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Recensement de la population | Luxembourg

An increasingly cosmopolitan population

Since the 2011 census, the foreign population has increased by almost 38% to reach, on 8 November 2021, 304,051 people representing 47.2% of the total population. People from EU-27 countries make up 38.2% of the resident population and almost 80.9% of the foreign population living in the Grand Duchy. The Portuguese nationality is the 1^{ère} foreign nationality in the country with 93,659 persons (14.5% of the total population). The increase in the number of Luxembourgers is much less pronounced. On 8 November 2021, there were 339,890 people with Luxembourg nationality, an increase of 16.5% compared with 2011. Luxembourgers by birth represent 50.7% of the population of the Grand Duchy. The average age of foreigners is 37.9 years, 3.4 years younger than that of Luxembourgers. The geographical distribution of foreign communities is linked to neighbouring countries in the case of the French, Belgians and Germans. As for the Portuguese, their share of the population is particularly important in the communes located in the north-east and south-west of the country. The presence of Italians is concentrated in Luxembourg City and the surrounding municipalities, as well as in the municipalities in the southwest of the country.

339,890 Luxembourgers and 304,051 foreigners

On 8 November 2021, 52.8% of people living in Luxembourg had Luxembourg nationality, against with 47.2% with foreign nationality. Compared to the 2011 population census, the share of foreigners has increased by 4.2 percentage points (43.0%).

Among Luxembourgers, the share of men is lower than that of women at 49.2%. Conversely, for foreigners, the share of men is slightly higher (51.6%) than that of women.

TABLE 1: LUXEMBOURG AND FOREIGN POPULATION ON 8 NOVEMBER 2021

Nationality	Number			Percentage		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Luxembourgish	167 333	172 557	339 890	51.6%	54.0%	52.8%
Foreign	157 022	147 029	304 051	48.4%	46.0%	47.2%
Foreign nationality indicated	156 824	146 887	303 711	48.3%	46.0%	47.2%
Foreign nationality not indicated	90	67	157	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Stateless	108	75	183	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	324 355	319 586	643 941	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: STATEC

A wide range of nationalities

Around 180 nationalities were present on 8 November 2021. Among the ten most numerous foreign nationalities in the Grand Duchy, eight are EU-27 nationalities: the Portuguese come first (14.5% of the total population), followed by the French (7.6%), the Italians (3.7%), the Belgians (3.1%), the Germans (2.0%), the Spanish (1.3%), the Romanians (1.0%) and finally the Poles (0.8%). The last two nationalities in the top ten are non-European: the British (0.7%) and the Chinese (0.6%).

TABLE 2: POPULATION SHARE BY CONTINENT AS OF 8 NOVEMBER 2021

Nationality	Number of people	Share in total population	Share in the foreign population
Total	643 941		
Luxembourg	339 890	52.8%	
Other EU-27 Member State	245 906	38.2%	80.9%
Portugal	93 659	14.5%	30.8%
France	49 071	7.6%	16.1%
Italy	23 881	3.7%	7.9%
Belgium	19 692	3.1%	6.5%
Germany	12 906	2.0%	4.2%
Spain	8 477	1.3%	2.8%
Romania	6 284	1.0%	2.1%
Poland	4 977	0.8%	1.6%
Other European country	18 844	2.9%	6.2%
United Kingdom	4 289	0.7%	1.4%
Asian countries	17 420	2.7%	5.7%
China	4 130	0.6%	1.4%
African countries	13 554	2.1%	4.5%
Cape Verde	2 562	0.4%	0.8%
Caribbean, South or Central American countries	4 962	0.8%	1.6%
Brazil	2 859	0.4%	0.9%
North American countries	2 780	0.4%	0.9%
United States of America	2 196	0.3%	0.7%
Oceania countries	245	0.0%	0.1%
Stateless	183	0.0%	0.1%
not indicated	157	0.0%	0.1%

