



Migration in Croatia

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This research is aimed to evaluate migration in Croatia by analyzing it from a statistical perspective, including in particular three main aspects: the background information about its demographic and economic frame, the migration stock and flows in the last 10 years and some migrants integration indicators.

Through this work we evaluate the changes in the Croatian population and look at the distribution of migrants into the country.

Croatia is traditionally a transit country for people attempting to reach Western Europe, but it took on new importance for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in late 2015, when the main migrant route shifted through the country. Since this shift the country took on new importance for asylum seekers following Hungary's construction of fence along its border with Serbia, which had the effect of shifting the main transit route through Croatia. From this moment Croatia's migration law started to be more restrictive, in fact non-citizens may be detained even before they receive a return decision and they are required to pay for their detention.¹

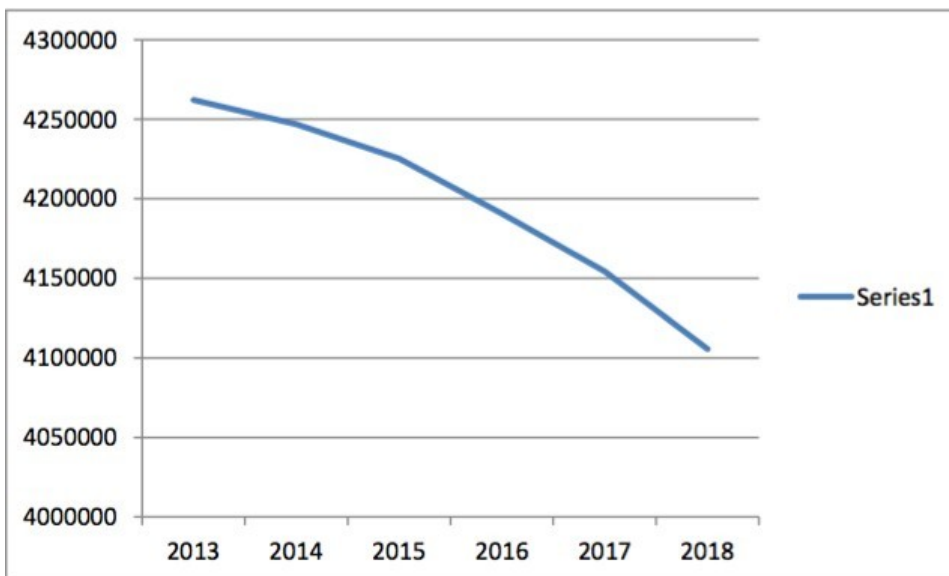
¹ <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/croatia>



1. Background information

Population

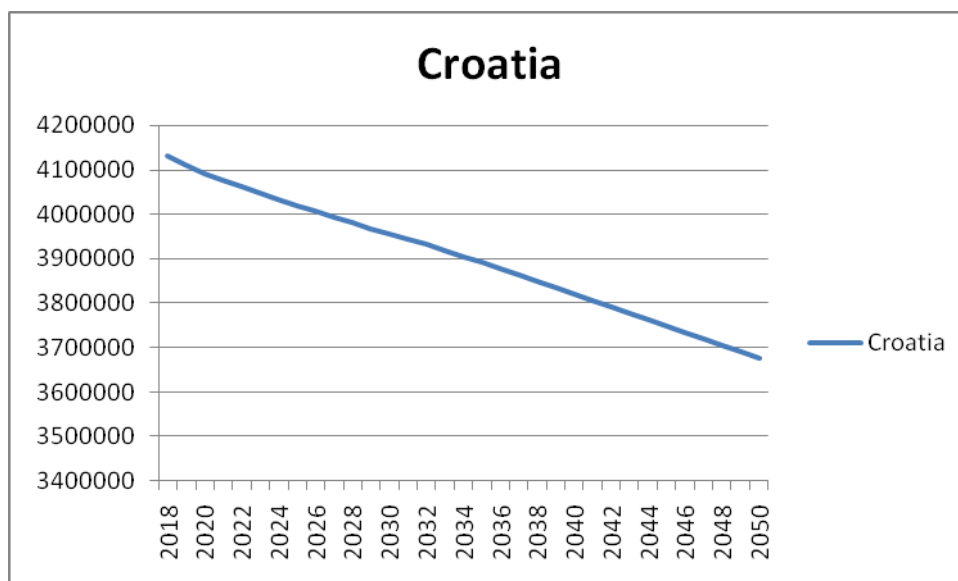
Croatia, officially the Republic of Croatia, is a country at the crossroads of Central and Southeast Europe, on the Adriatic Sea. The population of Croatia, intended as the number of people who abitually reside in a country on January 1st in 2018, is 4.105.493 and the population growth from 2013 to 2018 has been negative.



Source of data: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]



Population projection on 1st January 2018



Source: Eurostat, [proj_15npms]

The total population projection for 2050 is 3.674.791 people, it is decreasing from 4.105.493 people in 2018.

GDP per capita

GDP per capita is a gross domestic product divided by midyear population. The indicator is calculated as the ratio of real GDP to the average population of a specific year. GDP measures the value of total final output of goods and services produced by an economy within a certain period of time. It includes goods and services that have markets and products which are produced by general government and nonprofit institutions. It is a measure of economic activity and is also used as a proxy for the development in a country's material living standards. However, it is a limited measure of economic welfare. For example, neither does GDP include most unpaid household work nor does GDP take account of negative effects of economic activity, like environmental degradation. Data are in current US dollars. The

Croatian GDP per capita in 2017 is 13.382,72 U.S.² The GDP per capita in Croatia was last recorded at 15.892 U.S. in 2008, reaching an all time high and a record low of 4.794 U.S. in 1995.



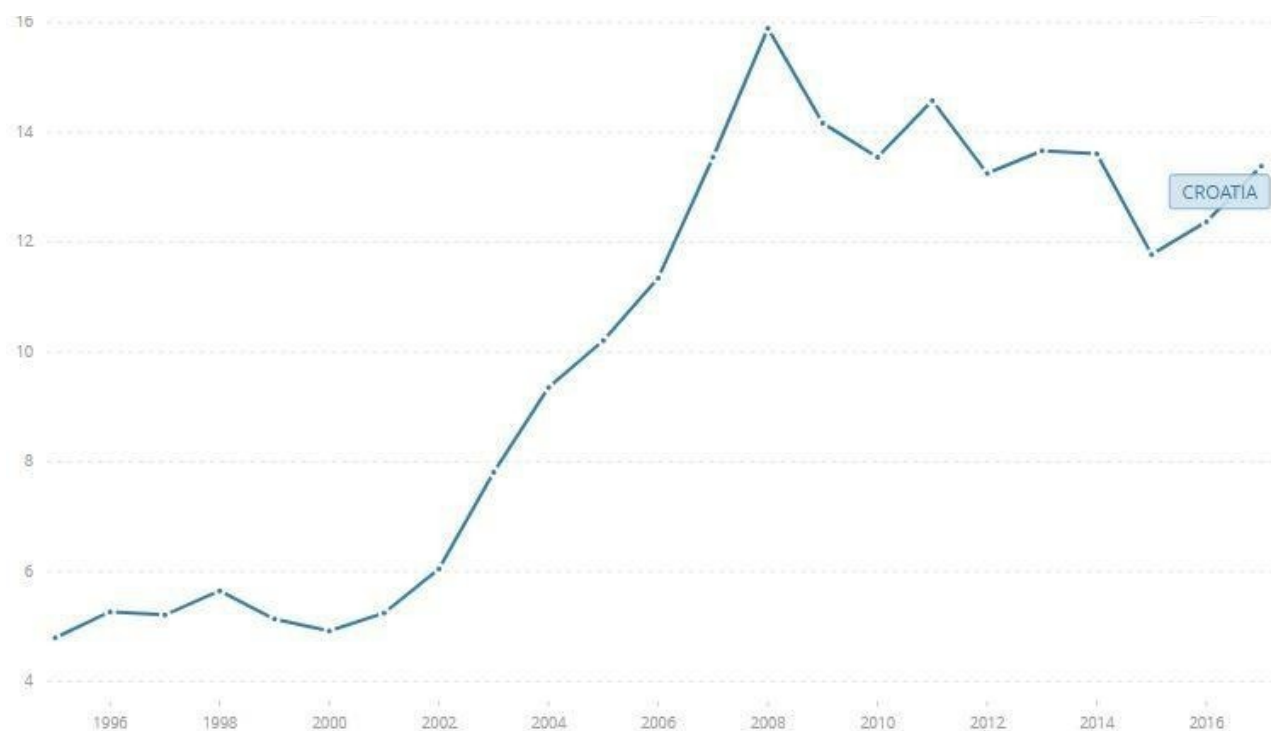
Among the former Yugoslav Republic, Croatia had one of the most flourishing economies and after the war that ended in 1995 it took part at the economical competitiveness with the other European countries. Thanks to the introduction of some reforms, Croatia registered a rapid economic development until 2008, when the Croatian economic system had proved to be weaker than the other countries of the European region, for this reason the GDP per capita has declined.³

² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=HR&view=chart>

³ [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2015/563394/IPOL_IDA\(2015\)563394_IT.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2015/563394/IPOL_IDA(2015)563394_IT.pdf)



CROATIAN GDP PER CAPITA FROM 1995 TO 2017



Source: World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files

Human development index (HDI)

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The scores for the three HDI dimension indices are then aggregated into a composite index, even if it does not reflect inequalities, poverty, human security, etc. The index scale is in thousandths decreasing from 1 to 0. In Croatia in 2017 the HDI was 0,831 and the country was at the 46th place in the global rank.⁴

⁴ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/faq-page/human-development-index-hdi#t292n2867>

Human Development Index (HDI)		
HDI rank	Country	Value
46	Croatia	0.831

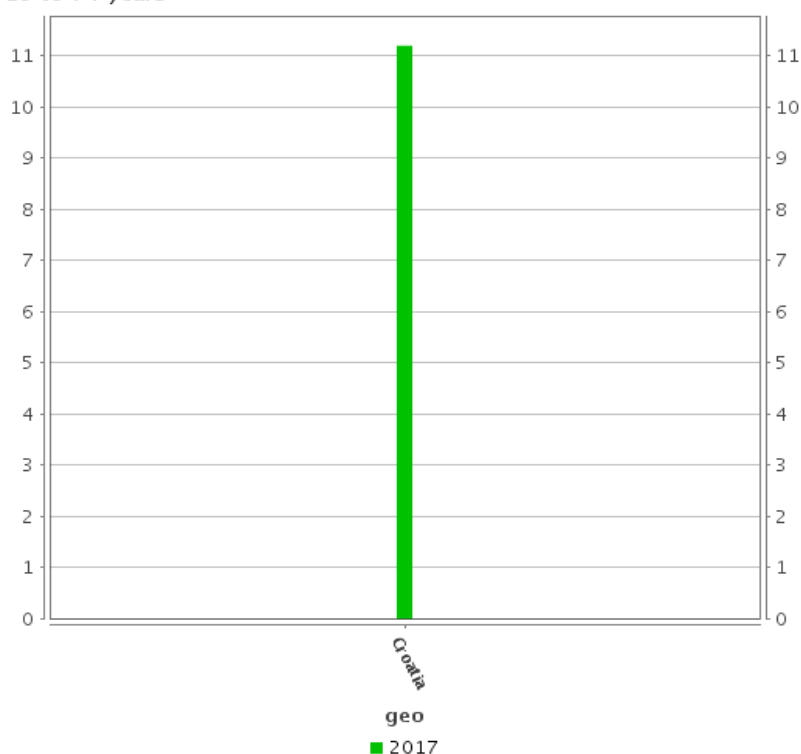
Source: UNDP
Unemployment



Unemployment rate by age

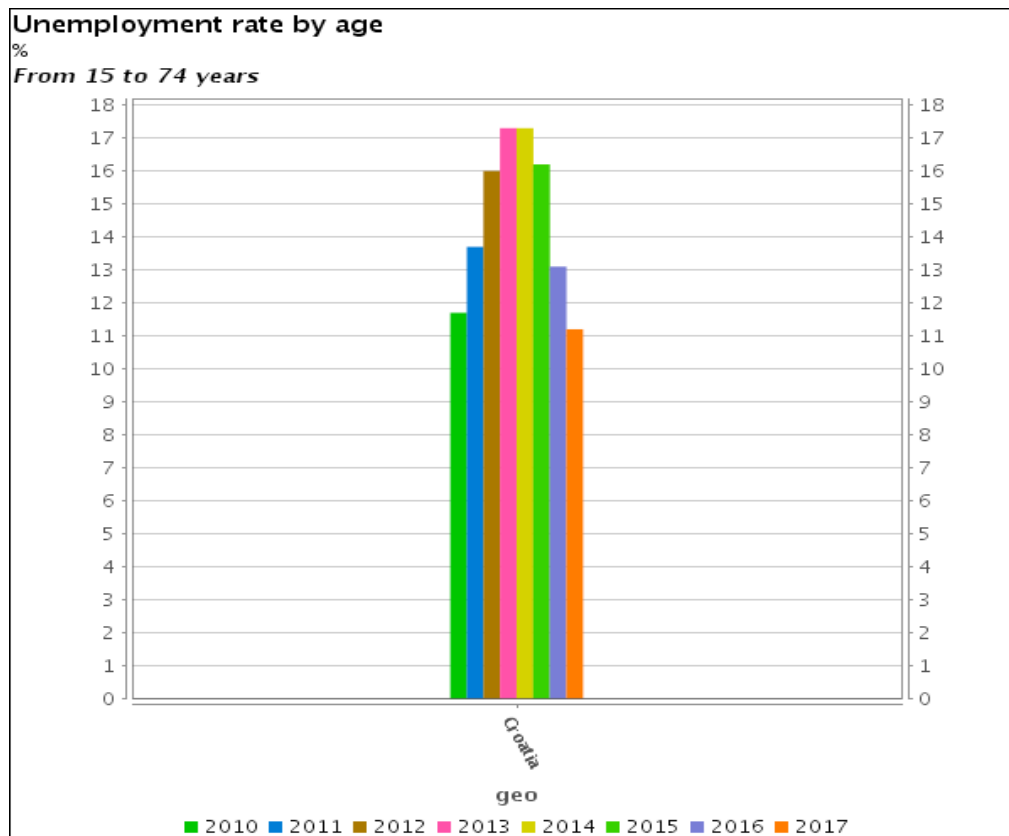
%

From 15 to 74 years



Source: [Eurostat](#)

The total population rate about unemployment in 2017 is 11.2. The indicator presents unemployment rates for different age groups. The rate presents unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The labour force is the total number of people employed and unemployed and it is based on the Eu Labour Force Survey. In 2013 and 2014 unemployment increased at 17,3%, on of the three higher rates among the EU-28 countries.

