

## Note on methodology

Two sources are used to count international migrants in France

### **1. Entry and exit flows for the total population, INSEE**

The total number of entries into France is estimated using respondents' answers to annual census surveys; specifically, foreign-born respondents' answers to a question on the year they arrived in France, and a question on prior place of residence; that is, on January 1 of the year preceding the census.

Exits are estimated as the difference between apparent net migration and entries. They integrate uncertainties regarding not only net migration but also entry estimates.

Estimates by population category (immigrants, non-immigrants) are derived from comparisons of civil registry and census statistics and entry estimates. Mortality estimates are also required because civil registry statistics do not indicate whether the person who died was an immigrant.

### **2. Number of residence permits delivered to foreigners from countries other than EEC members or Switzerland, INED**

The flow of foreigners settling legally and permanently in France (including metropolitan and overseas départements) is estimated using residence permit and long-stay (one year or more) visa delivery statistics.

Those statistics are based on data from the Interior Ministry's application for managing files of foreign nationals in France (AGDREF) and were established at INED. They concern only nationals from countries subjected to the detention requirement and thus by definition exclude intra-European migrants. Minors are partially covered by these data. To make consistent time comparisons, the statistics are established for fixed geographic areas, meaning that residence permits delivered at an earlier date to nationals from countries for which a residence permit is no longer required are not counted (countries that belonged to the European Union on June 30, 2013, the Vatican State, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the principalities of Andorra and Monaco, the republic of San Marino, and Switzerland).

To estimate permanent migration, two important residence permit features are taken into account.

- Only permits of more than one year are counted, thereby excluding short permits.
- For immigrants who have received several residence permits of over a year, only the first such permit is taken into account to avoid counting the same person more than once.

Additionally, the Interior Ministry publishes figures for all residence permits granted (including short stays; see [Statistiques des titres de séjour](#) [Residence permit statistics]).