HESSEN

2022 Integration Report of Hessen

An Empirical Analysis of Migrant Integration and Social Participation
Concise Version

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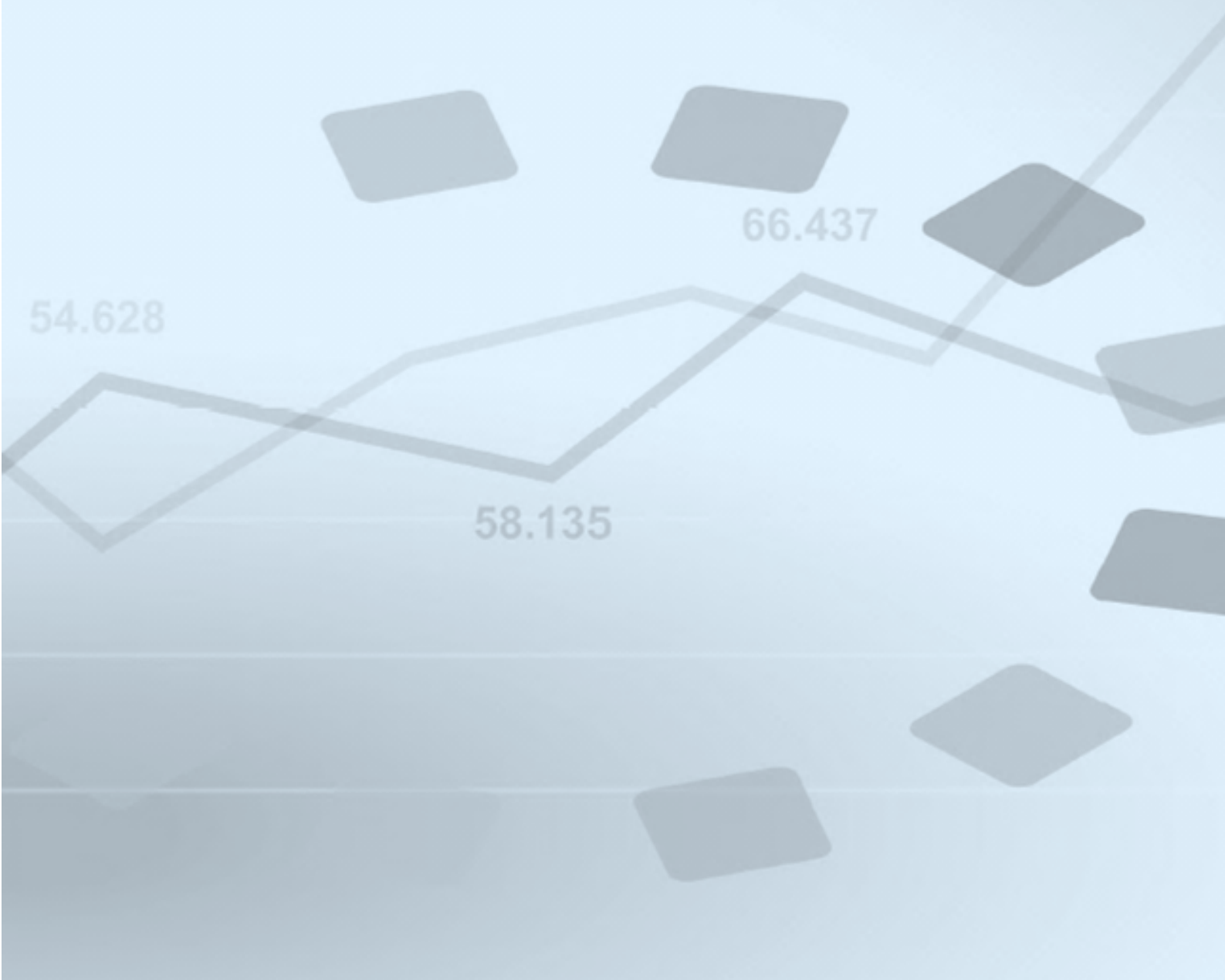
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PASSPORT

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1 FUNDAMENTALS

1.1 Introduction

Germany is one of the countries with the highest number of foreign-born residents – top 2 after the United States. Many migrants, exiles and refugees migrate to Hessen (see chapter 1.2), a *Land* in Western Germany. Often they have raised families, so nowadays Hessen is home to many so-called second-generation migrants as well.

Hessen considers itself a multifaceted, tolerant, and open-minded German federal state. Its public policy strives to facilitate economic growth, and avoid social marginalisation. With its growing number of immigrants in mind, Hessen has made its integration policies a high priority. In this context, it is important to observe migration and the integration processes. Therefore, the Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration has compiled data from 2005 to 2021/22 in a statistical report to show the changes in immigration and migrant integration. This report is the sixth type of its kind to be published. The full current version in German comprises four parts: immigration, integration, refugees and the social impacts of COVID-19.

Current situation

- Today, one in every three inhabitants of Hessen has a so-called migrant background[1]. Over half of those with such foreign roots have German citizenship.
- On average, immigrants and their descendants are younger than the total population. One out of two children under the age of six has a migrant background. In the future, this percentage will continue to grow.
- Recently, the number of immigrants has increased in Hessen. In proportion to the population, Hessen is one of the most sought-after destinations for immigrants among the German *Länder* (German federal states).
- On the other hand, there is also a significant emigration, probably mainly of seasonal migrant workers.
- The increase in citizens due to immigration has changed the population demographics of Hessen; without immigrants, the population would have continued to decrease.
- Especially in 2015, there was a huge influx of asylum seekers as well. Hessen received approx. 80,000 refugees (out of 1.1 million who were registered in Germany). Since the beginning of 2016, this number has considerably declined.
- Despite the existing inequalities between people with and without a migrant background in topics such as education and labour market participation, this statistical analysis has shown that differences in other issues have decreased slowly but steadily. In particular, according to our surveys, positions of both groups converge. However, the influx of refugees might be an exogenous shock in this process, as the refugees` integration will take many more years.
- The COVID-19 outbreak affected all social groups of the population but especially those in the most vulnerable situations, e.g. people living in poverty or migrants.
- Continuing immigration requires sustained efforts to support the integration process.

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[1] As defined by the German Federal Statistical Office, "a person has a migrant background if he or she or at least one parent did not acquire German citizenship by birth".

1.2 Background: Hessen

Hessen is located in the heart of Europe (see figure 1), and has a population in excess of over 6 million; compared to countries such as Denmark, Norway or Finland, there is a higher population in the state of Hessen.
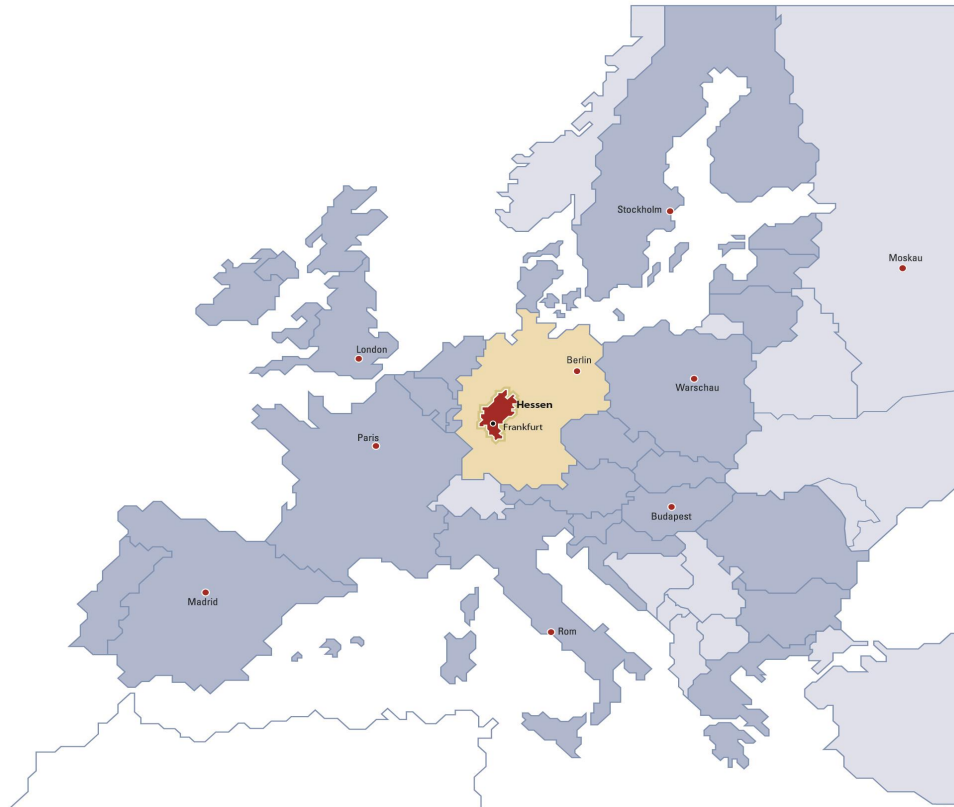

Figure 1: The position of Hessen in the European Union
Source: www.invest-in-hessen.de (adapted)

Northern Hessen is characteristically rural. The south is dominated by one of the most important agglomerations in Europe – the Rhine-Main metropolitan area. Many global corporations are located here, such as Deutsche Lufthansa, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank and Fraport (Frankfurt Airport). Furthermore, of course, the European Central Bank is headquartered in Frankfurt. Therefore, the *Land* is economically strong. In 2021, the volume of Gross Domestic Product was about EUR 303 billion (that is EUR 86,490 per employed person; Germany in comparison: EUR 79,490; Hessisches Statistisches Landesamt).

Over the past decades, the share of employees in the labor industry has been steadily decreased. However, new jobs created in the service sector absorbed part of the resulting unemployment. This ongoing process resulted in modern economic structures. Currently, unemployment is low (4.9 percent, July 2022); in some branches a shortage of skilled workers begins to show, e.g. in the so-called MINT sector (mathematics, informatics, natural sciences and technology), in the craft sector and in domestic care.

Today, people from over 180 nations live in Hessen. People from a migrant background tend to live more likely in the agglomerations and less likely in rural regions, which is a typical phenomenon of settling migrants.

1.3 Monitoring Integration

The state of Hessen government has two main goals regarding integration: one, to provide equal opportunities in education and employment, and two, to increase participation in social and economic life for all inhabitants. In the integration policy guidelines adopted in 2000, the state government set forth that every person living on a permanent and lawful basis in Hessen should have equal access to the labour market, state-owned institutions, and educational institutions.

Both immigrants and citizens of Hessen must work together to ensure that integration succeeds. Integration will not be successful unless it is conceived in terms of diversity. Therefore, it is necessary for the public to establish a firm conviction that cultural diversity is a social asset. Additionally, the ability to observe and measure the progress achieved in integration is vital to ensure a successful long-term integration policy.

The Hessian government bases its empirical methodology on a larger international system that measures integration throughout Europe. The following figure shows the connections between the integration reports of the European Union, the German Federal Government, the Conference of Ministers of Integration of the Federal States (*Integrationsministerkonferenz*), and the municipalities (*Kommunen*) in Hessen (see figure 2).

Connection of integration monitoring reports

European Union: "Core indicators" (Eurostat 2011, Migration Policy Group 2013)

German federal government: First and second integration report; then again first report on integration monitoring 2009, 2011; 2021

State of Hessen: Integration reports 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018, 2020, 2022

German conference of Ministers on Integration: Pilot report 2010, Integration reports 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021

Hessian municipalities: Several integration reports (e.g. Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, Offenbach)
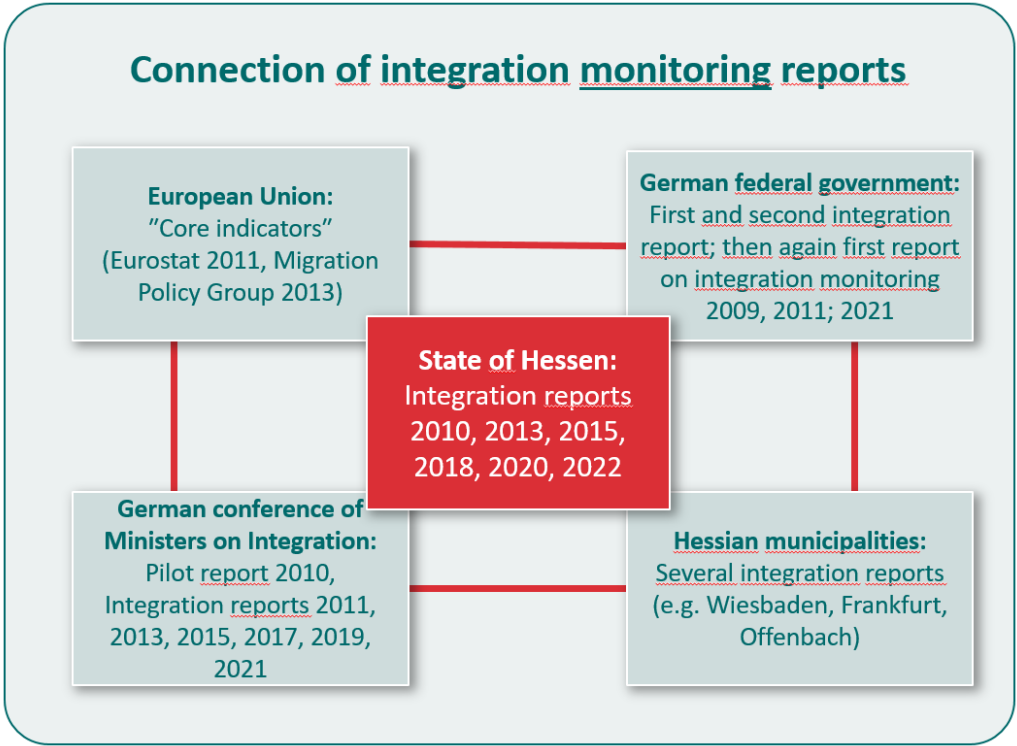
Figure 2: Connection of integration monitoring reports

Since 2003, the European Union has developed methods to measure the integration of non-EU immigrants. The Common Agenda for Integration stated that corresponding indicators had to be developed in order to facilitate the evaluation of integration policies. This objective was accentuated again at the EU Ministerial Conference on Integration held in Vichy in 2008. An explicit reference to "integration monitoring" (in German: *Integrationsmonitoring*) was also made in the Stockholm Programme (which was adopted by the Council of the European Union) at the end of 2009. The Council stressed the importance of the European Union countries developing a set of "core indicators" that would cover selected themes in integration policies. This would allow each country's development in integration to be measured and compared.

In April 2010, in Saragossa, Spain, the Fourth European Ministerial Conference for Integration presented the "core indicators" approach. The "core indicators for migrant integration" stated employment, education, social inclusion, and active citizenship as relevant topics for integration policies (see figure 3). In 2011, Eurostat published first results for these indicators using harmonized data. Two years later, the European Commission edited a report prepared by the Migration Policy Group to further develop the EU indicators on immigrant integration.[2]

Topic	Core indicators
Employment	> employment rate > unemployment rate > activity rate
Education	> highest educational attainment (share of population with tertiary, secondary and primary or less than primary education) > share of low-achieving 15-year-olds in reading, mathematics and science > share of 30- to 34-year-olds with tertiary educational attainment > share of early leavers from education and training
Social inclusion	> median net income – the median net income of the immigrant population as a proportion of the median net income of the total population > at risk of poverty rate – share of population with net disposable income of less than 60 per cent of national median > the share of population perceiving their health status as good or poor > ratio of property owners to non-property owners among immigrants and the total population
Active citizenship	> the share of immigrants that have acquired citizenship > the share of immigrants holding permanent or long-term residence permits > the share of immigrants among elected representatives

Figure 3: Core indicators of the European Union
Source: http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/UDRW/images/items/docl_13055_519941744.pdf (pg. 15)

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[2] Eurostat (ed.) (2011): Indicators of immigrant integration. A pilot study. Luxembourg.
European Commission (ed.) (2013): Using EU indicators on immigrant integration. Final report for DG Home Affairs (by European Services Network, ESN, and the Migration Policy Group, MPG). Brussels.

