9	0,3
<b>40-41</b>	<b>Electricity and water supply .....</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,1</b>	<b>0,1</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>Construction .....</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>5,1</b>	<b>7,2</b>	<b>3,9</b>	<b>3,6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2,9</b>
<b>50-55</b>	<b>Sale, hotels and restaurants .....</b>	<b>18,4</b>	<b>21,5</b>	<b>17,2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>35,6</b>	<b>22,9</b>	<b>39,5</b>
Thereof								
51	Wholesale and comission trade .....	4,5	3,5	4,5	2,9	3,8	5,8	3,2
52	Retail trade and repair of personal and household goods .....	8,1	6,7	5,4	7,4	19,6	9,7	22,6
55	Hotels and restaurants .....	3,3	9,8	6	12	9,1	4,6	10,5
<b>60-64</b>	<b>Transport and communication ...</b>	<b>6,9</b>	<b>6,9</b>	<b>5,1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11,1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12,3</b>
<b>65-67</b>	<b>Finance and insurance .....</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0,7</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>1,4</b>
<b>70-74</b>	<b>Real estate, renting and business activites .....</b>	<b>10,6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13,6</b>	<b>14,2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14,6</b>	<b>13,9</b>
Thereof								
74.7	Industrial cleaning .....	0,8	4,3	0,8	6,3	1,7	0,9	1,9
<b>75-99</b>	<b>Public administration and other service activities .....</b>	<b>37,9</b>	<b>37,3</b>	<b>40,5</b>	<b>35,4</b>	<b>26,1</b>	<b>35,6</b>	<b>23,2</b>
Thereof								
75	Public administration, defense and compulsory social security .....	6,6	4	3,2	4,5	4,4	4,9	4,3
80	Education .....	7,9	7,1	9,5	5,8	3,7	7,5	2,6
85	Health and social work .....	19,3	21,9	22,6	21,4	14	17,9	12,8
92	Recreational, cultural and sporting activities	1,7	1,8	2,8	1,2	1,6	3	1,2
Industry not provided .....		0,5	1,3	1,1	1,3	0,5	0,6	0,4

<sup>1</sup> By mothers native country.<sup>2</sup> The Nordic countries, Western Europe else and Oceania.<sup>3</sup> Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and South and Central America.

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4.6. Employed by immigrant background, sex and age. Absolute figures and as a percentage of all persons in each group. 4th quarter 2005**

Total	Employed 16-74 years total	16-19 years	Of this 20-24 years	25-29 years
Absolute figures				
<b>No immigrant background</b>				
Total .....	2 130 174	87 679	175 811	199 280
Males .....	1 123 024	44 259	89 803	104 483
Females .....	1 007 150	43 420	86 008	94 797
<b>Non-western first generation immigrants</b>				
Total .....	101 357	2 974	10 548	15 128
Males .....	53 874	1 562	5 303	7 613
Females .....	47 483	1 412	5 245	7 515
<b>Non-western descendants</b>				
Total .....	6 563	1 460	2 533	1 710
Males .....	3 457	735	1 311	947
Females .....	3 106	725	1 222	763
Per cent				
<b>No immigrant background</b>				
Total .....	70,5	40,5	71,7	80,1
Males .....	73,6	39,9	71,4	82,0
Females .....	67,4	41,2	72,0	78,1
<b>Non-western first generation immigrants</b>				
Total .....	52,2	24,5	49,7	54,3
Males .....	57,5	24,3	54,5	65,0
Females .....	47,3	24,8	45,6	46,5
<b>Non-western descendants</b>				
Total .....	52,7	28,9	66,5	69,6
Males .....	54,1	29,0	65,7	74,1
Females .....	51,3	28,9	67,4	64,8

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4.7. Employed by immigrant background, region of birth, sex and labour market status.  
4th quarter 2005. Per cent of persons aged 16-74 years in each group and in absolute figures**

	Total			Males			Females		
	Em- ployees	Self em- ployed	Em- ployed, total	Em- ployees	Self em- ployed	Em- ployed, total	Em- ployees	Self em- ployed	Em- ployed, total
	*Per cent								
<b>Total population ..</b>	<b>64,4</b>	<b>5,0</b>	<b>69,4</b>	<b>65,4</b>	<b>7,2</b>	<b>72,6</b>	<b>63,3</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>66,0</b>
First generation									
immigrants, total ....	53,5	4,0	57,5	57,2	5,3	62,5	49,9	2,7	52,6
The Nordic countries	66,3	6,0	72,4	66,3	8,2	74,5	66,3	4,1	70,4
Western Europe else	62,6	5,9	68,5	67,4	6,6	73,9	56,4	5,0	61,4
New EU countries in									
Eastern Europe .....	65,3	3,4	68,6	70,3	3,7	74,0	61,0	3,1	64,1
Eastern Europe else	54,3	2,0	56,2	57,5	2,8	60,3	51,7	1,3	53,0
North America and									
Oceania .....	52,4	5,9	58,4	57,2	7,2	64,5	47,9	4,7	52,7
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	46,9	3,8	50,7	51,9	5,3	57,2	42,2	2,3	44,5
Africa .....	39,7	2,1	41,8	43,7	2,8	46,5	34,6	1,1	35,8
South and Central									
America .....	56,8	3,2	60,0	61,9	4,6	66,5	52,8	2,1	54,9
<b>Norwegian born</b>									
<b>to foreign-born</b>									
<b>parents, total<sup>2</sup> .....</b>	<b>53,8</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>55,9</b>	<b>54,4</b>	<b>2,9</b>	<b>57,3</b>	<b>53,1</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>54,4</b>
The Nordic countries	68,2	4,7	72,8	67,3	6,2	73,4	69,1	3,1	72,2
Western Europe else	62,4	3,9	66,2	63,4	5,0	68,5	61,1	2,6	63,7
New EU countries in									
Eastern Europe .....	63,0	3,8	66,8	61,6	4,8	66,4	64,5	2,7	67,1
Eastern Europe else	61,3	2,3	63,6	60,6	1,7	62,3	62,0	2,8	64,8
North America and									
Oceania .....	58,2	4,5	62,7	61,7	7,4	69,1	55,2	2,1	57,3
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	50,2	1,5	51,6	52,0	2,1	54,1	48,3	0,7	49,0
Africa .....	50,5	1,0	51,5	47,7	1,7	49,3	53,5	0,4	53,9
South and Central									
America .....	36,6	0,8	37,4	33,2	1,5	34,7	40,3	-	40,3

**Table 4.7 (cont.). Employed by immigrant background, region of birth, sex and labour market status. 4th quarter 2005. Per cent of persons aged 16-74 years in each group and in absolute figures**

	Total			Males			Females		
	Em- ployees	Self em- ployed	Em- ployed, total	Em- ployees	Self em- ployed	Em- ployed, total	Em- ployees	Self em- ployed	Em- ployed, total
*Absolute figures									
<b>Total population ....</b>	<b>2 132 000</b>	<b>166 000</b>	<b>2 298 000</b>	<b>1 092 398</b>	<b>120 282</b>	<b>1 212 680</b>	<b>1 039 602</b>	<b>45 718</b>	<b>1 085 320</b>
First generation immigrants, total ....	148 249	11 011	159 260	77 951	7 186	85 137	70 298	3 825	74 123
The Nordic countries .....	29 557	2 694	32 251	14 120	1 752	15 872	15 437	942	16 379
Western Europe else .....	19 647	1 850	21 497	12 012	1 167	13 179	7 635	683	8 318
New EU countries in Eastern Europe ...	9 786	503	10 289	4 815	251	5 066	4 971	252	5 223
Eastern Europe else	19 420	697	20 117	9 039	439	9 478	10 381	258	10 639
North America and Oceania .....	3 732	423	4 155	1 964	248	2 212	1 768	175	1 943
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	47 473	3 840	51 313	25 386	2 613	27 999	22 087	1 227	23 314
Africa .....	12 127	638	12 765	7 501	486	7 987	4 626	152	4 778
South and Central America .....	6 507	366	6 873	3 114	230	3 344	3 393	136	3 529
<b>Norwegian born by foreign-born parents, total<sup>2</sup> .....</b>									
<b>parents, total<sup>2</sup> .....</b>	<b>8 244</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>8 566</b>	<b>4 292</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>4 519</b>	<b>3 952</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>4 047</b>
The Nordic countries	1 053	72	1 125	534	49	583	519	23	542
Western Europe else	722	45	767	392	31	423	330	14	344
New EU countries in Eastern Europe ...	498	30	528	255	20	275	243	10	253
Eastern Europe else	457	17	474	214	6	220	243	11	254
North America and Oceania .....	103	8	111	50	6	56	53	2	55
Asia <sup>1</sup> .....	4 634	134	4 768	2 469	101	2 570	2 165	33	2 198
Africa .....	592	12	604	289	10	299	303	2	305
South and Central America .....	185	4	189	89	4	93	96	-	96

<sup>1</sup> Including Turkey. <sup>2</sup> By mothers native country.

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4.8. Self employed immigrants aged 16-74 years by selected industries and region of birth. 4th quarter 2005. Per cent**

No. Industry <sup>2</sup>	Self-employed, total	Self-employed by region of birth							
		Total	The Nordic countries	West Europe else	East Europe	North America and Oceania	Asia <sup>1</sup>	Africa	South and Central America
<b>0-9 Total incl. not provided ..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>11 Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas</b>	.	.	0,0	0,2	.	.	.	0,2	.
<b>10,12-37 Manufacturing and mining .....</b>	<b>5,8</b>	<b>4,0</b>	<b>6,2</b>	<b>6,2</b>	<b>4,7</b>	<b>6,2</b>	<b>1,5</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>3,6</b>
Thereof									
15-16 Manufacture of food, beverages and tobacco .....	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,2	0,7	0,2	0,5	0,3
27-28 Manufacture of metals and metal products .....	.	.	1,2	0,7	0,4	0,5	0,1	.	0,6
34-35 Manufacture of vehicles and transport equipment .....	.	.	0,4	0,8	.	0,7	.	0,2	.
<b>45 Construction .....</b>	<b>16,7</b>	<b>9,6</b>	<b>22,8</b>	<b>9,9</b>	<b>13,0</b>	<b>6,5</b>	<b>1,6</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>7,3</b>
<b>50-55 Sale, hotels and restaurants .....</b>	<b>16,1</b>	<b>24,7</b>	<b>11,4</b>	<b>12,2</b>	<b>15,9</b>	<b>10,4</b>	<b>44,3</b>	<b>21,1</b>	<b>16,5</b>
Thereof									
51 Wholesale and commission trade .....	3,0	2,7	3,2	2,5	3,6	1,7	2,5	1,9	2,2
52 Retail trade and repair of personal and household goods .....	7,9	9,5	5,2	4,7	6,4	6,0	15,7	9,4	10,6
55 Hotels and restaurants .....	2,9	11	2,1	3,8	3,6	1,7	24,1	8,7	3,1
<b>60-64 Transport and communication .....</b>	<b>10,8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>2,8</b>	<b>7,9</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>19,8</b>	<b>11,1</b>	<b>4,2</b>
<b>65-67 Finance and insurance ....</b>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>70-74 Real estate, renting and business activities .....</b>	<b>17,4</b>	<b>13,5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19,5</b>	<b>17,4</b>	<b>27,6</b>	<b>6,8</b>	<b>12,8</b>	<b>25,4</b>
Thereof									
74.7 Industrial cleaning .....	1,0	3,1	2,4	0,7	5,9	1,2	2,7	4,8	16,2
<b>75-99 Public administration and other service activities ....</b>	<b>24,0</b>	<b>24,0</b>	<b>32,1</b>	<b>36,1</b>	<b>25,9</b>	<b>32,6</b>	<b>13,6</b>	<b>12,8</b>	<b>25,7</b>
Thereof									
80 Education .....	1,1	0,9	1,2	1,2	1,1	3,5	0,2	0,3	1,7
85 Health and social work .....	11,9	13,7	19,9	21,9	12,2	11,9	8,1	8,1	9,2
92 Recreational, cultural and-sporting activities .....	5,7	5,4	6,3	9,8	8,6	14,7	1,1	2,2	10,1
Industry not provided .....	8,9	14,2	10,6	13,2	15,1	15,4	12,5	37	17,3

<sup>1</sup> Including Turkey.<sup>2</sup> Primary industries not presented.

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.



**Table 4.9. Registered unemployed 16-74 years, by country of birth. Absolute figures and per cent of the labour force. End of November 1999-2005**

Unemployed, total		Registered unemployed immigrants							
		Total	The Nordic countries	West Europe else	East Europe	North America and Oceania	Asia <sup>1</sup>	Africa	South and Central America
Absolute figures									
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
Per cent									
1999 .....	2	7	3	3	10	4	9	12	8
2000 .....	3	7	3	3	9	4	9	12	8
2001 .....	3	7	3	3	9	4	10	13	7
2002 .....	3	9	4	4	10	4	12	16	9
2003 .....	4	10	4	5	10	6	13	17	11
2004 .....	4	9	4	4	10	5	12	18	10
2005 .....	3	8	3	4	8	5	11	17	9

<sup>1</sup> Including Turkey.

