

The age of the population

At the beginning of 2018, almost a fifth (19.7%) of the total population living in EU countries was made up of older people (aged 65 or over).

By 2100, the population is expected to be smaller and older. The proportion of children, young people under 20 and people of working age will fall, while that of people aged 65 or over will rise.

The decline of the European population

After a decline in the EU population following COVID-19, it began to grow again in 2022 and was estimated at 451 million at the beginning of this year.

The latest report from the EU's statistical office predicts that the Union's population will continue to grow, reaching a peak of 453 million in 2026, before falling back to 420 million in 2100. However, some Member States are expected to see their populations increase, partly as a result of migration.

The fertility rate in the EU and the average age of mothers

In 2021, 4.09 million babies were born. The lowest figure was recorded in 2020, with 4.07 million babies. The fertility rate has changed remarkably in European countries over the last 20 years. It fell in 11 of the 27 EU Member States between 2001 and 2021.

In 2021, the average age of women giving birth to their first child was 29.7 in the EU. This age has risen steadily over the years; it was 28.8 in 2013.

More and more retired people in the EU

Projections show that there will be more and more retired people, but fewer workers to fund them.

The ageing of the population also has an impact on the way we spend our money: as people get older, they tend to spend more on health, food and housing, and less on transport and clothing.

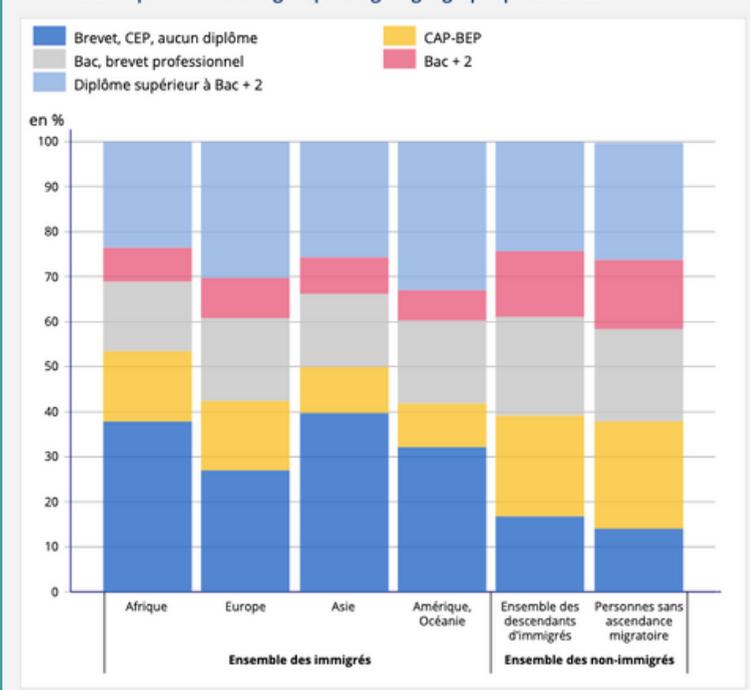
Highly skilled migrants

Migrants tend to be more concentrated in the young and economically active age groups than the inhabitants of the host country, and therefore help to reduce dependency ratios.

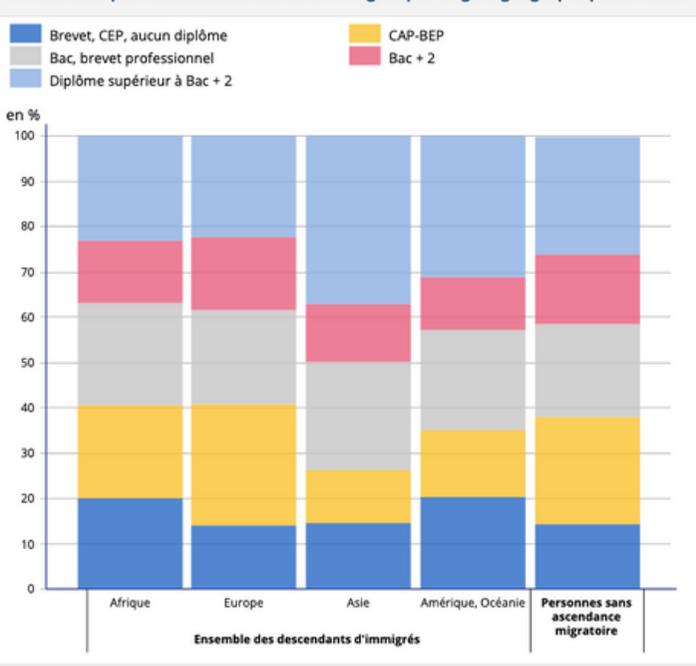
Migrants arrive with skills and abilities, complementing the capabilities of local human resources.

The proportion of highly educated immigrants in EU countries is rising sharply.

Niveau de diplôme des immigrants par origine géographique en 2022



Niveau de diplôme des descendants d'immigrés par origine géographique en 2022



Compare the two graphs. What can you see?

The financial impact of immigration in the EU

Studies examining the fiscal impact of migrants have produced different results, although in all cases the impacts have been estimated at less than +1% or -1% of GDP.

Between 2006 and 2018, the OECD found that the age of migrants (more specifically, being of working age, i.e. between 25 and 54) was the most important factor in explaining the differences between their net tax contributions and those of the native-born population.