In the summer of 2008, the German federal government resolved to introduce "monitoring" as a new method of reporting integration, which was embedded in the National Integration Plan (NIP), a nationwide integration program. In 2009, the federal government conducted a trial run, called the "First Report on Integration Indicators,"[3] to test the applicability of various indicators. As a result, the report recommended 53 indicators for future integration monitoring. In 2011, the federal government published its second national report on integration, which examined the development of integration between 2005 and 2010.[4] The next monitor was only published in 2021.

At the integration conferences in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 the sixteen German *Länder* (i.e. federal states) convened with monitoring reports on integration, which compared integration statistics in each state.[5] In 2021, new data from the Integration Barometer of the Expert Council on Integration and Migration (*Bund-Länder-Integrationsbarometer*) have been added. The Hessian integration monitoring system is established not only on the pre-arranged indicators for the *Länder*, but also on additional integration indicators, using auxiliary data sources.

The municipalities within German states also play a significant role for integration policies, and the Hessian Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration openly supports the Hessian communities' efforts with integration. Additionally, some communities within Hessen have developed their own reporting system.[6]

1.4   Categorisation of Integration Approach

Integration is an extremely multifaceted process. The objective of integration monitoring is to break this complex process down into different components and to trace these components back to measurable quantities.

A distinction is made between the *structural component* (i.e. access to the core structures of a host society such as education, the labour market, and the housing and health care systems), the *social component* (including a person's social contacts, binational marriages and partnerships, and membership of associations), the *cultural component* (including proficiency in the host country's language, religious practices, and moral concepts) and, finally, the *identificatory* concept (i.e. a local, regional, national or bi-national sense of belonging).

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[3] Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration (ed.) (2009): Integration in Deutschland: Erster Integrationsindikatorenbericht. Erprobung des Indikatorensatzes und Bericht zum bundesweiten Integrationsmonitoring. Berlin.

[4] Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Migration, Flüchtlinge und Integration (ed.) (2011): Zweiter Integrationsindikatorenbericht. Berlin.

[5] Konferenz der für Integration zuständigen Ministerinnen und Minister/Senatorinnen und Senatoren der Länder (Hrsg.) (2011): Erster Bericht zum Integrationsmonitoring der Länder 2005 – 2009; Konferenz der für Integration zuständigen Ministerinnen und Minister/Senatorinnen und Senatoren der Länder (ed.) (2013): Zweiter Bericht zum Integrationsmonitoring der Länder 2005 – 2011; Konferenz der für Integration zuständigen Ministerinnen und Minister/Senatorinnen und Senatoren der Länder (ed.) (2015): Dritter Bericht zum Integrationsmonitoring der Länder 2011 – 2013.

The data is available for the public at http://www.integrationsmonitoring-laender.de/

[6] For example: Stadt Frankfurt am Main (2019): Frankfurter Integrations- und Diversitätsmonitoring. Hrsg. vom Magistrat der Stadt Frankfurt am Main. Amt für multikulturelle Angelegenheiten, Frankfurt am Main. Landeshauptstadt Wiesbaden (2020): Monitoring zur Integration von Migranten in Wiesbaden. Amt für Strategische Steuerung, Stadtforschung und Statistik, Wiesbaden.

However, some components have a stronger statistical base than others do. For example, the structural component is very reliable because the data available are quite good.

Social process	Component	Subject areas	Indicators (examples)
Integration	Structural	Access to education	School attendance classified by migration background
		Access to gainful occupation	Labour force participation rate by migration background
		Participation in gainful occupation	Unemployment rate by migration background
	Social	Living arrangements	Number of children with a migration background
		Health	Personal judgement on health by migration background
		Active citizenship	Membership of associations, etc.
		Delinquency	Proportion of convicts with an migrantion background
	Cultural	Language	Self-rated language proficiency rating of people with a migration background
	Identificatory	Sense of belonging	Feeling comfortable in Hessen

Figure 4: Components and subject areas of the integration process (examples)

An indicator consists of one or more statistical parameters, and indicators are selected based on their definitions and the corresponding subject areas (see figure 3). Ratios expressed in the form of quotas, i.e. a proportion of persons in a population, play a major role in this context.

1.5   Data Sources Used

The main data base for state-wide integration monitoring is the "Microcensus" which is conducted by the German Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the federal states *(Statistische Ämter des Bundes und der Länder)*. The Microcensus, conducted since 1957, is a representative, multi-purpose sample survey that questions 1 percent of the entire German population each year. This census contains statistical information on the structure of the population, the economic and social situations of families and households, work participation, occupational classifications, education and training of the working population, and the housing situation. Since 2005, it has been possible to break down these data about one's migrant background and the region of origin. The Microcensus provides a very good database; as participation in this survey is mandatory, the response rate is very high.

In addition, various other data sources have been found for the Hessian integration monitoring. All in all 32 data sources are being used; among them the

- Unemployment statistics *(Arbeitslosenstatistik)*
- Central register of foreigners *(Ausländerzentralregister)*
- Vocational training statistics *(Berufsbildungsstatistik)*
- Employment statistics established by the German Federal Employment Office *(Beschäftigtenstatistik der Bundesagentur für Arbeit)*
- Naturalization statistics *(Einbürgerungsstatistik)*
- Higher education statistics collected by the Federal Statistical Office (*Hochschulstatistik)*
- Child and youth welfare statistics prepared by the statistical offices of both the federal and state governments *(Kinder- und Jugendhilfestatistik)*
- Police crime statistics collected by the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation *(Polizeiliche Kriminalstatistik des Bundeskriminalamtes)* or the state offices of criminal investigation *(Landeskriminalämter)*
- School statistics provided by the Statistical Office of Hessen (*Schulstatistik des Hessischen Statistischen Landesamtes*)
- Criminal prosecution statistics *(Strafverfolgungsstatistik)*
- Immigration statistics (*Wanderungsstatistik*)
- Integration Barometer of the Expert Council on Integration and Migration (*Bund-Länder Integrationsbarometer*)[7]
- German Socio-Economic Panel Study (*SOEP*).

The last named data source is an annual survey, which was established at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW). The sample consists of several sub-samples and covers thousands of private households and people. This survey has been held in West Germany since 1984 and in Germany's new federal states[8] since 1990. In addition to a set of standard questions referring to subject areas such as household composition, career and family biographies, labor market participation and occupational mobility, income history, and health and satisfaction with life, the questionnaires also include areas of specific focuses, which change from year to year. In contrast to any other previous data source, the SOEP provides information not only on cultural, social and identificatory integration, but also on diversity in Hessen. However, due to the sample size, the results from the SOEP only allow for conclusions of trends for Hessen.

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[7] The Integration Barometer is a representative public survey of people with and without a migration background. It measures the integration climate in Germany and captures the population's perceptions and expectations with regard to integration and migration as well as integration and migration policy. In 2020, the Integration Barometer has been expanded into a Federal Government/Federal State Barometer, which enables analyses to be made at the federal state level too.

[8] formerly: German Democratic Republic

1.6 Migration Background

The main problem regarding the statistical analysis of integration is that many official data sources differentiate only by nationality, but these statistics do not satisfy the increasing demand for information about a diverse society. Furthermore, they do not document successful integration.

To remedy this flaw in the data, the concept of a "**migration background** or **migrant background**" was developed in 2005.[9] Thus, in Germany the discussion usually is not about "migrants" but on "people with a migration background". Generally, a person has a migration background if he, she or at least one parent did not acquire German citizenship by birth. The Microcensus uses this definition. It presents a problem that other data sources use divergent definitions of the "migration background":

For example, the child and youth welfare statistics collects data on migrant backgrounds with the question of whether a parent of a child in childcare is foreign born ("parents' immigration experience") and additionally about the "language mainly spoken at home" (German / not German). As defined by the school statistics, a migration background covers three features: nationality, common language mainly spoken at home, and country of birth. The immigration characteristics of the parents are irrelevant for this definition.

As a result, some indicators are still based on the nationality concept, while others use the migration background concept. For consistent reporting, this difference decreases the usefulness of analyses. Therefore, it would be more useful for statistical analyses if the immigrant background concept was uniformly defined and the basis for all statistics relevant to integration.

The varying definitions should be kept in mind when interpreting the data used in this brochure.

It should be underlined that the term "migration background" has been increasingly subject to critique. While the *Länder* lately have agreed on the term "migration history", Hessen will stick to the "migration background" in statistical studies.

Possible changes in the concept of "migration background" or "migration history" are still being discussed.

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[9] The terms „migration background", „migrant background" and „immigrant background" are being used synonymously in this report.

2 SELECTED INDICATORS

2.1 Preliminary Remarks

The 2022 Integration Report for Hessen contains approx. 120 indicators. For this concise version, 27 indicators were selected.

To see all indicators, please refer to the unabridged edition in German. The German version describes the indicators in more detail. Furthermore, extensive bibliographical references support these explanations.

Also note that the indicators have different levels of significance due to the varying data they are based on (see also chapter 2.4).

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2.2 Selected Indicators on Immigration

Z1 Immigration and emigration

Definition	Data Source
Number of foreigners that enter and leave Hessen each year	Immigration Statistics
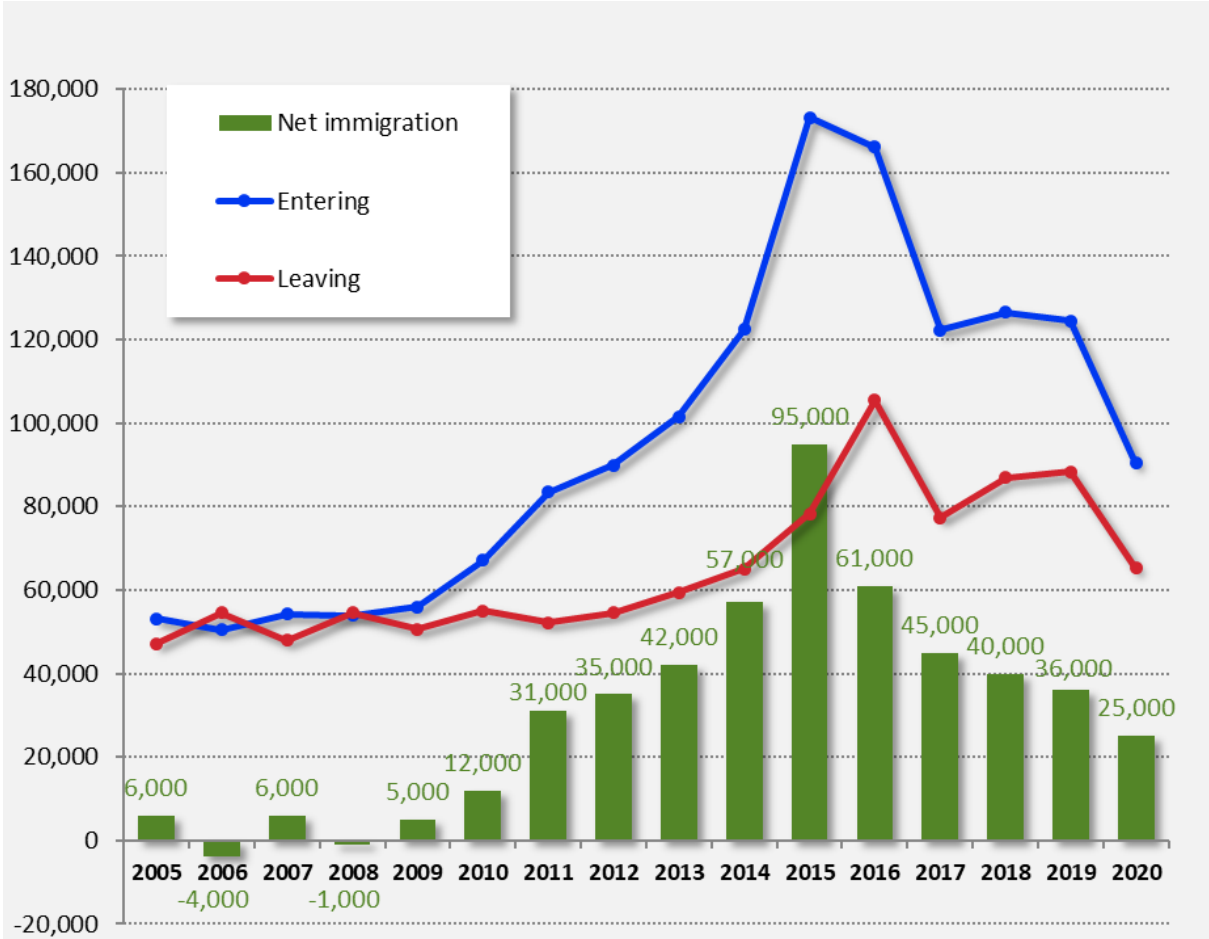
Today, Hessen faces challenges such as an ageing population and a declining birth rate. Immigration helps to address these issues by contributing to the population and labour force maintenance.
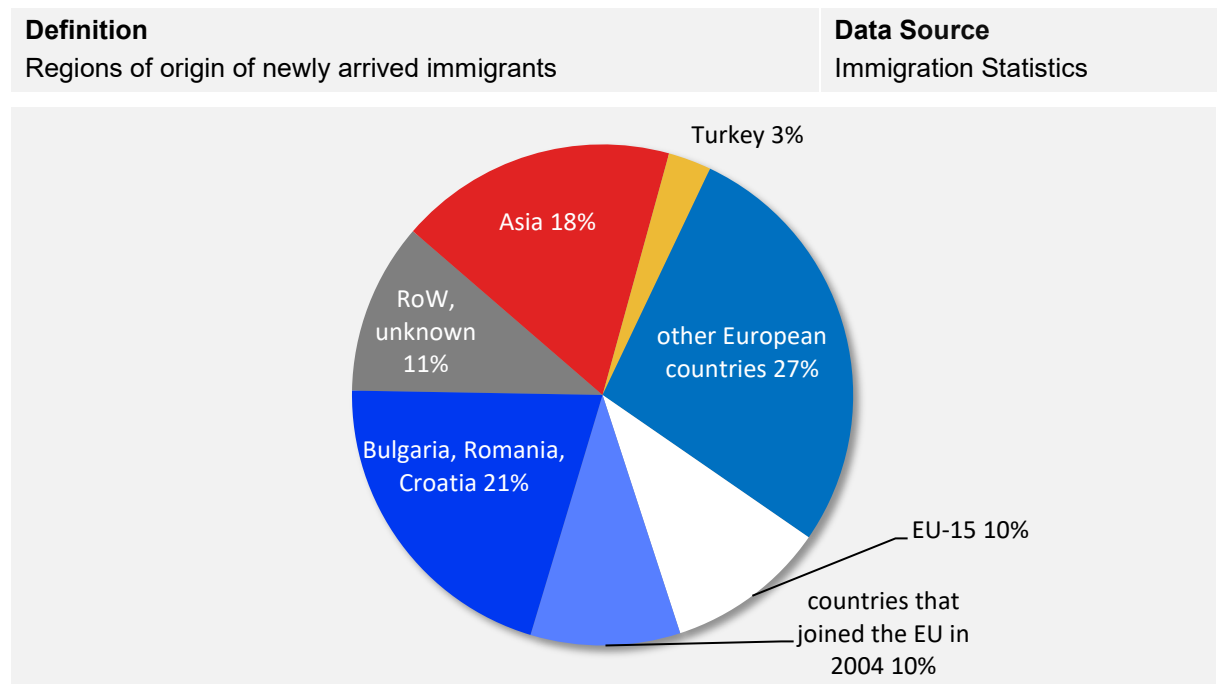
The graph shows that the number of foreigners who immigrate to Hessen from abroad has significantly increased in this millennium (from approx. 53,000 in 2005 to more than 170,000 in 2015). It can be seen, however, that the number of those who leave Hessen each year has grown, too, but is considerably lower than the number of immigrants.