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4.10. Registered unemployed refugees, by selected regions of birth. Unemployed, total and first generation immigrants. 4th quarter 2002-2004. Absolute figures and in per cent of the total population 16-74 years**

	Absolute figures			Per cent			Percentage change 2003-2004
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	
<b>Unemployed, total .....</b>	<b>77 706</b>	<b>87 349</b>	<b>83 616</b>	<b>2,4</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>2,5</b>	<b>-0,2</b>
<b>Unemployed first generation immigrants .....</b>	<b>13 155</b>	<b>15 253</b>	<b>15 328</b>	<b>5,4</b>	<b>6,0</b>	<b>5,8</b>	<b>-0,2</b>
<b>Unemployed refugees .....</b>	<b>5 391</b>	<b>6 466</b>	<b>6 374</b>	<b>8,9</b>	<b>9,5</b>	<b>8,8</b>	<b>-0,7</b>
Of this							
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	790	887	755	7,8	8,4	7,0	-1,4
Iraq .....	854	1 059	1 120	9,4	10,6	10,9	0,3
Somalia .....	766	949	1 020	11,1	11,8	11,4	-0,4
Iran .....	494	575	570	7,3	7,3	7,0	-0,3
Viet Nam .....	441	600	481	10,4	11,9	9,5	-2,4
Sri Lanka .....	466	470	393	12,1	12,0	10,0	-2,0
Serbia and Montenegro .....	380	458	493	9,6	10,4	10,5	0,1
Chile .....	225	270	208	7,4	9,0	6,9	-2,1
Afghanistan .....	70	121	201	4,2	5,2	6,6	1,4
Croatia .....	110	132	112	8,7	9,9	8,2	-1,7
Turkey .....	108	131	108	8,2	9,9	8,0	-1,9
Eritrea .....	72	76	92	8,3	8,8	10,2	1,4
Ethiopia .....	84	88	100	8,6	7,9	8,3	0,4

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 4.11. Refugees who are participants in ordinary labour market schemes (job programmes), by selected regions of birth. Participants, total and first generation immigrants. 4th quarter 2002-2004. Absolute figures and in per cent of the total population 16-74 years**

	Absolute figures			Per cent			Percentage change 2003-2004
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004	
<b>Participants, total .....</b>	<b>12 023</b>	<b>20 411</b>	<b>19 336</b>	<b>0,4</b>	<b>0,6</b>	<b>0,6</b>	<b>0,0</b>
<b>First generation immigrants who are participants .....</b>	<b>4 186</b>	<b>6 397</b>	<b>5 598</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>2,5</b>	<b>2,1</b>	<b>-0,4</b>
<b>Refugees who are participants .....</b>	<b>2 099</b>	<b>3 093</b>	<b>2 738</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>4,6</b>	<b>3,8</b>	<b>-0,8</b>
Of this							
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	190	230	210	1,9	2,2	2,0	-0,2
Iraq .....	549	700	544	6,0	7,0	5,3	-1,7
Somalia .....	353	568	461	5,1	7,1	5,2	-1,9
Iran .....	187	307	301	2,8	3,9	3,7	-0,2
Viet Nam .....	57	118	116	1,3	2,3	2,3	0,0
Sri Lanka .....	62	106	86	1,6	2,7	2,2	-0,5
Serbia and Montenegro .....	139	212	179	3,5	4,8	3,8	-1,0
Chile .....	30	57	48	1,0	1,9	1,6	-0,3
Afghanistan .....	95	180	217	5,7	7,7	7,2	-0,5
Croatia .....	49	56	56	3,9	4,2	4,1	-0,1
Turkey .....	37	42	44	2,8	3,2	3,3	0,1
Eritrea .....	39	41	21	4,5	4,7	2,3	-2,4
Ethiopia .....	58	82	62	5,9	7,3	5,2	-2,1

Source: Labour Market Statistics, Statistics Norway.

*Siv Irene Pedersen*

## 5. Income

- The probability of a non-western immigrant having a low income is three times higher than for the rest of the population.
- The most important cause of low income is lack of or poor attachment to the labour market.
- Non-western immigrants are highly over-represented among the recipients of social assistance and dwelling support. There are, however, large variations between different countries of origin. Somali and Iraqi couples with children are the most dependent on social assistance, while couples with children originally from Pakistan, Turkey and Vietnam have a very low dependency on social assistance.
- Non-western immigrants have a lower degree of debt and interest burden than the population as a whole. This is especially the case among those with low incomes.
- Families from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chile, India, and Sri Lanka have higher incomes from employment than families from other non-western countries, and are therefore more economically independent.
- Non-western single parents are especially economically dependent.

This chapter primarily discusses income for non-western immigrants. Data for western immigrants and the total population will be provided in some cases for reference.

When analysing the economic living conditions for different parts of the population, it is important to consider that many individuals live in an economic unit with others, sharing both income and expenses. The income generated by one or more persons may be consumed by other persons without income of their own, e.g. children. Before the income can be effectively used as an indicator of living conditions, the economic unit (the household) in which the persons are included must be considered.

The household is considered the best unit of analysis for describing economic living conditions. The households are defined as all persons living in the same dwelling that have common expenses. Information on household composition is collected from annual surveys in which Statistics Norway gathers information via personal interviews. However, these surveys often do not have a sample comprehensive enough to provide representative income figures for immigrants from various countries. The analysis is therefore done with less detailed geographical categories

### Income and property survey for households

The income and property surveys for households are representative surveys that have been conducted annually from 1996 to 2004, covering from between about 10 000 to 28 000 households. Based on this survey, a number of different income indicators for different groups have been developed, among those groups are non-western immigrants and refugees. The indicators have been developed to show changes happening over time. One part of the survey consists of a panel survey, e.g. a survey where the same individuals are included and followed over several years. This enables analysis of long-term low income among some parts of the population.

that conceal variation between countries. We need to use information on family level from the National Population Register to provide information on immigrations categorised by countries. The definition of the terms «family» and «household» may differ for several groups of immigrants. This is especially the case for many non-western immigrants, where

multi-family households are more common.

We will first look at various economic indicators based on the income and property survey for households. Indicators are primarily given for non-western immigrants, with refugees singled out as one group. We will then use the income

### Definition of low income

Low income can be defined in more than one way and the estimated number of individuals belonging to the low-income group may therefore be sensitive to the choice of definition. In order to show the robustness of the results, two different low income definitions are used in this chapter: one currently used by the European Union and one developed by the OECD.

One main difference between the two definitions is that the OECD uses 50 per cent of the median equivalent income as the low-income threshold, while the EU definition uses 60 per cent of the median. In addition, there are differences between the two definitions regarding the assumption of the economies of scale within households, e.g. in respect of fixed housing costs like heating, TV, telephone, washing machine etc.

In order to compare the economic well-being of individuals belonging to households of different size and composition it is common practice to divide the household income by an equivalent scale. According to the OECD scale the first adult in the household is allocated a weight of 1.0, a weight of 0.7 is allocated to all additional adult members, and a weight of 0.5 for all children. The EU scale is a "modification" of the OECD scale, giving slightly less weight to additional household members (assuming larger economies of scale). According to this scale the first adult is given the weight 1.0, the next adult a weight of 0.5 and children the weight of 0.3. According to the OECD scale, a household consisting of two adults and two children would thus need an after-tax income that is 2.7 times larger than a single-person household ( $1.0 + 0.7 + 0.5 + 0.5$ ) in order to have a comparable level of economic well being. By applying the EU scale, the same household would only need an income of 2.1 the size of a single-person household in order to have a similar level of potential consumption.

The median income is the income (value) that splits the distribution into two parts of equal size after the distribution has been ranked according to size. Exactly 50 per cent of the population falls below that value, and 50 per cent above it.

statistics for families to look at income levels and income composition for some family types and some individual countries.

### Every third non-western immigrant has low income

Non-western immigrants are highly over-represented among those with low incomes (table 5.1). When the EU method for measuring low income is applied, almost every third non-western immigrant belonged to the low income group in 2004. The proportion was even higher among refugees: 40 per cent of the refugees belonged to the low income group this year. Comparatively, 11 per cent of the population as a whole had a low income in 2004. In other words, non-western immigrants have a three times higher probability of belonging to the low income group than the general population. OECD's definition of low income provides a lower low income threshold, resulting in fewer with low income. However, using this definition, non-western immigrants are still over-represented in the low income group. Their probability of low income according to this definition is almost five times higher than for the population as a whole.

### Poor attachment to the labour market the most common reason for low income

During the period 1996 to 2004, there was a decrease in the percentage of non-western immigrants with low incomes towards the end of the 1990s. This figure increased towards 2004, reaching the levels from mid 1990s. There are several reasons for this. One main reason is changing business cycles, coupled with a worsening labour market in 2002. For instance, the unemployment rate among immigrants with an African background was 20.5 per cent in 1996, which decreased to 12.2 in 1999 and rose to 17.7 per cent in 2004. Several studies (e.g. Andersen et al 2003) conclude that a marginal attachment to the labour market is the single most important reason for falling below the low income threshold. Another important cause of non-western immigrants falling below this threshold might be changes in the composition of this group in the period from 1996 to 2004. In 1996, there were a lot of newcomers from Bosnia. A large portion of these had entered the labour market by 1999. By 2004, a lot of newcomers with a short period of residency had come from countries such as Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Table 5.1. Percentage of people in households with annual after-tax income per consumption unit below different distances to the median income. Two different definitions of low income. 1996-2004. Per cent**

	OECD method				EU method			
	1996	1999	2002	2004	1996	1999	2002	2004
Immigrants in total <sup>1</sup> .....	17	11	18	18	28	20	27	26
Immigrants from non-western countries <sup>1</sup> .....	23	15	23	23	36	26	33	32
Refugees <sup>1</sup> .....	20	17	26	30	34	29	36	40
All persons .....	4	4	5	5	12	11	11	11
People aged 25-65 years .....	3	3	4	4	7	7	7	7

<sup>1</sup> People in households where the main breadwinner has this characteristic.

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

Table 5.2 shows the relationship between the marginal attachment to the labour market and the probability of falling below the low-income threshold. There is a high percentage of non-western immigrants in households without attachment to the labour market. In 2004, 34 per cent of non-western immigrants belonged to households without attachment to the labour market, compared with 14 per cent in the general population between 25 and 65 years of age. The share is even higher (44 per cent) for refugees. Among non-western immigrants with low incomes, 71 per cent belong to households without attachment to the labour market, while the corresponding figure is 77 per cent for refugees.

Another indicator for labour force attachment is the percentage of people with income from employment as the most important household income. Twenty-seven per cent of non-western immi-

grants with low incomes have income from employment as the most important household income. Income from employment is the most important household income for 74 per cent of the non-western immigrants above the low income threshold. The corresponding figures for the general population are 46 and 85 per cent respectively.

It is important to be aware that the percentages of labour attachment shown here do not reveal major differences among non-western immigrants. Reason for immigration, duration of residency in Norway and time of arrival in Norway are all important factors in determining the degree of attachment to the labour market (Blom 2004, Østby 2001). Many groups of immigrants had a larger degree of labour attachment and higher incomes from employment, such as immigrants from Chile, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2004.

**Table 5.2. Indicators for people with and without low incomes. 2004. Per cent**

	All persons 25-65 years			Non-western immigrants <sup>1</sup>			Refugees <sup>1</sup>		
	Total	With low income	Not low income	Total	With low income	Not low income	Total	With low income	Not low income
Without any economically actives in the household .....	14	62	10	34	71	17	44	76	22
Salary as the main household income .....	82	46	85	59	27	74	49	19	69
Main breadwinner with low level of education .....	15	14	11	17	19	15	17	19	16
Receiving housing benefit .....	3	11	2	25	37	19	33	45	26
Receiving social security .....	5	23	4	32	54	21	42	66	27
Receiving housing benefit and social security .....	1	7	1	19	32	13	27	40	19
Receiving basic benefit .....	6	3	6	5	2	6	4	2	6
High interest burden <sup>2</sup> .....	8	16	7	5	4	6	5	3	5
High debt burden <sup>3</sup> .....	11	31	10	10	8	11	7	5	8
Number of observations .....	18 383	1 036	17 347	2 002	598	1 404	1 146	438	708

<sup>1</sup> People in households where the main breadwinner has this characteristic.

<sup>2</sup> Interest exceeding more than 15 per cent of household's total income.

<sup>3</sup> Debt exceeding three times the household's total income.

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

### **Many non-western immigrants receive social assistance and dwelling support**

When measuring economic vulnerability by the percentage of individuals in households receiving social assistance and dwelling support, non-western immigrants are clearly over-represented compared with the population as a whole (table 5.2). Every fourth non-western immigrant and every third refugee received dwelling support in 2004. Nineteen per cent of non-western immigrants and 27 per cent of refugees belong to households receiving both social assistance and dwelling support in 2004, an increase of five percentage points since 2002. Approximately one per cent of the general population receives both of these non-taxable transfers.

Not surprisingly, these social security benefits are more common among immigrants at the bottom of the income distribution. Among non-western immigrants with low incomes, more than half receive social assistance and a third receive both social assistance and dwelling support. Among refugees with low incomes, the percentages are even higher; 66 and 40 per cent respectively. The aforementioned marginal labour attachment coupled with larger households are important reasons for the high percentages of social assistance, especially among the refugees.

### **Lower debt and interest**

Another way of measuring economic vulnerability is by the degree of interest and debt burden. Table 5.2 shows the percentage of individuals living in a household where interest is equal to or exceeds 15 per cent of the household's total income. There are fewer non-western immigrants paying this much interest (5 per cent) compared with the total

population 25-65 years old (8 per cent). There has been a sharp decline in the percentage of individuals with a large interest burden since 2002 for both the general population and for non-western immigrants (including refugees). This is due to a sharp decline in the interest level that started in 2003 and continued in 2004.

Ten per cent of the non-western immigrants had a total debt equal to or exceeding three times the household's total income in 2004. The corresponding figure for the general population 25-65 years old is 11 per cent.

There are relatively more non-western immigrants with a high debt and interest burden among those above the low income threshold than there are among those below this threshold.

### **Transfers an important part of the income**

An analysis of the income composition reveals the importance of transfers for non-western immigrants below the low income threshold. Transfers account for 64 per cent of a non-western immigrant's total household income. Table 5.3 shows that social assistance is the most essential transfer, which on average amounts to a fifth of the total income. Among non-western immigrants above the low income threshold, social assistance comprises three per cent of total household income.

Social security benefits are the most common transfers among non-western immigrant as a whole, constituting nine per cent of total household income.

The composition of income varies greatly between non-western immigrants above and below the low income threshold.

Among those below the low income threshold, 36 per cent of the total income is income from employment. For those above this threshold, 71 per cent of the total income is income from employment. Sixty-four per cent of the total income consists of transfers for those below the low income threshold compared with 51 per cent for the general population below the threshold. Social security benefits are the most common transfers. Social assistance and child allowance make up a larger share of the total income among non-western immigrants compared with the population between 25 and 65 years old, regardless of whether they have low incomes or not. Child allowance is higher among the immigrant population than the general population. This is partly

because the majority of this group are between 20 and 44 years old and therefore of reproductive age, and partly because non-western immigrants on average have more children.