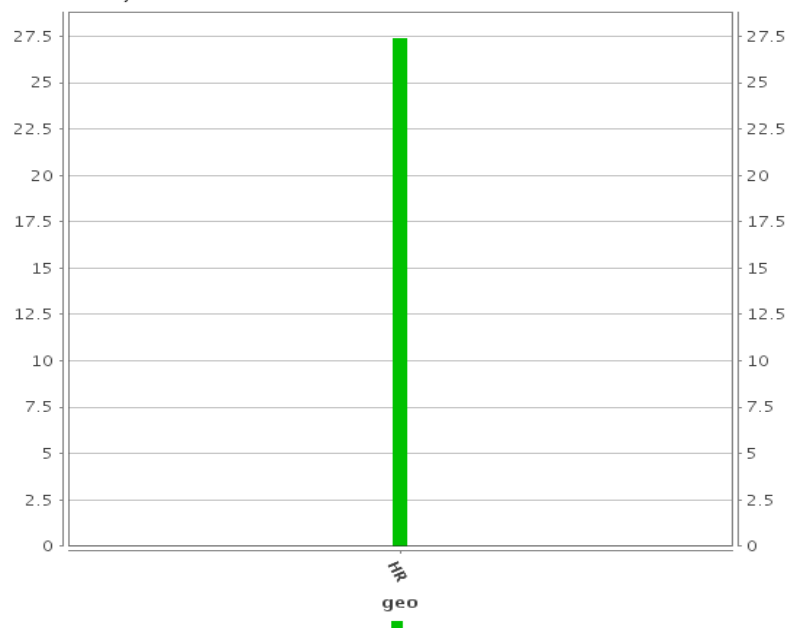




Unemployment rate by age

%

From 15 to 24 years



Source: Eurostat [tepsr_wc170]

Even for youth unemployment Croatia has a very high level among the EU-28 countries, in 2017 it was 27.5.



1. Migration stock and flows in the last 10 years

Total number of international migrants residing in the country



Source of data: UN DESA, 2017

Total number of international migrants (UN DESA, 2017)	560.5 thousand
International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population (UN DESA, 2017)	13.4 %
Net migration in the last 5 years (immigrants minus emigrants) (UN DESA, 2017)	-40 thousand
Share of female migrants in the international migrant stock (UN DESA, 2017)	53.7 %
Total number of emigrants (UN DESA, 2017)	916.8 thousand
Difference in the share of migrants in the total population between 2017 and 1995 (percentage points) (UN DESA, 2017)	0.2 Percentage points
Percentage of international migrants 19 years and younger living in the country/region (UN DESA, 2017)	11.6 %
Percentage of international migrants 65 years and older (UN DESA, 2017)	22.5 %

The number of international migrants in the country is 560,5 thousand, on a total population of

4.154.200 (2017), for a share of 13.4%. The number of international migrants remained stable, with a little drop respect to 2000, as the percentage of total population of the country

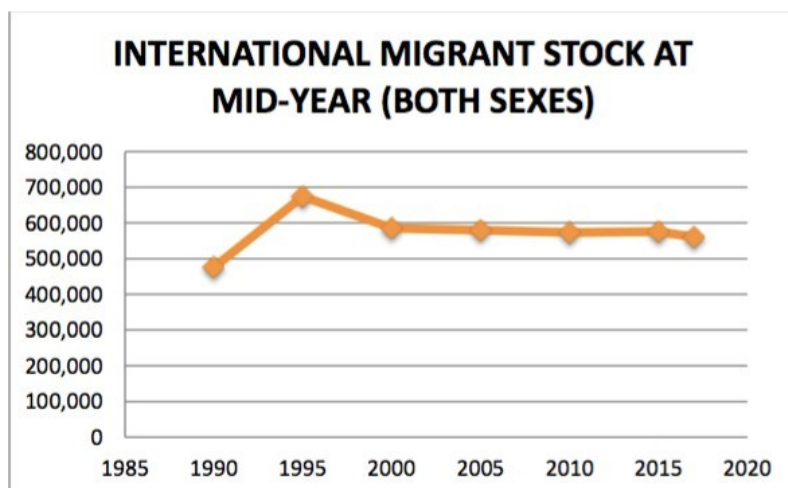
Number of international migrants (thousands)		International migrants as percentage of total population		Females among international migrants (percentage)	
2000	2017	2000	2017	2000	2017

and the percentage of females among all migrants.

Croatia	585	560	13.2	13.4	53.0	53.7
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Source of data: UNPD, 2017

Immigration stock



1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2017
475.438	674.085	585.298	579.273	573.248	575.738	560.483

Source of data: Eurostat

Movement of people, most often through migration, is a significant part of global integration.

Migrants contribute to the economies of both their host country and their country of origin.⁵



International migrant stocks are estimates of “the total number of international migrants present in a given country at a particular point in time”.⁶ The data used to estimate the international migrant stock at a particular time are obtained mainly from population census.⁷ According with the data, in Croatia the immigration stock has remained relatively stable since the 1990s, with a small decline in 2016. In 2017 there were 3.8 migrants per 1000 inhabitants.⁸ Data on migrant stocks are often reported together with data on migrant flows.

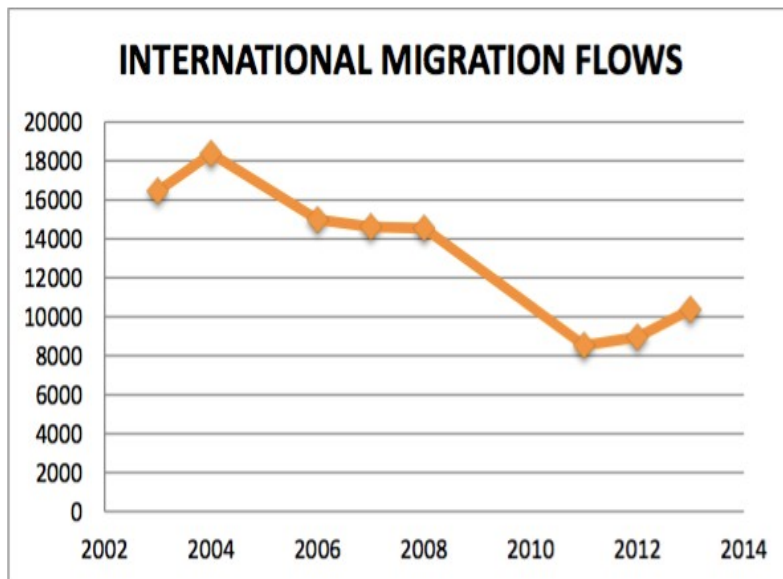
⁵ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SM.POP.TOTL.ZS?locations=HR>

⁶ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/BG-4a-Migration-Handbook-E.pdf>

⁷ World Bank definition



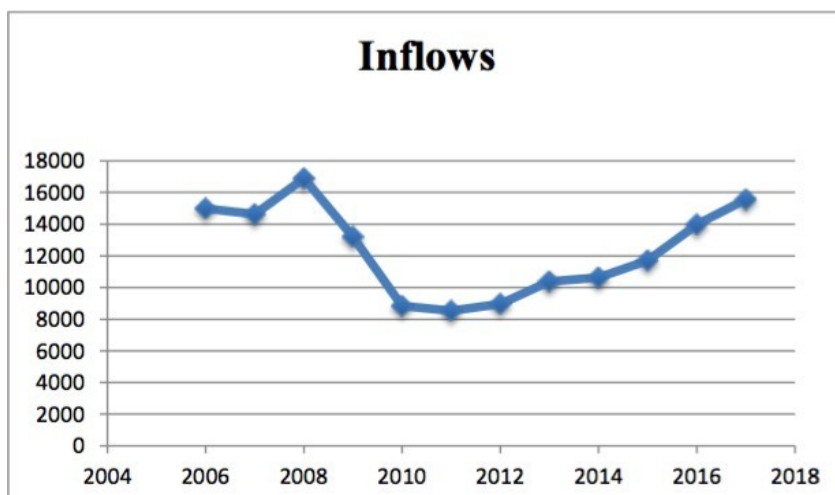
Immigration flow



Source of data: Eurostat

Although both terms account for the number of migrants, what they measure is different. Migrant flows data account for the number of migrants entering or leaving during a specified time period. In recent years, however, the flow of migrants has begun to increase again, not significantly, still remaining below the 2008 maximum threshold.