In 2009, net immigration started to increase with a peak in 2015 due to a strong influx of refugees. Since then, the net immigration rate has been falling.[10] However, overall migration remains high compared to former years. In 2020, immigration fell because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2022 the influx of foreigners is expected to rise massively due to the war in Ukraine.

On average, immigrants are younger than the total population (see A1) but less educated.

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[10] The numbers here do not include immigration across the borders of Hessen into other federal states.

## Z2 Regions of origin of newly arrived migrants

Definition	Data Source
Regions of origin of newly arrived immigrants	Immigration Statistics

Turkey 3%

Asia 18%

RoW, unknown 11%

other European countries 27%

Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia 21%

EU-15 10%

countries that joined the EU in 2004 10%

The change in the immigrants' countries of origin is noteworthy: Prior to the 1970s, most immigrants came for occupational reasons from Southern Europe and Turkey. In the 1980s and 1990s many so-called *"Spätaussiedler"* arrived to Hessen – ethnic German resettlers from East European states (mostly Poland) and the former Soviet Union. In the recent decade, EU internal migration was of particular significance, especially from Eastern European countries.

In 2020, too, most immigrants arrived in the context of EU internal migration, in particular from Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia (21 percent), from the EU-accession countries 2004 (e.g. Poland, the Baltic countries; 10 percent) and from the EU-15 countries (10 percent).

18 percent were from Asia (including refugees from Iran, Syria and Iraq) and 3 percent from Turkey – which in former decades had been one of the immigrants' main countries of origin.

As it is seen from the diagram, most migrants are from Europe (see blue and white segments).

Z6 Reasons for immigration

| Definition		Data Source
Motives for immigration to Germany		Microcensus
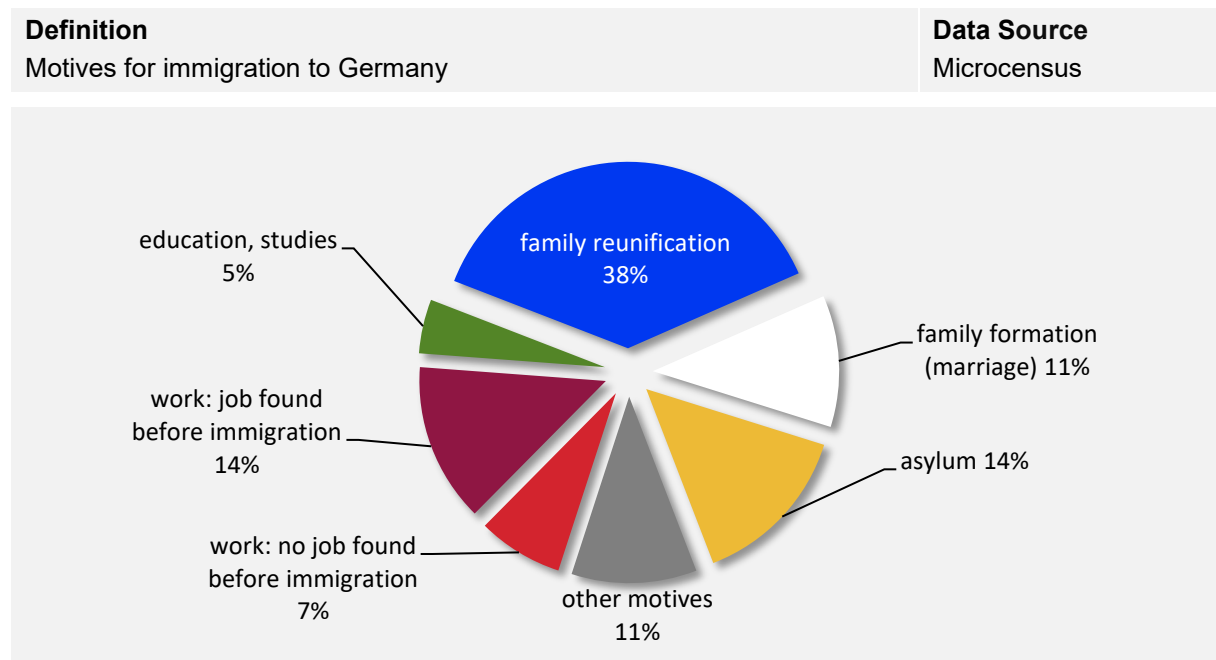
Today, Germany is the second most popular migration destination in the world (OECD-countries) – after the United States. The huge numbers of asylum seekers might indicate that most migrants come to Germany to apply for asylum. However, immigrants are motivated to leave their home countries for a variety of reasons. The Microcensus supplies data on reasons for immigration in Germany, regardless of the year of immigration.

For Hessen it can be shown that the majority arrived to join family members already present here (38 percent); about 11 percent came to start a family. 21 percent immigrated for work reasons; two thirds of them had found a job before arrival. 14 percent sought asylum, 5 percent came for education or studies and 11 percent indicated other motives.

Thus, in the past, the main reason for immigrating in Germany was family reunification, and it still is today.

2.3 Selected Indicators on Population

A1 Population of Hessen

Definition	Data Source
Population by migration background and age	Microcensus
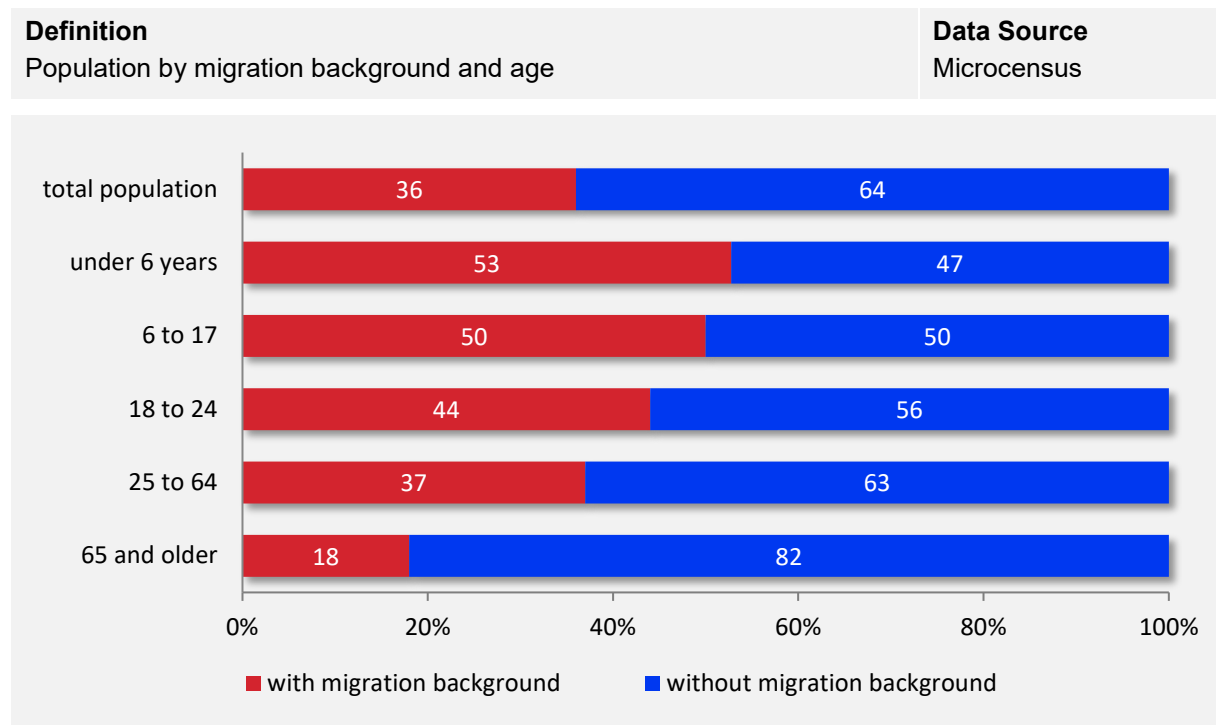
Roughly, 6.2 million people live in Hessen. Over this time, the demographic structure has changed: The percentage of people with no migration background has slightly decreased, while the share of people with a migration background has increased (to nearly 36 percent in 2021).

About one-third of all people with an immigrant background in Hessen were born in Germany (second generation); the other two-thirds immigrated themselves (first generation).

As the figure shows, the population with a migration background is, on average, younger than the population without this background. In the age group 65 and older, only 18 percent have an immigrant background. In contrast, children and teenagers with a migration background re-present about half of their age group.

Overall, it can be expected that the share of people with an immigrant background will increase in the future – due to immigration, age and different reproductive behavior.

A2 Population of Hessen by migration status

Definition	Data Source
Population by migration status (nationality and country of birth)	Microcensus
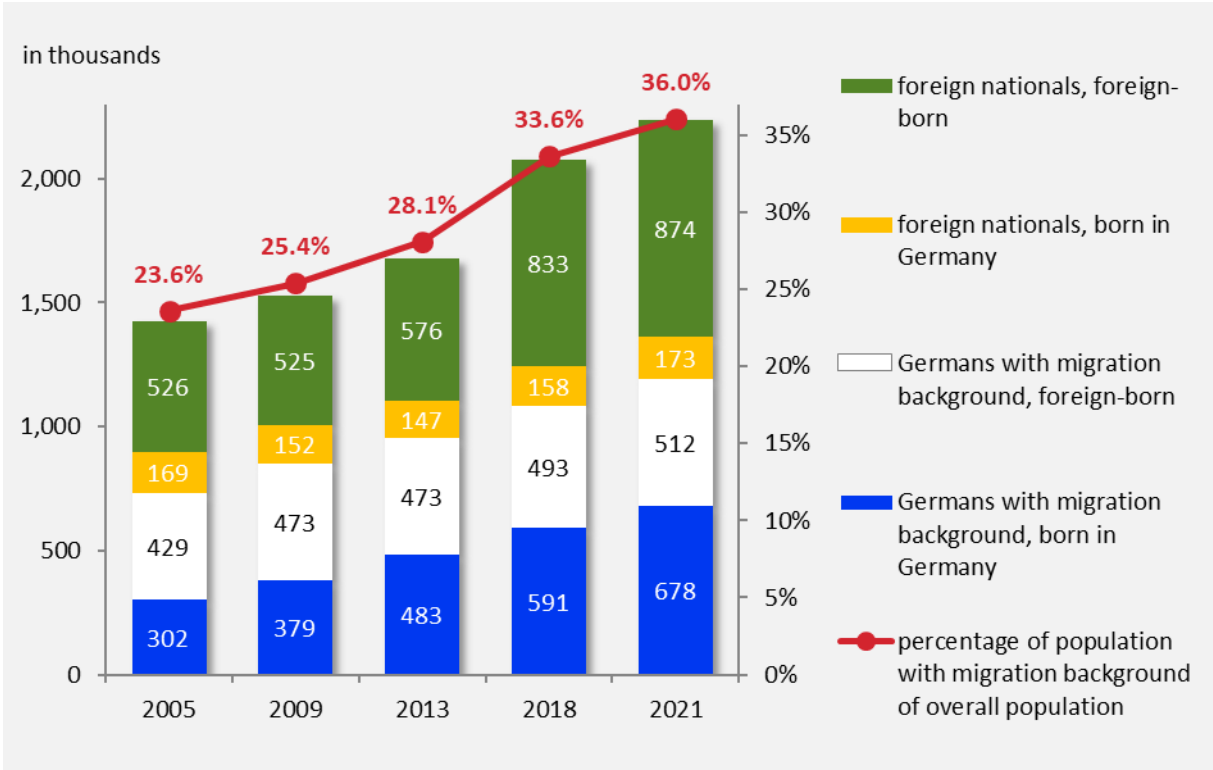
The population with a migration background is very diverse. This suggests a closer look on the composition of the migrant population as a whole.

In this figure, a distincton is made between Germans and foreign nationals and the countries of birth (German-born vs. foreign-born). Thus, four groups of people with a migration background can be identified.

The green segments of the columns in the diagram show a huge influx of foreigners after 2009 who were born abroad (39 percent). The white segments represent a large number of German immigrants (23 percent): This group includes mainly *"Spätaussiedler"* – ethnic German resettlers from East European states (mostly Poland and the former Soviet Union). The third major group comprises Germans with a migration background who were born in Germany by migrant parents (blue segments, 30 percent). This is an important and rapidly growing sub-group, the so-called "second generation". Roughly 8 percent are foreign nationals, born in Germany.

The citizenship reform in the year 2000 introduced the birthright citizenship for children born in Germany to parents of non-German citizenship. Thus, today German citizenship is acquired automatically by virtue of a child`s birth within Germany, and consequently the number of foreign nationals born in Germany became small.
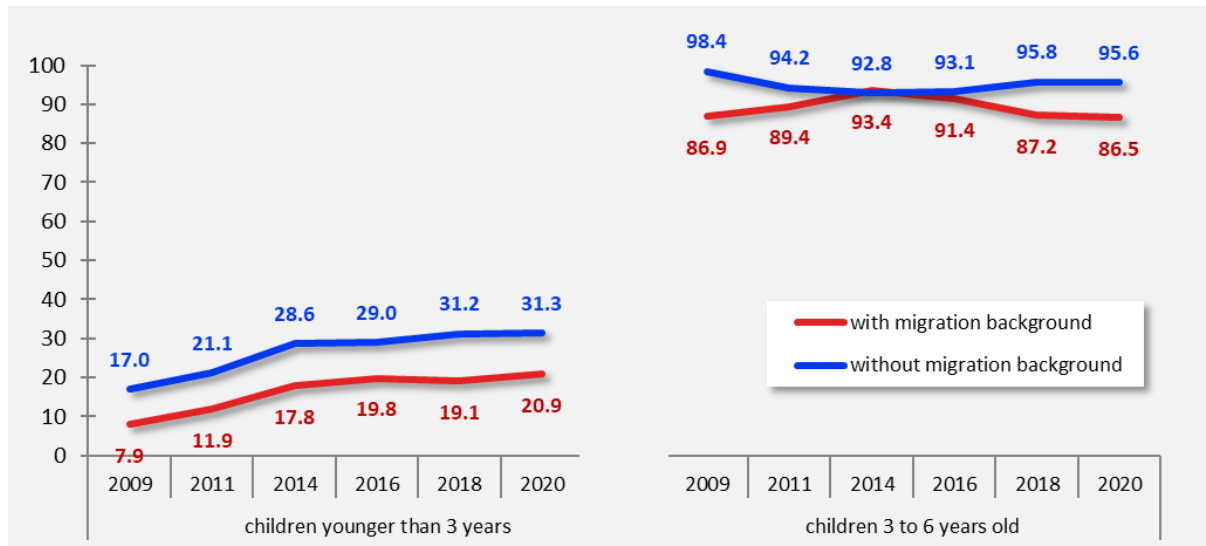
2.4 Selected Indicators on Immigrant Integration