### Many immigrants with long-term low income

So far we have looked at annual low income among non-western households, and how various economic indicators vary between those above and below the low income threshold. Thus we get a picture of the situation at a certain point in time, in 2004. However, the figures tell us nothing about the duration of low income, whether this is a short-term or long-term condition. Earlier studies have shown considerable differences with

**Table 5.3. Income account for households. Main breadwinner 25-65 years old (total population) or non-western immigrant. 2004. NOK and per cent**

	Proportion of total household income					
	Main breadwinner aged 25-65 years			Main breadwinner non-western immigrant		
	All	Low income	Not low income	All	Low income <sup>1</sup>	Not low income
Employment income .....	76	47	77	66	36	71
Property income <sup>2</sup> .....	9	2	9	7	0	8
Benefits in total .....	15	51	14	28	64	22
Of which						
Other benefits .....	8	23	7	9	16	8
Unemployment benefits .....	1	6	1	3	7	3
Family allowances .....	2	5	1	3	6	3
Housing benefits .....	0	1	0	1	4	1
Social security .....	0	8	0	6	21	3
Basic and attendance benefit .....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash benefits .....	0	1	0	1	2	1
Total income .....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total household income .....	563 400	156 200	605 700	359 400	145 500	482 400
Net income per consumption .....	418 300	132 500	448 000	285 500	132 800	373 400
Net income per consumption unit (EU scale) .....	258 600	82 000	277 000	167 300	82 300	216 200
Average number of persons in the household	2,4	1,9	2,5	2,6	2,2	2,8
Number of observations .....	10 646	749	9 897	611	192	419

<sup>1</sup> Low income is defined as income below 60 per cent of the median income.

<sup>2</sup> Negative property income is registered as zero.

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



regard to which parts of the population are most likely to experience long-term low income (Andersen et al 2003). Some groups will only experience short-term low income, while other groups will have greater problems improving their economic situation. It is possible to follow the same individuals for several years by using panel data. Table 5.4 shows that immigrants in general and non-western immigrants in particular are strongly over-represented among those with long-term low income. More than every third non-western immigrant had long-term low income during the three-year period 2002-2004, according to the EU definition, compared with every tenth in the general population. The percentage of non-western immigrants with long-term

low income has also increased since the three-year period 1999-2001. This corresponds with the development of annual low income described earlier in this chapter. As mentioned earlier, there are several reasons for this development, both financial and demographic.

### Income among immigrant families

We have so far analysed income among the immigrant population using households as the economic unit. Due to small sample sizes in the household survey, we are only able to distinguish between western and non-western immigrants (and refugees). Accordingly, we lack information on variations between different countries. Consequently, we will use another source for the remainder of the chapter: Income statistics for persons and families. These statistics enable us to analyse the income of some types of families: married couples with or without children, cohabitating couples with common children and single parents (defined as recipients of extra child allowance). Additionally, we define families where the main breadwinner is between 25 and 55 years old<sup>1</sup> and is either a first-generation immigrant or has two foreign-born parents. The reason for the age limitation is to single out families where the main breadwinner is in his/her most active working age, thereby improving the accuracy of the comparison with the population as a whole. The age composition of the immigrant population deviates from the age composition in the general population by having more people in younger age groups. A certain distortion will therefore remain even after delimitation of age.

**Table 5.4. Percentage of persons with long-term low income. Per cent**

	OECD method		EU method	
	1999-2001	2002-2004	1999-2001	2002-2004
<b>Immigrants in total .....</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>
Immigrants from non-western countries .....	16	24	23	37
All persons .....	2	4	9	10

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

### Income statistics for persons and families

Income statistics for persons and families are based on information from various administrative registers. The statistics cover most of the cash incomes received by Norwegian families. The resident population by the end of the year is included. From this data source we are able to distinguish different sub-groups of the population, for instance immigrants grouped by their country of origin. More information about this data source

[http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/05/01/inntpf\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/05/01/inntpf_en/)

**Table 5.5. Income account by family type and country of origin. Main breadwinner and single parent aged 25-55 years. Average. 2004. NOK**

	Total income	Earned income	Pro-perty income	Bene-fits	Family allo-wances	Social security	Net income	Net income per consumption unit (EU scale)	Number of families
<b>All</b>									
Couples without children .....	652 500	542 300	51 400	58 900	300	1 000	471 900	314 600	78 892
Couples with children .....	801 000	649 400	75 600	76 000	19 000	1 700	592 500	270 500	510 026
Single parents .....	353 200	225 400	10 200	117 500	28 600	4 900	292 600	193 700	112 176
<b>Nordic countries</b>									
Couples without children .....	657 200	588 600	17 900	50 700	200	800	462 800	308 500	1 195
Couples with children .....	780 200	678 000	37 400	64 800	19 700	700	556 800	260 000	6 255
Single parents .....	364 700	252 900	5 200	106 600	28 700	4 200	293 900	195 900	1 366
<b>West Europe except Turkey</b>									
Couples without children .....	685 700	628 800	22 900	34 100	200	100	475 100	316 800	985
Couples with children .....	803 400	724 600	20 200	58 600	18 800	400	559 200	260 300	4 874
Single parents .....	384 000	270 200	6 700	107 100	28 700	4 700	302 400	197 400	654
<b>East Europe</b>									
Couples without children .....	443 400	379 800	200	63 400	100	5 600	330 000	220 000	1 617
Couples with children .....	544 500	431 200	8 900	104 400	18 800	14 200	417 700	194 200	7 438
Single parents .....	297 700	155 900	1 500	140 400	29 600	16 100	257 600	169 200	1 666
<b>North America and Oceania</b>									
Couples without children .....	727 600	680 500	10 400	36 600	200	100	487 200	324 800	237
Couples with children .....	893 800	803 200	31 100	59 500	19 700	700	605 400	279 000	948
Single parents .....	365 100	241 300	6 900	116 900	30 300	4 600	292 600	190 000	147
<b>Asia, Africa, Central and South America together with Turkey</b>									
Couples without children .....	388 700	320 500	3 100	65 000	300	8 500	293 600	195 700	4 362
Couples with children .....	497 300	352 100	12 200	133 000	23 100	19 900	390 200	175 300	25 414
Single parents .....	288 300	104 600	1 800	181 800	33 600	23 900	261 200	160 300	5 919
<b>The rest of the population</b>									
Couples without children .....	672 800	557 300	56 600	58 900	300	400	486 300	324 200	70 496
Couples with children .....	821 700	667 600	81 300	72 800	18 800	500	607 200	277 200	465 097
Single parents .....	357 400	232 900	10 900	113 600	28 300	3 600	294 900	196 000	102 424

<sup>1</sup> Couples without children are married couples and registered partnerships without children. Couples with children are married couples and registered partnerships with children together with cohabiting couples with common children.

<sup>2</sup> Classified by the country of origin for the main breadwinner among married couples, registered partnerships and cohabiting couples with common children. For single parents classified by country of origin for the single parent himself/herself.

<sup>3</sup> Single parents are defined as recipients of extra child allowance.

Source: Income statistics for persons and families, Statistics Norway.

### **Non-western immigrant families have the lowest income ...**

Table 5.5 shows that the average after-tax income for couples with children was NOK 592 500 for the population as a whole in 2004. Correspondingly, non-western immigrant couples with children have income levels far below this. East European couples with children had on average NOK 417 700, or 70 per cent of the average for the total population. Couples with children from Asia, Africa, Central and South America have an even lower after-tax income level, with 66 per cent of the comparable figure for the general population. The situation is similar for couples without children. The differences in income are smaller for single parents, but non-western immigrants have a lower income here too. For example, single parents from East Europe have an average after-tax income of 88 per cent of the equivalent of the general population. West European immigrants have an after-tax income equivalent of 94 per cent of the general population.

### **... and the differences increase when family size is taken into account**

The income differences within immigrant groups are even more pronounced when we consider family size. The after-tax income per consumption unit for couples with children within the general population was NOK 270 000 in 2004. East European couples with children had an income level of 72 per cent of this amount, while the corresponding figure from other non-western countries was 65 per cent.

Single parents had an after-tax income per consumption unit of NOK 193 700 in 2004. After-tax income for East European single parents amounted to 87 per cent,

while after-tax income per consumption unit for single parents from Asia, Africa, South or Central America was 83 per cent.

By analysing some non-western countries, we see that there are differences in income levels between different countries (table 5.6). Somali and Iraqi families distinguish themselves by having relatively low incomes compared with the national income level. While non-immigrant (without immigrant background) couples with children has an average equivalent income of NOK 270 000, Somali and Iraqi couples with children have approximately half of that income level.

The situation is far better for other non-western couples with children. Among the countries included here, couples from India have by far the best equivalent income; an average of NOK 226 500. However, families with backgrounds from countries such as Chile, Vietnam, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Poland, and Iran have an income per consumption unit of about NOK 200 000. An important reason for the differences in income between immigrants originally from these countries is the variation in the duration of residency in Norway. While many immigrants from Somalia and Iraq immigrated in recent years, most immigrants from Chile, Vietnam and Bosnia-Herzegovina have been in Norway for a much longer period, and have to a much larger degree generated an income from employment.

The pattern is the same for single parents as for couples, even though the differences in income compared with single parents without immigrant backgrounds are less. Couples from Iraq and Somalia have again the lowest incomes, but also

single parents from Turkey, Serbia-Montenegro and Pakistan have a low income level. The income level of single parents from India is on the other hand close to that of non-immigrant single parents.

### **Unequal distribution of work income and transfers**

As referred to earlier in this chapter, a marginal attachment to the labour force is one of the most important reasons for low income among non-western immigrants. By analysing the income composition among different immigrants, focusing especially on income from employment and benefits, we find great variations. Looking at all couples with children, income from employment was 81 per cent of the total family income in 2004 (table 5.5). Looking at couples with children from East Europe or other non-western countries, income from employment has an average share of 79 and 71 per cent respectively.

Lack of income from employment is partly compensated by different types of benefits. Transfers amount to 19 per cent of the total income for East European countries. For couples with children from other non-western countries, 27 per cent of the total income comes from transfers. These families receive average transfers of NOK 133 000. Social assistance and child allowance are the two most important transfers, amounting to 4 and 5 per cent of the total income respectively.

Single parents have a lower degree of attachment to the labour force than couples, which is evident from the proportion of income from employment and transfers of the total income. The income from employment is 64 per cent of the total income for all single parents, while transfers are 33 per cent. On average,

single parents receive NOK 117 500 in transfers. Total income for single parents originating from Asia, Africa, Central or South America has an inverse proportion between income from employment and transfers. Income from employment is 36 per cent and transfers 63 per cent of the total income (or NOK 181 800). East European single parents have a somewhat stronger attachment to the labour force. Half of the total income is income from employment, while almost half of the total income is transfers. Western immigrant single parents have the largest proportion of income from employment.

By analysing the most common countries of origin for immigrants, it is once more couples from Somalia and Iraq that stand out from the rest. For Somali and Iraqi couples with children, more than half of the total income consists of transfers. Social assistance amounts to almost a fifth of these families' total income. Single parents from these two countries are also in an exceptional situation with regard to the proportion of transfers, amounting to 85 and 78 per cent of the total income for Somali and Iraqi immigrants. However, the situation is completely different for families from other non-western countries. The transfers amount to less than 20 per cent of the total income for couples with children from India, Chile, the Philippines, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Poland. Social assistance is an insignificant part of the economy for these families.

### **Non-western immigrants over-represented in the lowest income group**

Table 5.7 presents a slightly different way of showing the income differences among the immigrant population. The immigrant families are distributed by after-tax income

**Table 5.6. Income account for the immigrant population by family type. Selected countries. Main breadwinner or single parent 25-55 years old. Share of total income and average. 2004. NOK and per cent**

	Total income	Proportion of total income					Net income	Net income per consumption unit (EU scale)	Number of families
		Earned income	Pro-erty income	Bene-fits	Family allo-wances	Social secu-rity			
<b>Denmark</b>									
Couples without children .	683 300	89	4	7	0	0	478 800	319 200	426
Couples with children ...	815 800	87	5	8	2	0	577 600	268 100	2 170
Single parents .....	394 600	70	3	27	7	1	311 800	210 500	397
<b>Finland</b>									
Couples without children .	557 600	89	1	10	0	0	404 600	269 700	176
Couples with children ...	701 200	87	2	11	3	0	512 700	239 600	676
Single parents .....	351 100	69	1	30	8	1	287 600	188 300	196
<b>Sweden</b>									
Couples without children .	675 100	90	2	8	0	0	474 100	316 100	513
Couples with children ...	781 600	87	5	8	2	0	556 900	263 100	2 796
Single parents .....	358 800	70	1	29	8	1	288 900	193 400	580
<b>Serbia and Montenegro</b>									
Couples without children .	418 800	83	1	17	0	4	318 000	212 000	235
Couples with children ...	484 600	69	1	29	5	5	387 800	171 300	1 829
Single parents .....	287 300	34	0	66	13	11	263 000	150 500	268
<b>Poland</b>									
Couples without children .	490 300	89	0	11	0	0	351 300	234 200	243
Couples with children ...	649 000	85	3	12	2	0	469 000	225 400	836
Single parents .....	314 700	60	1	40	9	2	263 500	178 400	367
<b>United Kingdom</b>									
Couples without children .	822 400	92	4	4	0	0	558 400	372 300	323
Couples with children ...	881 900	91	2	7	2	0	605 800	283 300	1 580
Single parents .....	375 300	69	2	29	8	2	301 900	192 600	167
<b>Turkey</b>									
Couples without children .	357 600	75	0	25	0	3	277 400	185 000	327
Couples with children ...	467 500	68	4	28	5	2	366 400	168 500	2 055
Single parents .....	269 600	28	0	72	13	9	249 500	153 100	281
<b>Germany</b>									
Couples without children .	572 100	93	2	6	0	0	402 000	268 000	290
Couples with children ...	797 300	90	3	7	2	0	548 700	255 900	1 360
Single parents .....	432 900	75	2	22	7	1	326 000	210 000	209
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>									
Couples without children .	430 200	85	0	14	0	2	327 900	218 600	400
Couples with children ...	567 700	84	0	16	3	2	436 000	203 600	2 240
Single parents .....	289 900	52	0	48	10	6	253 800	166 900	276
<b>Morocco</b>									
Couples without children .	387 300	79	0	21	0	2	296 800	197 900	151
Couples with children ...	466 100	64	1	36	5	3	368 300	165 400	868
Single parents .....	292 500	36	1	63	11	10	263 800	162 900	178
<b>Somalia</b>									
Couples without children .	245 500	65	0	35	0	12	201 700	134 400	156
Couples with children ...	361 900	42	0	58	10	18	318 700	126 000	
Single parents .....	283 900	15	0	85	15	12	273 900	147 700	874

