

## THE GOVERNMENT'S INTEGRATION GOALS

All who live in Norway should be able to use their resources and contribute to society



BARNE-, LIKESTILLINGS- OG  
INKLUDERINGSDEPARTEMETET

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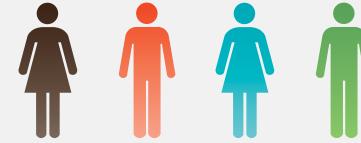


# Introduction

**Everyone in the public sector has a responsibility to develop policies and measures that give immigrants and their children equal opportunities, rights and obligations.**

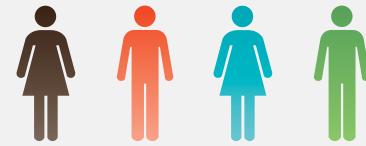
It is each individual's responsibility to take advantage of the opportunities provided by Norwegian society. Meanwhile, the government is working on many fronts to enable immigrants to use their resources and contribute to society. One of the most important aims is to get more women with an immigrant background into the labour market.

The statistics in this brochure provide information about immigrants in work and education, their living conditions and their participation in society. They show differences and similarities between immigrants as a group, people born in Norway to immigrant parents and the rest of the population, and are intended to assist public-sector authorities to correct undesirable imbalances.



Immigrants are a diverse group. Some come from EEA countries to work in Norway, or because of war or persecution in their home country. Others come to Norway to join their family who live here. There are both old and young; some have lived in Norway for a short time, others for many years; some are highly educated, others have had little education. They have backgrounds in 221 countries and autonomous regions.

This brochure is a summary of "Integration goals", a tool to aid coordination of integration policy that is published annually as part of the national budget. The source for all statistics in this brochure is Statistics Norway (SSB). Supplementary information is available on the [SSB website](#) and in the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion's [budget bill](#).



## DEFINITIONS

**Immigrants** are individuals who were born abroad to two foreign-born parents, and who at some time have immigrated to Norway.

People who are **Norwegian-born to immigrant parents** were born in Norway, and both of their parents are immigrants

**Country of background** is, for immigrants, their own country of birth. For people who are Norwegian-born to immigrant parents, this is the parents' country of birth.

**People with an immigrant background** are people who have themselves immigrated or who were born in Norway to immigrant parents.

## Work and employment

### Most immigrants have jobs

The level of employment is generally high in Norway. Compared with other countries, many immigrants also have jobs. Immigrants from the EEA have a high level of employment because they come to Norway to get work. Many immigrants from Asia and Africa are refugees who have only lived in Norway for a short time. A longer period of residence in Norway normally leads to a higher level of employment, but this does not apply to everyone and the differences do not necessarily even out. Immigrants from Africa who have been resident in Norway for more than ten years are less likely to be in employment, compared with immigrants as a whole. This is particularly the case for women.

### PERCENTAGE IN EMPLOYMENT – fourth quarter 2013

#### The population in total



#### Immigrants



#### Immigrants from the Nordic region



#### Immigrants from the rest of Western Europe



#### Immigrants from EU countries in Eastern Europe



#### Immigrants from non-EU countries in Eastern Europe



#### Immigrants from North America and Oceania



#### Immigrants from Asia



#### Immigrants from Africa



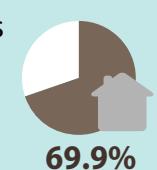
#### Immigrants from South and Central America



#### Immigrants resident in Norway for less than 4 years



#### Immigrants resident in Norway for 4–6 years



#### Immigrants resident in Norway for 7 years or more



### Unemployment is higher among immigrants

Unemployment is three times as high for immigrants as for the rest of the population. There are also large variations between different groups of immigrants. To a large degree, unemployment among immigrants follows the trend of unemployment as a whole. The number of people registered as unemployed rose slightly from 2013 to 2014, both among immigrants and the population as a whole. The statistics show that length of residence in Norway, country of background, age, sex and reason for immigration all play a role.

### PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYMENT – first quarter 2014

#### The population as a whole

**3.2%**  **2.5%** 

#### Immigrants

**7.3%**  **7.2%** 

#### Immigrants from the Nordic region



#### Immigrants from the rest of Western Europe



#### Immigrants from EU countries in Eastern Europe



#### Immigrants from non-EU countries in Eastern Europe



#### Immigrants from North America and Oceania



#### Immigrants from Asia



#### Immigrants from Africa



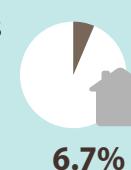
#### Immigrants from South and Central America



#### Immigrants resident in Norway for less than 4 years



#### Immigrants resident in Norway for 4–6 years



#### Immigrants resident in Norway for 7 years or more



## Education

The foundation for participating actively in work and society is laid as early as kindergarten and primary school. Upper secondary and further education secure the individual's participation in work and society.

### More minority children in kindergarten

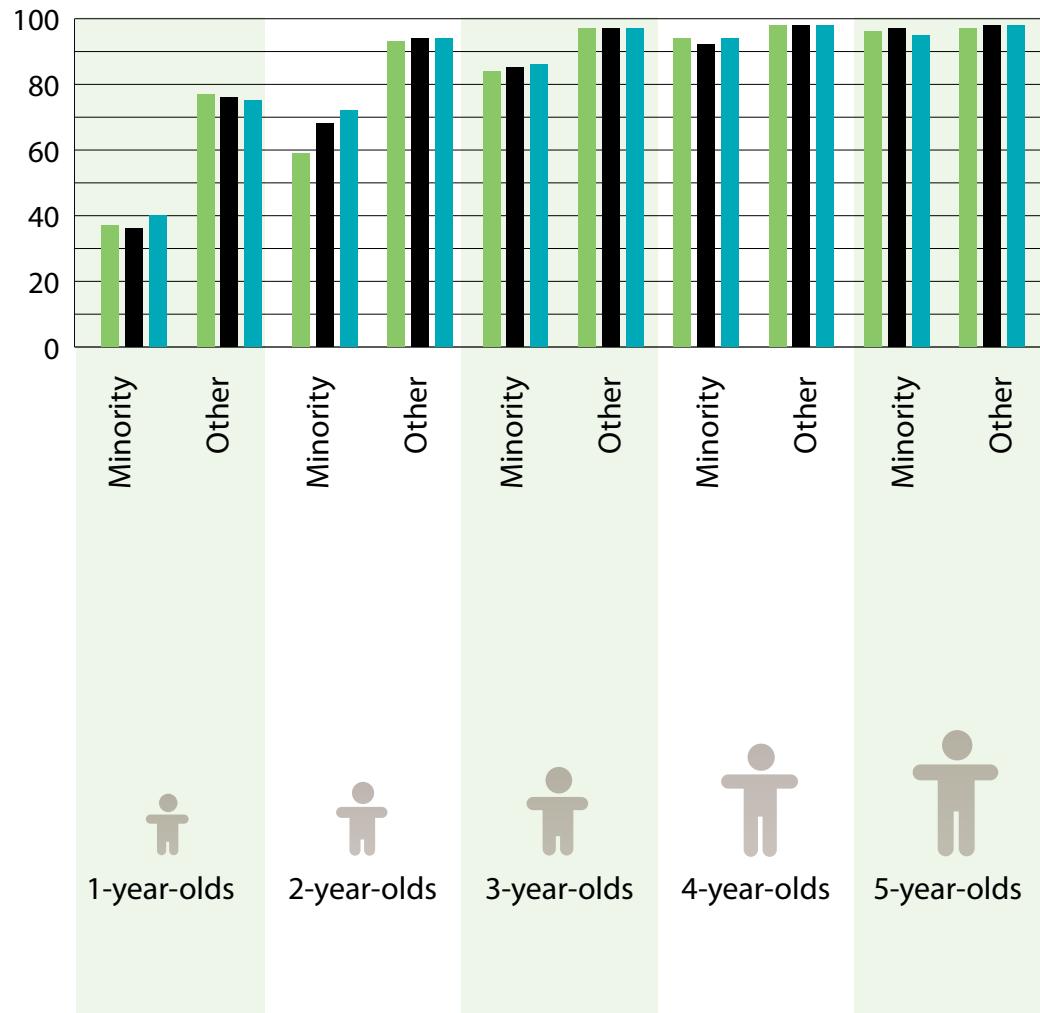
It is encouraging to see that the percentage of minority children in kindergarten is increasing. Today, three in four minority children attend kindergarten, and the increase has been greatest among two-year-olds.

