

IMMIGRATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Statistics under development





NOTICE

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is, for the first time, releasing data on immigration flows of foreign nationals into the Republic of Serbia.

In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is undertaking the development of a survey on international migration, grounded in the integration of data from available administrative sources. This methodology encompasses the analysis of indirect indicators that reflect the actual presence or absence of individuals within the country—such as data on residence, employment, health, and social insurance. By employing this approach, the monitoring of migration flows is rendered more comprehensive and precise, enabling the production of quantitative indicators concerning their demographic composition.

As a first step toward establishing comprehensive international migration statistics, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is publishing data on the immigration of foreign nationals—presented as a distinct segment within the broader framework of immigration statistics.

DEFINITIONS

Migration Flow

Migration flows represent the number of migrants arriving in or departing from a country over a defined period, usually one calendar year. These flows include two key components: immigration and emigration.

Immigration Flow

As defined by Regulation 862/2007 of the European Parliament and Council, dated July 11, 2007, immigration refers to the act of an individual establishing their usual place of residence in a country for a period of at least 12 months, having previously resided in another Member State or a third country.

According to the [Law](#) on Migration Management ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 107/2012), immigration refers to external migration into the Republic of Serbia that lasts, or is expected to last, for more than 12 months.

The immigration contingent of foreign nationals in the Republic of Serbia consists of:

1. Individuals granted the right to temporary residence for at least one year.
2. Individuals granted the right to temporary residence for less than one year, but who, after several extensions, have had a continuous stay of at least one year.
3. Individuals who have been granted permanent residence.

Foreign Nationals Stock

The stock of foreign nationals includes those who have been granted residence in the Republic of Serbia (for one year or more) or those who have permanent residence.

Foreign Nationals (Foreigners)

Under the Law on Foreigners ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 24 of March 26, 2018, No. 31 of April 29, 2019, No. 62 of July 27, 2023), a foreign national refers to any individual who is not a citizen of the Republic of Serbia.

Stay of Foreign Nationals

In accordance with the Law on Foreigners ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 24 of March 26, 2018, No. 31 of April 29, 2019, No. 62 of July 27, 2023), temporary stay represents a residence permit allowing a foreign national to reside in the Republic of Serbia. It may be issued as a Temporary Stay Permit or a Unified Permit for Temporary Stay and Work, depending on the legally prescribed grounds under which the foreign national may acquire the right to temporary stay. Temporary stay may be granted for a period of up to three years or a shorter duration, based on the period the foreign national intends to spend in the Republic of Serbia. The temporary stay may be extended by submitting a new application.

Permanent Residence is the authorization for a foreign national to reside long-term in the Republic of Serbia. A foreign national who intends to settle permanently in the Republic of Serbia must submit an application for permanent residence. This application may be filed by a foreign national who has held temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia for at least three continuous years.

Note: The Republic Statistical Office has not had data for the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija since 1999, so these are not included in the total data for the Republic of Serbia.

IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS

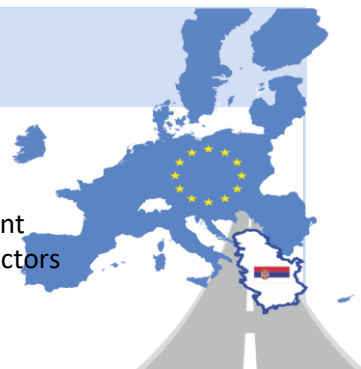
International migration statistics are crucial for several reasons:

- ✓ **Demographic analysis:** International migration has a significant impact on the demographic structure of a country, influencing factors such as age distribution, the size of the labor force, and general demographic trends. This data is vital for the planning and development of effective population policies.
- ✓ **Planning of public services:** Information on international migration is essential for planning and adjusting public services, such as healthcare, education, social welfare, and infrastructure. Migration influences the population size and demands in particular regions.
- ✓ **Economic Impact:** Migration plays a key role in shaping the economy by affecting the labor supply and driving economic activities. Migration statistics help us better understand the vital contributions of migrants to the workforce and their influence on the labor market.
- ✓ **Social integration and security:** Migration data is essential for monitoring the integration of migrants into society, assessing their needs, and addressing challenges related to social inclusion.
- ✓ **Migration management policies:** Reliable international migration statistics are essential for shaping effective migration management strategies – from regulating immigration and supporting the diaspora to managing emigration flows. This is vital for the country's long-term socio-economic development.

To track population migration – a key demographic process – it is crucial to have dependable and high-quality statistical data. This will offer a true reflection of migration trends and serve as a reliable basis for defining and applying effective strategies, measures, and recommendations for all sectors of society.

Official statistical data on external migration will provide an improved basis for developing the national migration profile, which is published annually by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, in line with the Law on Migration Management.

The data collected on population migration will also be used to establish and maintain the Population Statistical Register, which is essential for conducting survey research. Following European Union recommendations and established international practices, this register will, in the future, serve as the basis for conducting the Population, Households, and Dwellings Census.



ESTABLISHING RESEARCH

In response to the significant demand from institutions and users for relevant data on immigration/emigration flows – at both the national and international levels – the Republic Statistical Office has increased its efforts to establish research on international migration.