B1 Early childhood education – children attending day-care centres

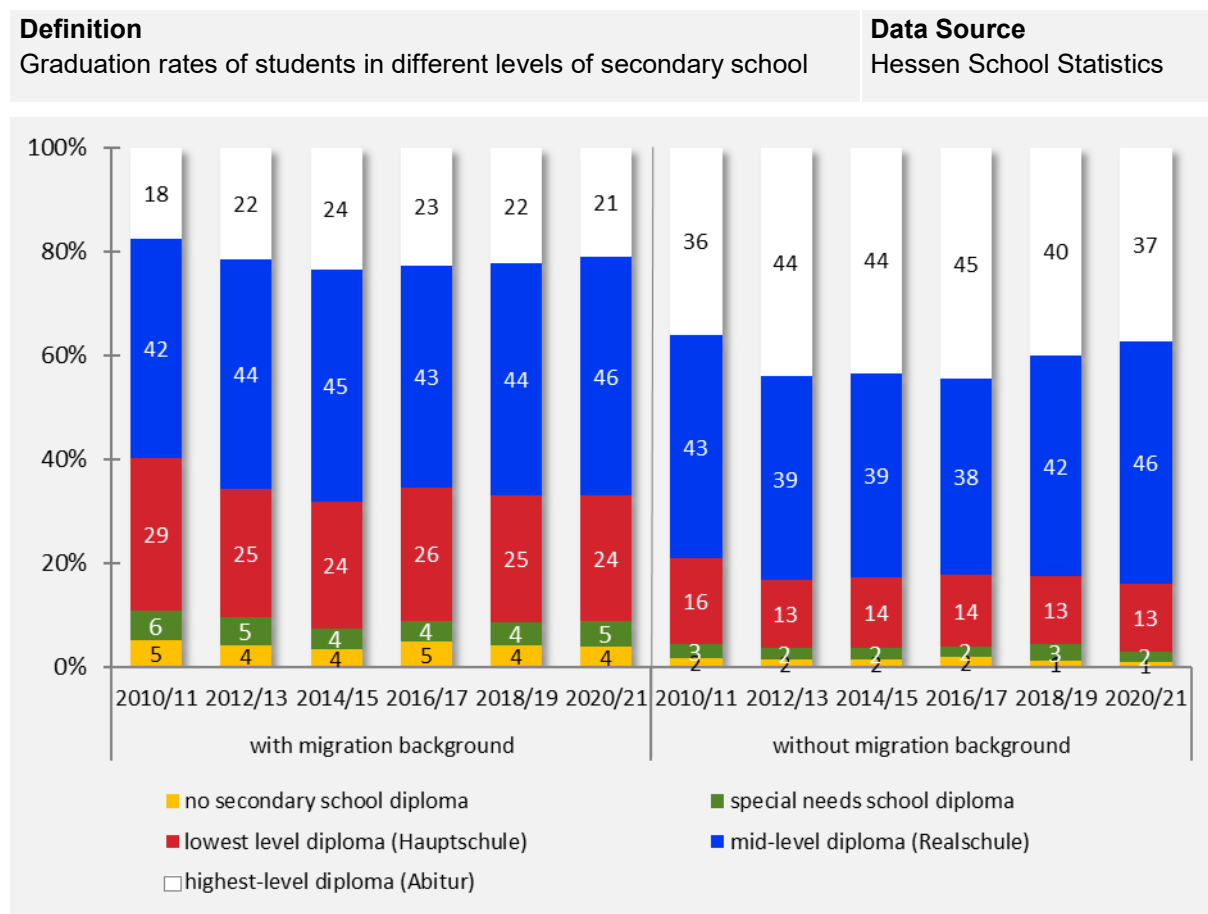| Definition	Data Source
Percentage of children from a migration background (in different age brackets) attending daycare centres	German Federal Statistical Office, special analysis

Relevant studies show that early childhood development is crucial for later educational achievement, and childcare centres complement the education a child receives at home. The "institutional education time" in daycare can help children from underprivileged families and/or with inadequate language skills to do better. Particularly, the development of language skills at a young age plays a key role in an immigrant's integration in school and in further education.

In Hessen, the use of daycare centres has risen during recent years and continues to grow. In 2020, 96 percent of children ages 3 to 6 without and 87 percent of children with an immigrant background attend daycare. Thus, the gap between children of this age group with and without a migration background that had narrowed has started to grow again. The reasons are not understood completely.

However, a larger difference exists between children under the age of three: Only 21 percent from an immigrant background attend daycare, while 31 percent out of those without a foreign background do so. One reason might be that mothers with a migration background are less frequently employed than other mothers and care for the children themselves.

It must be kept in mind that 35 percent of the children in daycare centres come from a family that does not speak German at home. These children often tend to concentrate in certain kindergartens, so many have to interact with children of their own linguistic background. This probably has a negative impact on learning the German language.

B6 Graduation rate

Definition	Data Source
Graduation rates of students in different levels of secondary school	Hessen School Statistics

This indicator measures the type of diploma students achieve at the end of their secondary school career[11]. The type of diploma students receive has a significant influence on their further education and their future chances in the labour market.

The indicator shows that those from an immigrant background are more likely to have no diploma (4 percent vs. 1 percent) or the lowest level secondary school diploma (*Hauptschulabschluss*) (24 percent vs. 13 percent). This statistic is especially true for male students. The educational difference is small, however, between the mid-level high school diploma (*Realschulabschluss*) (both 46 percent). Yet, at the highest level of educational attainment in high school (Abitur), the difference between the two groups hovers around 16 percentage points.

Between 2005 and 2015, there has been a slight trend towards the attainment of higher education degrees both by students with and without a migration background that was stopped or even reversed in the following years. Regardless, the number of students from an immigration background who complete the highest-level of education (*Abitur*) is still much lower than of students without this background. The existing literature highlights the following reasons: the on average lower educational background of migrant parents, the sometimes weak language skills of migrant students as well as several sorts of discrimination (e.g. low esteem of migrants`

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[11] Children generally start school at the age of six. Around ten, the children move on to secondary schools. For secondary schools, the German educational system splits into three different levels: the *Gymnasium*, the *Realschule*, and the *Hauptschule*. After graduating from a *Hauptschule* or *Realschule*, students move on to vocational training (*Duale Ausbildung* and *Berufsschule*). After graduating from a *Gymnasium*, students take the *Abitur*. While the *Abitur* is the prerequisite for admission to a university, a course at a university of applied sciences (*Fachhochschulreife*) can be started a year before the completion of the *Abitur*.

native cultures). Additionally, when immigrant students are concentrated in classes they do worse in school than students who attend schools where there are no immigrant students.

The importance of a good command of German cannot be overstated. The German language is often only learned in the educational system – and here under sometimes difficult conditions. Therefore, years ago the Hessen government established so-called "intensive classes" that offer special teaching in German for newcomers. Usually, they soon can take part in normal classes.

B16 Highest vocational degree

Definition	Data Source
Proportion of people (ages 15 to 65) with and without migration background who hold a vocational or tertiary degree	Microcensus
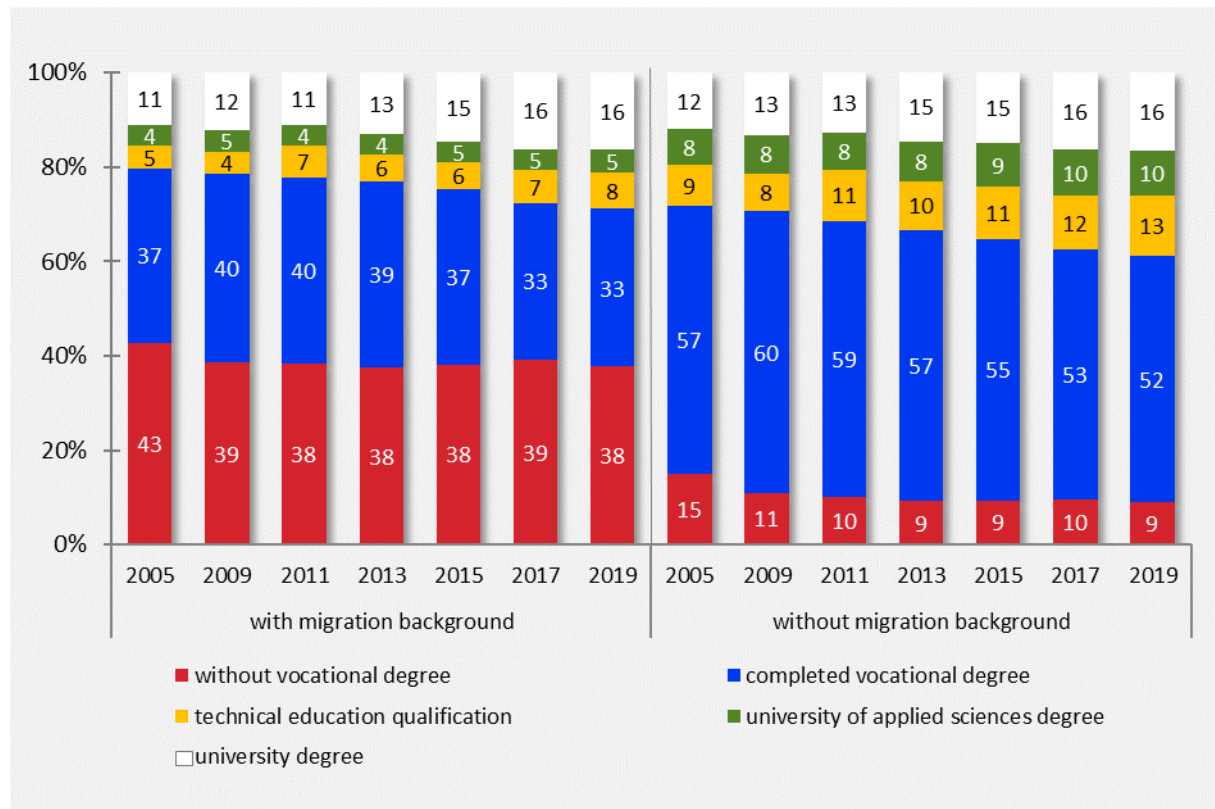
Skills affect access to the labour market, job chances, professional status, income, and thus participation in society. In Germany, a completed vocational training or apprenticeship (*Berufs-ausbildung*) is a significant requirement for starting a career and preventing unemployment.

The indicator shows that the population of working age with a migration background has attained a significantly lower level of education than people without a migration background. Many received only a low level of schooling and have not completed professional qualifications (38 percent vs. 9 percent of people without a migration background). One of the reasons is the recruitment of low-qualified migrant workers in the 1950s and 1960s and the subsequent arrival of family members to join them.

However, the proportion of those holding a university degree is similar in both groups (16 percent). Since 2005, the share of low-skilled people decreased while the share of university graduates rose.
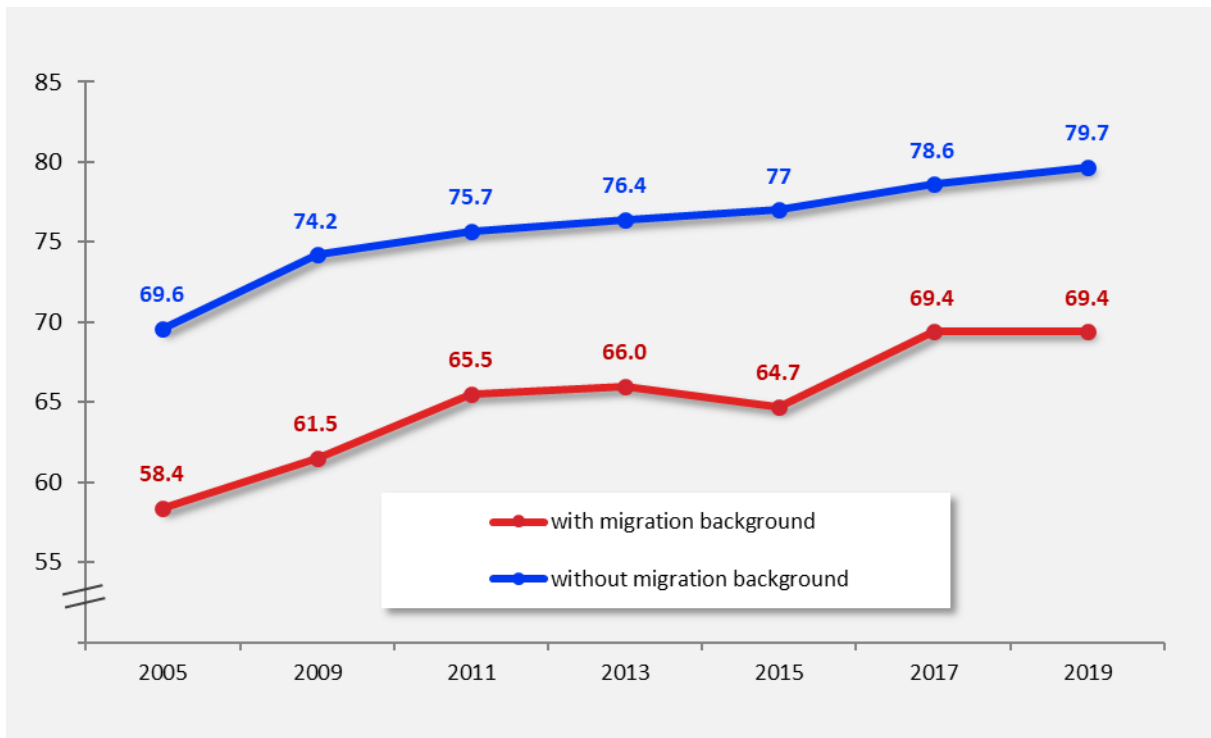
C2 Gainful occupation rate

| Definition	Data Source
Proportion of gainfully employed people (ages 15 to 65) with and without a migration background (percent)	Microcensus

Participation in working life is considered an important factor in the social integration of migrants. The employment rate describes the percentage of the entire labour force that is gainfully employed and provides important information on integration in the labour market. In Germany, the definition of "working-age" means people between 15 and 65 of age.

The employment rate of people with an immigrant background is lower than that of people without that background; for both groups, women have a lower employment rate than men. This is partially because immigrants have on average a lower qualification level (or German authorities do not formally recognize their qualifications).

Between 2005 and 2019, the employment rate increased as a whole. The employment rate for people without a migration background increased from 70 percent to 80 percent, and the employment rate for people from an immigrant background increased from 58 percent to 70 percent. Since 2009, the difference in employment rate between people with and without a migration background has decreased, but an "employment gap" of roughly 10 percent still exists. The difference in employment rates underlines the fact that people with an immigrant background are disproportionally unemployed. Moreover, the difference in employment rates between women with and without an immigrant background is high (63 percent to 76 percent).

C7 In-work poverty

Definition	Data Source
Share of persons in employment with an equalised income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold	Microcensus
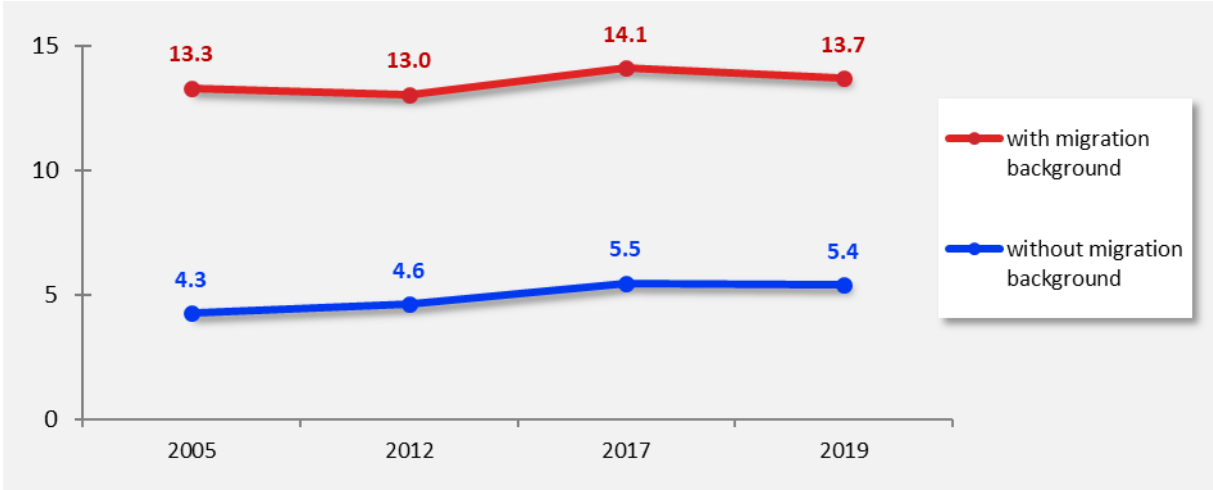
Much of the current problem of poverty (see indicator C17) has resulted from in-work poverty: People have jobs, but at low wages.