#### DEFINITION

**Minority children** are children of parents whose mother tongue is a language other than Norwegian, Sami, Swedish, Danish or English.

PERCENTAGE OF MINORITY CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN

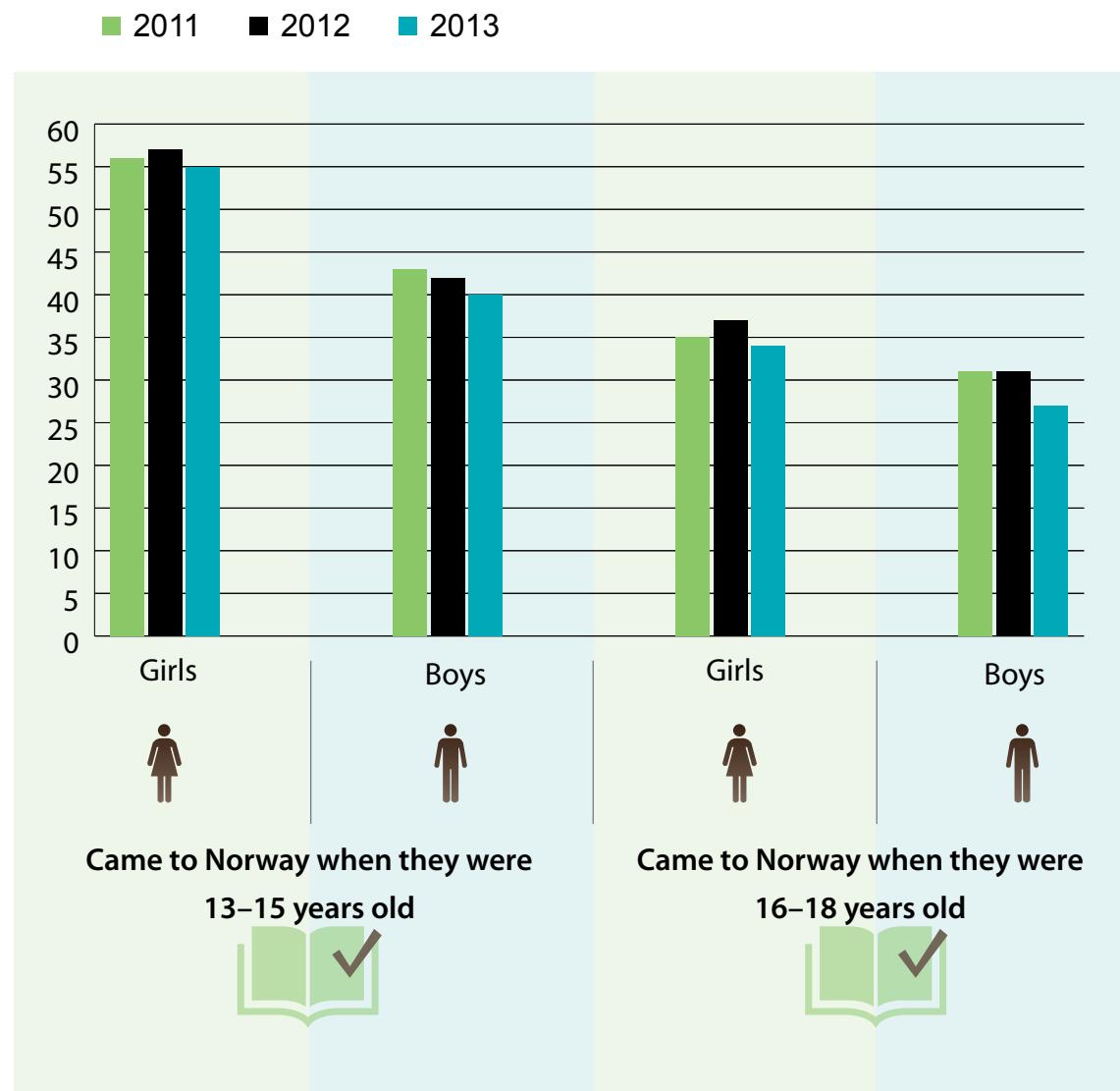
■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013



### Recently arrived pupils face particular challenges within upper secondary education

Young people who move to a new country can encounter difficulties when they go to school. In a short period of time, they need to both learn a new language and catch up with the schooling they've missed. The younger they are when they arrive, the more likely it is that they will manage to complete upper secondary education and pass their exams. A clear role is also played by the sex of pupils: as a rule, girls who immigrate cope better at school than boys, irrespective of how old they are when they arrive in the country. The same applies to adults who start upper secondary education: women with an immigrant background are more likely to complete their education and pass their exams than men with an immigrant background.