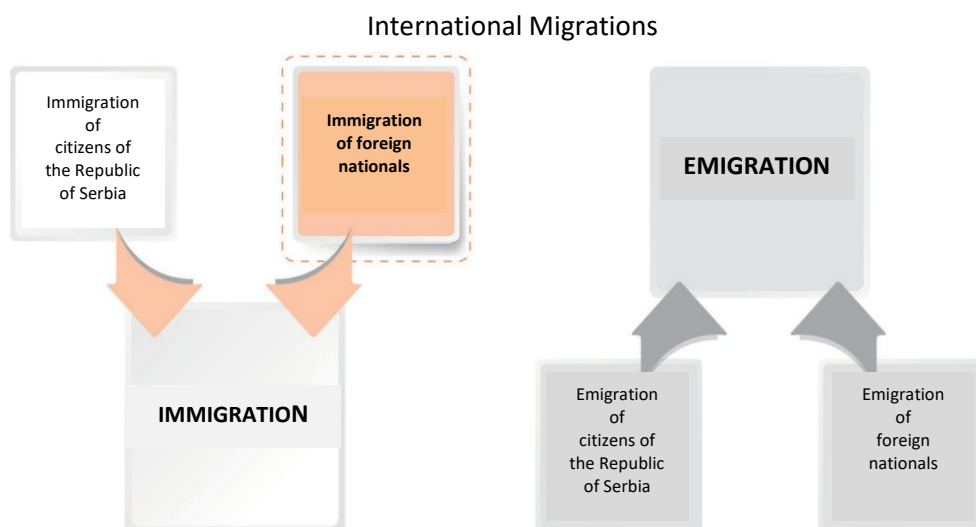
Establishing research on international migration, due to its complexity, requires a comprehensive understanding of data collection, processing, and analysis principles, as well as a high level of cooperation between all relevant institutions.

International migration statistics are collected based on a methodology that follows the UN Recommendations for the Statistics of International Migration and Regulation (EC) No. 862/2007 of the European Parliament and Council of July 11, 2007, on Community statistics related to migration and international protection.

Statistical monitoring of the immigration of foreign nationals to the Republic of Serbia is carried out based on data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs' records on granted temporary residence (and/or work) or permanent settlement of foreign nationals.

The brochure highlights the annual immigration flows of foreign nationals to the Republic of Serbia, showcasing statistical data on the number and demographic profile of individuals who have changed their usual country of residence (for a period lasting, or expected to last, at least 12 months).

Successfully establishing research on the immigration of foreign nationals will fulfill the key role of official statistics, offering an accurate depiction of migration trends. This will serve as a reliable foundation for analysis and decision-making at all levels of society, from government and institutions to businesses and interested citizens.



Legal Grounds for Establishing Immigration Research

- ✓ Law on Official Statistics ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 104/09)
- ✓ Law on Personal Data Protection ("Official Gazette of the RS", Nos. 97/08, 104/09 – other law, 68/12 – Constitutional Court decision, and 107/12)
- ✓ Law on Migration Management ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 107/12)
- ✓ Law on Foreigners ("Official Gazette of the RS", Nos. 24/18, 31/19, 62/23)
- ✓ Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence of Citizens ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 87/11)
- ✓ EU Regulation 862/2007 – Community Statistics on Migration and International Protection
- ✓ Official Statistics Program for the Period 2021–2025 ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 24/21)
- ✓ Regulation on the Adoption of the Official Statistics Plan for 2025 ("Official Gazette of the RS", No. 3/25)
- ✓ Agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia governing the rights and responsibilities of the contracting parties in accordance with applicable legislation on data collection, transmission, use, and protection.
- ✓ Agreement concerning the transfer of data on citizens of the Republic of Serbia and foreign nationals, concluded between the Ministry of the Interior and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia on January 12, 2023.

**IMMIGRATION FLOWS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS
FROM A STATISTICAL PERSPECTIVE**



IMMIGRATION FLOWS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, 2012-2023

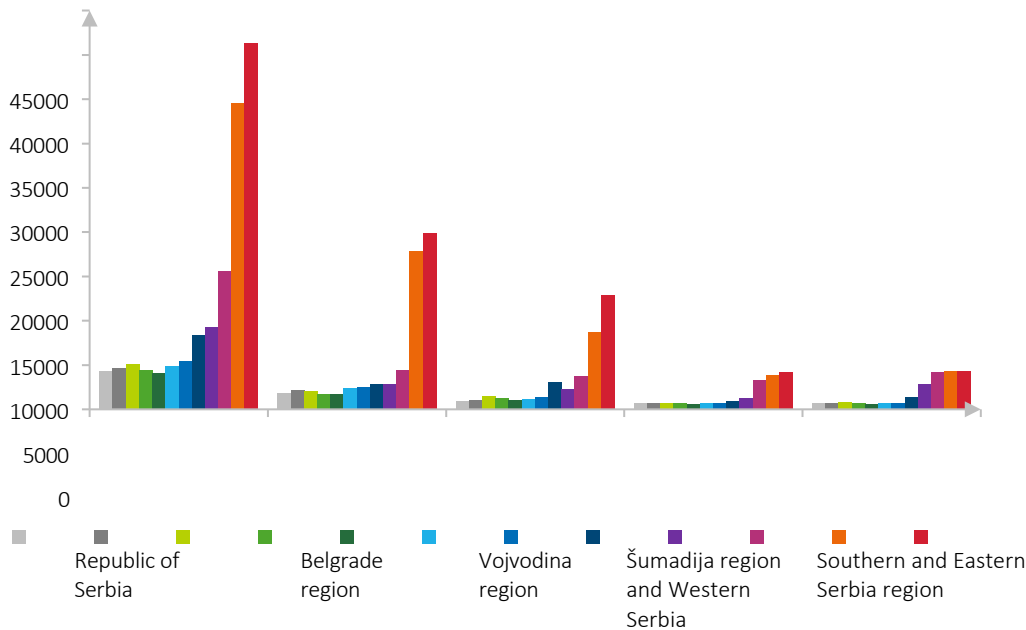
Immigration flows of foreign nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Gender and Year of arrival, in the period from 2012 to 2023



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	4279	4710	5082	4371	4103	4928	5441	8346	9312	15615	34618	41273
Male	2390	2661	2827	2394	2183	2910	3188	5924	6759	12428	23066	26972
Female	1889	2049	2255	1977	1920	2018	2253	2422	2553	3187	11552	14301

- ✓ The number of foreign nationals who immigrated in 2023 is approximately 9.5 times greater than in 2012
- ✓ Approximately two-thirds of the foreign nationals who immigrated between 2012 and 2023 are male, while one-third are female.