**Table 5.6. (cont.) Income account for the immigrant population by family type. Selected countries. Main breadwinner or single parent 25-55 years old. Share of total income and average. 2004. NOK and per cent**

	Total income	Proportion of total income					Net income	Net income per consumption unit (EU scale)	Number of families
		Earned income	Property income	Benefits	Family allowances	Social security			
<b>Sri Lanka</b>									
Couples without children .	436 300	88	0	12	0	1	331 800	221 200	349
Couples with children ...	536 200	78	1	21	4	1	416 800	194 100	2 286
Single parents .....	323 000	46	5	49	10	6	278 700	175 400	102
<b>The Philippines</b>									
Couples without children .	491 400	82	0	18	0	0	369 300	246 200	202
Couples with children ...	593 200	82	1	18	3	0	449 700	210 000	878
Single parents .....	307 000	53	1	46	10	2	267 300	173 900	339
<b>India</b>									
Couples without children .	463 500	86	3	11	0	0	336 600	224 400	219
Couples with children ...	668 500	80	5	15	3	0	488 000	226 500	1 126
Single parents .....	333 400	56	2	42	9	2	279 100	182 700	89
<b>Iraq</b>									
Couples without children .	313 600	74	0	26	0	8	247 400	164 900	344
Couples with children ...	373 400	48	1	52	7	18	321 000	139 700	2 565
Single parents .....	284 500	22	0	78	13	16	265 400	149 700	
<b>Iran</b>									
Couples without children .	397 500	81	2	17	0	4	299 300	199 500	412
Couples with children ...	520 800	72	2	26	4	5	406 000	190 700	1 970
Single parents .....	302 700	41	1	58	10	10	268 700	172 800	484
<b>Pakistan</b>									
Couples without children .	356 200	82	2	16	0	1	270 100	180 100	519
Couples with children ...	480 400	70	5	26	5	1	378 100	160 400	3 887
Single parents .....	287 500	29	1	70	12	8	262 700	153 800	314
<b>Vietnam</b>									
Couples without children .	405 300	85	1	14	0	1	305 300	203 500	408
Couples with children ...	564 700	78	1	21	4	1	436 400	193 900	2 441
Single parents .....	291 700	39	1	60	11	7	262 400	163 000	579
<b>USA</b>									
Couples without children .	772 600	93	2	5	0	0	512 400	341 600	174
Couples with children ...	902 100	90	3	7	2	0	610 000	278 800	717
Single parents .....	372 400	68	2	29	8	1	296 700	190 900	115
<b>Chile</b>									
Couples without children .	454 200	87	0	13	0	0	337 000	224 600	157
Couples with children ...	566 800	83	0	17	3	1	433 100	198 200	848
Single parents .....	289 700	54	0	46	10	4	251 400	162 700	374

<sup>1</sup> People with both parents of foreign origin.

<sup>2</sup> Couples without children are married couples and registered partnerships without children. Couples with children are married couples and registered partnerships with children together with cohabiting couples with common children.

<sup>3</sup> Classified by the country of origin for the main breadwinner among married couples, registered partnerships and cohabiting couples with common children. For single parents classified by the country of origin for the single parent himself/herself.

<sup>4</sup> Single parents are defined as recipients of extra child allowance.

Source: Income statistics for persons and families, Statistics Norway.

me intervals. Once again, distinctive income differences between regions emerge. While 28 per cent of all couples without children have a total income equal to or exceeding NOK 500 000, only 10 per cent of East European, 7 per cent

of Asian, and 4 per cent of African couples without children have the same income. Among the latter groups, the share in the lowest income group – less than NOK 150 000 – is significantly higher than for the general population.

**Table 5.7. Percentage of families by intervals of after-tax income by family type and country of origin. Main breadwinner or single parent 25-55 years old. 2004. Per cent**

	Intervals of net income in NOK 1 000						
	Total	Under 150	150-199	200-299	300-399	400-499	500 and over
<b>Couples without children</b>							
Total .....	100	2	2	12	26	29	28
<b>Immigrant population<sup>4</sup></b>							
Nordic countries .....	100	3	2	12	22	29	31
West Europe except Turkey .....	100	5	4	13	20	22	36
East Europe .....	100	8	9	26	29	19	10
North America and Oceania .....	100	8	5	14	19	16	38
Asia and Turkey .....	100	14	12	30	24	13	7
Africa .....	100	16	18	30	22	9	5
South and Central America .....	100	10	8	25	27	19	10
<b>Couples with children</b>							
Total .....	100	1	1	4	14	28	52
<b>Immigrant population<sup>4</sup></b>							
West Europe except Turkey .....	100	3	1	6	15	21	54
East Europe .....	100	4	3	14	27	28	24
North America and Oceania .....	100	4	1	6	13	19	57
Asia and Turkey .....	100	4	4	21	29	22	19
Africa .....	100	4	5	24	31	22	14
South and Central America .....	100	3	2	12	25	32	27
<b>Single parents</b>							
Total .....	100	4	10	50	27	6	3
<b>Immigrant population<sup>4</sup></b>							
Nordic countries .....	100	6	9	46	28	7	4
West Europe except Turkey .....	100	6	9	45	25	8	6
East Europe .....	100	8	14	52	20	4	1
North America and Oceania .....	100	6	15	38	27	9	5
Asia and Turkey .....	100	7	15	52	20	4	2
Africa .....	100	8	13	47	24	5	2
South and Central America .....	100	8	17	52	18	4	1

<sup>1</sup> Couples without children are married couples and registered partnerships without children. Couples with children are married couples and registered partnerships with children together with cohabiting couples with common children.

<sup>2</sup> Classified by the country of origin for the main breadwinner among married couples, registered partnerships and cohabiting couples with common children. For single parents classified by country of origin for the single parent himself/herself.

<sup>3</sup> Single parents are defined as recipients of extra child allowance.

<sup>4</sup> People with both parents of foreign origin.

Source: Income statistics for persons and families, Statistics Norway.

More than half of all couples with children have an after-tax income equal to or exceeding NOK 500 000. Less than a fifth of Asian and African couples with children are in this income group. Western couples, with or without children, are comparable to the rest of the population with regard to the income distribution.

Not surprisingly, there are few single parents with an after-tax income of NOK 500 000 or more. Only 3 per cent of the single parents are in this income group, while half of the single parents have an after-tax income of between NOK 200 000 and NOK 300 000. The non-western single parents have a lower income compared with the rest of the population, but the differences are smaller than for couples with children. A quarter of the non-western families have an after-tax income of less than NOK 200 000. The comparable figure among the general population is 14 per cent.

### **Length of residence promotes economic independence**

When analysing income by country of origin, families from Iraq and Somalia have the lowest incomes. This is strongly related to the main breadwinner's relative short residency in Norway in many of these families. Table 5.8 shows a strong correlation between degree of economic independence and length of residency: the share of income from employment from the family's total income increases by length of residency. This is supported

by recent research, which shows that length of residency is the most important factor for refugees' success in the labour market (Blom 2004). Looking at couples with children where the main breadwinner is a refugee with a 10 year residency in Norway, income from employment amounted to 77 per cent of the total family income in 2004. The corresponding figure for refugee families with a five year residency is 60 per cent, while the share of income from employment from the total income is 41 per cent for refugee families with only a two year residency (Pedersen 2006).

The picture is not as clear for single parents. Among single parents with a residency of ten years or more, income from employment amounted to 44 per cent of the total income. However, there is not a big difference between single parents with a six year residency and a two year residency. For the latter two groups, the share of the income from employment has varied significantly. This may indicate especially great problems in entering the labour force.

### **Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup> In families with a single parent, another member besides the single parent may have the higher income, e.g. adult children still living at home. Therefore, the single parent is always the one between 25 and 55 years old when using this family type.



**Table 5.8. Work income and social assistance as proportion of total income. Non-western immigrants by family type and length of residency in Norway. Main breadwinner or single parent 25-55 years old. 2004. Per cent**

	Duration of residence in Norway										
	Total	10 years or more	9 years	8 years	7 years	6 years	5 years	4 years	3 years	2 years	1 year
<b>Couples without children</b>											
<b>Non-western immigrants</b>											
Earned income .....	83	83	85	89	85	85	85	82	85	82	83
Social security .....	2	1	2	1	1	2	3	4	2	3	5
Number of families .....	5 979	3 113	169	147	174	226	389	459	422	407	292
Of which refugees											
Earned income .....	81	84	83	89	77	75	79	77	78	73	57
Social security .....	3	1	4	1	4	6	5	8	7	7	16
Number of families ..	2 809	1 636	89	58	52	73	216	237	148	150	107
<b>Couples with children</b>											
<b>Non-western immigrants</b>											
Earned income .....	73	76	75	74	72	69	66	60	65	60	45
Social security .....	4	1	3	3	4	6	10	13	11	14	22
Number of families .....	32 852	21 335	915	709	921	1 217	2 032	1 734	1 309	1 224	879
Of which refugees											
Earned income .....	70	77	70	65	59	57	60	50	51	41	20
Social security .....	6	2	5	7	10	12	13	19	18	23	34
Number of families ..	18 634	11 512	475	316	379	637	1 504	1 269	833	787	619
<b>Single parents</b>											
<b>Non-western immigrants</b>											
Earned income .....	40	47	34	38	32	25	30	26	27	19	10
Social security .....	8	5	8	7	7	10	10	11	15	22	29
Number of families .....	7 585	4 395	335	272	358	410	506	433	290	268	184
Of which refugees											
Earned income .....	34	44	36	24	33	23	15	21	19	22	12
Social security .....	10	6	8	10	10	11	14	14	15	19	25
Number of families ..	4 098	2 204	182	165	94	128	194	274	260	184	181

<sup>1</sup> People with both parents of foreign origin from East Europe, Asia, Africa, South and Central America and Turkey.

<sup>2</sup> Couples without children are married couples and registered partnerships without children. Couples with children are married couples and registered partnerships with children together with cohabiting couples with common children.

<sup>3</sup> Classified by duration of residence for the main breadwinner among married couples, registered partnerships and cohabiting couples with common children. For single parents classified by duration of residence for the single parent himself/herself.

<sup>4</sup> Single parents are defined as recipients of extra child allowance.

<sup>5</sup> The definition "refugee" refers to persons resident in Norway, who have fled to Norway (family included).

Source: Income statistics for persons and families, Statistics Norway.



*Kristin Henriksen and Vebjørn Aalandslid*

## 6. Electoral turnout

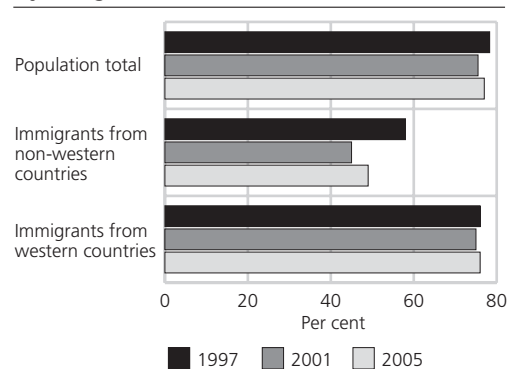
- 53 per cent of Norwegian citizens with immigrant backgrounds voted in the Storting election in 2005, an increase of 1 percentage point from the last election.
- The electoral turnout among Norwegian citizens with immigrant backgrounds was 25 percentage points lower than the national average for the total population, which was 77.4 per cent.
- The electoral turnout among immigrants with western backgrounds was 76 per cent, whereas the turnout among immigrants with non-western backgrounds was 49 per cent. Some of the differences in electoral turnout can be explained by the composition of the immigrant population. The non-western immigrants are younger and have a shorter period of residence than the western immigrants.
- There was a notable higher participation among immigrants from Pakistan compared with the 2001 election.
- Young Somalis have a high electoral turnout; almost equal to young persons with no immigrant background.
- Women with immigrant backgrounds had 4 percentage points higher turnout than men; one percentage point higher

than in the last election. Some of the higher participation can be explained by a high turnout among older women with western immigrant backgrounds.

### Huge differences in electoral turnout between immigrants with western and non-western backgrounds

Roughly 53 per cent of Norwegian citizens with immigrant backgrounds voted in the National Parliamentary election in 2005 (table 6.1). This was an increase of one percentage point from 2001. Norwegian citizens with immigrant backgrounds had a significantly lower turnout than the total population, where 77 per cent voted.

**Figure 6.1. National Parliamentary elections 1997, 2001 and 2005. Electoral turnout by country background. Per cent**



Source: Election Statistics, Statistics Norway.

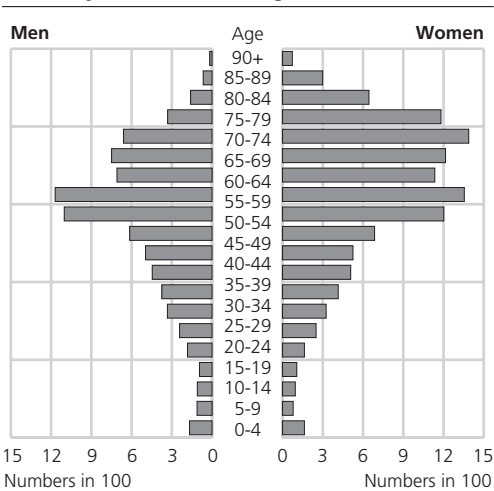
In order to better understand why immigrants have a lower turnout than the national average, it is important to highlight some important aspects of the composition of the immigrant population. In the 1997 election, 63 per cent of the immigrant population voted. At that time, nearly one third of the immigrant population had a western background. In the 2005 election, only 15 per cent had western backgrounds. Seventy-six per cent of those with western backgrounds voted compared with 49 per cent among those with non-western backgrounds. In comparison, the turnout in 2001 was 75 per cent for those with western backgrounds and 45 for those with non-western backgrounds. Thus the electoral turnout has been more or less stable in the western group, and there has been an increase in the turnout among immigrants with non-western backgrounds.