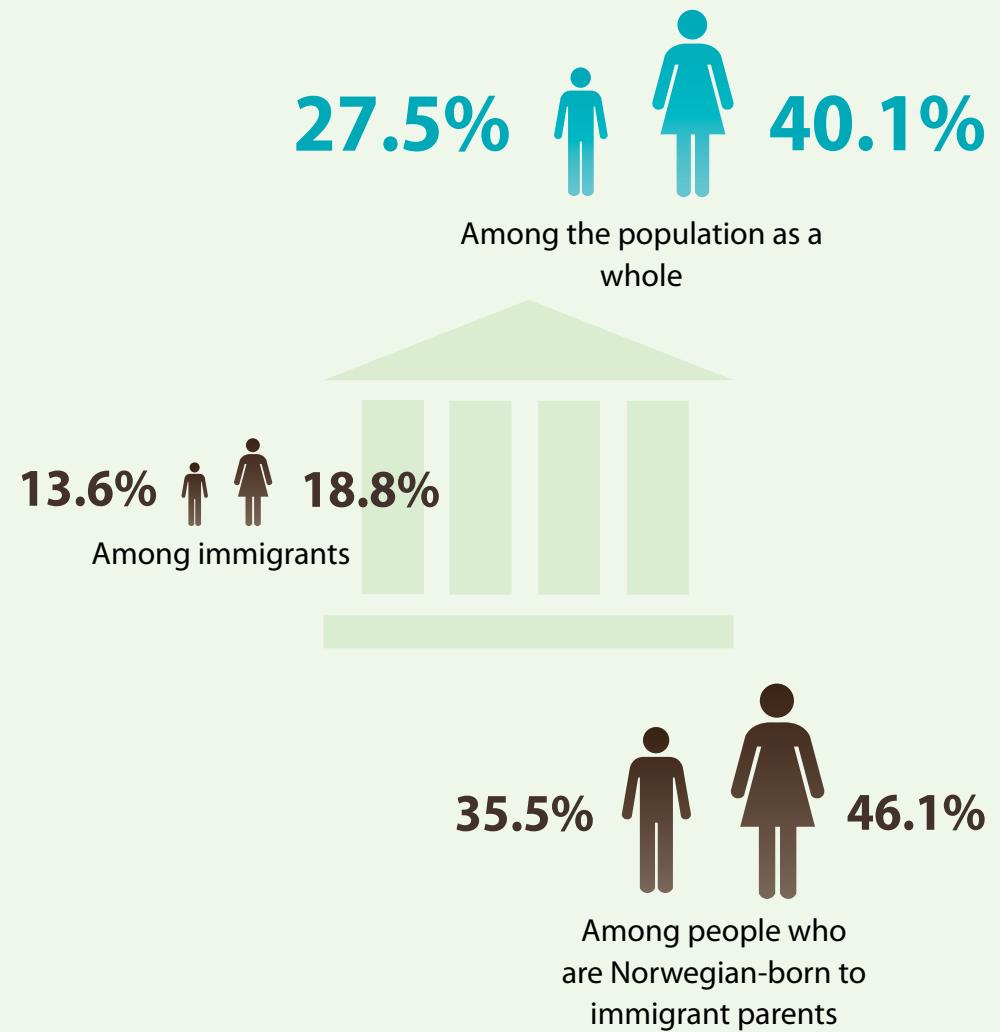
PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANTS WHO COMPLETED UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION BEFORE REACHING THE AGE OF 30



### More people who are Norwegian-born to immigrant parents take higher education than in the population as a whole

People who are Norwegian-born to immigrant parents top the statistics for higher education: they are more likely to take higher education than the population as a whole. Reasons for immigrants being less likely to take higher education may include short periods of residence, poor Norwegian-language skills, and the fact that some immigrants have already taken higher education before they come to Norway. The proportion of immigrants who take higher education in Norway is therefore not as high as for people born in Norway to immigrant parents, or in the population as a whole.