Immigration Flows of Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Region and Year of arrival, 2012–2023

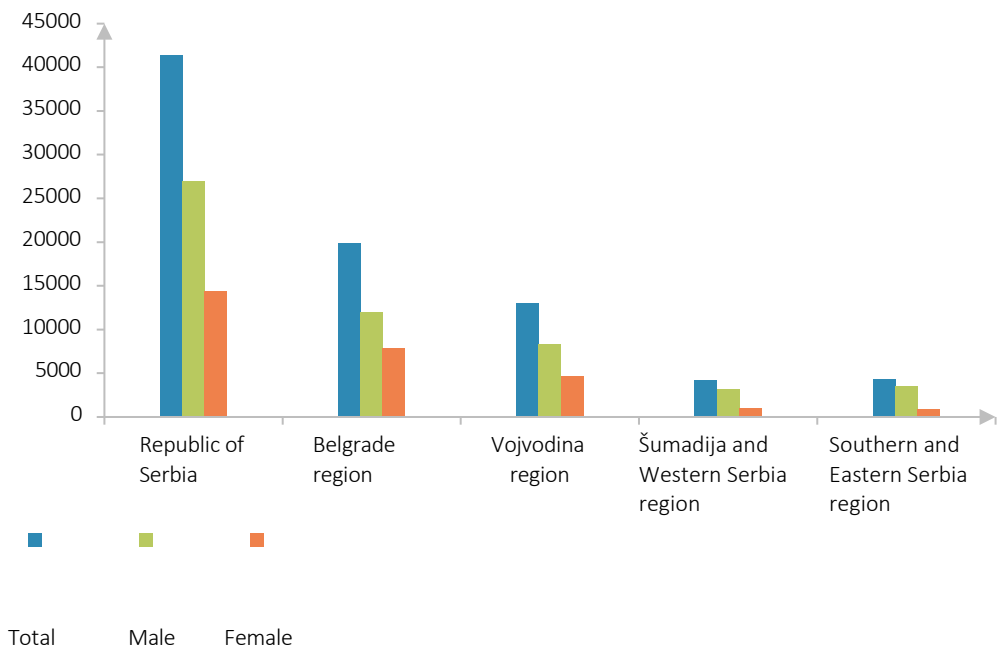


	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Republic of Serbia	4279	4710	5082	4371	4103	4928	5441	8346	9312	15615	34618	41273
Belgrade region	1901	2170	2064	1718	1761	2418	2554	2841	2914	4405	17817	19819
Vojvodina region	961	1074	1471	1296	1110	1161	1424	3119	2280	3748	8665	12952
Šumadija and Western Serbia region	718	728	739	699	599	670	730	954	1249	3246	3856	4187
Southern and Eastern Serbia region	699	738	808	658	633	679	733	1432	2869	4216	4280	4315

- ✓ In terms of regional distribution, the Vojvodina region exhibited the highest growth rate in the number of foreign nationals immigrating in 2023 compared to 2012, with an increase of approximately 13.5 times. The Belgrade region follows with a growth of around 10 times.
- ✓ The smallest increase in immigration was recorded in the Southern and Eastern Serbia region and the Šumadija and Western Serbia region, with a growth factor of approximately 6 times.

IMMIGRATION FLOWS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA IN 2023

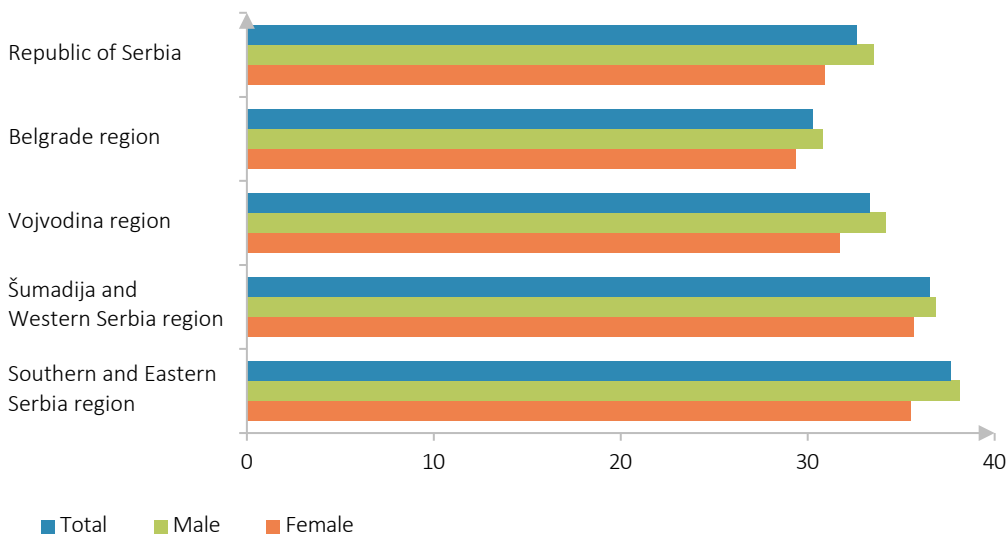
Immigration Flows of Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Region and Gender, in 2023



	Total	Male	Female
Republic of Serbia	41273	26972	14301
Belgrade region	19819	11962	7857
Vojvodina region	12952	8306	4646
Šumadija and Western Serbia region	4187	3193	994
Southern and Eastern Serbia region	4315	3511	804

- ✓ In 2023, approximately 66% of foreign nationals who immigrated to the Republic of Serbia were male, while 34% were female.
- ✓ In terms of gender, the Belgrade region saw the highest proportion of male immigrants, with 44%, while the Šumadija and Western Serbia region recorded the lowest, with 12%.
- ✓ The highest proportion of female foreign nationals immigrated to the Belgrade region, accounting for approximately 55%, while the lowest proportion immigrated to the Southern and Eastern Serbia region, at around 6%.

