

Note on methodology

Tables: Immigration flows, INED

The flow of foreigners immigrating legally and permanently to France (metropolitan France and the overseas *départements*) was estimated on the basis of statistics on issued residence permits and long-stay visas of a year or more (the equivalent of a residence permit).

These statistics are based on data from the central database of residence permits (AGDREF) of the French Ministry of the Interior and were compiled at INED. They concern only foreign nationals required to obtain a residence permit, and therefore exclude citizens of the European Union. To ensure consistency of comparisons over time, the statistics were compiled with geographic boundaries kept constant, meaning that residence permits issued earlier to foreign nationals who are no longer required to have one have not been taken into account (this applies to all states that were members of the European Union on 30 June 2013, as well as Vatican City, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland).

To estimate permanent migration, 1) only residence permits valid for over a year (a requirement that excludes all short-term permits) were taken into account; 2) in the case of immigrants issued more than one such residence permit, only the first permit was taken into account, to ensure that no individual was counted more than once.

The French Interior Ministry publishes figures on all residence permits issued (including short-term permits; see [Statistiques des titres de séjour](#)) while in complementary fashion INSEE estimates date of entry and length of residence in France on the basis of responses to a census question on the year of migrant's arrival in France (see [Insee, 2014](#)).