#### PERCENTAGE OF 19–24-YEAR-OLDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

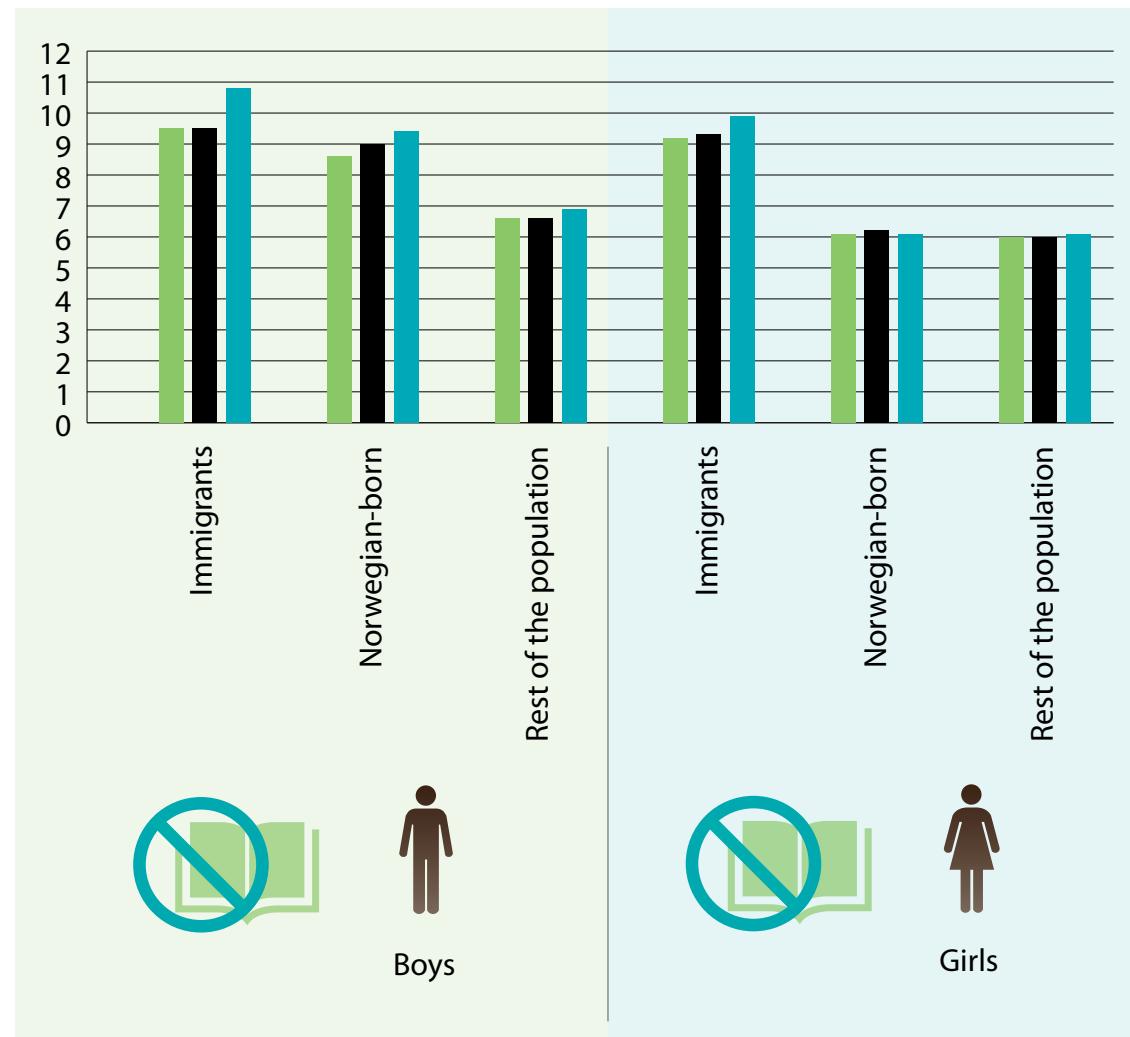


### More 16–25-year-olds have not completed upper secondary education and are neither in further education or work

It is worrying that the proportion of 16–25-year-old immigrants who are neither in employment nor in education or training is increasing. Norwegian-born boys with immigrant parents are overrepresented in this group. Social background and a lack of Norwegian-language skills are just two of the explanations why many are not succeeding in school.