Source: STATEC

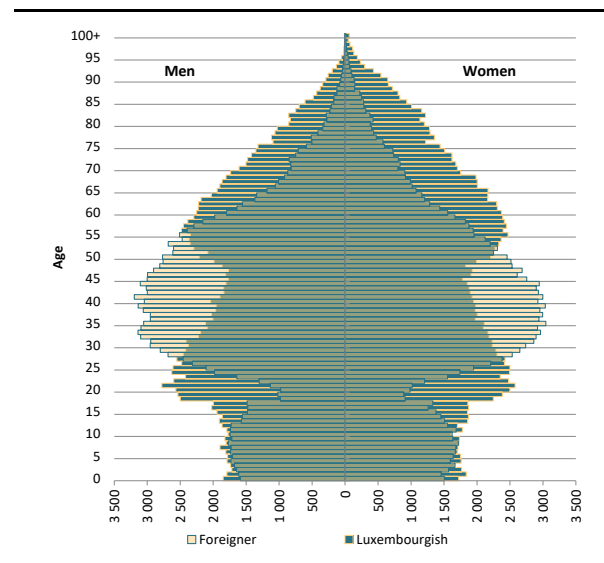
EU-27 nationals number 245,906 and constitute 80.9% of the total foreign resident population (86.9% in 2011). Next in order are nationals of other European countries (6.2% of the total foreign resident population), led by the British (4,289 people), Asian countries with a share of 5.7% (17,420 people, including 4,130 Chinese), African countries (4.5% and 13,554 people including 2,562 Cape Verdeans), Caribbean, South and Central American countries (1.6% and 4,962 people including 2,859 Brazilians), North American countries (0.9% and 2,780 people including 2,196 from the United States) and Oceania countries (0.1% and 245 people).

Nationality by age

The average age of the population of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is 39.7 years. However, there are significant differences between Luxembourgers and foreigners, on the one hand, and among foreigners on the other. Indeed, the average age of Luxembourgers is higher than that of foreigners: 41.3 years compared to 37.9 years, i.e. a difference of 3.4 years (6.0 years in 2011).

By superimposing the age pyramid of foreigners and Luxembourgers, we observe first of all that the proportion of foreigners decreases between the ages of 0 and 24 (47.6% of foreigners among 0-4 year olds and 34.8% among 20-24 year olds). Secondly, in the 25-54 age group, the foreign population is over-represented in relation to the Luxembourg population. This clearly shows that immigration to Luxembourg is mainly due to professional reasons. From the age of 55 onwards, the share of the foreign population decreases and becomes very low at very old ages (29.8% of people of foreign nationality from the age of 65 and only 17.8% from the age of 90).

FIGURE 1: AGE PYRAMID BY NATIONALITY ON 8 NOVEMBER 2021

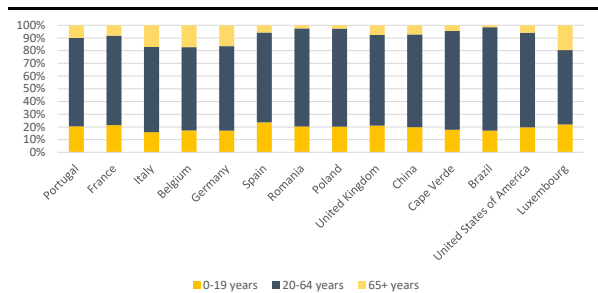


Source: STATEC

Among foreigners, there are also large differences in age by nationality. For example, the average age of Indians is 29.2 years, while for Portuguese it is 39.7 years, and even 43.6 years for Belgians.

Immigration to Luxembourg is largely composed of individuals of working age. Older people are not very present in the foreign population, except among a few nationalities: for example, among Germans, Belgians and Italians, about 17% of whom are aged 65 and over. In contrast, 44.4% of Syrians are under 20 years of age.