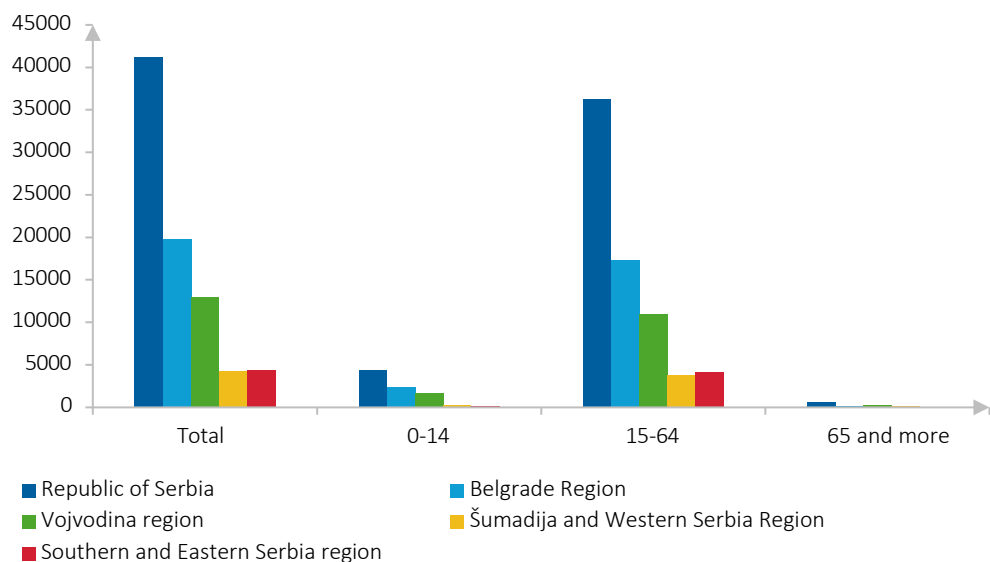
Immigration Flows of Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Average Age and Gender, 2023



	Total	Male	Female
Republic of Serbia	32,6	33,5	30,9
Belgrade Region	30,2	30,8	29,4
Vojvodina region	33,3	34,2	31,7
Šumadija and Western Serbia region	36,5	36,8	35,6
Southern and Eastern Serbia region	37,6	38,1	35,5

- ✓ The average age of foreign nationals who immigrated is lower than the national average (32.6) only in the Belgrade region, where it is 30.2.
- ✓ The highest average age, nearly 38 years, is observed among foreign nationals who immigrated to the Southern and Eastern Serbia region.

Immigration flows of foreign nationals in the Republic of Serbia, according to regions and basic age groups, in 2023



	Total	0-14	15-64	65 and more
Republic of Serbia	41273	4390	36303	580
Belgrade Region	19819	2308	17365	146
Vojvodina region	12952	1728	10980	244
Šumadija and Western Serbia Region	4187	239	3834	114
Southern and Eastern Serbia region	4315	115	4124	76

✓ **Persons under 15 years of age**

The share of children among the total number of foreign nationals who immigrated to the Republic of Serbia is 10.6%, meaning that one in every ten immigrants in 2023 was under the age of 15. The highest number of them immigrated to the Belgrade region, accounting for 52.6% of the total.

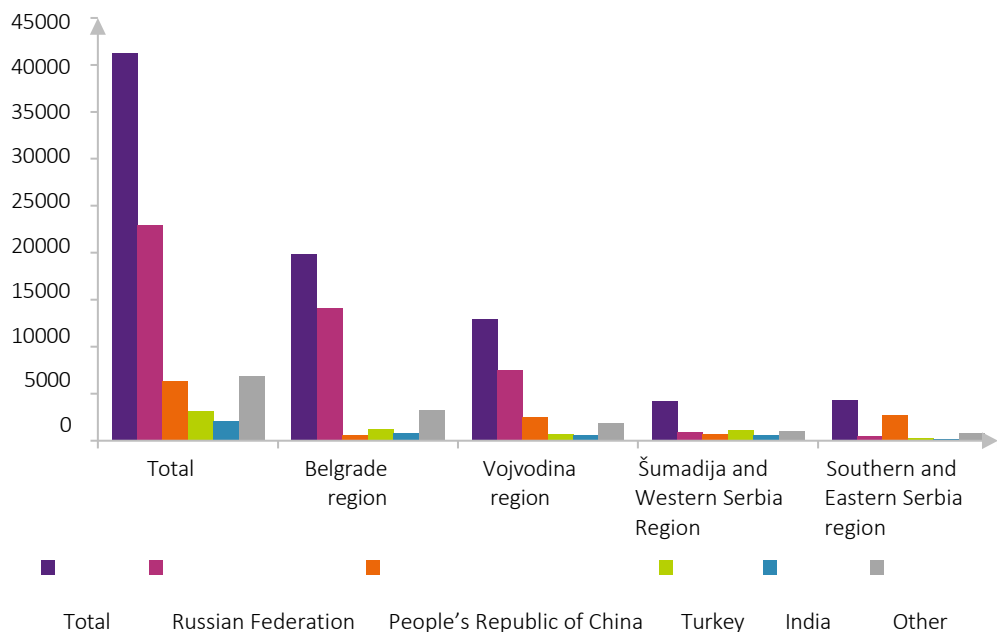
✓ **Persons of working age (15–64 years)**

As much as 88% of foreign nationals who immigrated fall within the working-age population, with nearly half of them immigrating to the Belgrade region, accounting for 47.8% of the total.

✓ **Persons aged 65 and over**

The share of the elderly population in the total immigration of foreign nationals is only 1.4%, with the highest proportion residing in the Vojvodina region, accounting for 42.1% of the total.