### MORE 16–25-YEAR-OLDS HAVE NOT COMPLETED UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION AND ARE NEITHER IN EMPLOYMENT NOR IN TRAINING

■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013



## Living conditions

Living conditions are measured by considering aspects such as employment and income. Housing conditions and home ownership/rental status also play an important part.

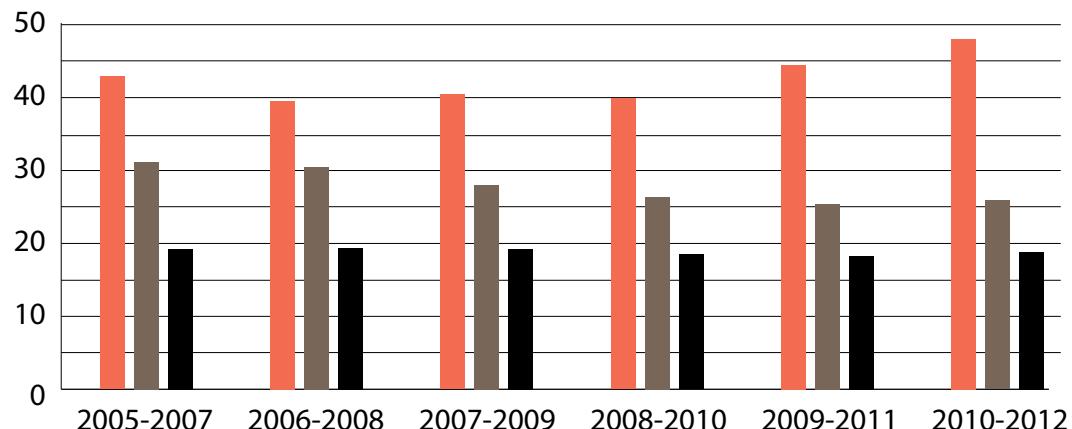
### **Immigrants are overrepresented in the low-income group**

One in four people with an immigrant background has a persistent low income, compared with one in 12 in the population as a whole. This means that they have had a significantly lower income than the median income of the population for a period of at least three years. There is a clear relationship between low income and total or partial unemployment. There is often a link between the employment rate and the reason for immigration (e.g. work, seeking protection), how long a person has lived in the country, level of education and Norwegian-language skills.

### PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANTS WITH PERSISTENT LOW INCOME

Period of residence in Norway:

■ 3 years ■ 4–9 years ■ 10 years or more

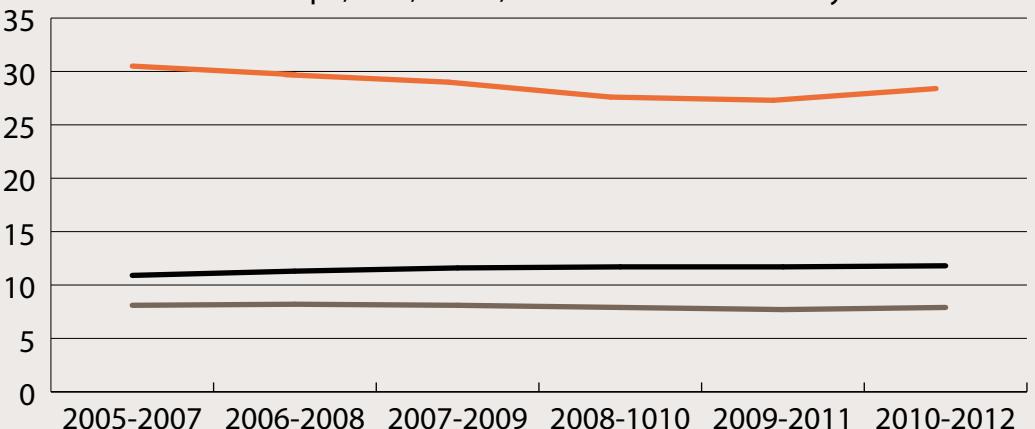


### DEFINITION

**Low income:** People on persistent low incomes are here defined as people in households where the average equivalent income for the household over a three-year period is less than 60 per cent of the median for all households (EU 60). Equivalent income is an indicator of the size of income a multiple-person household must have in order to have the same standard of living as a single-person household.

### PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANTS WITH PERSISTENT LOW INCOME BY COUNTRY OF BACKGROUND

— The population as a whole  
— The Nordic region, Western Europe (excluding Turkey), North America and Oceania  
— Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and Turkey



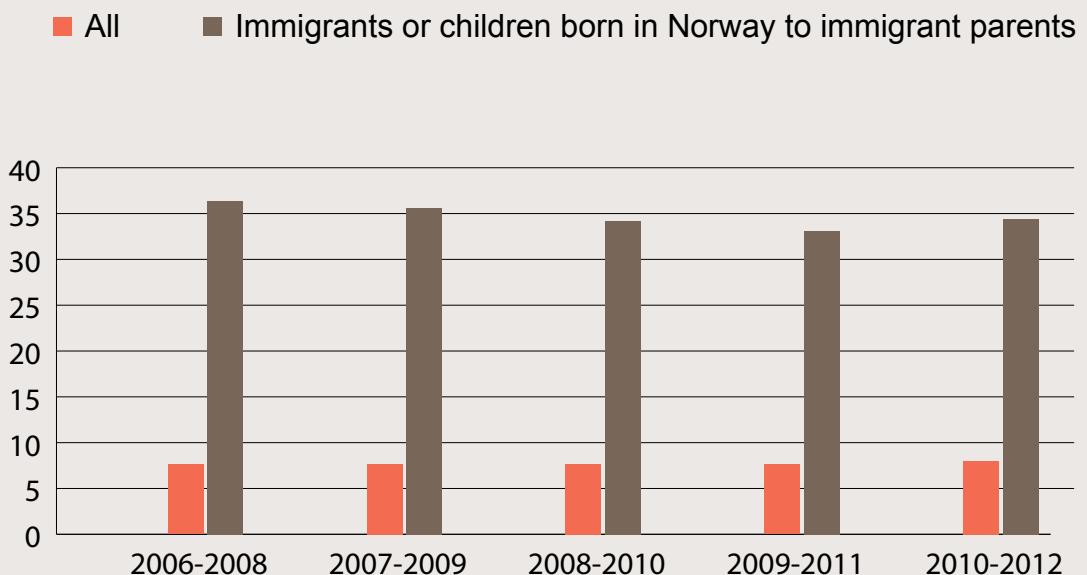
Groups of countries with low employment also differ in terms of income. Immigrants from Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America are much more likely to be in the low-income group than immigrants from the Nordic region, Western Europe, North America and Oceania.

Differing trends also appear if one compares groups of people who have different countries of background. For instance, there are now fewer with low incomes among immigrants from Turkey, Pakistan and Iran. This may be due to the fact that these groups have lived in Norway for longer and are thus more likely to have jobs. Meanwhile, more immigrants from Poland are now in the low-income group. This may be because many of them have lost jobs in industries affected by the difficult economic climate.

### Many children live in households with persistent low incomes

Because many families with immigrant backgrounds have low incomes, children with immigrant backgrounds are much more likely than children in general to grow up in households with persistent low incomes. Children whose country of background is one where family sizes are large and employment among mothers is low are clearly overrepresented in the low-income group.

PERCENTAGE OF 0-18-YEAR-OLDS IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH PERSISTENT LOW INCOMES



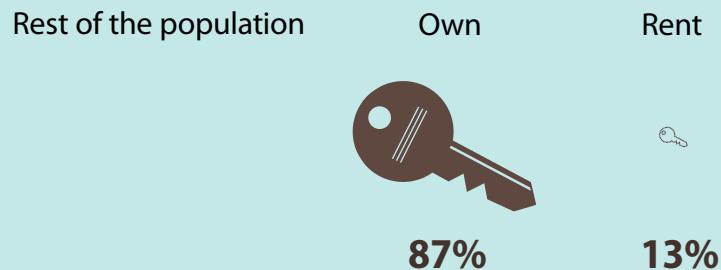
### More are renting and more are living in crowded dwellings

In Norway, it is common to own your own home. However, the proportion of immigrants who own their own homes is less than for the rest of the population. Those groups with lower employment rates (among immigrants from Asia, Africa, etc.<sup>1</sup>) and who often have a low income are more likely to rent their home. These are overrepresented among those who live in crowded dwellings, even if they have lived for a long time in Norway. Immigrants from the EU, North America, etc.<sup>2</sup> with a long period of residence in Norway, on the other hand, are close to the average for the rest of the population. More than one in three people born in Norway to immigrant parents live in crowded dwellings. This may indicate that they live in households that cannot afford sufficiently large accommodation.