The total turnout for immigrants has decreased from 1997 to 2005 as non-western immigrants comprise a higher share of the immigrant population eligible to vote.

**... unequal age composition explains differences in electoral turnout**

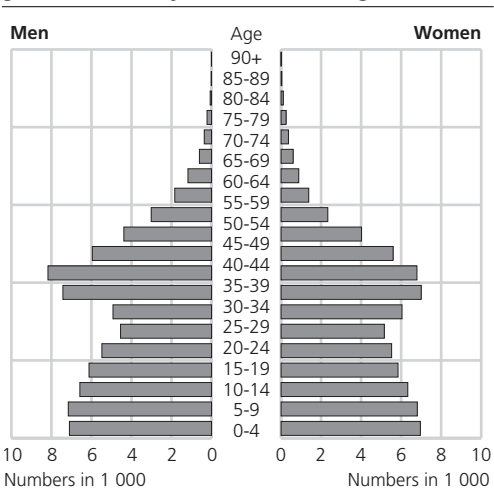
The age composition in the two groups explains some of the variation in electoral turnout. As in the total population, younger persons tend to vote to a lesser degree than older persons and there is a strong correlation between increasing age and increasing electoral turnout. The non-western immigrants are noticeably younger than the western ones. A total of 61 per cent of the western immigrants are at least 60 years old, whereas only 8 per cent of the non-western immigrants are that old (charts 6.2 and 6.3). The youngest age group (18-25 years old) comprises only 2 per cent of the western

**Figure 6.2. Population pyramid – Norwegian citizens with western immigrant background. 1 January 2005. Absolute figures.**



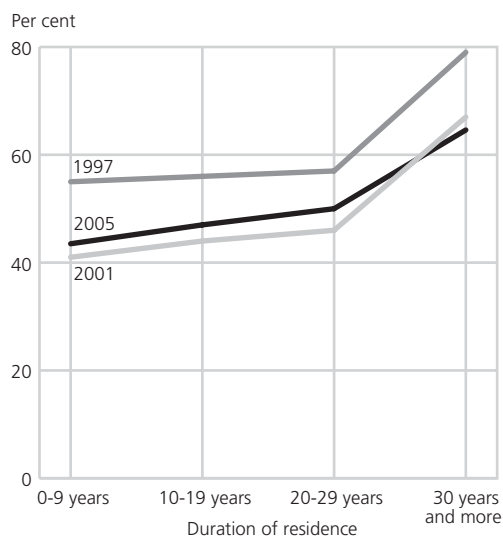
Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Figure 6.3. Population pyramid – Norwegian citizens with non-western immigrant background. 1 January 2005. Absolute figures.**



Source: Population Statistics, Statistics Norway.

immigrant population eligible to vote compared with 18 per cent for those with non-western backgrounds.

**Figure 6.4. Electoral turnout by country background and time of residence. 2005. Per cent**

Source: Election Statistics, Statistics Norway.

Electoral turnout increases with years of residence. In the group with 30 (or more) years of residence, the electoral turnout was 29 percentage points higher than the group with the shortest years of residence (0-9 years). See chart 6.4. Among those who have lived in Norway for 30 years or more, there is only a difference of 6 percentage points between those with western and those with non-western backgrounds. Among those with 0-9 years of residence in Norway, the difference in turnout was 16 percentage points higher for those with western backgrounds compared to those with non-western backgrounds.

### **Increase in the electoral turnout among immigrants with backgrounds from Pakistan.**

In the Storting election in 2001, 43 per cent of the immigrants with a Pakistani background voted. In 2005, the number had increased to 54 per cent; an increase

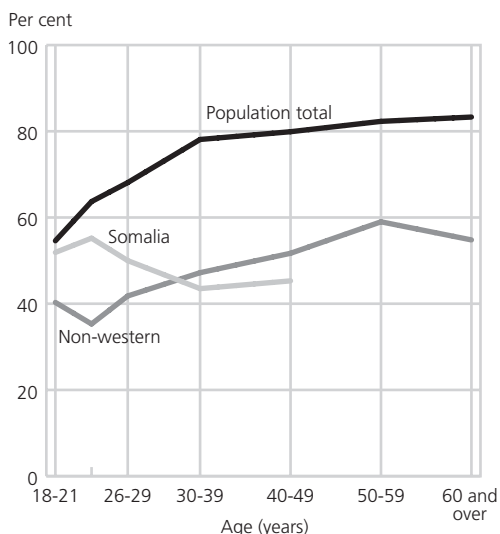
of 11 percentage points. The turnout among the Vietnamese, the other big immigrant group in Norway with a high degree with Norwegian citizenship, was 43 per cent. That was 1 percentage point less compared to 2001. Of the larger immigrant groups in Norway, only the Vietnamese in 2005 had a decrease in turnout compared to the elections in 1997 and 2001. The Vietnamese in Norway have a dispersed settlement in Norway, a factor that can explain some of the low electoral turnout. In other areas of society the Vietnamese as a group have a high rate of participation both with regard to education and labour participation. It is therefore striking that this immigrant group are among those with the lowest electoral turnout (Aalandslid 2006).

Persons with Swedish and Danish backgrounds have the highest electoral turnout among immigrants with 79 per cent, higher than the turnout for the total population. Persons with backgrounds from Serbia and Montenegro have the lowest electoral turnout with 32 per cent, followed by China and Macedonia with 34 and 37 per cent respectively. Young Somalis have a high electoral turnout, almost equal to young persons with no immigrant background. Immigrants from Somalia are the only group where electoral turnout does not increase with increasing age. As mentioned before, electoral turnout and increasing age are correlated. The main rule is that with increasing age the electoral turnout also increases. However, for Somalis the opposite appears to be true (see chart 6.5). In the youngest age group (18-25), we see a significantly higher electoral turnout than among the older ones.

If we compare this group with the total population, we find that young persons from Somalia have more or less the same electoral turnout as those with no immigrant background. Among the Somalis, 52 per cent in the age group 18-21 voted, whereas the corresponding turnout for the total population was 55 per cent; a difference of only 3 percentage points. Do female immigrants have a higher electoral turnout than male immigrants? In the immigrant population eligible to vote, there has been a 4-5 percentage point higher turnout among women. In 2005, 55 of the women with immigrant backgrounds voted compared to 51 per cent among men. In the western immigrant population, there are nearly 50 per cent more women than men and the women surplus is highest among the oldest. Thus when considering the electoral turnout for the whole immigrant population, the high turnout among the older western women pulls up the average for all women in the immigrant population. It is therefore important to be aware that this average conceals major differences in turnout, especially divided by country background (chart 6.6).

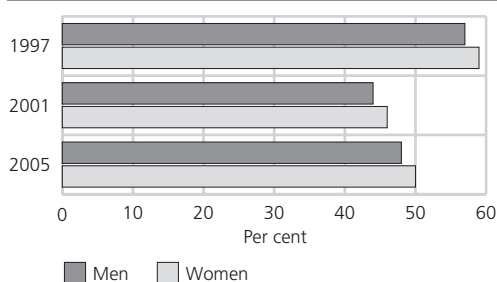
Non-western immigrant women had a 2 percentage point higher electoral turnout than non-western immigrant men. The same differences were found in 2001 and in 1997. Only two non-western groups, immigrants from India and Pakistan, saw a higher turnout among men compared to women. With regard to earlier elections, the electoral turnout was identical for immigrants with western backgrounds.

**Figure 6.5. Electoral turnout in the National Parliamentary election 2005 by age and country background. Per cent**



Source: Election Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Figure 6.6. Electoral turnout among non-western immigrants by sex and election year 1997-2005. Per cent**



Source: Election Statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 6.1. Starting Election 2005. Electoral turnout among Norwegian citizens with immigration background, by country background and sex. Per cent**

Country background	Electoral turnout in per cent			Persons in the sample entitled to vote			Norwegian citizens with immigrant background entitled to vote. Age		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>6 775</b>	<b>3 212</b>	<b>3 563</b>	<b>122 071</b>	<b>59 989</b>	<b>62 082</b>
Europe .....	57	53	60	2 837	1 267	1 570	46 133	20 763	25 370
Africa .....	46	44	49	798	465	333	13 303	7 708	5 595
Asia .....	50	51	50	2 244	1 098	1 146	54 471	27 916	26 555
North and Central America	65	69	62	398	156	242	2 950	1 100	1 850
South America .....	56	55	56	398	186	212	5 065	2 448	2 617
Oceania .....	65	60	68	100	40	60	149	54	95
 Nordic countries .....	 77	 75	 78	 515	 185	 330	 9 286	 3 579	 5 707
Western Europe exclusive Turkey .....	77	76	77	529	241	288	7 256	3 137	4 119
Eastern Europe .....	46	42	51	1 544	718	826	23 211	10 567	12 644
North America and Oceania	70	77	65	353	133	220	2 246	837	1 409
Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey .	49	49	50	3 834	1 935	1 899	80 072	41 869	38 203
 Western countries .....	 76	 76	 76	 1 397	 559	 838	 18 788	 7 553	 11 235
Non-western countries ...	49	48	50	5 378	2 653	2 725	103 283	52 436	50 847
<b>Selected countries</b>									
Denmark .....	79	84	76	249	99	150	4 523	1 895	2 628
Sweden .....	80	71	83	200	58	142	3 155	1 086	2 069
Serbia and Montenegro .	32	34	30	250	137	113	4 404	2 402	2 003
Poland .....	59	52	62	248	81	167	4 255	1 418	2 837
Great Britain .....	70	76	64	197	91	106	1 731	642	1 089
Russia .....	52	43	55	199	51	148	1 651	372	1 279
Turkey .....	43	42	44	249	123	126	6 380	3 480	2 900
Germany .....	78	76	80	199	76	123	2 774	1 060	1 714
Hungary .....	67	67	67	198	113	85	1 199	695	504
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	40	34	48	250	132	118	7 030	3 467	3 563
Macedonia .....	37	37	37	200	106	94	1 415	787	628
Eritrea .....	51	49	54	200	118	82	1 175	647	528
Morocco .....	38	36	40	200	127	73	3 363	2 049	1 314
Somalia .....	48	44	51	198	99	99	3 336	1 803	1 533
Sri Lanka .....	66	64	69	247	162	85	5 344	3 297	2 047
Philippines .....	53	62	50	249	69	180	4 191	965	3 226
India .....	61	66	57	199	94	105	3 300	1 772	1 528
Iraq .....	42	45	35	199	128	71	2 976	1 799	1 177
Iran .....	51	53	48	250	144	106	6 856	4 038	2 818
China .....	34	25	42	200	95	105	2 176	991	1 185
Pakistan .....	54	58	50	250	141	109	12 786	7 023	5 763
Thailand .....	49	31	52	200	29	171	1 662	242	1 420
Viet Nam .....	42	38	46	250	132	118	10 986	5 667	5 319
USA .....	69	79	63	200	75	125	1 820	680	1 140
Chile .....	54	52	56	200	107	93	3 629	1 898	1 731

Source: Election statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 6.2. Starting Election 2005. Electoral turnout among Norwegian citizens with immigration background, by country background and age. Per cent**

Country background	Electoral turnout in per cent. Age					Persons in the sample entitled to vote. Age				
	Total	18-25 years	26-39 years	40-59 years	60 år years and over	Total	18-25 years	26-39 years	40-59 years	60 år years and over
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>52,9</b>	<b>38,2</b>	<b>46,8</b>	<b>56,6</b>	<b>68,3</b>	<b>6 775</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>1 793</b>	<b>2 697</b>	<b>1 401</b>
Europe .....	56,8	36,6	45,3	57,9	73,1	2 837	317	587	1 045	888
Africa .....	46,1	40,8	42,7	48,4	62,9	798	147	276	329	46
Asia .....	50,3	37,8	48,7	56,6	51,7	2 244	337	745	1 003	159
North and Central America .....	64,5	38,9	43,1	66,4	70,8	398	21	65	89	223
South America .....	55,6	47,3	46,2	64,3	55,5	398	58	112	186	42
Oceania .....	65,0	.	:	64,4	72,1	100	4	8	45	43
 Nordic countries .....	 76,8	 53,1	 61,4	 79,2	 79,3	 515	 20	 42	 146	 307
Western Europe exclusive Turkey .....	76,6	42,8	71,1	75,4	79,2	529	11	56	142	320
Eastern Europe .....	46,3	35,7	40,7	50,2	57,4	1 544	222	392	680	250
North America and Oceania ..	69,6	37,4	43,0	80,3	71,6	353	13	24	72	244
Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey ..	49,4	38,5	47,1	55,4	53,2	3 834	618	1 279	1 657	280
 Western countries .....	 75,8	 48,4	 64,5	 77,7	 78,1	 1 397	 44	 122	 360	 871
Non-western countries ....	48,7	37,9	45,9	54,2	54,8	5 378	840	1 671	2 337	530
 <b>Selected countries</b>										
Denmark .....	79,1	42,9	57,1	85,2	80,2	249	7	14	61	167
Sweden .....	79,5	33,3	85,0	77,4	83,5	200	9	20	62	109
Serbia and Montenegro ..	32,4	35,7	21,6	37,0	40,0	250	56	74	100	20
Poland .....	58,9	47,1	59,6	61,1	61,0	248	34	47	126	41
Great Britain .....	69,5	57,1	63,6	71,7	70,5	197	7	22	46	122
Russia .....	52,3	29,0	60,4	54,6	55,6	199	31	53	97	18
Turkey .....	43,0	34,4	43,3	50,6	36,4	249	64	97	77	11
Germany .....	78,4	:	75,0	75,0	81,4	199	2	12	56	129
Hungary .....	67,2	:	64,3	65,2	69,9	198	2	14	89	93
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	40,4	30,0	36,0	48,0	43,5	250	50	75	102	23
Macedonia .....	37,0	44,1	36,4	37,5	23,5	200	34	77	72	17
Eritrea .....	51,0	43,5	46,3	57,5	50,0	200	23	82	87	8
Morocco .....	37,5	33,3	30,6	45,0	37,5	200	42	62	80	16
Somalia .....	47,5	53,6	44,9	46,7	25,0	198	56	78	60	4
Sri Lanka .....	65,6	57,1	58,2	71,9	78,6	247	21	98	114	14
Philippines .....	53,4	45,8	45,3	58,3	61,1	249	24	75	132	18
India .....	61,3	62,1	57,1	64,6	55,6	199	29	56	96	18
Iraq .....	41,7	33,3	37,8	51,9	12,5	199	36	74	81	8
Iran .....	50,8	30,6	60,3	55,3	35,7	250	49	73	114	14
China .....	34,0	33,3	31,4	33,7	39,4	200	27	51	89	33
Pakistan .....	54,4	43,7	51,8	65,5	50,0	250	64	83	87	16
Thailand .....	48,5	26,7	53,5	49,1	25,0	200	15	71	110	4
Viet Nam .....	41,6	25,5	41,7	49,0	45,5	250	47	96	96	11
USA .....	69,0	42,9	42,9	94,4	69,6	200	7	14	18	161
Chile .....	54,0	50,0	45,9	62,0	45,5	200	36	61	92	11