Immigration Flows of Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Nationality (top four) and Regions, in 2023

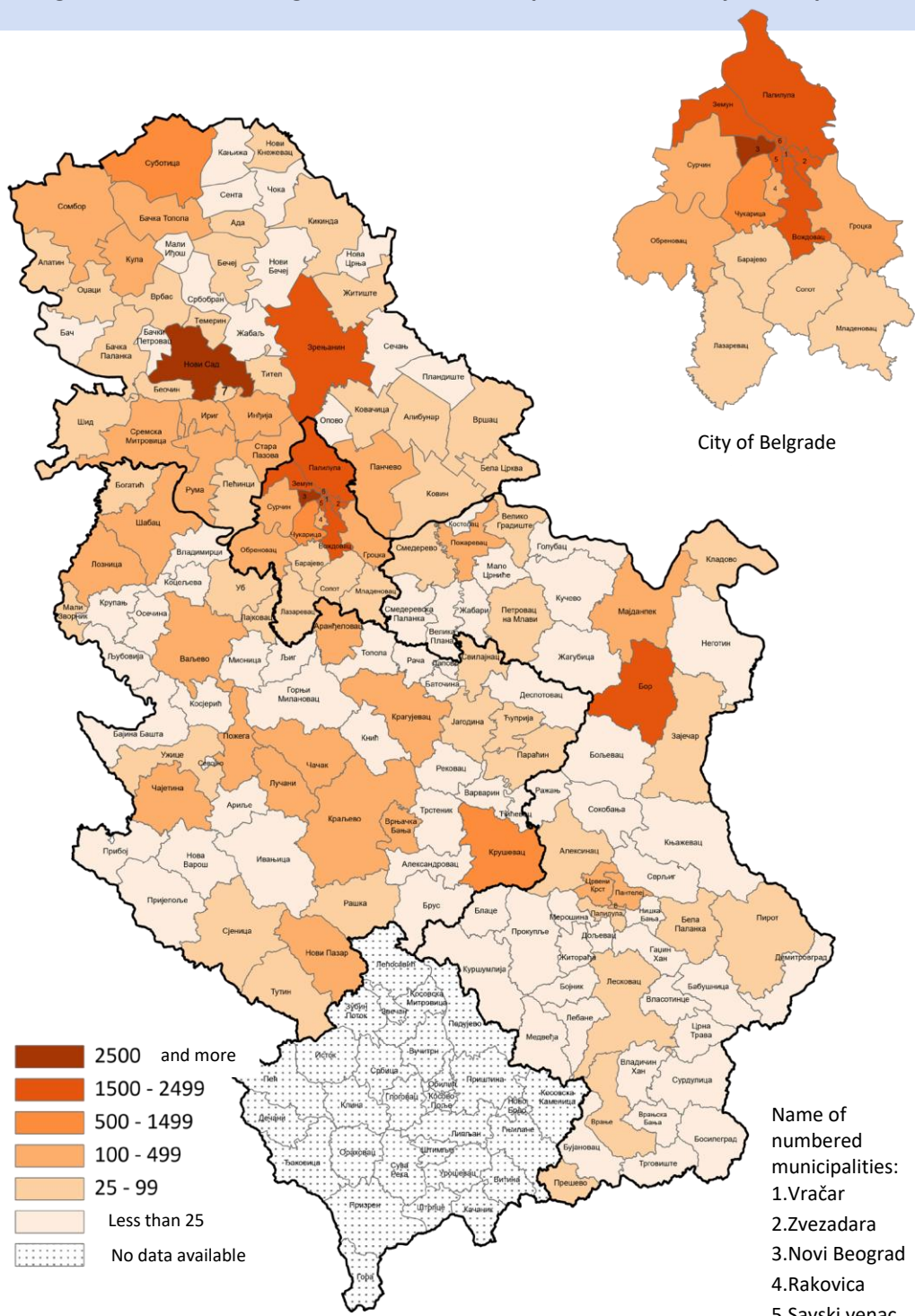


	Total	Russian Federation	People's Republic of China	Turkey	India	Other
Total	41273	22937	6361	3123	2036	6816
Belgrade region	19819	14073	548	1214	758	3226
Vojvodina region	12952	7481	2496	630	536	1809
Šumadija and Western Serbia region	4187	909	614	1060	602	1002
Southern and Eastern Serbia region	4315	474	2703	219	140	779

✓ Nationals of the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Turkey, and India account for 83.5% of the foreign nationals who immigrated to the Republic of Serbia in 2023.