FIGURE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGNERS BY NATIONALITY AND AGE GROUP



Source: STATEC

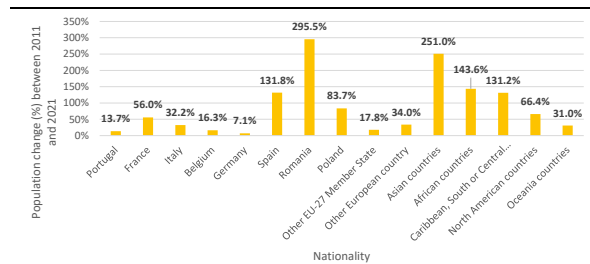
An increasingly diversified population

Between the 2011 and 2021 population censuses, the population increased by 131,588 people (+25.7%). Over the last ten years, the number of Luxembourgers has grown more slowly than the number of foreigners: from 291,831 in 2011 to 339,890 in 2021 (+16.5%). This increase is exclusively due to the increased acquisition of Luxembourg nationality following the 2008 law, which came into force on 1^{er} January 2009, facilitating naturalization procedures and the recovery of nationality.

As for foreigners, their number will rise from 220,522 in 2011 to 304,051 in 2021 (+37.9%). Among the EU-27 nationalities most represented in Luxembourg, the smallest change over ten years concerns German nationals (+7.1%). Conversely, the number of Romanians has increased the most (+295.5%).

Although the Portuguese remain the largest foreign community, their evolution is less important than that of the French, Italians and Belgians, for example. Over the last ten years, their number has increased by 13.7% to reach almost 94,000 people. The significant weight and growth in the number of Portuguese for almost half a century should not obscure other developments. Indeed, for several years, the presence of foreigners from neighbouring countries has increased. This is particularly the case for the French, whose numbers reached 49,071 on 8 November 2021 (+56.0% compared to 2011), and the Belgians (+16.3%).

GRAPH 3: POSITIVE FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN 2011 AND 2021 (IN %)



Source: STATEC

While the number of Italian nationals decreased between 2001 and 2011 (-4.9%), their evolution is positive over the last ten years (+32.2%).

While the five communities mentioned above form the largest foreign communities in terms of numbers, it should be noted that the number of foreigners with another nationality is increasing more strongly, particularly for Romanians, Spaniards (+129.4%) and Poles (+85.3%).

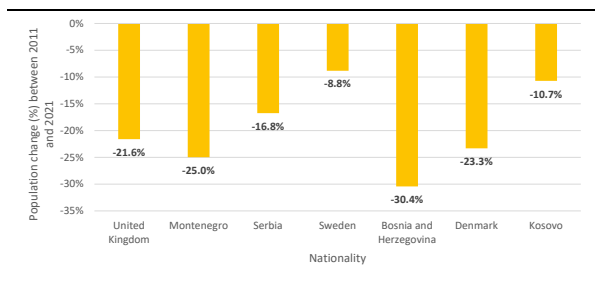
The number of citizens from Asian countries increased by 251.0% from 4,963 in 2011 to 17,420 in 2021. For example, the number of Syrians has increased, as a result of the political crisis, from 25 people in 2011 to 2,688 in 2021.

Next are nationals of African countries (+143.6%), with Eritreans in particular, rising from 21 people in 2011 to 1,725 in 2021.

The number of nationals from the American continent increased by 102.8%, while those from the rest of Europe rose by 34.0%.

Among the foreign communities with more than 1,000 nationals, there are some nationalities that are decreasing, notably the British and nationals of the former Yugoslavia. For some of these nationalities, the link with the acquisition of Luxembourg nationality must be made, particularly for British nationals.

FIGURE 4: CHANGE IN FOREIGN NEGATIVE BETWEEN 2011 AND 2021 (IN %)



Source: STATEC

18% of Luxembourgers have a second nationality

On 8 November 2021, 573,629 people had a single nationality, 67,594 two nationalities, 2,690 three nationalities and 28 four nationalities. Of those with more than one nationality, 87.0% had Luxembourg nationality and at least one other foreign nationality (61,207 persons).