<sup>1</sup> "Africa, Asia, etc." is an abbreviation for Asia (including Turkey), Africa, South and Central America, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and non-EU/EEA countries in Europe.

<sup>2</sup> "EU, North America, etc." is an abbreviation for EU/EEA countries, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. This group also includes Switzerland.

### OWNING AND RENTING



### DEFINITION

Living in cramped conditions is defined as single-person households with only one room to live in, households with more people than the number of rooms to live in, and households with less than 20 m<sup>2</sup> of living space (area of primary rooms) per person.

### LIVING IN CRAMPED CONDITIONS

Rest of the population



4%

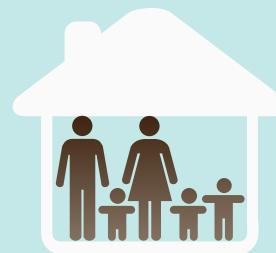
Immigrants from EU/EEA countries, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand



9%



People who are Norwegian-born to immigrant parents



37%

Immigrants from Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and non-EU/EEA countries in Europe



23%



## Participation in society

One important part of integration policy is to promote the participation of immigrants in society, such as in politics or voluntary organisations. Adopting Norwegian citizenship expands immigrants' opportunities to participate in democratic processes, such as voting in national elections. High voter turnout is important for a representative democracy to function. It is also important that all groups participate in national and local bodies elected by popular vote, because this can allow them to exert greater influence on their day-to-day lives.

### **Not all immigrants choose to acquire Norwegian citizenship**

To apply for citizenship of a different country is an individual choice. There is great variation in whether immigrants choose to acquire Norwegian citizenship or not, based on their countries of background. Immigrants from EEA countries are most likely to retain their original citizenship.

One of the main conditions for being granted Norwegian citizenship is that the applicant must have lived in the country for at least seven of the last ten years. For some groups of applicants a shorter period of residence is required; for instance, this would apply to the spouse, registered partner or cohabitant of a Norwegian citizen.

### PERCENTAGE OF IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED NORWEGIAN CITIZENSHIP

Total



**63%**

From Africa and Asia (including Turkey)



**80%**



From Eastern Europe



**69%**



From Western Europe, North America, Oceania and the Nordic region



**19–25%**



Immigrants who have arrived since 1989



**13%**



The figures are for immigrants who had been resident in Norway for at least seven years in 2011.

### One in two people with an immigrant background exercises their right to vote

Participation in elections in Norway is 78.2 per cent, although this varies according to country of background. Some 55 per cent of immigrants with a European background participated in elections. People from Denmark, Sweden or Germany participated just as much as the rest of the population, whereas only one in three whose background was in Croatia, Macedonia or Kosovo voted. For immigrants from outside Europe, people from Sri Lanka, Somalia or Eritrea had the highest participation: about 60 per cent. Women exercise their right to vote more than men.

In local elections, immigrants who have lived in the country for at least three years can vote, even those without Norwegian citizenship. At the most recent local elections, in 2011, 43 per cent of Norwegian citizens with an immigrant background voted, and 32 per cent of foreign citizens with the right to vote exercised it. Immigrants and people who are Norwegian-born to immigrant parents with a background in Africa had a higher participation in the elections than those with a background in Europe. Participation is particularly low among people with a background in non-EU/EEA countries in Europe.

### VOTER TURNOUT IN 2013 NATIONAL ELECTIONS – per cent

All



77%



80%

Immigrants and people who are Norwegian-born to immigrant parents with Norwegian citizenship



50%



55%

The Nordic Countries



74%



82%



Western Europe



76%



76%



Eastern Europe



45%



49%



North America and Oceania



60%



67%



Asia (including Turkey), Africa, South and Central America



49%



53%



Published by:

The Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion

Design: Gjerholm Design, Aina Huus 1/2015