Immigration - Inflows

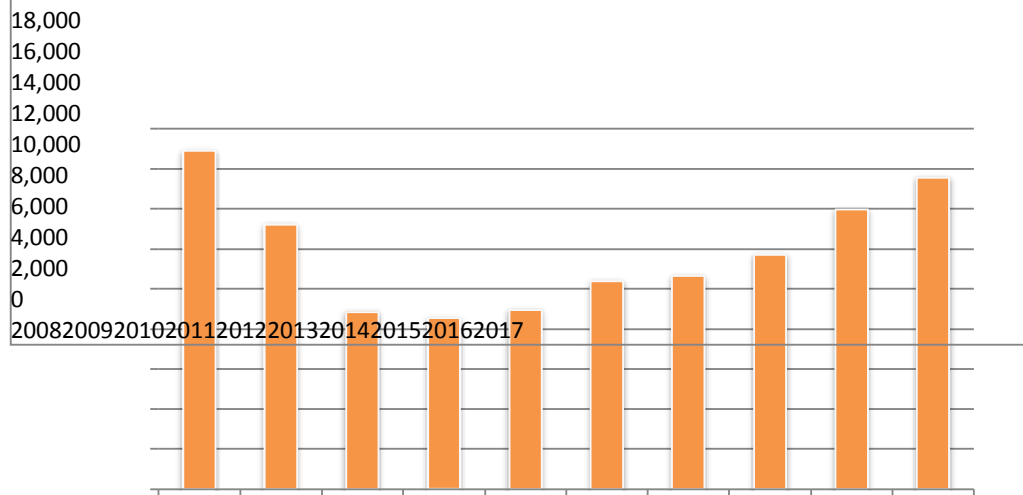


Source of data: Eurostat



According to the graph data, the inflows has begun to decrease significantly around 2008 until 2010. From that year, the data has begun to increase slowly, coming back almost to the initial value.

Immigration by age, sex and broad group of country of birth





Immigration stock by age, sex and broad group of country of birth

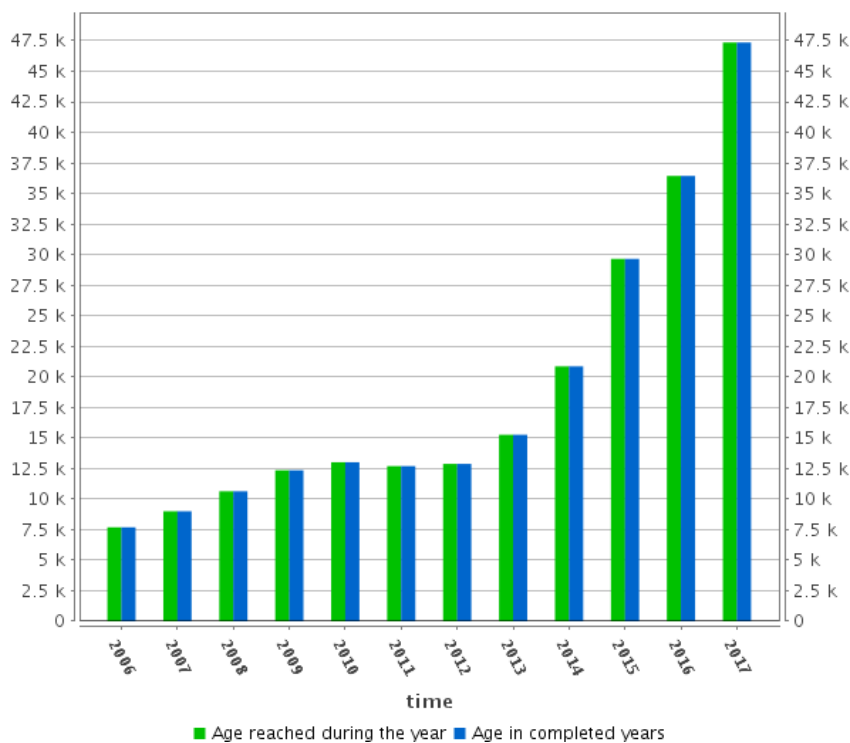
Source of data: Eurostat

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Croatia	16,883 ^(b)	13,213	8,846	8,534	8,959	10,378	10,638	11,70

Emigration-Outflows

Total number of long-term emigrants leaving from the reporting country during the reference year

**Emigration
persons
Croatia**



Year	N.
2006	7,692
2007	9,002
2008	10,638
2009	12,355
2010	13,017
2011	12,699
2012	12,877
2013	15,262
2014	20,858
2015	29,651
2016	36,436
2017	47,352

Source of data: Eurostat

The value of net migration in the first table (-40 thousands) shows how Croatia is still a country of emigration; the country, in fact, occupy one of the worst positions in the EU.

According to the study published by the National Bank, 71.3 per cent of Croatians who moved to other EU countries chose Germany. Almost eight per cent chose Ireland, which removed all restrictions on employment for Croatians as soon as the country joined the EU. Germany opened up its labour market to Croatians in July 2015.

Reason for migration

The Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX) is a tool which measures policies to integrate migrants in all EU Member States and others. 167 policy indicators have been developed to create a rich, multi-dimensional picture of migrants' opportunities to participate in society.



Source of data: MIPEX

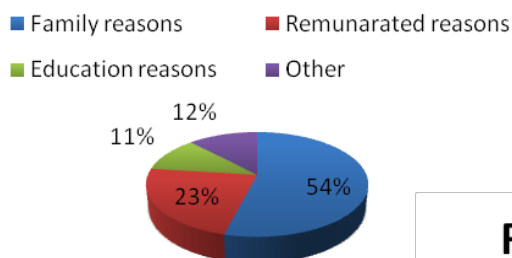
In the last two decades, regional immigration, mainly from other former Yugoslav republics, replaced the flows of refugees and displaced persons into Croatia, following the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Due to economic downturn, employment rates decreased significantly as did labour migration into shipbuilding and construction industries, which traditionally enjoy the largest number of migrant workers. As part of its preparation for EU accession, Croatia harmonised its Aliens' Act and Asylum Act with the EU acquis in 2013 and started a significant policy and administrative reform.