TABLE 3: POPULATION ON 8 NOVEMBER 2021 BY NATIONALITY AND NUMBER OF NATIONALITIES

Nationality	Number of nationalities				
	0	1	2	3	4
Luxembourgish	278 683	58 608	2 576	23	
Foreigner	294 763	8 986	114	5	
Stateless	183				
Total	183 573 446	67 594	2 690	28	

Source: STATEC

18.0% of Luxembourgers hold at least a second nationality (61,207 individuals) compared to 5.2% in 2011. This increase in the number of people who have obtained Luxembourg nationality is explained by the fact that the Law of 23 October 2008 on Luxembourg nationality allows people to obtain Luxembourg nationality while keeping their original nationality.

TABLE 4: SECOND NATIONALITY OF LUXEMBOURGERS

Second Nationality	Number	Percentage
Other EU-27 country	46 216	75.5%
Portugal	15 510	25.3%
France	8 884	14.5%
Italy	5 047	8.2%
Belgium	4 773	7.8%
Germany	3 819	6.2%
Other European country	8 281	13.5%
Republic of Montenegro	2 698	4.4%
United Kingdom	2 343	3.8%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 400	2.3%
Republic of Serbia	1 218	2.0%
Kosovo	843	1.4%
African country	2 828	4.6%
Caoe Verde	1 118	1.8%
Asian country	2 257	3.7%
Chine	447	0.7%
American country	1 584	2.6%
Brazil	597	1.0%
United States of America	450	0.7%
Oceania country	41	0.1%
Total	61 207	100.0%

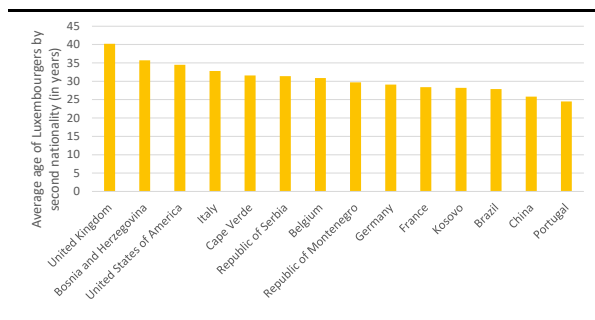
Source: STATEC

75.5% of Luxembourgers with another nationality have as their second nationality that of another EU-27 country (25.3% of the total population have Portuguese nationality, 14.5% French nationality and 8.2% Italian nationality). The share of Luxembourgers with a European nationality outside the EU-27 as their second nationality is 13.5%, an African nationality 4.6%, an Asian nationality 3.7%, an American nationality 2.6% and an Oceania nationality 0.1%.

Luxembourgers with a second nationality are relatively young (29.0 years on average) compared to the average age of all persons with Luxembourg nationality (41.3 years). This youthfulness is confirmed by the quartile analysis: 25% of these people are under 16 years of age, while 25% are over 42 years of age (the median is 24 years).

There are significant differences in age between Luxembourgers with at least a second nationality, as shown in the graph below.

GRAPH 5: AVERAGE AGE OF LUXEMBOURGERS WITH A SECOND NATIONALITY, BY SECOND NATIONALITY



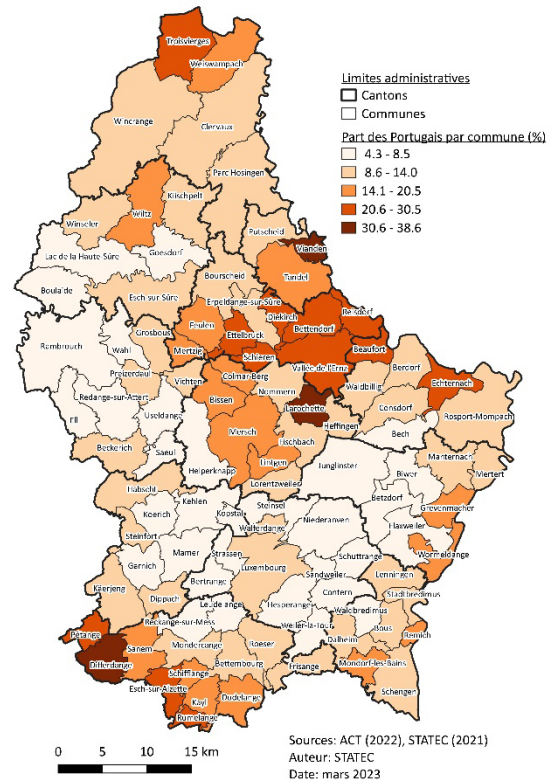
Source: STATEC

The geographical distribution of foreign communities linked to neighbouring countries

The general distribution (Luxembourgers vs. foreigners) of the population at the communal level and their evolution were analysed in the publication [‘The territorial distribution of the population’](#).