Since 2005, the figures have remained fairly constant; the timeline shows that in-work poverty remains a problem. In 2019, the share of the working poor was 8 percent, for employees without a migrant background about 5 percent and for those with a migrant background nearly 14 percent.

Figures for the whole of Germany indicate that the share of working poor migrants decreases with the length of stay.
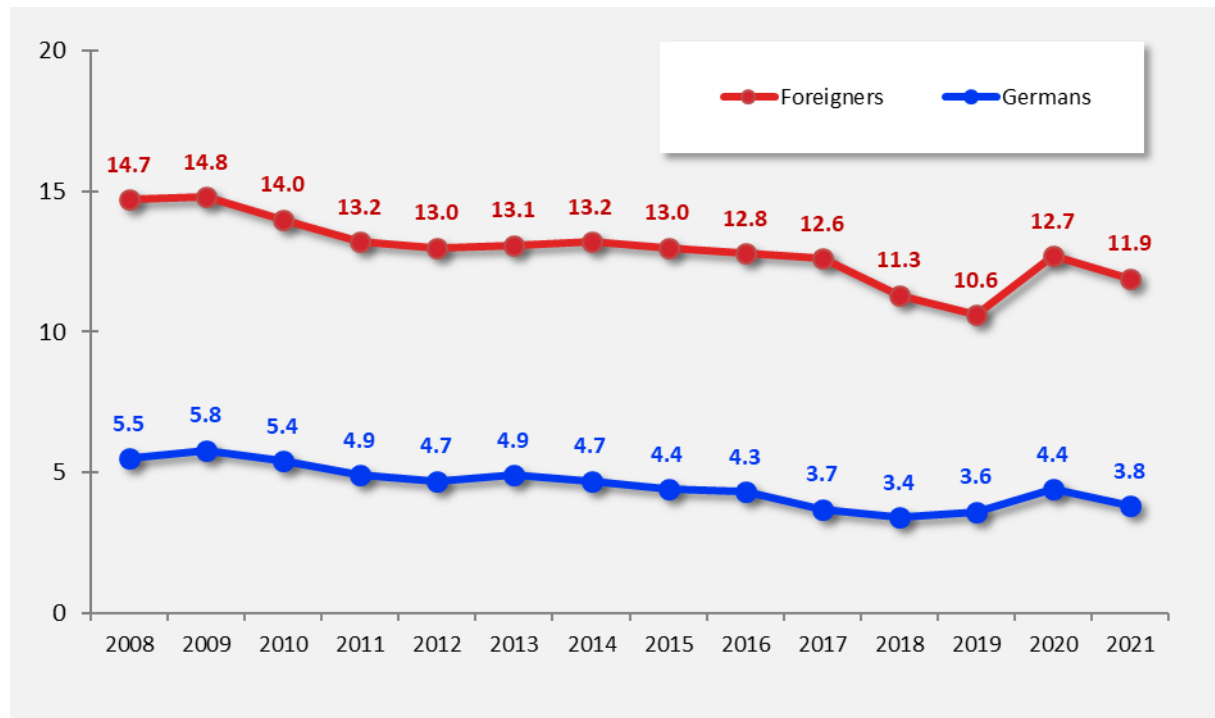
C13 Unemployment rate

Definition	Data Source
Unemployment rate of the total labour force	Unemployment Statistics

According to § 16 SGB III (*Sozialgesetzbuch* – Social Security Code), a person is legally registered as unemployed if the person (1) is not employed for more than 15 hours/week, (2) is seeking employment and is considered to take a job offer from the Employment Agency, and (3) registers him- or herself as unemployed at an Employment Agency[12].

Data is only available for Germans and foreigners.

The unemployment rate for foreigners remains higher in Hessen than the total unemployment rate for Germans (as is the case throughout Germany). A key reason behind these data is the fact that foreigners are less qualified on the average. However, a positive trend was noticed between 2008 and 2019 for both foreigners and German citizens. The unemployment rate for foreigners dropped from 14.7 percent to 10.6 percent, and the unemployment rate for German citizens decreased from 5.5 percent to 3.6 percent.

The downward trend was stopped when Covid-19 came up. The unemployment rate for foreigners rose to 12.7 percent, the rate for Germans to 4.4 percent and fell again in 2021.

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[12] https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Labour/Labour-Market/Employment/_node.html

C15 Predominant source of income

Definition Predominant source of income by migration background	**Data Source** Microcensus
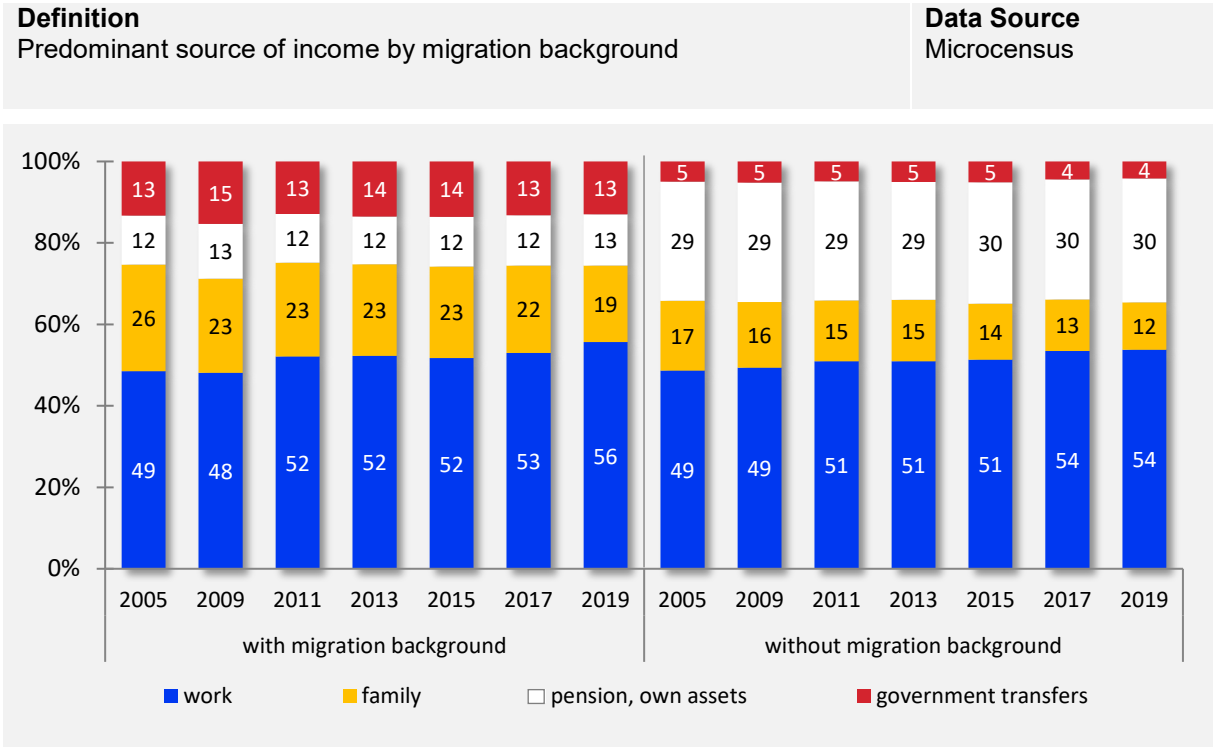
The level of a household`s income is closely associated with its source of income. For more than half of both migrant and non-migrant households their salary is the predominant source of income (56 percent vs. 54 percent).

It is evident that households without members in employment are more dependent on public transfers. Due to the higher unemployment rate of migrants (resp. the lower gainful occupation rate, see the previous indicators C2 and C13) the share of those whose predominant source of income is public transfers is higher within this group (13 percent vs. 4 percent) while the percentage of those who depend mainly upon pensions (or own assets) is higher within the households without immigrant backgrounds (30 percent vs. 13 percent).

It is worth noting that migrant households rely more often on family support than non-migrant households (19 percent vs. 12 percent).
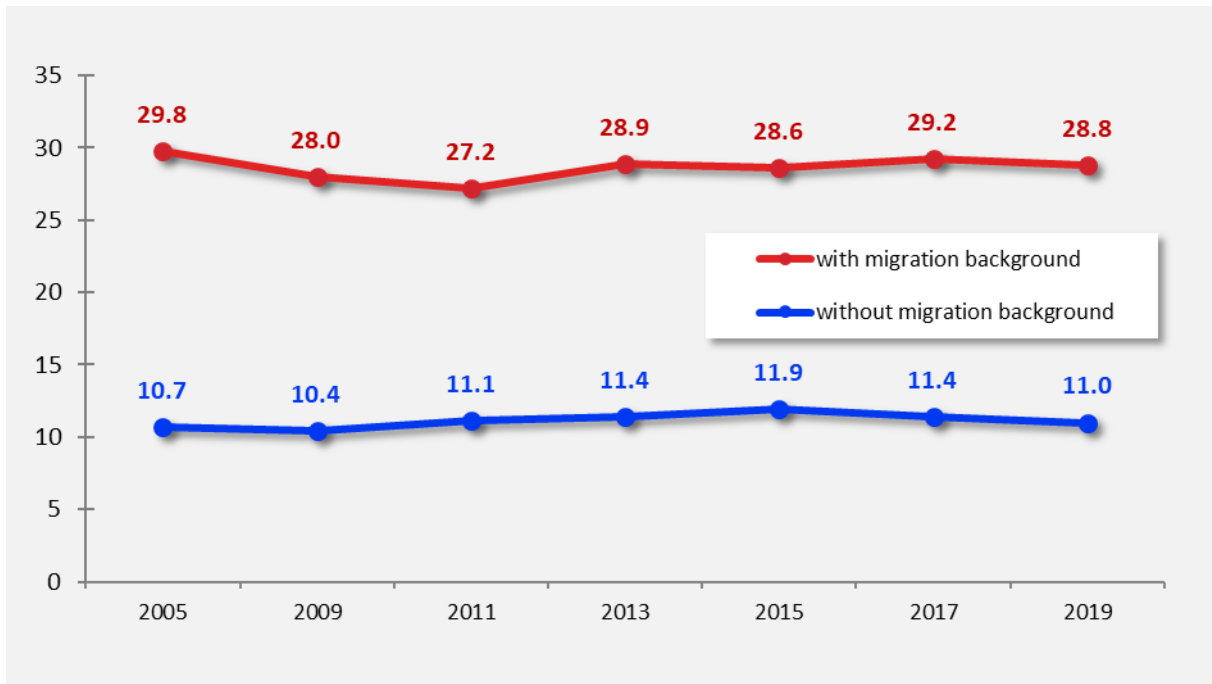
C17 At-risk-of-poverty rate

Definition	Data Source
Share of people whose equivalised disposable income is less than 60 percent of the population's median[13]	Microcensus

Poverty affects different areas of life. This indicator depicts the at-risk-of-poverty rate, which is defined as living on less than 60 percent of the median income of the Hessian population. Thus, the risk of poverty measured here is a statistical indicator that measures the inequality of income and is always interpreted in relation to total income (meaning one cannot directly compare this indicator to other regions or states).

People with a migration background have a significantly higher risk of poverty than those without this characteristic (29 percent to 11 percent).

People with an immigrant background who hold the German nationality have a much lower risk of poverty than foreigners do. In all population groups, women are more frequently at risk of poverty than men. In addition, the poverty rate of children and young adults with a migration background is significantly higher than the rate of children and young adults without that background. This mismatch applies also to the age group above 65.

This data might have changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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[13] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Glossary:At-risk-of-poverty_rate
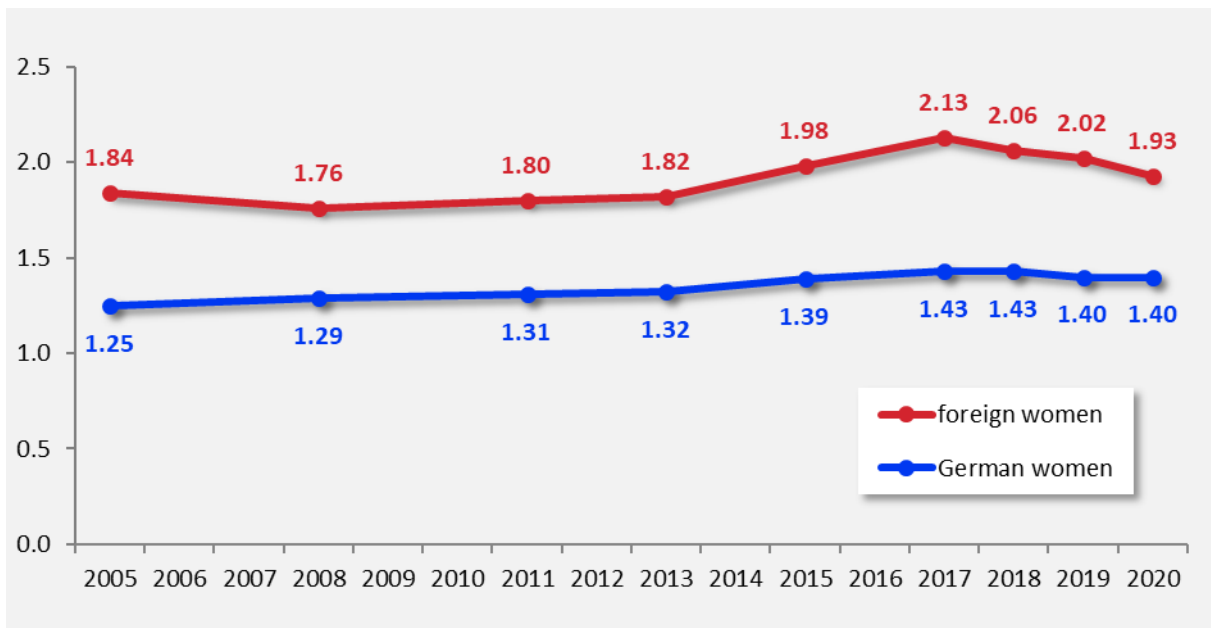
D1 Number of children per woman

Definition	Data Source
Number of children per woman (ages 15 - 45), by nationality	Statistical Office of Hessen

For years, the average number of children per woman in Germany had decreased. Today, women are, on average, older when they give birth to their first child. The reasons discussed in social studies include better education of women, increased employment, the desire for more financial independence, and the increased monetary and non-monetary costs of children.

The data for Hessen shows that non-German women give birth to more children than German women do (1.93 vs. 1.40 in 2020).

Compared to women without an immigrant background, immigrant women are younger at the birth of their first child and have more children. This might be one of the reasons why they are less often employed (see indicator C2). It is also evident that the average birth rate of foreign women has slightly increased since 2005.