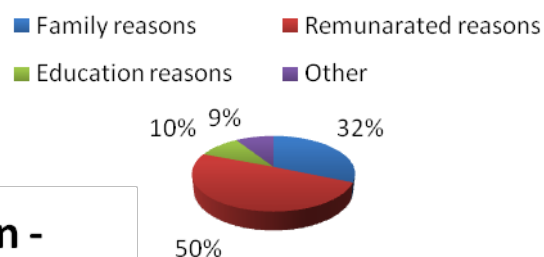


First permits by reason, age, sex and citizenship

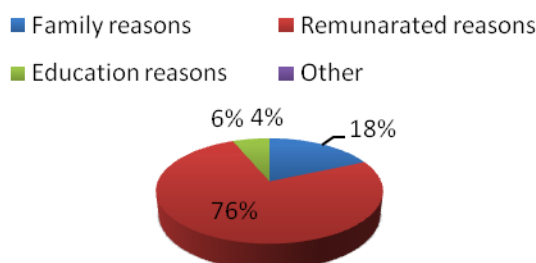
Reason for migration - 2015



Reason for migration - 2016



Reason for migration - 2017



Migration in Europe

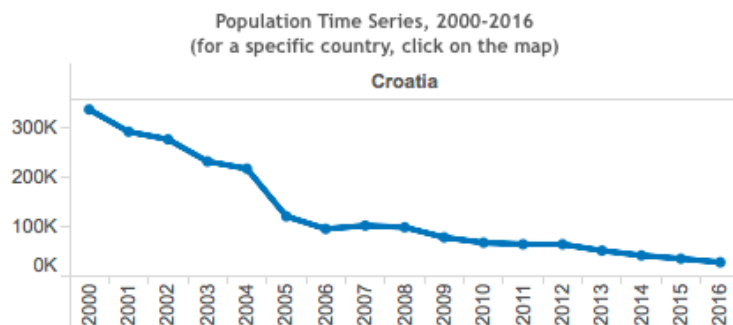
 *Jean Monnet Module*

Family reasons			Remunerated activities reasons		
2015	1852	54%	2015	790	23%
2016	1673	31,5%	2016	2634	49,5%
2017	1694	17,5%	2017	6987	72%
Education reasons			Other reasons		
2015	387	11%	2015	404	12%
2016	526	10%	2016	482	9%
2017	591	6%	2017	461	4,5%



The graphs show that the percentage of admissions in Croatia from 2015 to 2017 has increased for remunerated reasons compared to previous years for family reunions.

Total number of refugees by country of destination



Source of data :MPI, Migration Policy Institute

Croatia has long served as a transit country for non-citizens attempting to reach Western Europe. However, the country took on new importance for refugees and migrants in late 2015 following Hungary's construction of a fence along its border with Serbia, which had the effect of shifting the main transit route through Croatia. By the end of 2015, more than 550,000 people had traversed Croatia.

Faced with a surge in new arrivals, the government responded with a mix of new security policies and ramped up humanitarian assistance, including escorting refugees from the Serbian border to transit reception camps as part of their onward journeys.

In early 2016, Croatia joined Slovenia in imposing strict daily limits on the number of refugees allowed to enter. Croatia also adopted new legislation granting power to the armed forces to support the country's police in protecting state borders.

According to a 2019 Amnesty International report, given that EU funds have been granted to Croatia for the purpose of border security, the EU is complicit in these systematic and violent pushbacks. Croatia refuses entry to large numbers of people, around 9,000-10,000 annually. It apprehends approximately 3,000 people without proper documentation and orders around 4,000 to leave its territory, approximately half of whom are forcibly expelled. In 2016, the number of people applying for asylum increased tenfold, presumably due to strict border controls in destination countries. However, numbers subsequently began to decrease, particularly after the EU-Turkey deal was reached in March 2016.



Migrants integration indicators

Migrants by educational level

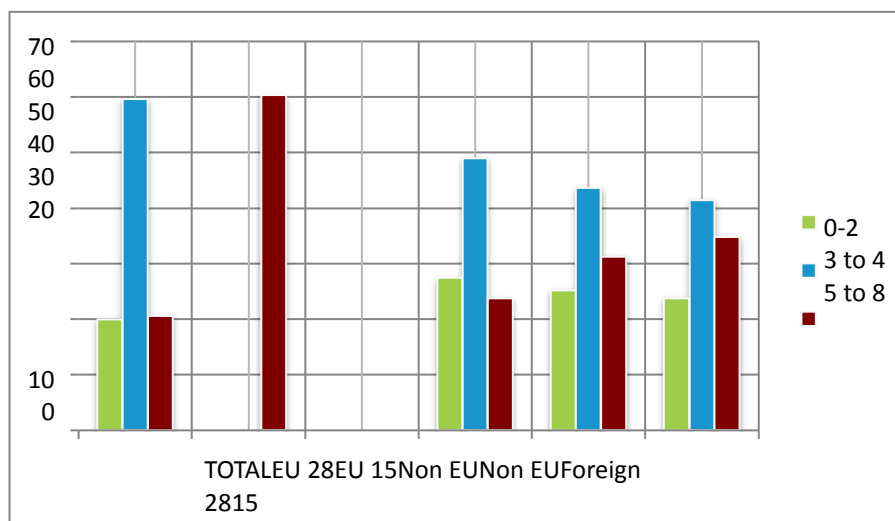
Population by educational attainment level, sex, age and citizenship.

Educational attainment levels are:

- 0-2 less than primary, primary and low secondary education;
- 3-4 upper secondary and post- secondary non tertiary education: and finally
- 5-8 tertiary education.

The age considered in the table is from 15 to 64 years old, the most large range in Eurostat statistics.

GEO/LEV	0-2	3 to 4	5 to 8
TOTAL	19,9	59,6	20,6
EU 28	60,3		
EU 15			
Non EU 28	27,4	49,0	23,7
Non EU 15	25,2	43,6	31,2
Foreign	23,8	41,4	34,8



Source: Eurostat [edat_lfs_9911]



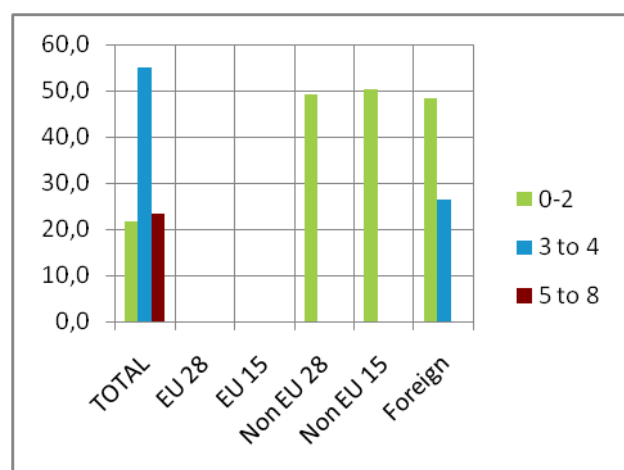
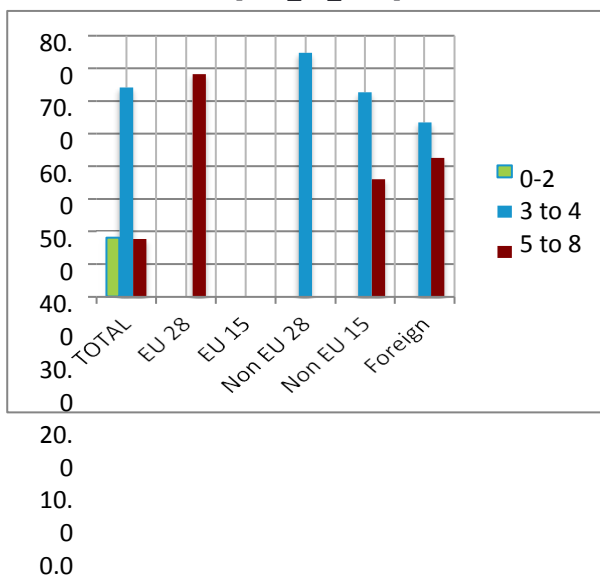
Even if some data concerning levels 0-2 and 3-4 related to EU 28 and 15 migrants we can say that European immigration it seems more high leveled, meanwhile Foreign immigration it is related to a middle educational level. As we can see in the table the total immigration it has a middle educational level (3-4 educational level attainment).