In 2021, the Portuguese represent 14.5% of the total population (-1.6% compared to the 2011 census). However, there are significant disparities between communes. The share of Portuguese in the population is particularly high in the communes located in the north-east (around the commune of Vallée de l’Ernz), as well as in the south-west of the country (see Map 1). In 3 communes, the percentage of Portuguese exceeds thirty percent: Larochette with 38.6% of the total population, Differdange (32.1%) and Vianden (30.6%). The share of Portuguese in the population is lowest in the communes of Niederanven (4.3%), Kehlen (4.3%) and Waldbredimus (4.8%). In absolute terms, Luxembourg City has the highest number of Portuguese (12,617). This is followed by the communes of Esch-sur-Alzette (10,319 persons of Portuguese nationality) and Differdange (9,169).

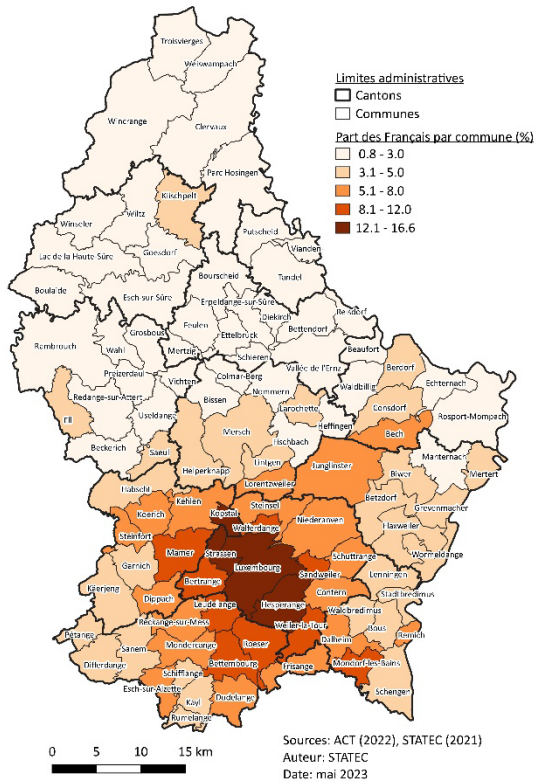
MAP 1: SHARE OF THE PORTUGUESE POPULATION



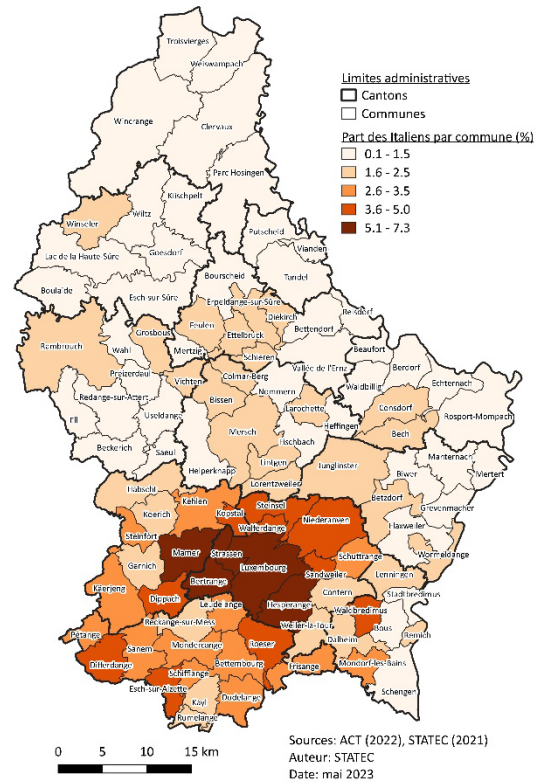
Among foreigners, the share of Portuguese people is 30.8%. Almost one in three foreigners is therefore Portuguese. In 22 communes (out of 102), the share of Portuguese among the foreign population exceeds fifty percent. The highest shares are observed in Bettendorf (73.6% of foreigners are Portuguese), in Vallée de l’Ernz (69.9%) and in Larochette (69.8%).