Thus, there does not seem to be any evidence to assume that migrant women adapt their family planning and fertility level to that of German women. Unfortunately, there is no data available to analyse the number of children by different migration backgrounds.
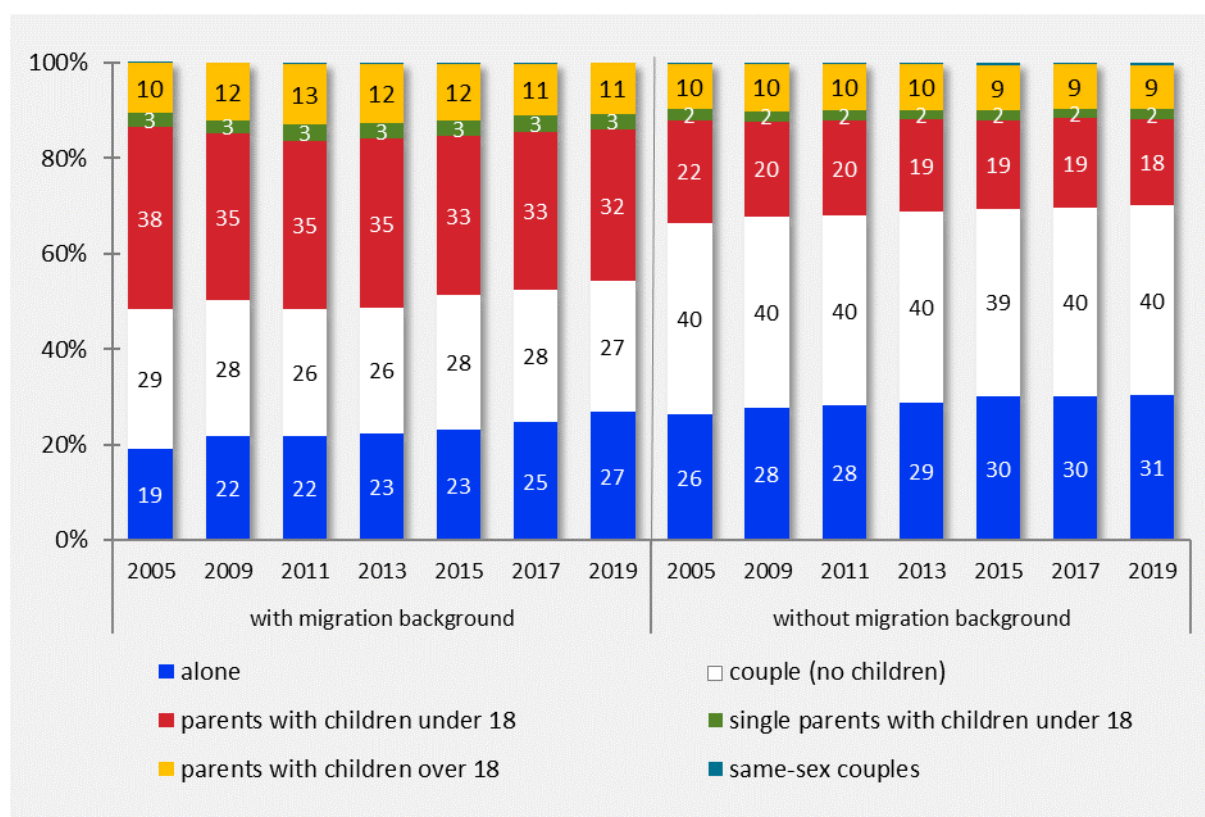
D2 Living arrangements in private households

Definition	Data Source
Living arrangements in private households	Microcensus

Legend:
- ■ alone
- □ couple (no children)
- ■ parents with children under 18
- ■ single parents with children under 18
- ■ parents with children over 18
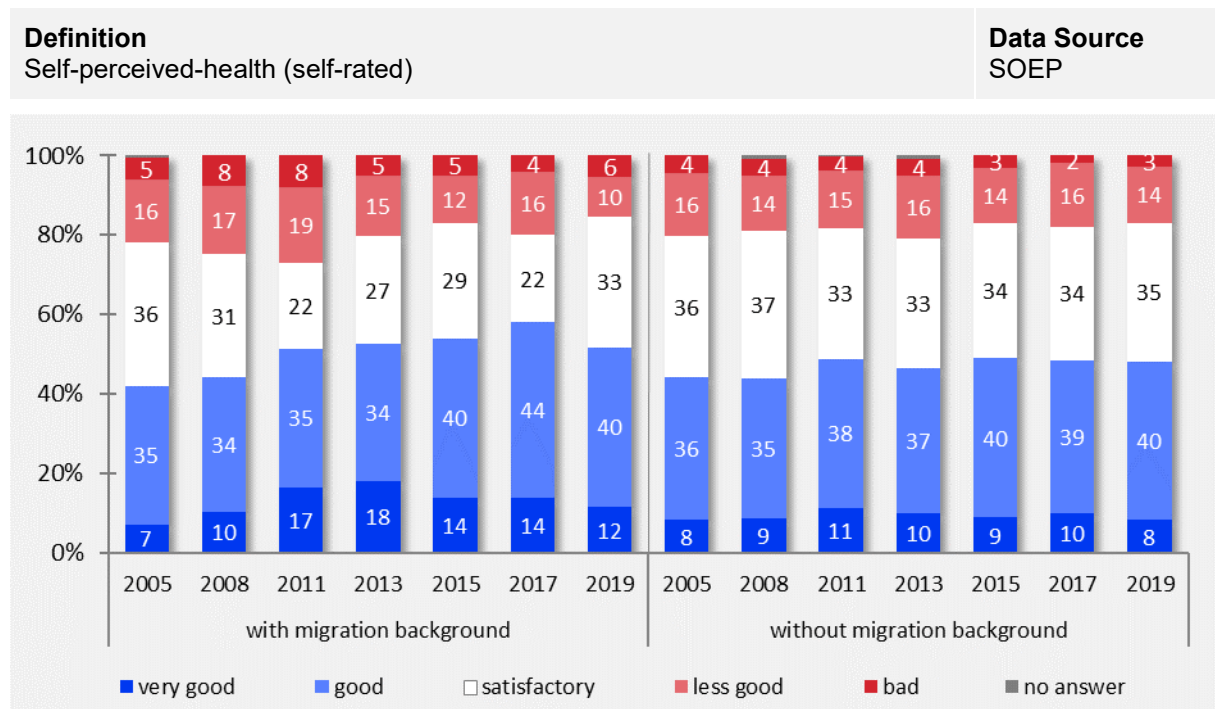- ■ same-sex couples

Despite a declining household size, living with others is the most frequent form of lifestyle in Hessen[14]. People from a migration background often live in a family with children (46 percent) compared to people without that background (29 percent). Adults without an immigrant background live more often together as couples without children (40 percent to 27 percent) or alone (31 percent to 27 percent). Only 2 to 3 percent of the population live as a single parent. Same-sex partnerships were not recorded due to the small number of cases found in the population with a migration background.

During this reporting period, it was observed that the living arrangements for the entire population are slowly changing, with a trend towards a declining percentage of families and an increasing proportion of single-person households.

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[14] In Hessen, the average household size has decreased from 3.0 in 1950 to 2.31 in 2019. The number of households in this period has risen from 1.4 million to 2.9 million (Statistical Office of Hessen). This change may have occurred because of lower birth rates, increased life expectancy, increase in partnerships with separate financial management, and high professional mobility among the younger and middle-aged population (see https://statistik.hessen.de/zahlen-fakten/bevoelkerung-gebiet-haushalte-familien/haushalte-familien/tabellen).

D10 Health

Definition	Data Source
Self-perceived-health (self-rated)	SOEP

Health is an important factor of wellbeing. Unfortunately, few data is available on the health situation of immigrants in Hessen. Therefore, this indicator is based on a subjective self-assessment of health, which is ascertained with the question: "How would you describe your current health condition?". The WHO recommends this approach, and it is also used in other integration reports.

The figure displays the shares of respondents in each of the five answer categories (very good to bad) on self-perceived health by migration background. In 2019, 12 percent of migrants feel that they enjoy a very good health condition compared to 8 percent of non-migrants. Forty percent regard themselves as in good health (vs. 40 percent). Forty-three percent consider their health status as satisfactory (vs. 35 percent). The share of respondents reporting less good and bad health is 16 resp. 17 percent.

The time comparison indicates that the proportion of migrants who perceive their health as good has increased significantly and has overtaken that of people without a migration background, so in 2019 people from a migration background were a little more content with their health than those without a migration background. This might be partially explained by the fact that they are younger on average.
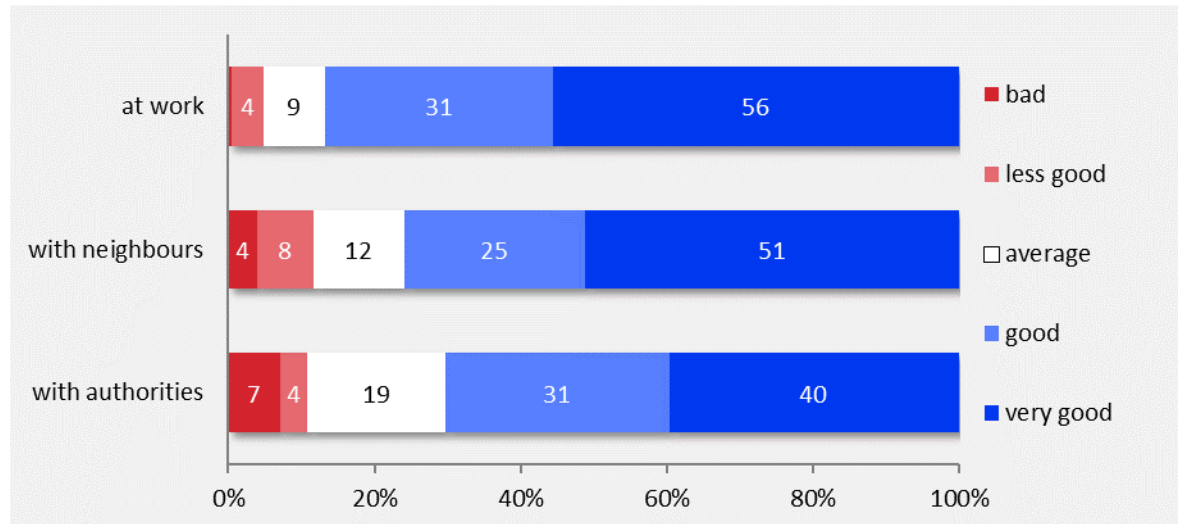
E3 German language skills

Definition	Data Source
German language skills and the ability to manage different situations (self-assessment)	Integration Barometer of the Expert Council on Integration and Migration

Mastering the German language is not only a prerequisite for a successful acquisition of education and an easier integration into working life, but it also allows for social acceptance and recognition.

This new indicator reflects the communication skills in German language of people with a migration background. It is based on a self-assessment questionnaire and analyses different situations: at work, with the neighbours and in dealing with authorities. The ordered five response categories are very good to bad.

At work, 87 percent of the population with a migration background are able to communicate well or very well with colleagues. Seventy-six percent can communicate very well or well **with neighbours**; 71 percent say that they are able to communicate very well or well **with German authorities**.

Thus, respondents say most often that they have difficulties in communication with the authorities. This could be due to the use of formal language in public authorities.
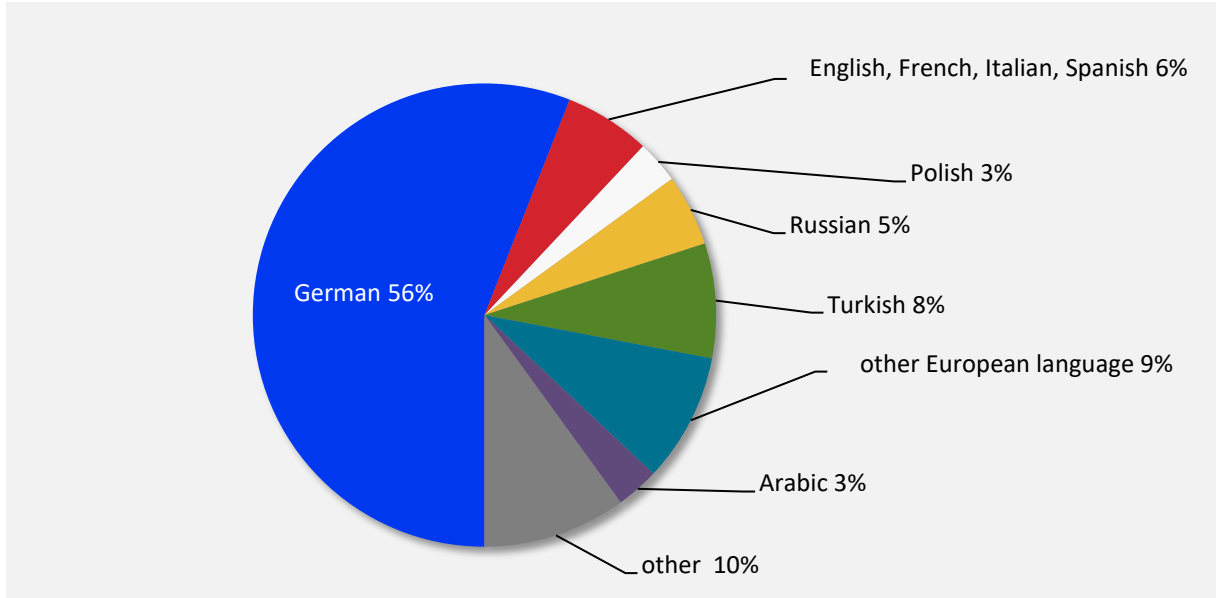
E4 Use of German language at home

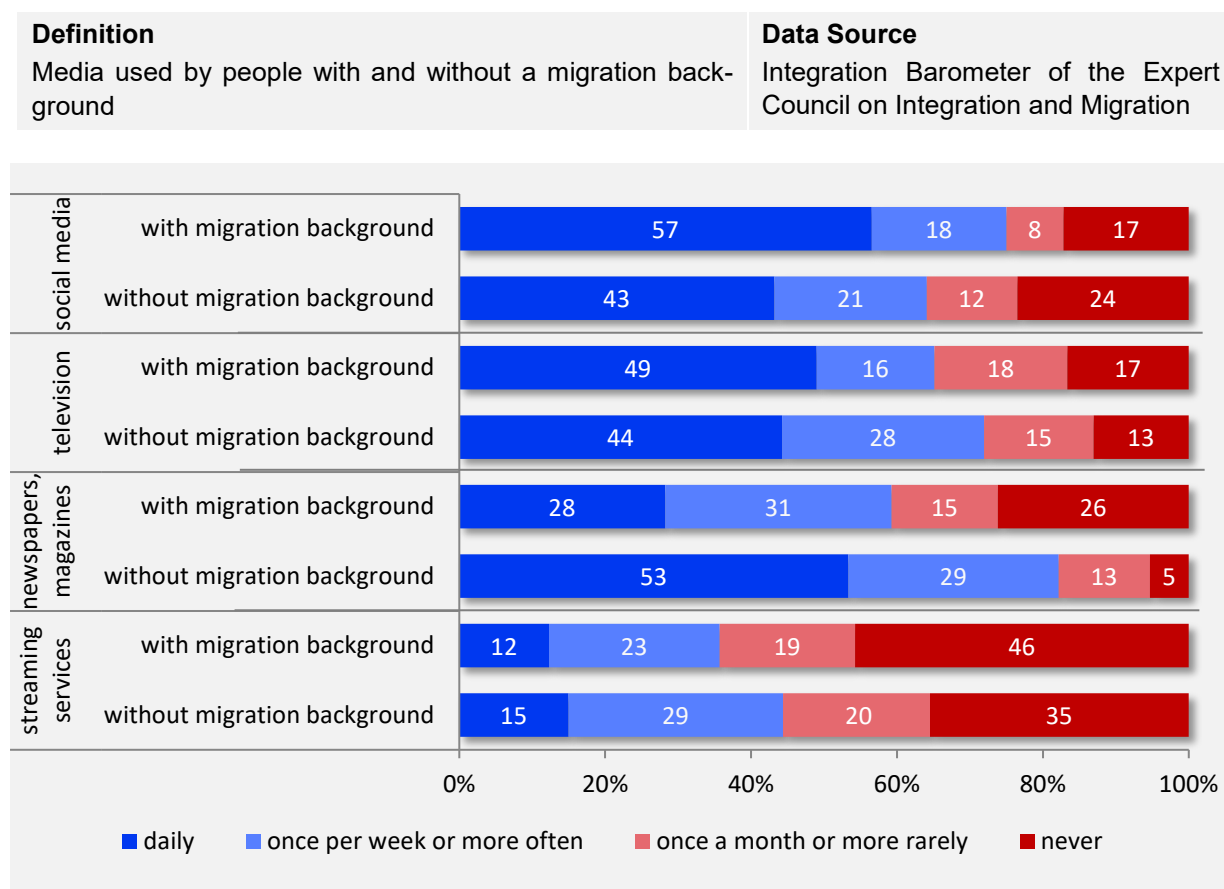| Definition	Data Source
Predominant use of German in private households by people with a migration background	Integration Barometer of the Expert Council on Integration and Migration

The use of the German language is an important element in the integration process of immigrants and their children. However, at home we use the language we feel most comfortable with; in many families, languages are mixed. Sometimes the language changes depending on the topic. So this indicator rather hints at diversity than at integration.