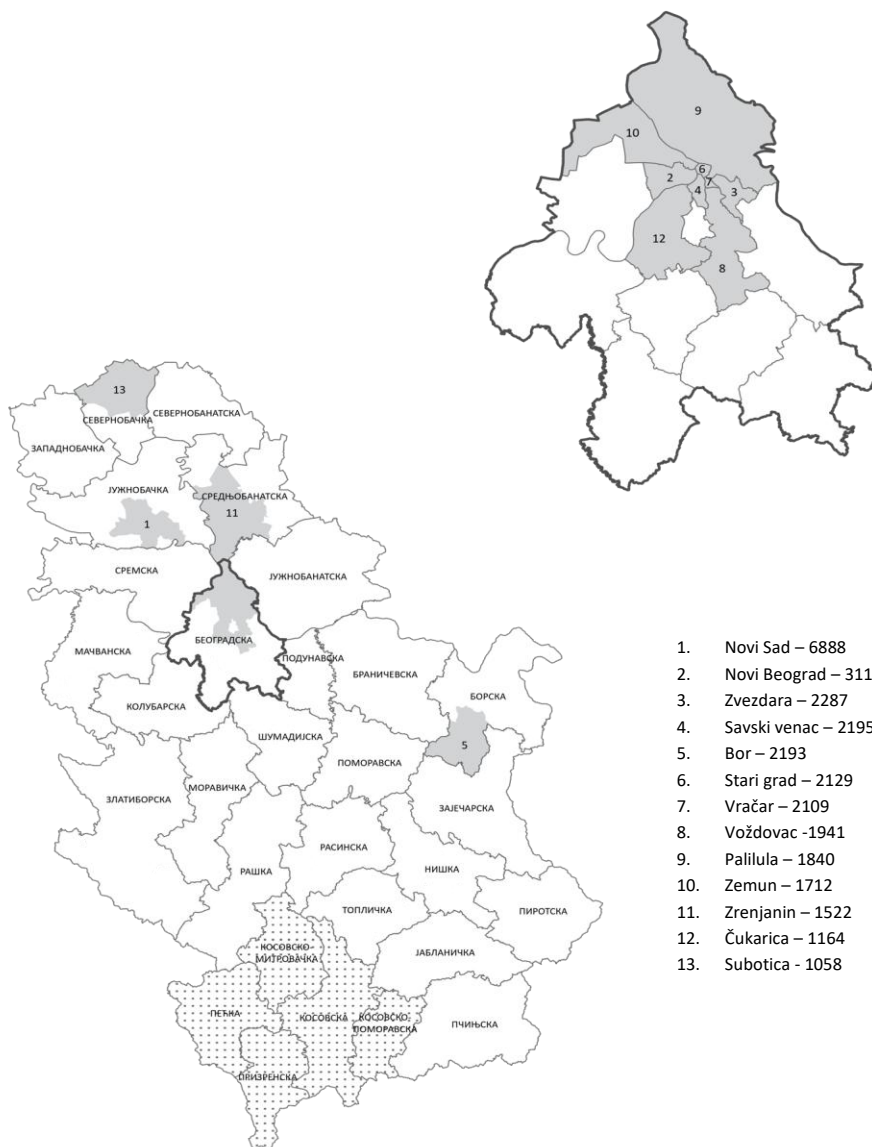


Immigration Flows of Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Municipalities, 2023



Map base: Republic Geodetic Authority
Prepared by the Statistical Office of the Republic

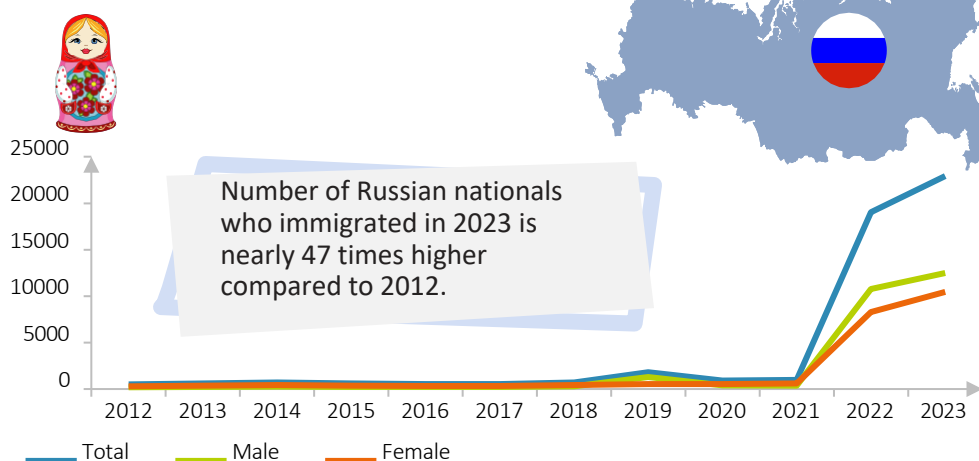
Municipalities with the Highest Immigration Flows of Foreign Nationals, 2023



- ✓ Around 73% (30,151) of foreign nationals who immigrated to the Republic of Serbia in 2023 live in 13 municipalities, nine of which are located in the City of Belgrade (18,490).
- ✓ By municipality, the highest number of foreign nationals who immigrated to Serbia in 2023 reside in Novi Sad, with approximately 6,900 individuals.

PROFILES OF THE MOST REPRESENTED FOREIGN NATIONALS (TOP THREE) WHO IMMIGRATED TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Immigration Flows of Russian Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Gender, 2012–2023

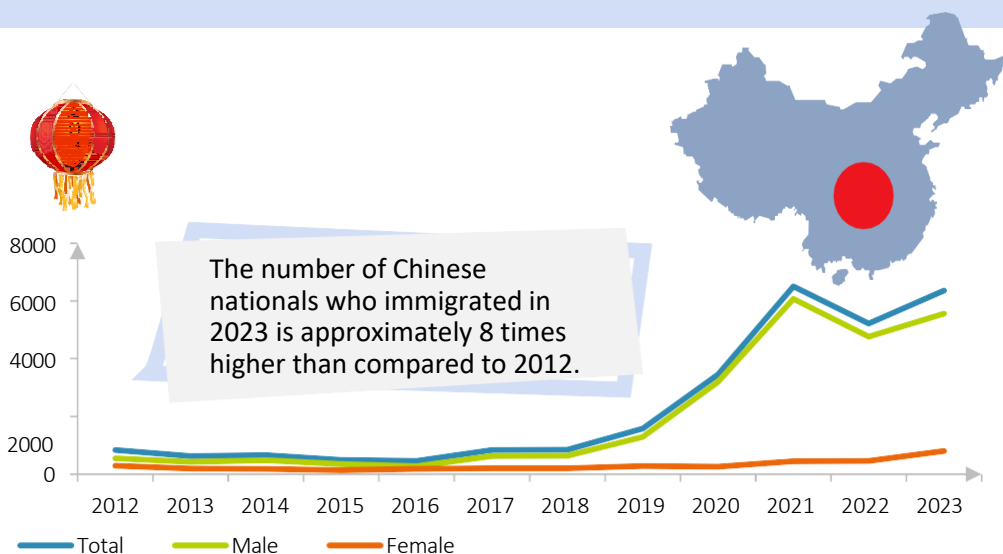


Immigration Flows of Russian Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Municipality of Residence (Top Ten), 2023

	Total	%
Republic of Serbia	22937	100,0
1. Novi Sad	5365	23,4
2. Novi Beograd	2392	10,4
3. Vračar	1861	8,1
4. Zvezdara	1781	7,8
5. Stari grad	1768	7,7
6. Savski venac	1644	7,2
7. Voždovac	1295	5,6
8. Palilula	1209	5,3
9. Zemun	946	4,1
10. Čukarica	679	3,0

- ✓ The average age of Russian nationals in 2023 is 30 years; when observed by gender, the share of males is 54.4%, while females account for 45.6%.
- ✓ Approximately 83% of Russian nationals who immigrated in 2023 reside in 10 municipalities, nine of which are located in the City of Belgrade (13,575).
- ✓ By municipality, the highest number of Russian nationals who immigrated in 2023 reside in Novi Sad.