On 8 November 2021, the French represented 7.6% of the total population of Luxembourg (+1.5% compared to 2011). They are largely over-represented in the capital and in the neighbouring communes (see map 2). 21,251 French people live in Luxembourg City, i.e. 16.6% of the population of the commune and 43.3% of all French people living in the Grand Duchy. The further away from the capital, the lower the share of French people. The shares are particularly low in the municipalities in the northern half of Luxembourg.

MAP 2: SHARE OF THE FRENCH POPULATION



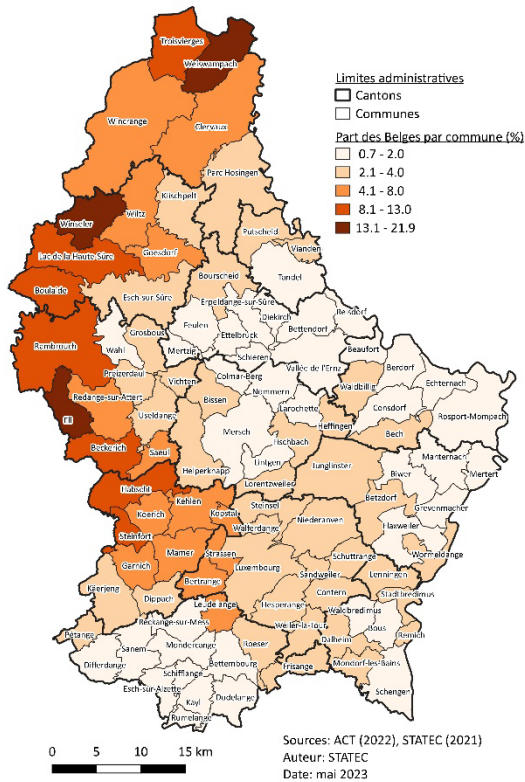
MAP 3: SHARE OF THE ITALIAN POPULATION



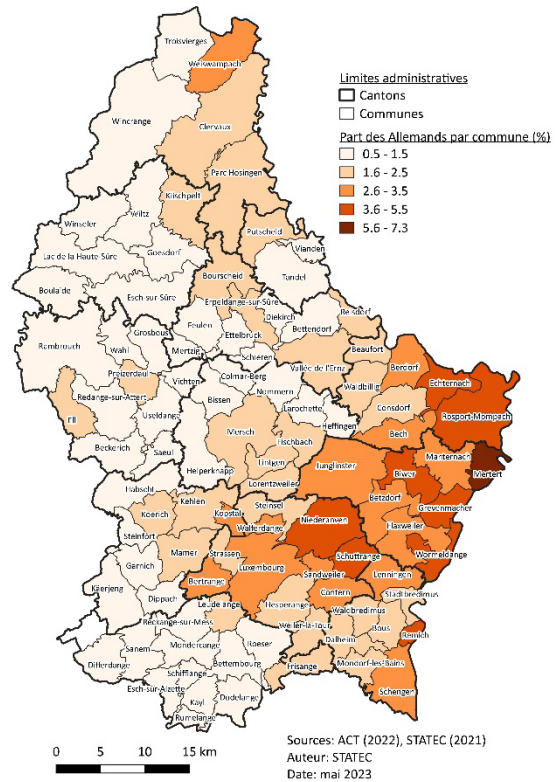
The share of Italians in the total population of Luxembourg is 3.7% and remains practically stable compared to 2011 (3.5%). However, from a geographical point of view, the presence of Italians is concentrated in Luxembourg City and the surrounding communes, as well as in the communes in the south-west of the country (see Map 3). The share of Italians in the population is highest in the capital (7.3% of the population), in Bertrange (6.8%) and in Strassen (6.6%). The share of Italians in the population is lowest in the communes of Putscheid (0.1%), Kiischpelt (0.2%) and in Esch-sur-Sûre (0.4%). Generally speaking, Italians are relatively few in number in the northern half of the country and along the German border. In absolute terms, Italians are most numerous in Luxembourg-City (9,292), Esch-Alzette (1,400) and Differdange (1,062).