**Table 6.2 (cont.). Starting Election 2005. Electoral turnout among Norwegian citizens with immigration background, by country background and age. Per cent**

Country background	Norwegian citizens with immigrant background entitled to vote. Age				
	Total	18-25 years	26-39 years	40-59 years	60 years and over
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>122 071</b>	<b>18 876</b>	<b>34 877</b>	<b>48 211</b>	<b>20 107</b>
Europe .....	46 133	5 402	10 411	17 276	13 044
Africa .....	13 303	2 251	4 680	5 534	838
Asia .....	54 471	10 210	18 079	22 299	3 883
North and Central America .....	2 950	129	419	629	1 773
South America .....	5 065	880	1 273	2 409	503
Oceania .....	149	4	15	64	66
Nordic countries .....	9 286	202	872	2 609	5 603
Western Europe exclusive Turkey	7 256	215	755	2 155	4 131
Eastern Europe .....	23 211	3 628	6 289	10 310	2 984
North America and Oceania .....	2 246	46	139	352	1 709
Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey .....	80 072	14 785	26 822	32 785	5 680
Western countries .....	18 788	463	1 766	5 116	11 443
Non-western countries .....	103 283	18 413	33 111	43 095	8 664
<b>Selected countries</b>					
Denmark .....	4 523	59	326	1 104	3 034
Sweden .....	3 155	69	347	918	1 821
Serbia and Montenegro .....	4 405	931	1 499	1 733	242
Poland .....	4 255	515	838	2 225	677
Great Britain .....	1 731	43	138	387	1 163
Russia .....	1 651	259	475	767	150
Turkey .....	6 380	1 357	2 495	2 202	326
Germany .....	2 774	58	249	804	1 663
Hungary .....	1 199	27	118	475	579
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	7 030	1 320	1 987	3 096	627
Macedonia .....	1 415	291	474	558	92
Eritrea .....	1 175	147	479	511	38
Morocco .....	3 363	591	1 166	1 372	234
Somalia .....	3 336	841	1 405	987	103
Sri Lanka .....	5 344	664	2 087	2 431	162
Philippines .....	4 191	425	1 279	2 211	276
India .....	3 300	575	958	1 433	334
Iraq .....	2 976	551	1 125	1 139	161
Iran .....	6 856	1 284	1 861	3 343	368
China .....	2 176	260	506	1 035	375
Pakistan .....	12 786	3 615	4 280	4 095	796
Thailand .....	1 662	221	589	816	36
Viet Nam .....	10 986	1 980	4 197	3 857	952
USA .....	1 820	35	102	257	1 426
Chile .....	3 629	726	883	1 753	267

Source: Election statistics, Statistics Norway.

**Table 6.3. Starting Election 2005. Electoral turnout among Norwegian citizens with immigration background by country background and time of residence. Per cent**

Country background	Electoral turnout in per cent. Time of residence					Persons in the sample entitled to vote. Time of residence				
	Total	0-9 years	10-19 years	20-29 years	30 years and more	Total	0-9 years	10-19 years	20-29 years	30 years and more
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>6 775</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>3 056</b>	<b>1 118</b>	<b>1 697</b>
Europe .....	57	47	43	52	76	2 837	325	969	356	1 187
Africa .....	46	44	43	42	81	798	145	486	121	46
Asia .....	50	42	50	52	64	2 244	338	1 276	505	125
North and Central America ..	65	40	50	58	72	398	52	64	41	241
South America .....	56	60	57	47	64	398	37	248	76	37
Oceania .....	65	:	:	:	74	100	7	13	19	61
Nordic countries .....	77	72	66	61	81	515	14	39	62	400
Western Europe exclusive Turkey .....	77	62	66	67	79	529	14	38	59	418
Eastern Europe .....	46	45	41	51	65	1 544	267	761	162	354
North America and Oceania	70	32	60	63	73	353	20	24	32	27
Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey ..	49	43	49	50	64	3 834	589	2 194	803	248
Western countries .....	76	60	65	63	79	1 397	48	101	153	1 095
Non-western countries ....	49	44	47	50	65	5 378	856	2 955	965	602
<b>Selected countries</b>										
Denmark .....	79	:	56	63	83	249	2	9	27	211
Sweden .....	80	71	74	67	83	200	7	23	21	149
Serbia and Montenegro ..	32	19	31	33	57	250	43	160	12	35
Poland .....	59	58	58	51	73	248	12	139	57	40
Great Britain .....	70	:	67	65	71	197	3	15	26	153
Russia .....	52	54	46	78	58	199	110	68	9	12
Turkey .....	43	43	47	41	20	249	30	131	73	15
Germany .....	78	57	64	78	80	199	7	11	18	163
Hungary .....	67	.	33	56	72	198	1	15	27	155
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	40	46	39	0	75	250	41	203	2	4
Macedonia .....	37	14	34	56	42	200	22	101	34	43
Eritrea .....	51	29	54	48	.	200	14	155	31	0
Morocco .....	38	44	37	28	57	200	23	97	57	23
Somalia .....	48	40	50	:	.	198	60	136	2	0
Sri Lanka .....	66	53	65	76	100	247	30	185	29	3
Philippines .....	53	40	54	59	86	249	47	129	66	7
India .....	61	78	58	63	57	199	9	62	98	30
Iraq .....	42	34	50	:	.	199	91	105	3	0
Iran .....	51	40	52	67	50	250	30	215	2	3
China .....	34	34	29	31	68	200	32	117	32	19
Pakistan .....	54	53	54	52	63	250	15	91	106	38
Thailand .....	49	51	48	48	.	200	37	122	40	1
Viet Nam .....	42	29	40	46	.	250	14	141	95	0
USA .....	69	36	56	70	72	200	11	9	10	170
Chile .....	54	:	55	47	33	200	2	157	38	3

**Table 6.3 (cont.). Starting Election 2005. Electoral turnout among Norwegian citizens with immigration background by country background and time of residence. Per cent**

Country background	Norwegian citizens with immigrant background entitled to vote <sup>1</sup> . Time of residence				
	Total	0-9 years	10-19 years	20-29 years	30 years and more
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>122 071</b>	<b>14 780</b>	<b>58 940</b>	<b>25 051</b>	<b>23 300</b>
Europe .....	46 133	5 398	17 617	6 502	16 616
Africa .....	13 303	2 474	7 464	2 343	1 022
Asia .....	54 471	6 285	30 078	14 843	3 265
North and Central America .....	2 950	335	398	278	1 939
South America .....	5 065	275	3 367	1 056	367
Oceania .....	149	13	16	29	91
Nordic countries .....	9 286	272	603	1 115	7 296
Western Europe exclusive Turkey	7 256	265	512	1 024	5 455
Eastern Europe .....	23 211	4 043	13 422	2 371	3 375
North America and Oceania .....	2 246	122	93	139	1 892
Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Turkey .....	80 072	10 078	44 310	20 402	5 282
Western countries .....	18 788	659	2 278	14 643	
Non-western countries .....	103 283	14 121	57 732	22 773	8 657
Selected countries					
Denmark .....	4 523	40	184	412	3 887
Sweden .....	3 155	181	290	337	2 347
Serbia and Montenegro .....	4 405	844	2 857	255	449
Poland .....	4 255	325	2 140	1 153	637
Great Britain .....	1 731	34	82	189	1 426
Russia .....	1 651	955	563	48	85
Turkey .....	6 380	818	3 080	1 992	490
Germany .....	2 774	110	167	297	2 200
Hungary .....	1 199	5	91	153	950
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	7 030	1 141	5 691	75	123
Macedonia .....	1 415	113	871	223	208
Eritrea .....	1 175	88	878	204	5
Morocco .....	3 363	435	1 479	1 076	373
Somalia .....	3 336	936	2 357	31	12
Sri Lanka .....	5 344	658	4 130	494	62
Philippines .....	4 191	742	2 216	1 081	152
India .....	3 300	193	1 070	1 578	459
Iraq .....	2 976	1 193	1 735	31	17
Iran .....	6 856	903	5 770	149	34
China .....	2 176	254	1 306	354	262
Pakistan .....	12 786	686	4 421	5 858	1 821
Thailand .....	1 662	410	970	267	15
Viet Nam .....	10 986	624	6 082	4 266	14
USA .....	1 820	94	63	93	1 570
Chile .....	3 629	66	2 767	677	119

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

Source: Election statistics, Statistics Norway.



*Svein Blom*

## **7. Attitudes towards immigrants and immigration**

- Nine out of 10 think that immigrants should have the same job opportunities as Norwegians, and 7 out of 10 believe that immigrants make a valuable contribution to Norwegian working life and culture.
- Nine out of 10 have no objections to having contact with immigrants as neighbours or domestic helps, but 1 out of 3 would not like having an immigrant married into the family.
- Four out of 10 also suspect that immigrants abuse the social welfare system and believe that immigrants represent a source of insecurity in society.
- More than 5 out of 10 think that immigrants should endeavour to become as similar to Norwegians as possible.
- One out of 10 want a liberalisation of the current asylum policy, whereas 4 out of 10 think that the refugees' access to obtaining a residence permit should be made more difficult.
- Compared to attitudes in other European countries (EU members before the last expansion), Norwegian attitudes tend to be in the middle or at the liberal or tolerant end of the scale on most immigrant issues.
- The perception that immigration tends to increase crime is more widespread in Norway, however, than in many other European countries.
- The population in Norway is also more negative to cross cultural marriages than populations in many other European countries.
- Repeated surveys conducted in the 1990s indicate that goodwill towards immigrants and immigration gradually gained support during the decade.
- Since the turn of the millennium, however, it seems that this tendency has reversed with regard to the willingness to accept new refugees. With reduced numbers of asylum seekers from 2003, the goodwill is once again on the rise.
- The changing attitudes towards immigrants and immigration over time are probably affected by fluctuations in business cycles, the number of refugees seeking residence permits in the country, to what extent the official refugee policy appears humane and just in the eyes of the public, and the image created by the refugees themselves as a result of their own conduct (especially with regard to crime).

- The attitudes of the population vary according to demographic and social factors such as education, age, political opinions, urbanisation, geographic area, degree of contact with immigrants and to some extent also by sex.

### **Attitudes in Norway and other European countries after the turn of the millennium**

#### ***Positive attitudes regarding labour efforts and cultural contribution...***

There is widespread agreement about the benefit of immigrants' labour efforts. In 2005, seven out of 10 of the population agreed strongly or on the whole that "Most immigrants make an important contribution to Norwegian working life". Two out of 10 disagreed, and about 1 in 10 were uncertain. This was an increase from two thirds agreeing in 2002-2004 (table 7.1). A similar proportion in 2005 (7 out of 10) also agreed that "Most immigrants enrich the cultural life of Norway".

Data from the European Social Survey 3003/2003 for 21 European countries (see frame) show that Norway rates relatively high on the scale when it comes to perceiving immigrants' labour efforts as beneficial to Norwegian working life.

For a number of years, Statistic Norway has been mapping the attitudes of the Norwegian population towards immigrants and immigration through annual questions in its omnibus surveys on behalf of the former Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, now Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion. The first interviews were conducted in 1993 and were repeated each year until 2000. After partially changing the questions, the practice was resumed in 2002.

Norway takes 6th place among nations with regard to acceptance of the statement that immigrants help to fill jobs when there is a shortage of workers. Sweden, Denmark and Finland all score lower than Norway. Regarding the question of whether immigrants primarily create new jobs instead of taking jobs away from the native population, Norway is among the nations with the highest proportion opting for "creation of jobs". Only in Sweden, Denmark and Luxembourg the confidence in immigrants' abilities to generate new jobs is higher. The cultural contribution of immigrants is, however, lower estimated in Norway

#### **The European Social Survey**

The first round of the European Social Survey (ESS) was conducted in 21 European countries and Israel in 2002/2003, after an initiative from the European Science Foundation and economic support from the European Union. In Norway, the survey was conducted by Statistics Norway. ESS emphasises standardised sampling techniques, accurate translation from the same questionnaires, and that field work and file construction are carried out similarly in all participating countries. Data are available from Norwegian Social Science Data Service in Bergen, Norway (NSD 2003). See also Ringdal and Kleven 2004.

The questions referred to in this chapter are known as numbers D20, D25, D28, D26, D30, D44, D22, D17, D9 and D37 in the survey. Where the answers are scored on an 11-point scale, we have divided the scale into three, according to the pattern 0-3, 4-6, 7-10, and the comments refer to the percentage in one of the fringe categories 0-3 or 7-10. In other questions, the distribution of answers is based on the division into the three labels "agree" (i.e. agreeing strongly or on the whole), "neither agree nor disagree", and "disagree" (i.e. disagreeing strongly or on the whole).

**Table 7.1. Attitudes towards two statements about immigrants' labour efforts and cultural contribution. 2002-2005. Per cent**

	«Most immigrants make an important contribution to Norwegian working life»					Number of persons that answered
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	
2002 .....	100	66	12	20	2	1 410
2003 .....	100	66	9	24	1	1 385
2004 .....	100	67	10	21	2	1 320
2005 .....	100	70	10	17	2	1 289
	«Most immigrants enrich the cultural life in Norway»					Number of persons that answered
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	
2002 .....	100	63	12	22	2	1 409
2003 .....	100	70	9	21	2	1 381
2004 .....	100	66	10	22	1	1 318
2005 .....	100	71	8	18	3	1 289

Source: Blom 2005.

than in many of the other 20 European countries. Norway takes 9th place here after Sweden, the Benelux countries, Switzerland, Germany and Poland.