Immigration Flows of Chinese Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Gender, 2012–2023



Immigration Flows of Chinese Nationals in the Republic of Serbia by Municipality of Residence (Top Five), 2023

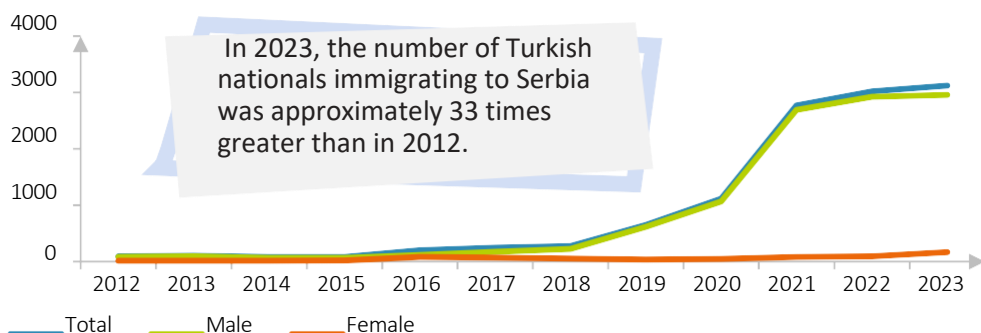
	Total	%
Republic of Serbia	6361	100,0
1. Bor	2091	32,9
2. Zrenjanin	1211	19,0
3. Novi Sad	547	8,6
4. Požarevac	298	4,7
5. Subotica	182	2,9

✓ The average age of Chinese nationals who immigrated in 2023 is 39 years; when observed by gender, the share of males is 87.5%, while females account for 12.5%.

✓ In Bor and Zrenjanin – the two municipalities with the highest number of immigrants holding Chinese citizenship in 2023 – 52% of them immigrated to these areas.

✓ In 2023, one in every three Chinese nationals immigrated to the municipality of Bor.

Immigration flows of Turkish nationals in the Republic of Serbia by gender, from 2012 to 2023.



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	94	107	81	84	201	247	274	651	1113	2769	3020	3123
Male	79	93	67	65	118	175	223	615	1064	2689	2925	2956
Female	15	14	14	19	83	72	51	36	49	80	95	167

Immigration flows of Turkish nationals in the Republic of Serbia by municipality of residence (top five) in 2023.

	Total	%
Republic of Serbia	3123	100,0
1. Zemun	356	11,4
2. Sremska Mitrovica	346	11,1
3. Palilula	230	7,4
4. Čajetina	228	7,3
5. Kruševac	196	6,3

✓ In 2023, the average age of Turkish nationals immigrating to Serbia was 36 years. Among them, men represented 94.7%, while women accounted for 5.3%.

✓ In 2023, nearly 23% of the total number of Turkish nationals immigrated to two municipalities – Zemun and Sremska Mitrovica.

**ADDITIONAL OVERVIEW OF STATISTICAL DATA ON
FOREIGN NATIONALS**

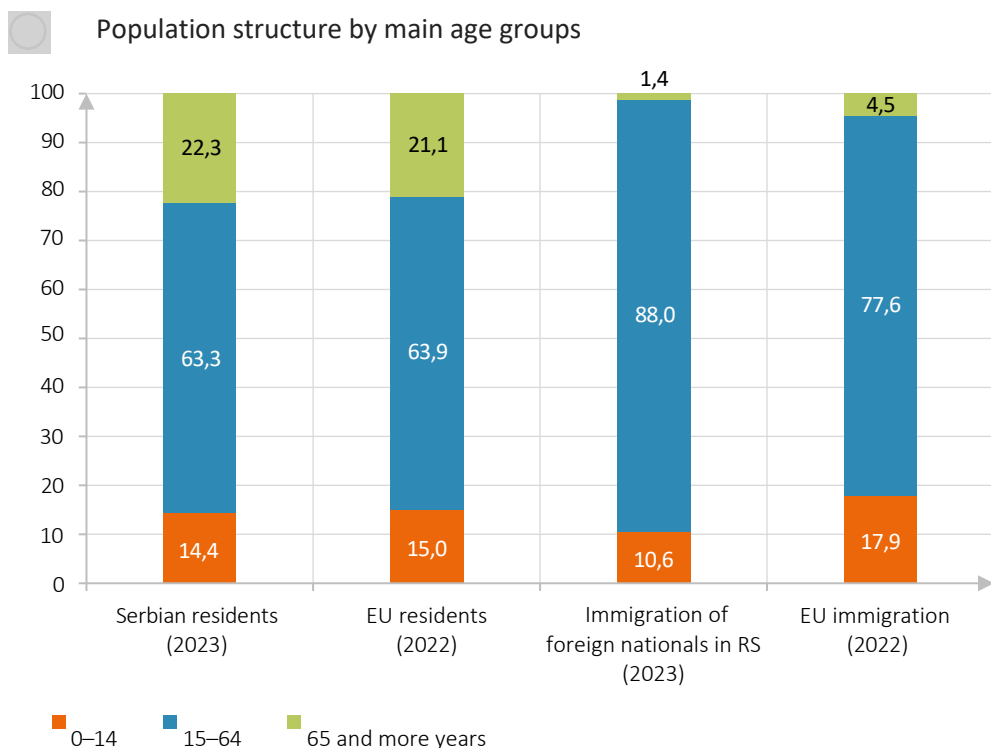


Live births in the Republic of Serbia in 2023, categorized by the nationality of the mother and father (foreign nationals)



Nationality of the mother (residing in the Republic of Serbia for one year or longer)	Father's nationality											
	Total	Belarus	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	PR China	Germany	Romania	Russian Federation	Turkey	UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Other non-European countries	Libya	Other
Total	234	3	3	44	4	3	123	4	3	15	9	23
North Macedonia	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PR China	45	-	-	44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Romania	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russian Federation	119	1	-	-	-	-	117	-	-	-	-	1
United States of America	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Ukraine	7	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	1
Other non-European countries	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	2
Libya	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-
Other	23	2	-	-	2	-	2	2	1	-	-	14

Immigration flows of foreign nationals in the Republic of Serbia and the European Union



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic, Eurostat (The most recent available data for the EU is from 2022).