Belgians represent 3.1% of the country's total population (-0.2% compared to 2011). As with other nationalities, there are significant differences between communes with a very specific geographical distribution. In fact, in relative terms, Belgians are most present in the communes located on the border with Belgium (see map 4), such as Winseler (21.9% of the population of this commune), Weiswampach (16.5%) or Ell (13.1%). At 3.5%, the share of Belgians in the population of Luxembourg City is only slightly above the national average. However, in absolute terms, they are the most numerous in the capital (4,541, i.e. almost a quarter of the Belgians living in Luxembourg). The trend is that the further away from Belgium, the lower the proportion of Belgians in the municipalities.

MAP 4: SHARE OF THE BELGIAN POPULATION



MAP 5: SHARE OF THE GERMAN POPULATION



Germans (see Map 5) residing in the Grand Duchy represent 2.0% of the country's total population (-0.4% compared to 2011). The share of Germans in the population is highest in certain communes close to Germany and more particularly in the Niederanven-Echternach-Schengen triangle. In Merttert and Grevenmacher, two communes located on the German border, the share of Germans is the highest with 7.3% and 5.5% of the inhabitants of these communes respectively. However, there are also communes located on the German border where the proportion of Germans is low. This is the case in Vianden, where the percentage of Germans is only 1.4%. At 3.0%, the share of Germans living in the capital exceeds the national average. In absolute terms, Germans are also the most numerous in the capital: 3,861 people, corresponding to almost 30% of all Germans living in Luxembourg. The trend is that the share of Germans is lowest in the communes located near the French and Belgian borders. For example, Germans represent only 0.9% of the population of the commune of Esch-sur-Alzette.

6 out of 10 residents are Luxembourgers and/or born in the Grand Duchy

13.9% of foreign nationals residing in Luxembourg were born in Luxembourg, while 16.4% of Luxembourgers residing in the Grand Duchy were born outside Luxembourg (9.9% in 2011).

TABLE 5: COUNTRY OF BIRTH BY NATIONALITY

Country of birth	Luxembourgish women	Foreign women	Total
Luxembourg	83.6%	13.9%	50.7%
Foreign country	16.4%	86.1%	49.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: STATEC

Of those born in Luxembourg, 12.9% do not have Luxembourg nationality. 17.6% of people born outside Luxembourg have Luxembourg nationality. For those born outside Luxembourg, but having Luxembourg nationality, the figures vary considerably depending on the country of birth. At the top of the list is South Korea. 68.6% of people born in this country have Luxembourg nationality (presumably through adoption), followed by countries from which

political refugees originate, such as nationals of the former Yugoslavia.

In contrast, on average, only 15.5% of people born in the other EU-27 countries are Luxembourg nationals. Among those born in neighbouring countries, it is mainly those born in Germany who are more likely to have Luxembourg nationality (34.9% compared with 26.7% for those born in Belgium and 14.4% for those born in France). While 10.0% of Portuguese nationals born in their country of origin became Luxembourg nationals, this percentage rises to 18.4% for Portuguese nationals born in Luxembourg.

Population census maps on the national geoportal

STATEC, in collaboration with the Administration du cadastre et de la topographie, makes interactive maps with the results of the population census available on the Luxembourg geoportal at the following address

www.g-o.lu/population

or by scanning the following QR Code:



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