Male and Female Population by educational attainment level

GEO/LEV	0-2	3 to 4	5 to 8
TOTAL	18,1	64,2	17,7
EU 28			68,3
EU 15			
Non EU 28		74,8	
Non EU 15		62,7	36,1
Foreign		53,5	42,6

GEO/LEV	0-2	3 to 4	5 to 8
TOTAL	21,7	54,9	23,4
EU 28			
EU 15			
Non EU 28	49,3		
Non EU 15	50,2		
Foreign	48,4	26,4	

Source: Eurostat [edat_lfs_9911]



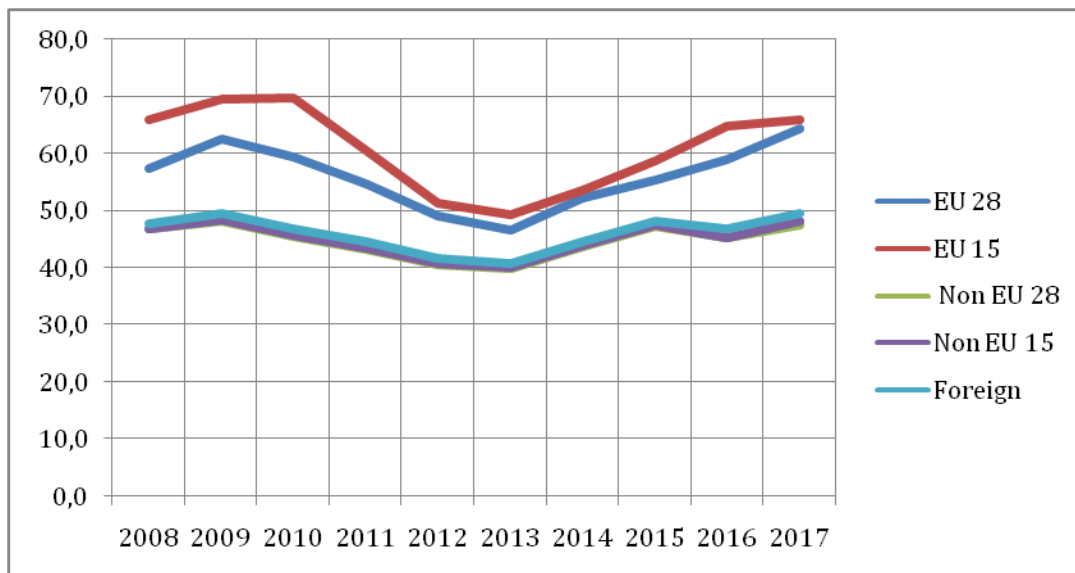
If we analyze data comparing male and female migrant population, we can affirm that both genders have an average level of education, although the men result more educated than women. But if we dwell on the only column that refers to it to the first level education of women it can be noticed that the rates are much more higher than those of secondary education. This difference could lead back to differentiated access to education in the countries of origin since the most eloquent data are those concerning the non-European migrants.



Labour force participation in the last 10 years

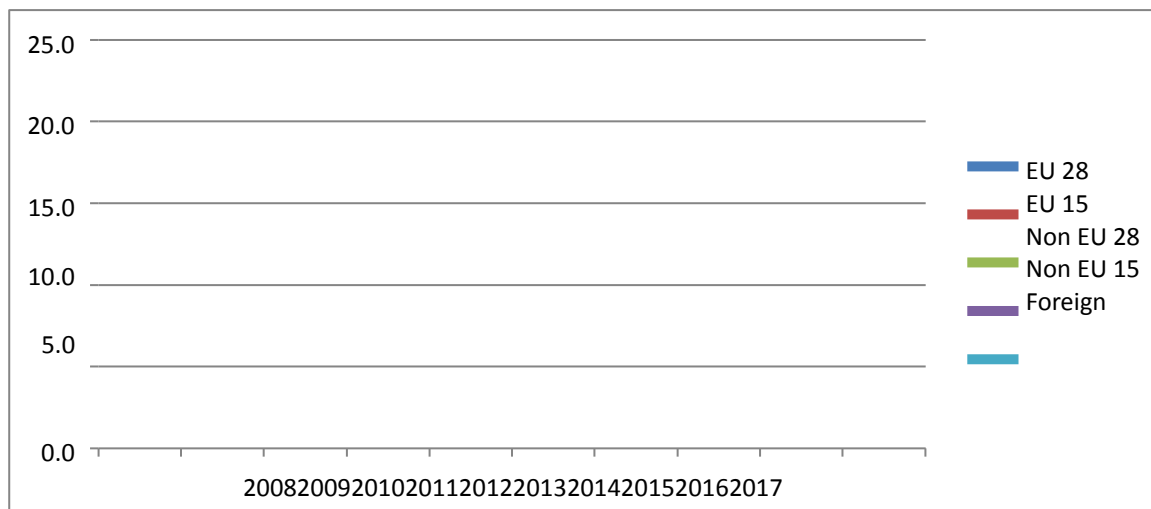
Employment

Source: Eurostat, [lfsa_ergacob]





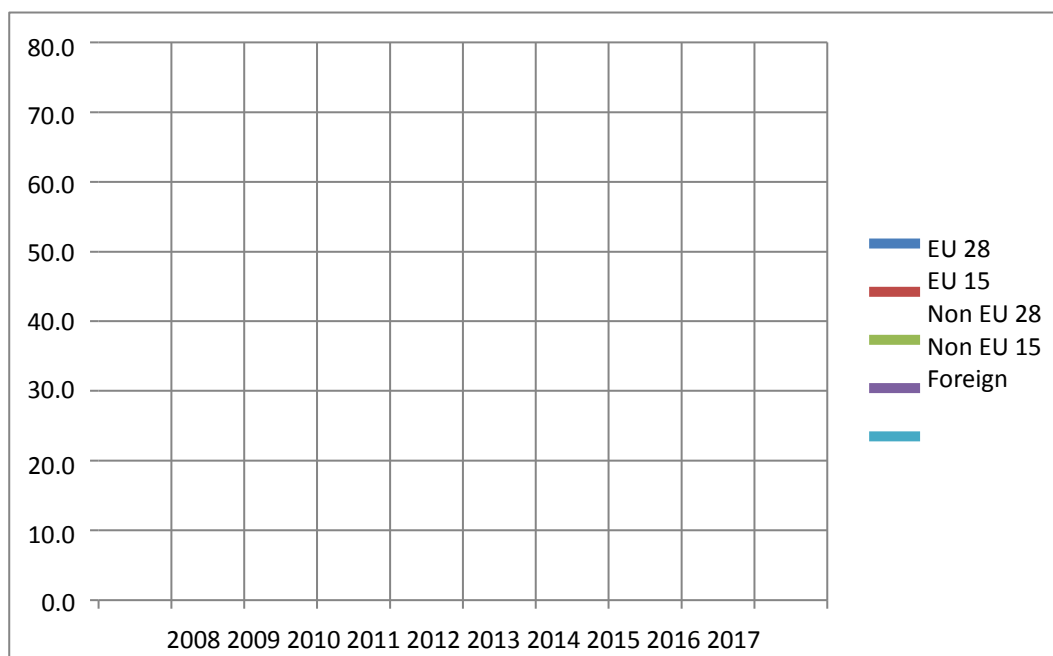
Unemployment



Source: Eurostat [lfsa_urgacob]