The indicator shows that more than half of those from a migration background mainly (56 percent) speak German at home, 23 percent primarily speak another European language such as English, Spanish, Polish or Russian. Eight percent mostly use the Turkish language and 3 percent use Arabic, 10 percent another language.

In summary, migrant families German often sepak German. The numbers say nothing about the language level.

E6 Media use

Definition	Data Source
Media used by people with and without a migration background	Integration Barometer of the Expert Council on Integration and Migration

Chart legend: ■ daily ■ once per week or more often ■ once a month or more rarely ■ never

social media
- with migration background: daily 57, once per week or more often 18, once a month or more rarely 8, never 17
- without migration background: daily 43, once per week or more often 21, once a month or more rarely 12, never 24

television
- with migration background: daily 49, once per week or more often 16, once a month or more rarely 18, never 17
- without migration background: daily 44, once per week or more often 28, once a month or more rarely 15, never 13

newspapers, magazines
- with migration background: daily 28, once per week or more often 31, once a month or more rarely 15, never 26
- without migration background: daily 53, once per week or more often 29, once a month or more rarely 13, never 5

streaming services
- with migration background: daily 12, once per week or more often 23, once a month or more rarely 19, never 46
- without migration background: daily 15, once per week or more often 29, once a month or more rarely 20, never 35

This new indicator is based on a self-assessment. In a representative survey in Hessen, the interviewees indicated how often they use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Youtube), newspapers and magazines (also online), streaming services (e.g. Netflix, Amazon Prime) and television (also via internet or smartphone). The response alternatives were "daily", "once per week or more often", "once a month or more rarely", and "never".
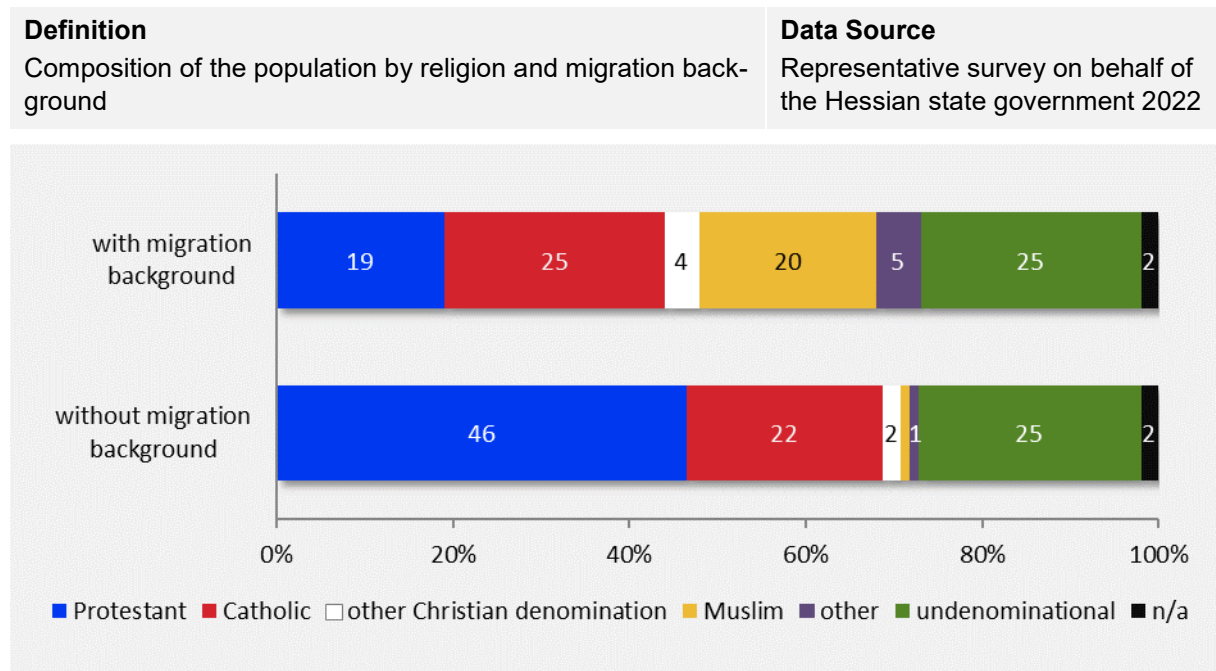
The figures show partly different media use habits. People with a migrant background use most frequently social media (57 percent daily, 18 percent once per week or more often), people without a migrant background use social media less often (43 percent daily, 21 percent once per week or more often). Instead, people without a migration background prefer television (72 percent daily or weekly vs. 65 percent of people with a migration background).

The use of print media differs most. Only 28 percent of the population with a migration background read a newspaper or magazine daily (online newspapers included) while 25 percent never use this medium. In contrast, more than half of the people without a migration background (53 percent) read a newspaper daily, only 5 percent never.

The least common are streaming services. As little as 12 percent of the respondents with a migration background and 15 percent without a migration background use streaming services. Almost half of the people with an immigrant background (46 percent) and a third of those without an immigrant background never use streaming services.

The differing media use behaviour can be partly explained by the fact that the age structure of the population with migration background is younger (see Indicator A1).

E7 Religious affiliation

| Definition	Data Source
Composition of the population by religion and migration background	Representative survey on behalf of the Hessian state government 2022

From a historical perspective, Hessen was a predominantly Protestant state. With growing heterogeneity of society through migration, Hessen nowadays is home to many different religions. As public registers collect data only for Protestants and Catholics, the Hessian Government has tried to research the religious affiliation through a specific representative survey.

The figure shows that 25 percent of migrants profess no religious belief. 25 percent are Catholics (vs. 22 percent of non-migrants), 19 percent Protestants (compared to 46 percent) and 4 percent belong to smaller Christian denominations (vs. 2 percent). Twenty percent consider themselves Muslims (vs. 1 percent). The overall share in Muslims is around 6 percent of the whole population.

It should be kept in mind that the survey results may underestimate the number of Muslims e.g. due to language problems of newly arrived asylum seekers from the main asylum countries.
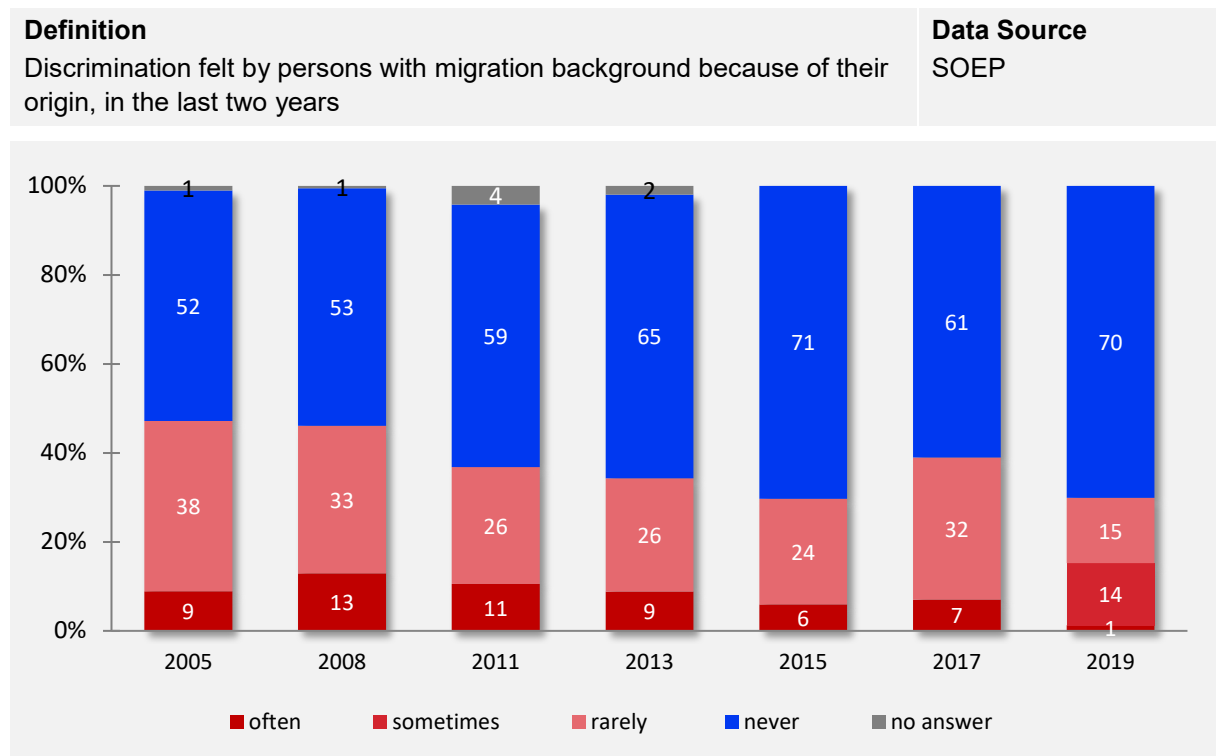
F1 Feeling of contentment in Hessen

Definition	Data Source
Feeling of contentment in the state of Hessen	Representative surveys on behalf of the Hessian state government
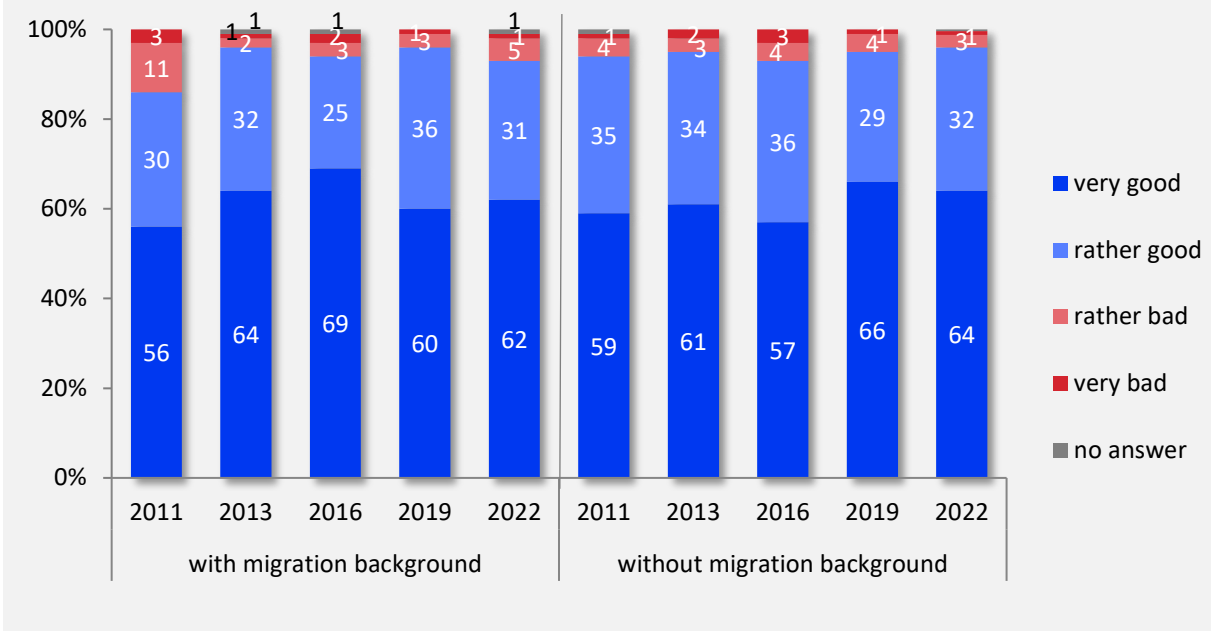
The question "How good do you feel in Hessen?" is used regularly by the government to measure how comfortable people feel in this German Federal State. The latest report found that 93 percent of people with and 96 percent of people without an immigrant background in Hessen feel very good or rather good.

In the period between 2011 and 2022, the share of people from migration background who stated they were content in Hessen increased. Compared to 2011, people with a migration background who reported that they felt very good rose from 56 percent to 62 percent while the percentage of people without this background who gave the same answer rose from 59 to 64 percent.

F3 Perceived discrimination because of one's origin

Definition	Data Source
Discrimination felt by persons with migration background because of their origin, in the last two years	SOEP

Patterns of prejudice and discrimination have an adverse effect on integration. However, it is extremely difficult to measure discrimination. Major fields of discrimination are housing, employment, education and dealing with authorities.

This indicator examines perceived discrimination experiences from people with migration backgrounds. The question asked was, "Within the past two years, how often have you personally experienced discrimination here in Germany because of your origins?" Seventy percent of people with migration background reported that they have never felt discriminated in the past two years. Fifteen percent said they felt discriminated against sometimes, and 1 percent answered they felt discriminated against often.[15]

Between 2005 and 2019, a positive trend emerged: The amount of people with a migration background who reported "never" increased from 52 percent to 70 percent.

In 2019, "sometimes" was introduced as a new category. 14 percent of all respondents answered they felt discriminated against sometimes.

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[15] `Sometimes` was added as a new category in 2019.

2.5 Selected Indicators on Asylum Seekers/Persons in Need of Protection

S1 Asylum applications

Definition	Data Source
Immigration of asylum seekers	EASY-Statistics (Initial distribution of asylum seekers)
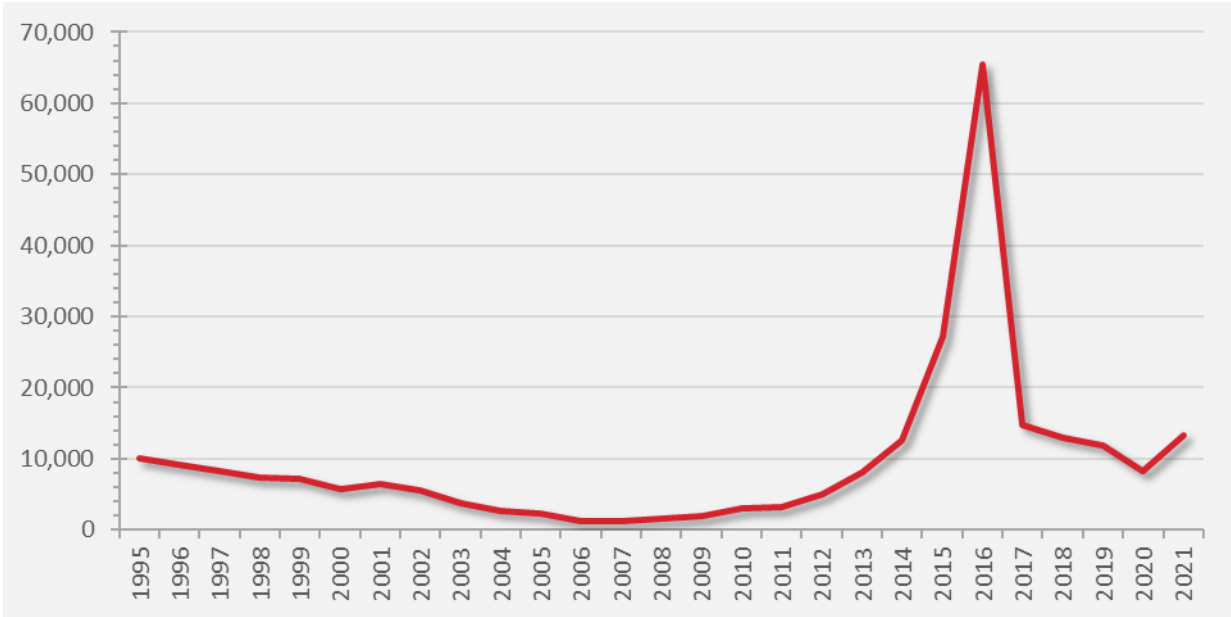
Since the 1980s, the number of asylum applications has risen significantly. It fell after 1995, since 2006 it rose again. In 2015, almost 80,000 refugees came to Hessen. In 2016, 65,500 of them applied for asylum. In 2017, the number fell to 14,700 and decreased further in subsequent years. In 2020, the number was only 8,200 because of Covid-19. In 2021, the influx and the numbers of applications started to rise again to about 11,200.