***... but many Norwegians nevertheless fear abuse of benefits and increased insecurity***

On the other hand, almost 4 out of 10 fear that "Most immigrants abuse the

social welfare system" (table 7.2). The belief that this is true nevertheless fell 4 percentage points from 2004 to 2005, whereby there were more people who rejected this perception in 2005 than who believed in it. Half the population disagreed with the statement. Compared to the other countries, Norway appears to be one of the moderately optimistic countries regarding to what extent the

**Table 7.2. Attitudes towards two statements about immigrants' abuse of social benefits and contribution to insecurity. 2002-2005. Per cent**

	«Most immigrants abuse the social welfare system»					Number of persons that answered
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	
2002 .....	100	41	14	43	2	1 405
2003 .....	100	40	10	48	2	1 384
2004 .....	100	40	12	46	2	1 318
2005 .....	100	36	10	50	4	1 289
	«Most immigrants represent a source of insecurity in society»					Number of persons that answered
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	
2002 .....	100	45	13	41	1	1 410
2003 .....	100	45	10	44	1	1 385
2004 .....	100	41	10	48	1	1 317
2005 .....	100	41	10	48	2	1 286

Source: Blom 2005.

welfare budget is assumed to be exploited by immigrants. From 21 European countries, we take 7th place among those who believe that immigrants on balance contribute more resources than they take out (NSD 2003).

The respondents in the Norwegian survey were also asked to consider the statement "Most immigrants represent a source of insecurity in society". In 2005, it was a steady 4 out of 10 who agreed strongly or on the whole with this statement, whereas almost 5 out of 10 strongly or on the whole disagreed. To the extent that this statement can be meaningfully compared with the statement that immigrants aggravate the crime problems in society, Norway is one of the countries in Europe that most strongly fears immigrant crime. Only two countries, Greece and the Czech Republic, have a stronger belief than Norway that immigration leads to greater crime problems. However, advocating a ban on further immigration to "reduce tensions" receives little support in Norway compared to other countries. Only 4 other countries give less support to this idea than Norway, among them Finland and Sweden (NSD 2003).

### ***A large majority support equal job opportunities for immigrants***

Nine out of 10 agreed strongly or on the whole in 2005 that "All immigrants in

Norway should have the same job opportunities as Norwegians" (table 7.3). The acceptance of this statement has risen during the last three years and is in 2005 almost at the same level as during the favourable business cycles at the end of the 1990s (cf. table 7.8). The temporal decline in the proportion agreeing after the turn of the millennium may have had some connection to the economic recession in Norway at that time. Similarly, the increasing support for the statement during the 1990s from 75 per cent in 1993 to 92 per cent in 1998 may have been connected to the continuously rising business cycle in Norway during this period. Compared to other countries, Norway is also one of the countries with the greatest support for the statement "People who have come to live here should be given the same rights as everyone else" (NSD 2003). We take 2nd place here after Sweden.

### ***The majority prefer that immigrants assimilate to Norwegians***

A question introduced in 2003 showed that 54 per cent agreed strongly or on the whole that "Immigrants in Norway should endeavour to become as similar to Norwegians as possible" (table 7.4). A slightly smaller proportion, 4 out of 10, disagreed strongly or on the whole to this statement, whereas 7 per cent answered "neither agree nor disagree" or "don't

**Table 7.3 Attitudes towards the statement about immigrants and equal job opportunities. 2002-2005. Per cent**

	«All immigrants in Norway should have the same job opportunities as Norwegians»					Number of persons that answered
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	
2002 .....	100	85	4	10	1	1 410
2003 .....	100	83	3	13	1	1 384
2004 .....	100	87	3	10	0	1 319
2005 .....	100	89	3	7	1	1 287

Source: Blom 2005.



**Table 7.4. Attitudes towards the statement that immigrants in Norway should endeavour to become as similar to Norwegians as possible. 2003-2005. Per cent**

	«Immigrants in Norway should endeavour to become as similar to Norwegians as possible»					Number of persons that answered
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	
2003 .....	100	54	7	39	1	1 381
2004 .....	100	53	8	39	0	1 318
2005 .....	100	54	7	38	1	1 286

Source: Blom 2005.

know”. The opinion has been stable over the three years that the question has been asked.

A complete eradication of all differences between the minority and the majority population, known as “assimilation”, is not on a par with the aim of the official integration policy. The concept of integration implies that the minorities should be able to preserve the cultural and religious characteristics they want, on condition that that they do not infringe Norwegian law. With regard to working life and society, the aim for integration is full equality and participation for all citizens.

Furthermore, it is apparent from the data that those who believe that immigrants should try to become as similar to Norwegians as possible are also more critical towards immigrants in other respects.

Yearly Swedish surveys on attitudes towards integration, diversity and discrimination show that the expectations that immigrants should endeavour to become as similar to the majority as possible, are even stronger in Sweden than in Norway (Integrationsverket 2006: 85). This is confirmed by the European Social Survey, which shows that Norway, together with Poland and Ireland, is the European country whose population put less emphasis on whether the immigrant “wants to live as a Norwegian (Swede, Dane

etc.)” when deciding whether he or she should be granted a residence permit to the country.

### ***Few want increased immigration of refugees***

On a question concerning refugees’ access to the country, 4 out of 10 in 2005 believed that it ought to be more difficult than today to obtain a residence permit, whereas 5 out of 10 thought that the present admission policy ought to be kept (table 7.5). One out of 10 thought it ought to be easier for refugees and asylum seekers to obtain access to the country. The opinion on this issue seems to have changed markedly in a less restrictive direction both in 2004 and 2005. In 2005, there was an 8 percentage point fall in the proportion that recommended it should be more difficult to obtain a residence permit. There is reason to believe that the decrease in the number of asylum seekers, from nearly 18 000 during the peak year in 2002 to around 5 400 in 2005 (UDI 2006: 18), has led to a reduction in the proportion who think it should become more difficult for asylum seekers to get a residence permit in Norway.

In a somewhat longer perspective, the attitude surveys show less will from 1999 to 2003 to give residence permits to refugees and asylum seekers. In the middle of 1999, 71 per cent agreed that “Norway should give residence permits to

refugees and asylum seekers to at least the same extent as today” (cf. table 7.8). Four years later, in autumn 2003, this could be compared to the sum of those who believed that it “should be easier for refugees and asylum seekers to obtain a residence permit” and those who thought that “the access to permits (should) remain the same as today”, 42 per cent in total. The proportion of people wanting a liberalisation or to retain the status quo in the current asylum policy had in other words fallen by nearly 30 percentage points during this period. Although the format of the questions used in the surveys in 1993-1999 and 2002-2005 is subject to disparity, closer investigations reveal that there are good reasons to link together the two series of questions (Blom 2005:15). Both in 2004 and 2005, the original question was repeated for test purposes in the second quarter of the year (cf. table 7.8), thereby making it possible to compare the response to that question with the response to the new question introduced in the third quarter of 2002.

A possible explanation for the reduced willingness to give refugees and asylum seekers residence permits in the country from 1999 to 2003 might be the increasing number of asylum seekers from 10 000 in 1999 to nearly 18 000 in 2002. When the number of asylum seekers is

rising, people seem to be worried that there will be too many new immigrants. Besides, it is logical that the “need” for liberalising the access to residence in the country is seen as less compelling if the number of asylum seekers is high than if it is low. The number of asylum seekers is generally properly presented in the media.

The control routines of the immigration authorities were also sharpened at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, e.g. by DNA testing applicants of family reunification, x-ray testing of minors to verify their age and reporting of individual data on asylum seekers to the common European fingerprint database EURODAC, which led to the disclosure of alleged cases of fraud. Reports on this in the media may have contributed to weakening the public trust in the honesty of asylum seekers.

In a comparative perspective, Norway is, nevertheless, one of the countries whose population in 2002/2003 was most prone to “allow people from poor countries outside Europe” come and live in the country. Compared to other countries, Norway took 5th place in this respect, after Sweden, Switzerland, Ireland and Italy (NSD 2003).

**Table 7.5. Attitudes towards a statement regarding refugees’ access to residence permits in Norway. 2002-2005. Per cent**

«Compared to today, should it be easier for refugees and asylum seekers to obtain a residence permit, should it be more difficult, or should access to permits remain the same as today?»						
	All	Easier	As today	More difficult	Don’t know	Number of persons that answered
2002 .....	100	5	39	53	2	1 410
2003 .....	100	5	37	56	3	1 381
2004 .....	100	6	44	47	2	1 317
2005 .....	100	9	49	39	4	1 287

### ***Nine out of ten are positive to immigrants as neighbours ...***

Nine out of ten have no objections to having an immigrant as a new neighbour. Furthermore, 9 out of 10 have no objections to having an immigrant as a domestic help for themselves or in the close family.

In the introduction to these questions a precondition is included that the immigrant speaks Norwegian.

Having an immigrant as a son-in-law or daughter-in-law, however, arouses negative feelings in 1 out of 3 (table 7.6). The adverse feeling against immigrants in the family has diminished a little each year since the question was asked for the first time in 2002, when 4 out of 10 were negative.

The European Social Survey 2002/2003, however, shows that Norway is among the countries in Europe whose population is most negative to cross cultural marriages. Among the 20 other European countries, it is only the populations in Greece, the Czech Republic and Belgium that are more hesitant than people in Norway about having an immigrant with another ethnic background married into the family. Denmark follows shortly after Norway (NSD 2003).

### ***... and two thirds have contact with immigrants***

Moreover, two thirds of the adult population have contact with immigrants (table 7.7). The proportion has been stable over time. The workplace is the most common arena for such contact. Four out of 10 have some kind of contact with immigrants at work. Three out of 10 have

**Table 7.6. Attitudes towards three statements on relations to immigrants. 2002-2005. Per cent**

«Would you feel uncomfortable if ... ...you or someone in your closest family had an immigrant as a domestic help?»					
	All	Yes	No	Don't know	Number of persons that answered
2002 .....	100	11	88	1	1 410
2003 .....	100	10	89	1	1 385
2004 .....	100	10	90	1	1 319
2005 .....	100	6	93	1	1 288
«...your new neighbour was an immigrant?»					
	All	Yes	No	Don't know	Number of persons that answered
2002 .....	100	8	90	2	1 410
2003 .....	100	9	89	2	1 384
2004 .....	100	9	90	1	1 316
2005 .....	100	6	92	1	1 288
«...you had a son or daughter that wanted to marry an immigrant?»					
	All	Yes	No	Don't know	Number of persons that answered
2002 .....	100	40	53	7	1 409
2003 .....	100	37	58	6	1 380
2004 .....	100	35	60	5	1 317
2005 .....	100	33	61	7	1 288

contact with immigrants through friends and acquaintances, and 2 out of 10 have such contact in the neighbourhood. Only 1 in 10 have contact with immigrants among close relatives.

In 2003, we also asked about the frequency of contact with immigrants and how the contact was perceived. A narrow majority of the population reported to have daily or weekly contact. Of those having contact with immigrants, 7 out of 10 experienced the contact as basically positive. Three out of 10 had had both positive and negative experiences, whereas only 1 per cent found the contact basically negative.

### **More well-disposed attitudes towards immigrants during the 1990s**

The first round of questions during the years 1993-2000 showed that attitudes towards immigrants and immigration developed in a positive direction (table 7.8). The largest and most unambiguous change took place between 1995 and 1996 when there was a significant swing towards a more accepting attitude to immigrants for all four indicators.

The largest change was found in the attitude to granting residence permits to refugees and asylum seekers. The proportion wanting to admit such permits for refugees and asylum seekers "to at least the same extent as today" increased by 14 percentage points from 1995 to 1996. In the years 1996 to 1999, roughly 7 out of 10 agreed with this statement, compared to 5 out of 10 in 1993. As previously mentioned, the original question about receiving refugees was repeated in 2004 and 2005. The proportion agreeing with the statement exceeded 4 out of 10 in 2004, whereas the proportion

agreeing had risen to nearly 6 of 10 in 2005. As mentioned before, this illustrates the partly temporary fall in the propensity to granting residence permits to refugees after the turn of the millennium.

The perception of immigrants' association with social security also changed considerably from 1995 to 1996. The proportion of people believing that immigrants "have too easy access to social security compared to Norwegians" fell by more than 10 percentage points during 1995, and subsequently remained above 50 per cent until year 2000. In 1993, the figure was 2 out of 3.

During the years 1993-2000, a slight increase in the proportion agreeing with the statement "Immigrants commit more crime than Norwegians" can be detected. The population was consistently split in its perception of immigrants' level of crime, with a certain predominance of those who believed that immigrants committed more crimes than others. Many also had difficulties knowing what to believe, which can be seen from the high proportion of people who answered "don't know" or "neither agree nor disagree" (15-25 per cent). Later in the 1990s, Statistics Norway published statistics showing that immigrants were somewhat over-represented in the criminal statistics compared to the rest of the population (Hustad 1999, Gundersen et al. 2000). Increasingly, doubts were raised about whether our interview question about crime rather captured a knowledge dimension instead of an attitude dimension. For the two last years that the question was asked (1999 and 2000), about half the population agreed with the statement and about 35 per cent disagreed.