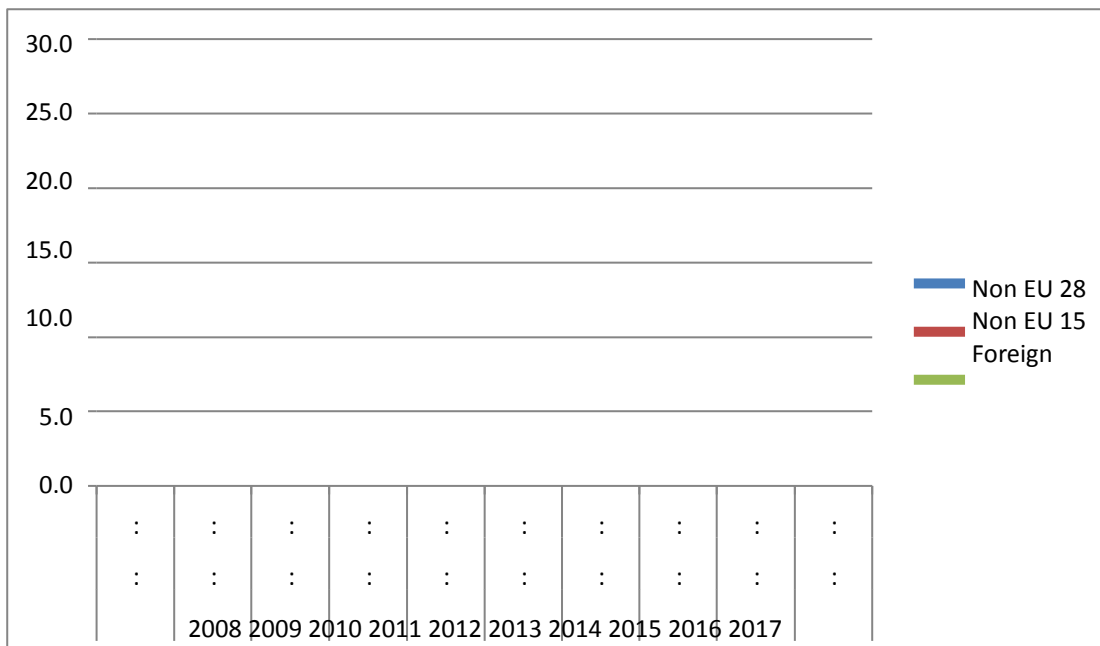
The table shows that there has been an almost constant employment rate in the last 10 years (2008- 2017), there has been a decline only in the period from 2010 to 2013. The first countries to present a decrease in employment are the Non EU countries, the EU 28 countries starting from 2008-2009 and then being followed by the countries EU 15 between 2010-2011. The highest employment rates are recorded among the migrant population of the EU15 countries, followed by the EU28 but in Non-EU countries migrants have a lower employment rate than the total of the migrant population taken into consideration in all the registered periods.

Males Employment





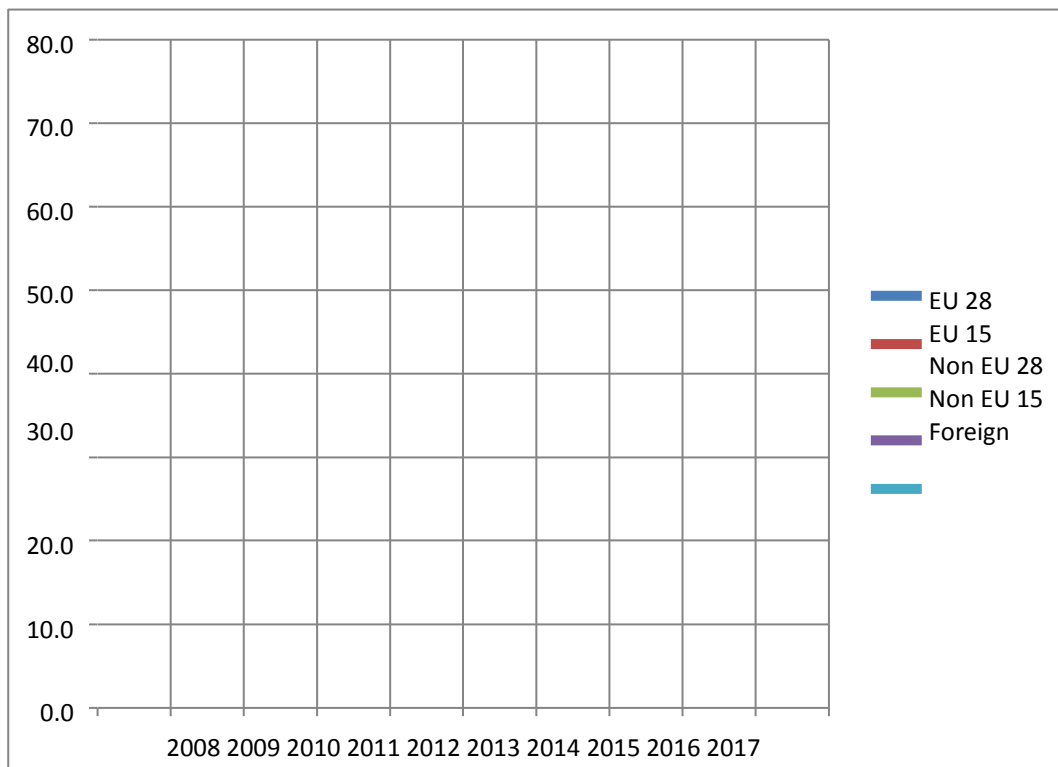
Males Unemployment



Looking at the chart regarding the part of the male migrant population we note that: between 2009 and 2010, men from the EU15 countries register the higher rate of employment but also the fastest decrease in rates employment since 2010. For all the categories analyzed, 2013 represents the year with the lowest employment rate, but from this moment until 2017 the growth is constant and fairly rapid. The peak of employment that occurs in the short period of time between 2008 and 2009 could be due to recent relocations of many industries in Croatia.