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/demo_pjangroup/default/table?lang=en&category=demo.demo_pop

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_imm1ctz_custom_15527932/default/table?lang=en

✓ Immigration to the Republic of Serbia includes a higher proportion of the working-age population (15–64) and a lower share of individuals under 15 or over 65, compared to the trends seen in EU countries.

The estimated immigration flow of foreign nationals to the Republic of Serbia in 2024 is 32,353¹.

¹ Based on the processed data as of March 10, 2025.

Stock of foreign nationals with approved residence (for one year or more) or permanent settlement in the Republic of Serbia, presented by age as of December 31, 2024.¹

- ✓ According to preliminary results, the total stock of foreign nationals granted residence in the Republic of Serbia (for one year or longer) or holding permanent settlement status as of December 31, 2024, amounts to 101,413.
- ✓ In terms of gender distribution, men make up 59.1%, while women represent 40.9%.
- ✓ Approximately 60% of foreign nationals are within the age group of 25 to 45 years.
- ✓ Half of the foreign nationals are Russian citizens (52.4%), and one in ten is a Chinese citizen (12.1%).

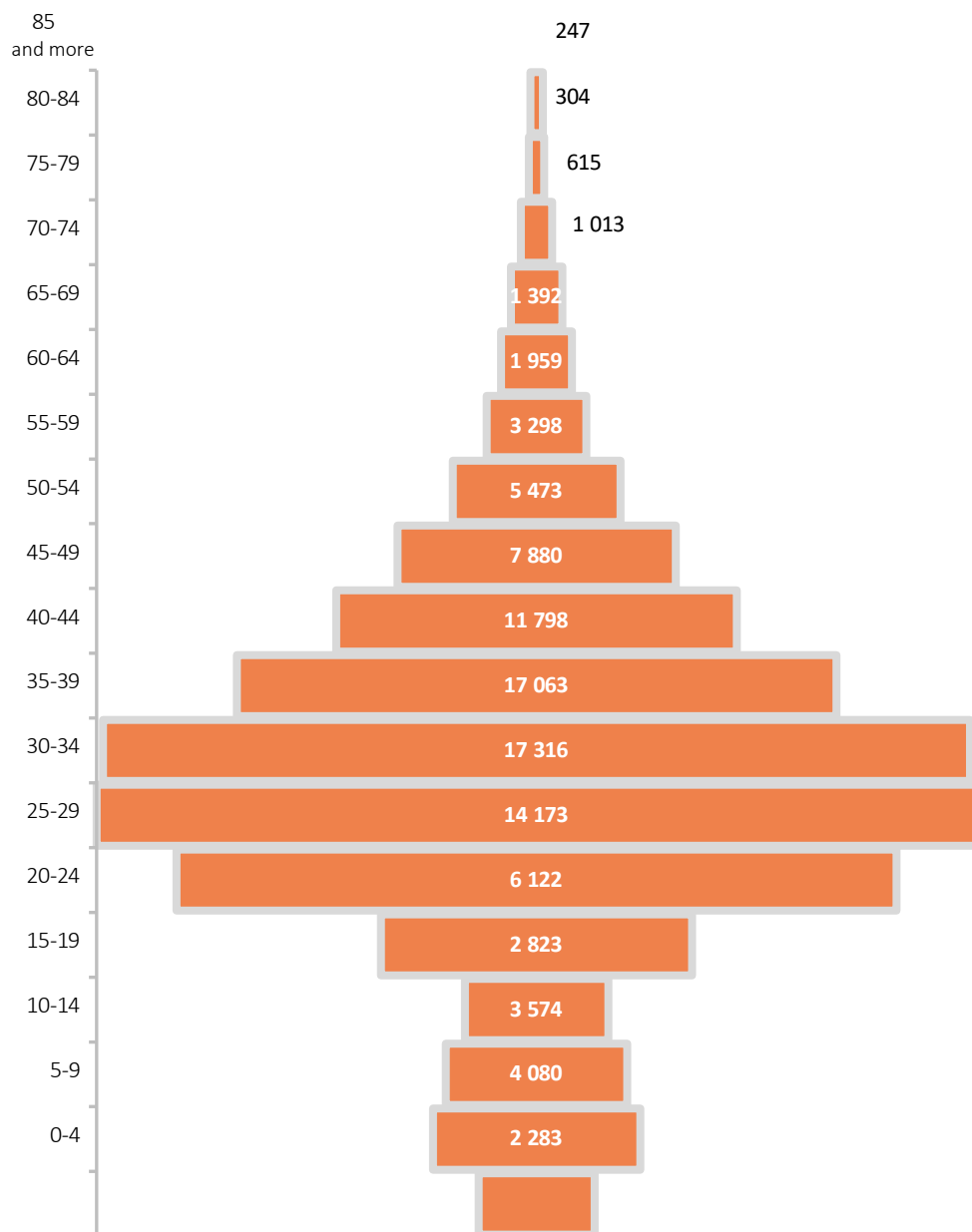
Total stock of foreign nationals granted residence in the Republic of Serbia (for one year or longer) or holding permanent settlement status, by nationality, as of December 31, 2024.

Total	101413	100%
Russian Federation	53140	52,4
People’s Republic of China	12286	12,1
India	4574	4,5
Turkey	4029	4,0
North Macedonia	1952	1,9
Ukraine	1472	1,5
Montenegro	1382	1,4
Germany	1254	1,2
Belarus	1159	1,1
Croatia	1146	1,1
Shri Lanka	1092	1,1
Other	17927	17,7

¹ Based on the processed data as of March 10, 2025.



 Total stock of foreign nationals granted residence in the Republic of Serbia (for one year or longer) or holding permanent residence, by age as of December 31, 2024.





Upcoming initiatives of the Statistical Office of the Republic focused on developing research and ensuring the availability of data on international migration.

- ✓ Development of a comprehensive methodology for immigration statistics — encompassing both foreign nationals and citizens of the Republic — through the integration of data from existing administrative registers and records, with a focus on analyzing “signs of life” within those datasets.
- ✓ Intensifying efforts to develop a methodology for researching emigration from the Republic of Serbia.

Immigration of Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Serbia



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