In the first half of 2021, EASY reported 6,690 asylum seekers, mostly from Afghanistan (33.9 percent), Turkey (12.7 percent), Syria (10.7 percent), unknown (7.1 percent), Azerbaijan (3.7 percent), Iran, Iraq and Somalia (in each case 3.0 percent), Ethiopia (2.2 percent) and Russia (2.0 percent).

Asylum seekers tend to be younger than the native population and other migrant groups: 27 percent are less than 20 years old. Almost two thirds of the refugees are male.

In the last years, numerous projects were created in order to provide opportunities for refugees to better become acquainted with Germany, to learn German and to improve their vocational skills, since generally their qualification level is not sufficient to meet German labour market demands.

S15 Vocational background of employees from the main asylum countries

Definition	Data Source
Vocational qualifications of employees with one of the top citizenships of asylum applicants	Federal Labour Office (special analysis)
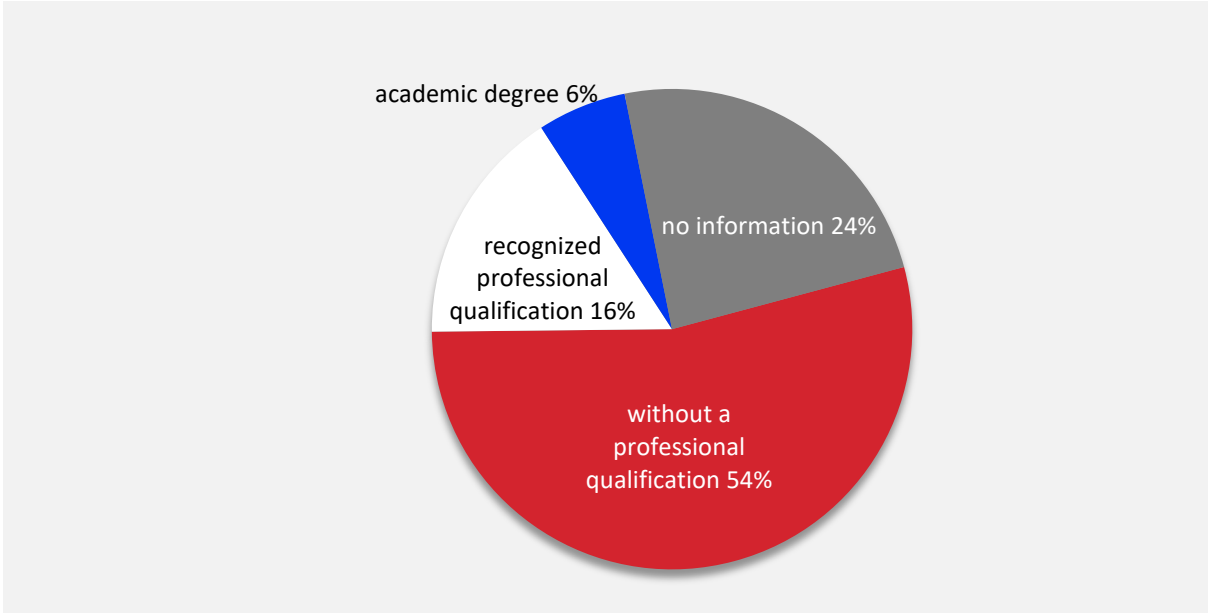
This indicator measures the vocational qualifications of a group of about 12,600 asylum seekers and refugees (as in December 2020) who came from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Somalia and Syria (the main countries of asylum based on the definition of the Federal Labour Office) and found employment in Hessen.

Over half of them (54 percent) have not completed any vocational training or their degrees have not been recognized. That made it difficult for them to begin their jobs. Only 16 percent have completed a degree, 6 percent at university level. For 24 percent, no figures are available.

Due to a lack of German language skills and/or vocational qualification refugees find jobs mostly in certain sectors of the economy: in the cleaning industry, in the logistics sector, in the catering trade or in the retail trade where many simple jobs are offered.

According to the data of the Federal Labour Office, 57 percent of the employees coming from the main asylum countries work as low-level employees, 38 percent as skilled workers and 5 percents as experts. For academics and experts it seems difficult to return to adequate employment in Germany. Most low-level employees have a low per capita income that reflects low productivity.

S19 Unemployment rate in the context of forced migration

Definition	Data Source
Unemployed from main asylum countries as a share of active population (people in work plus the unemployed) from these countries	Migration monitor, Federal Labour Office
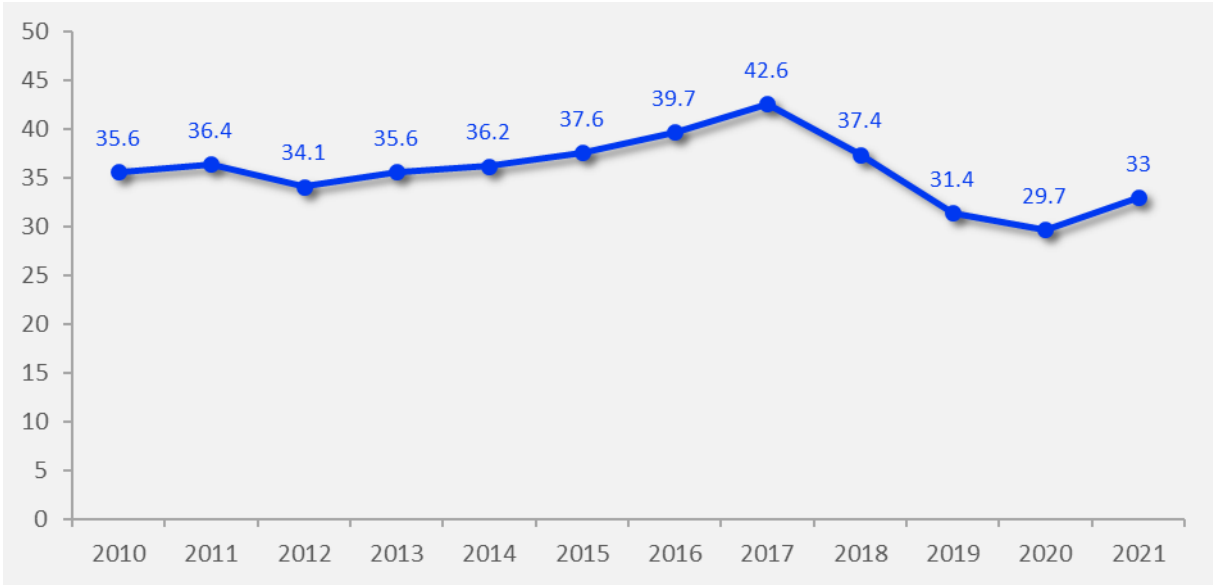
Participation in working life is considered an important factor in the social integration of migrants. Generally, it takes a longer period of time until refugees get integrated in the labour market. Their employment is considerably weaker in comparison to other migrants. Since 2010, their unemployment rate has been varying between 30 and 43 percent. While the rate started falling in 2017, it climbed back up in 2020 due to Covid-19.

Refugees are in a more vulnerable position in the labour market, on average they face less stable employment conditions. During the first lockdown they were more affected by job cuts and short-time work than other groups.[16] Immigrant integration courses and other training measures were temporarily closed which hindered their process of integration in the labour market.

It should be noted that the rate does not show only refugees because their status is not registered in labour market statistics. Instead, it refers to workless people of the top citizenships of asylum seekers (*"Hauptasylherkunftsländer"*): Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia und Syria. However, this is said to be a good approximation.

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[16] Short-time work in Germany is a state-sponsored temporary reduction in normal working hours aimed at saving jobs.

2.6 Selected Indicators on the Socio-Economic Implications of the Covid-19 pandemic

P2 Effects of the pandemic on different life aspects

Definition	Data Source
Worsening in the work situation, in income, in family situation, in social contacts and life changes as a result of the covid-pandemic	Representative survey commissioned by the Hessen Ministry for Social Affairs and Integration 2022
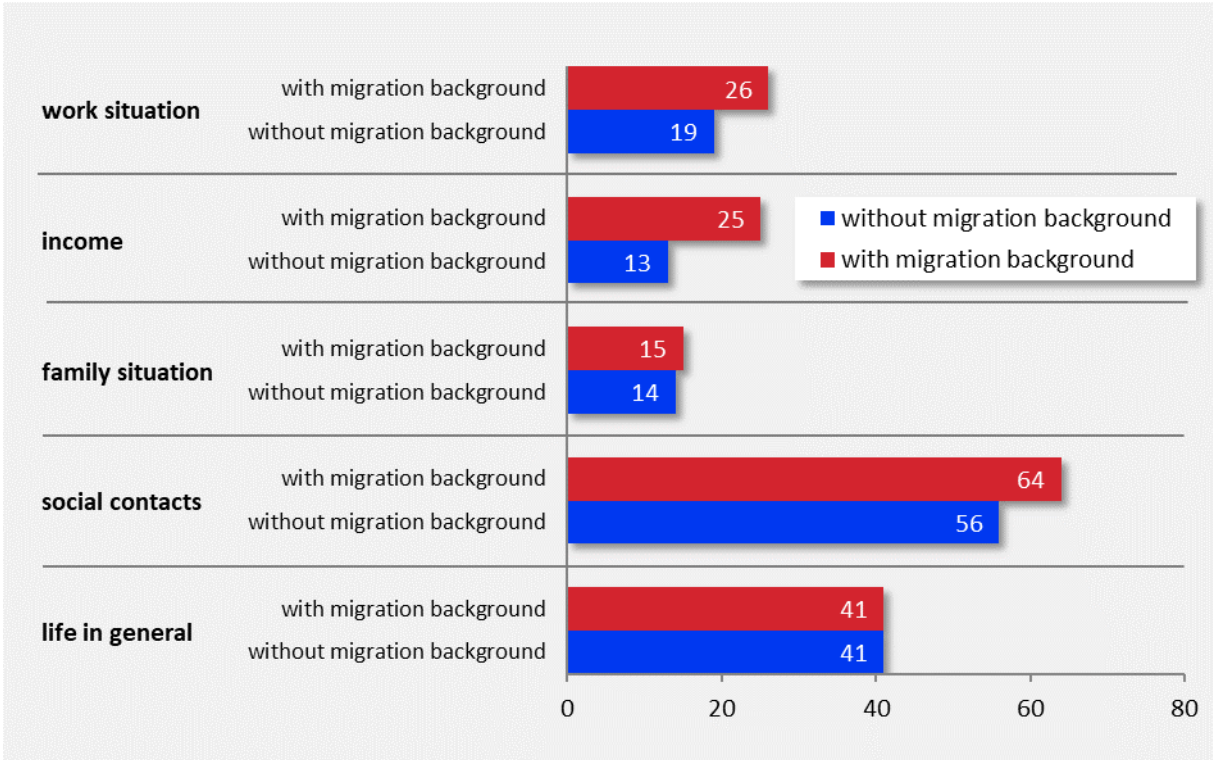
It is to be expected that many areas of life are affected by Covid. In order to gain information about this issue 1000 people with and without a migration background were interviewed in Hessen (representative sample) at the beginning of 2021. They were asked what impact the Covid crisis was having on their lives (the work situation, the income, the family situation, social contacts and life in general).

Unexpectedly, for most of the questioned people many parts of their lives have remained almost unchanged. A majority declared a worsening of social contacts; people with a migration background were more affected than those without a migration background (64 percent vs. 56 percent). Also, quite a few reported other burdens and strains, such as a worsening of the income or the work situation. The chart above shows that the population with a migration background experienced negative effects more often. All in all, 41 percent of both groups said that their life in general has gotten worse.
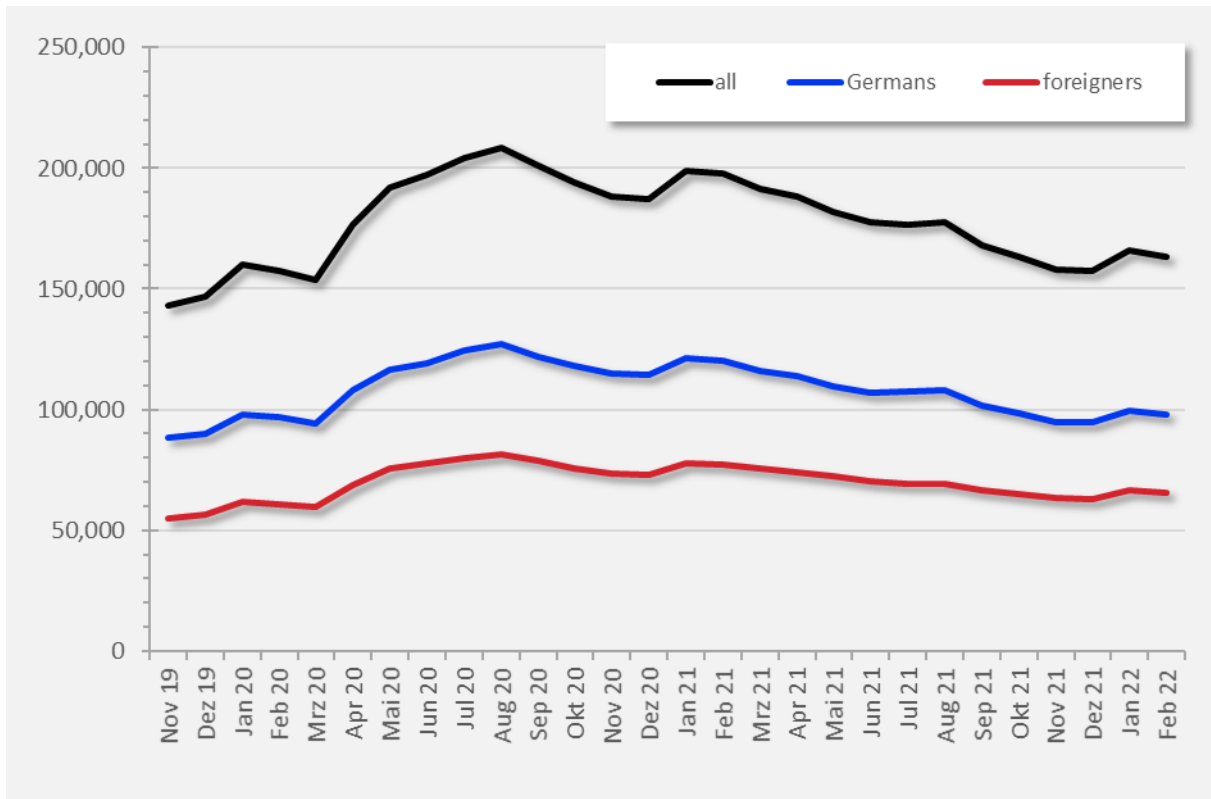
P4 Unemployment during the pandemic

Definition	Data Source
Number of unemployed since the onset of the pandemic	Federal Labour Office

The economic slump that accompanied the pandemic led to a rapid increase in unemployment. By the massive implementation of short-time working, high job losses could be avoided. The number of short-time workers increased from 2.787 to 34.565, only to fall to 4.036 in November 2021.

The chart above shows that throughout the pandemic the number of unemployed people with German citizenship was higher than the number of unemployed foreign workers. However, taking into account that the number of German employees is five times that of foreign employees the impact on the foreign workers can be seen. Between November 2019 and November 2021 the proportion of non-Germans among the unemployed rose from 38.5 percent to 40.4 percent.

The pandemic-driven risks at the labour market tend to increase with low qualification.