**Table 7.7. Contact with immigrants: arenas, numbers, frequency and experience. 2002-2005. Per cent**

«Do you have contact with immigrants who live in Norway for instance at work, in the neighbourhood, among friends, family etc?»									
	All	Yes		No	Number of persons that answered				
2002	100	67		33	1 408				
2003	100	64		36	1 384				
2004	100	67		33	1 318				
2005	100	66		34	1 286				
«In what connections do you have contact with immigrants who live in Norway?»									
	All	At work		Among friends/ acquaintances		In the neighbourhood		Among close relatives	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
2002 .....	100	41	59	27	73	22	78	9	91
2003 .....	100	40	60	29	71	23	77	9	91
2004 .....	100	39	61	29	71	24	76	9	91
2005 .....	100	42	58	28	72	20	80	9	91
«How many immigrants have you contact with?»									
	All	Number of persons					Don't know	Number of persons that answered	
		0	1	2-4	5-10	Mer enn 10			
2003	100	36	6	26	19	14	0	1 382	
2003 <sup>1</sup>	100	.	9	41	29	22	0	890	
2004	100	33	6	27	19	15	0	1 317	
2004 <sup>1</sup>	100	.	9	40	29	22	0	886	
2005	100	34	6	24	20	15	0	1 286	
2005 <sup>1</sup>	100	.	10	37	30	23	0	844	
«How frequent is generally your contact with immigrants?»									
	All	Never	Seldom	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	Number of persons that answered		
2003 .....	100	36	3	9	23	29	1 382		
2003 <sup>1</sup> .....	100	.	5	14	36	45	890		
«How is your personal experience with this contact?»									
	All	No contact	Basically positive	Positive/ negative	Basically negative	Number of persons that answered			
2003 .....	100	36	44	20	0	1 382			
2003 <sup>1</sup> .....	100	.	69	31	1	890			

<sup>1</sup>Only persons with contact with immigrants.

Source: Blom og Lie 2003, Blom 2005.

**Table 7.8. Attitudes towards four statements about immigrants and immigration policy. 1993-2000. Per cent**

«Norway should give residence to refugees and asylum-seekers to at least the same extent as today»						
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	Number of persons that answered
1993 .....	100	49	11	40	1	1 824
1994 .....	100	56	9	33	1	1 843
1995 .....	100	56	7	36	1	1 398
1996 .....	100	70	5	24	1	1 388
1997 .....	100	67	7	25	1	1 373
1998 .....	100	69	7	23	1	1 223
1999 .....	100	71	8	20	1	1 409
2000 .....	100	64	6	29	1	1 382
2001-2003 <sup>1</sup>						
2004 <sup>2</sup> .....	100	44	14	41	1	1 226
2005 <sup>2</sup> .....	100	57	8	33	1	1 228
«Immigrants have too easy access to social security compared to Norwegians»						
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	Number of persons that answered
1993 .....	100	67	8	18	7	1 824
1994 .....	100	64	8	22	6	1 843
1995 .....	100	65	6	21	7	1 399
1996 .....	100	54	7	33	6	1 388
1997 .....	100	53	10	31	5	1 372
1998 .....	100	53	9	32	6	1 225
1999 .....	100	51	10	32	8	1 412
2000 .....	100	53	10	33	4	1 383
«Immigrants should have the same job opportunities as Norwegians»						
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	Number of persons that answered
1993 .....	100	75	8	15	2	1 823
1994 .....	100	78	6	15	1	1 842
1995 .....	100	80	4	15	0	1 398
1996 .....	100	86	3	11	0	1 388
1997 .....	100	86	5	8	0	1 375
1998 .....	100	92	3	5	0	1 225
1999 .....	100	90	3	6	1	1 414
2000 .....	100	91	3	5	0	1 385
«Immigrants commit more crime than Norwegians»						
	All	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Don't know	Number of persons that answered
1993 .....	100	41	19	33	7	1 823
1994 .....	100	40	14	38	8	1 843
1995 .....	100	48	11	36	6	1 397
1996 .....	100	44	10	42	4	1 388
1997 .....	100	44	13	39	4	1 374
1998 .....	100	43	13	39	4	1 225
1999 .....	100	48	13	34	5	1 412
2000 .....	100	50	12	35	3	1 385

<sup>1</sup>The question was not asked these years.<sup>2</sup>The question was repeated for test purposes in 2004 and 2005. In 2004 the category "Neither agree nor disagree" was erroneously exposed to the respondents, which led to an increase in the number of answers in this category at the expense of answers in the other categories.

Source: Blom 1999, 2004a, 2005 and Statistics Norway 2000.

### ***Societal changes affect attitudes towards immigrants***

We have already mentioned some of the factors that appear to affect the attitudes towards refugees and immigrants over time. Improvements in the business cycle probably encourage a liberalisation of attitudes. During times of economic growth, it becomes easier to find work and housing for newcomers, and the need for labour increases. Other European studies also show similar results (Semyonov and Rajman 2006). Large numbers of asylum seekers probably have the opposite effect on attitudes. The more asylum seekers there are, the greater the demands will be on the authorities to regulate and reduce the influx of refugees. The majority of the population seems to harbour a deep-rooted fear of large-scale and uncontrolled immigration.

The official refugee policy also has repercussions for the public opinion. At the same time that immigration should not appear too overwhelming, neither should the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers appear unreasonably harsh and inhumane. Otherwise, it could trigger demands for a more liberal practising of immigration legislation. Something similar probably happened in the middle of the 1990s when the media regularly presented reports of a "heartless" asylum policy, innocent asylum children living in churches, unfathomable decisions on applications, and brutal implementation of deportation orders. This may have contributed to the change of attitudes in a liberal direction from 1995 to 1996 (Blom 1996).

Conversely, all crime committed by immigrants will serve to undermine liberal and tolerant attitudes (Blom 1999). This is especially the case for dramatic acts like

gang fights, stabbings, "honour" killings, drug-related crimes and smuggling of persons into the country. Crimes of this nature conducted by individuals with immigrant backgrounds can very easily "colour" the public perception of the whole group. So far, there are few indications that acts of terror conducted by religiously-inspired fundamentalist groups outside the country, directly influence the attitudes of the Norwegian population towards their own immigrants.

We also have the impression that the attitude towards the asylum policy is affected by the knowledge and sympathy held by the population towards groups fleeing from a country. In 1994, there was considerable goodwill to accepting refugees from Bosnia, and this was also the case in 1999 with refugees from Kosovo. Both events, which could be said to happen in our neighbouring region, were thoroughly covered by the media in a way that left no doubt that refugees from these areas were real refugees of war. Both in 1994 and 1999, we also registered a statistically significant increase from the year before in the proportion who agreed that "Norway should give residence permits to refugees and asylum seekers to at least the same extent as today" (Blom 1994, 1999). The same goodwill was not extended to busloads of Bulgarian "refugees" arriving in the summer of 2001. Instead of meeting sympathy, they added to the creation of concepts such as "asylum tourists" and "supposedly unfounded asylum seekers".

### ***Attitudes vary according to age, residential area and education***

The attitudes towards immigrants and immigration are different in different segments of the population. Factors

found to have bearings on attitudes are age, education, residential area, contact with immigrants and political opinion.

Educational level is the single factor with the greatest impact. In 2005 for instance, 20 per cent of the population with a long higher education or a university college education (tertiary education, graduate level) thought that it ought to be easier for refugees and asylum seekers to be granted a residence permit in Norway. In comparison, only 5 per cent of the population with education at lower secondary level were of the same opinion. Similarly, 5 out of 10 people with education at lower secondary level thought that most immigrants abuse the social welfare system, compared with 2 out of 10 with education at higher level or university college level.

Age also has a definite connection with attitudes towards immigrants and immigration. People in the oldest age group (67-79 years) in particular have less goodwill to offer than persons in younger age groups. The differences between the other age groups in 2005 were somewhat smaller than before. Whereas for instance 3 out of 4 of a working age (16-67 years) agreed that most immigrants enrich the cultural life in Norway, less than half of the oldest persons shared that opinion.

However, with regard to the question of whether immigrants should have the same job opportunities as Norwegians, also the youngest – as well as the oldest – were the least positive. A similar tendency was present in the question about the contribution of immigrants to Norwegian working life. The reason for that can be that young persons who are about to enter the labour market fear competition for jobs from the immigrants. On the

question of cross cultural marriages, the youngest were on the contrary the most positive. Only 20 per cent of the youngest (16-24 years) said they would feel uncomfortable if their son or daughter wanted to marry an immigrant, compared with half of the oldest. With regard to questions concerning matrimonial unions, the young thereby held opinions that gave them a large scope for their own choice of mate.

Part of the age effect is due to educational differences between the age groups and differences in the degree of contact with immigrants. Persons in the intermediate age groups (25-44 years and 45-66 years) have the highest level of education, and together with the youngest they have also most contact with immigrants.

Residents in urban areas with more than 100 000 inhabitants, i.e. the largest cities with surroundings, generally have somewhat more liberal attitudes to immigrants and immigration than persons in less urban residential areas. Whereas the attitudes to whether immigrants should endeavour to become as similar to Norwegians as possible were about 50/50 in the most densely populated areas, this figure doubled (60/30) in 2005 in rural and urban areas with less than 2 000 residents. For some attitude indicators, the effect of urban/rural residential area is weakened or eliminated when differences in educational level or amount of contact with immigrants is included.

The goodwill towards immigrants and immigration according to geographic region is generally largest in Akershus and Oslo. For instance, nearly 8 out of 10 in Akershus/Oslo held the view that immigrants make an important contribution to working life, compared with 7 out



of 10 on a national level. This type of result is found several years in a row, but the differences between the regions seem to be somewhat smaller in 2005 than before. As for residential area, the effect is not always robust when controlling for education and contact with immigrants.

Persons who have contact with immigrants generally have more positive attitudes towards immigrants than persons without such contact. The more arenas for this contact, the stronger the goodwill is. For instance, the proportion that believe that most immigrants abuse the social welfare system is halved when going from persons totally devoid of contact with immigrants to persons with contact in three or more arenas. Without contact with immigrants, there were 46 per cent who would feel uncomfortable if their son or daughter married an immigrant, whereas similar attitudes prevailed among only 13 per cent of those who had contact with immigrants in three or more arenas in 2005.

Political opinion is also important. Goodwill towards immigrants and immigration has generally appeared to be most abundant among supporters of Rød Valgallianse (Red Electoral Campaign) and Sosialistisk Venstreparti (Socialist Left Party) and least among supporters of Fremskrittspartiet (The Progress Party). In some questions, the supporters of Venstre (The Liberal Party) and/or Kristelig Folkeparti (Christian Democrats) have expressed marginally greater sympathy for immigrants than voters on the left side. Political opinion was not among the background variables collected in the survey of 2005.

Sex is generally of secondary importance with regard to attitudes, but in some

questions women are more positively disposed than men. For instance, there were relatively fewer women than men in 2005 that thought it would be uncomfortable to have an immigrant as a domestic help, and that agreed that immigrants in Norway should endeavour to become as similar to Norwegians as possible. On the other hand, women tend to be somewhat more sceptical than men regarding their son or daughter marrying an immigrant.



## 8. Overview of immigrant-related statistics

According to Statistics Norway's general publication strategy where the Internet is the main channel of distribution, all immigrant-related statistics are released on the Statistics Norway website. New statistics are released as Today's statistics on the site. Statistics Norway has a dedicated web page with an overview of immigrant-related statistics, [http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/10/innvandring\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/10/innvandring_en/), where you will find links to the different subject fields and publications.

Below you will find references to the web pages for the different subject areas, and at the end a list of immigrant-related articles and special publications.

### **Population statistics**

The following population statistics are produced annually:

- Population statistics. Immigrant population ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/01/10/innvbef\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/01/10/innvbef_en/))
- Population statistics. Population by age, sex, marital status and citizenship ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/01/10/folkemengde\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/01/10/folkemengde_en/))

- Population statistics. Naturalisations ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/02/statsborger\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/02/statsborger_en/))
- Population statistics. Adoptions ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/02/10/adopsjon\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/02/10/adopsjon_en/))
- Population statistics. Refugees ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/01/10/flyktninger\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/01/10/flyktninger_en/))
- Population statistics. Immigration and emigration ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/02/20/innvutv\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/02/20/innvutv_en/))
- Population statistics. Immigrant population by reason for immigration ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/01/10/innvgrunn\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/01/10/innvgrunn_en/))
- Population statistics. Marriages and divorces ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/02/30/ekteskap\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/02/02/30/ekteskap_en/))

### **Education statistics**

The following education statistics are produced annually (<http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/>):

- Education statistics. Day care centres, pre-schools (<http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/10/>)

- Education statistics. Pupils in primary and lower secondary schools ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/20/utgrs\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/20/utgrs_en/))
- Education statistics. Adult education (<http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/50/>)
- Educational statistics. Pupils in upper secondary education ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/30/utvgs\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/30/utvgs_en/))
- Education statistics. Throughput of pupils in upper secondary education ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/30/vgogjen\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/30/vgogjen_en/))
- Education statistics. Pupils and students ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/utelstud\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/utelstud_en/))
- Education statistics. Students in universities and colleges ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/40/utuvh\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/02/40/utuvh_en/))
- Education statistics. Population's level of education ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/01/utniv\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/01/utniv_en/))

In 1998, a special survey was conducted on immigrants' levels of education. The findings are published here:

- Education statistics. Immigrants' levels of education, 1998 ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/01/utinnv\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/04/01/utinnv_en/))

### **Labour market statistics**

Unemployment and labour market initiative figures for immigrants are published every quarter. Statistics on employment and ownership by the 4th quarter are produced annually.

- Registered unemployment among immigrants, quarterly

([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/06/03/innvarbl\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/06/03/innvarbl_en/))

- Register-based employment statistics for immigrants, 4th quarter ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/06/01/innvregsys\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/06/01/innvregsys_en/))
- Ownership and roles – survival and growth in newly established enterprises ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/10/01/ner\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/10/01/ner_en/))

### **Income**

Income statistics for the immigrant population are published regularly as Official Statistics (NOS):

- Income statistics for persons and families ([http://www.ssb.no/emner/05/01/nos\\_inntektpersoner](http://www.ssb.no/emner/05/01/nos_inntektpersoner))

### **Other statistics**

In other areas, statistics are regularly produced. Other areas for which immigrant-related statistics are produced on a regularly basis, are:

- Participation in the introduction programme for immigrants (<http://www.ssb.no/en/introinnv/>)
- Political participation (<http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/01/>)
- Social assistance ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/03/04/30/soshjelpk\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/03/04/30/soshjelpk_en/))
- Crime and justice (<http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/03/05/>)
- Attitudes towards immigrants and immigration ([http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/01/30/innvhold\\_en/](http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/01/30/innvhold_en/))

**Statistical analysis**

Three reports examining immigration and immigrants have been published in English among the publication series Statistical analyses:

Lofthus, Eivind (ed) (1998): *Immigrants in Norway. A summary of findings*. Statistical analyses 27, Statistics Norway 1998

Lie, Benedicte (2002): *Immigration and immigrants 2002*. Statistical analyses 54, Statistics Norway 2002

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