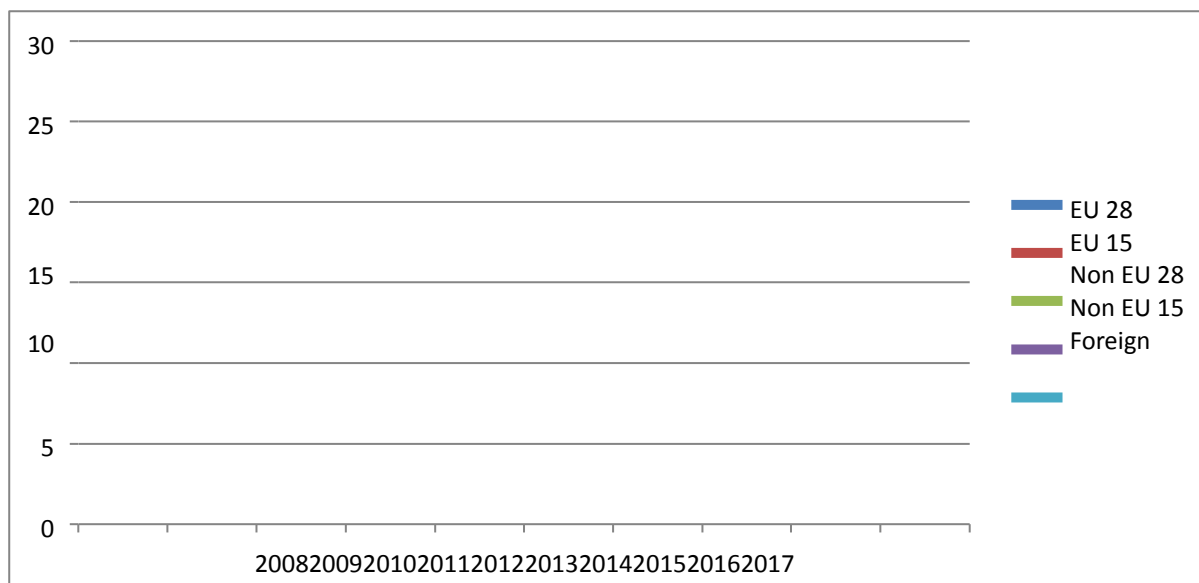


Females Employment





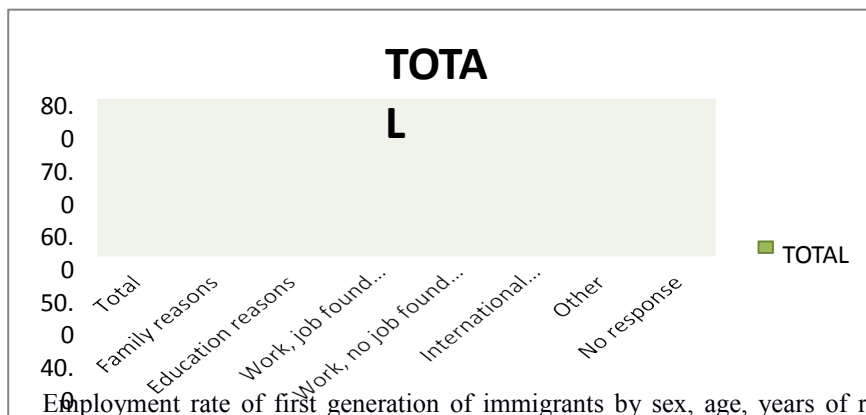
Females Unemployment



Unlike men, the most drastic drop in female employment is registered almost a year late. More for immigrant women from EU15 and EU 28 than for those from another source, for which actually the occupancy rates remain almost constant throughout the period under consideration. Also in this case the highest levels of employment are registered by European immigrants. Another important data concerns the comparison between the employment rates of men and women from Non EU 15, Non EU 28 and Foreign. From the tables we can notice that for both genders the employment rate is lower than for European immigrants but the percentage of female employment is around 40% while the one of men is at 60%. Probably this difference is due to the most low level of education of women. Another obvious fact is that although there is both a recovery from 2013 for both genders that of men is not only much faster but reaches 2008-2009 levels while for the women the recovery is slower and the levels still remain lower than those of the peak of 2009 with a percentage difference of almost 10%.



Employment in the last 10 years by sex group, age, country of birth and reason for migration.



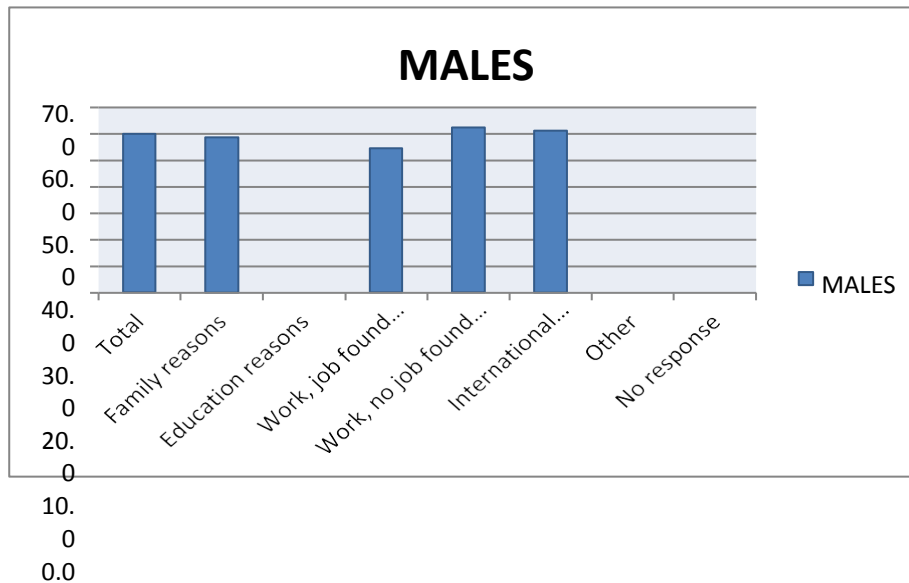
Employment rate of first generation of immigrants by sex, age, years of residence and reason for migration.

Source: Eurostat [lfso_14l1empr]

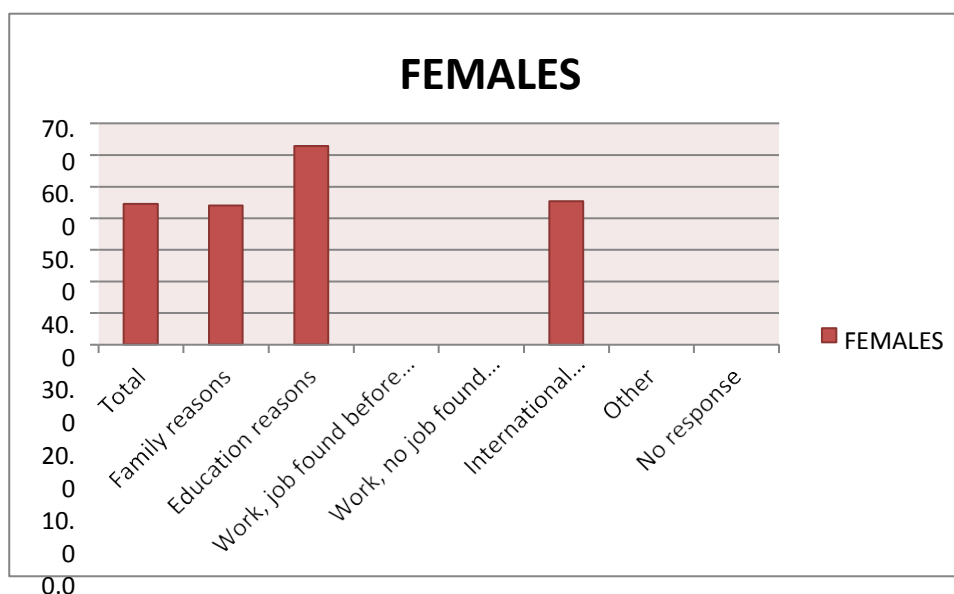
80.
70.
60.
50.
40.
30.
20.
10.
0.
0.0



The data available on Eurostat only concern the year 2014, therefore it is not possible to do a comparison or assess any changes. The largest percentage of migrants employed in Croatia in 2014 is the immigrant one for reasons related to education. While other types of immigration follow a similar employment rate in all categories. There is also a good percentage of immigrants for international protection, not by chance the traffic on the Balkan route is intensifies starting in 2014.



Among the male immigrant population the percentage linked to education is totally missing. The highest employment rate is among migrants who have come to Croatia without an employment contract obtained prior to migration in the host country, followed by migrants requesting international protection.





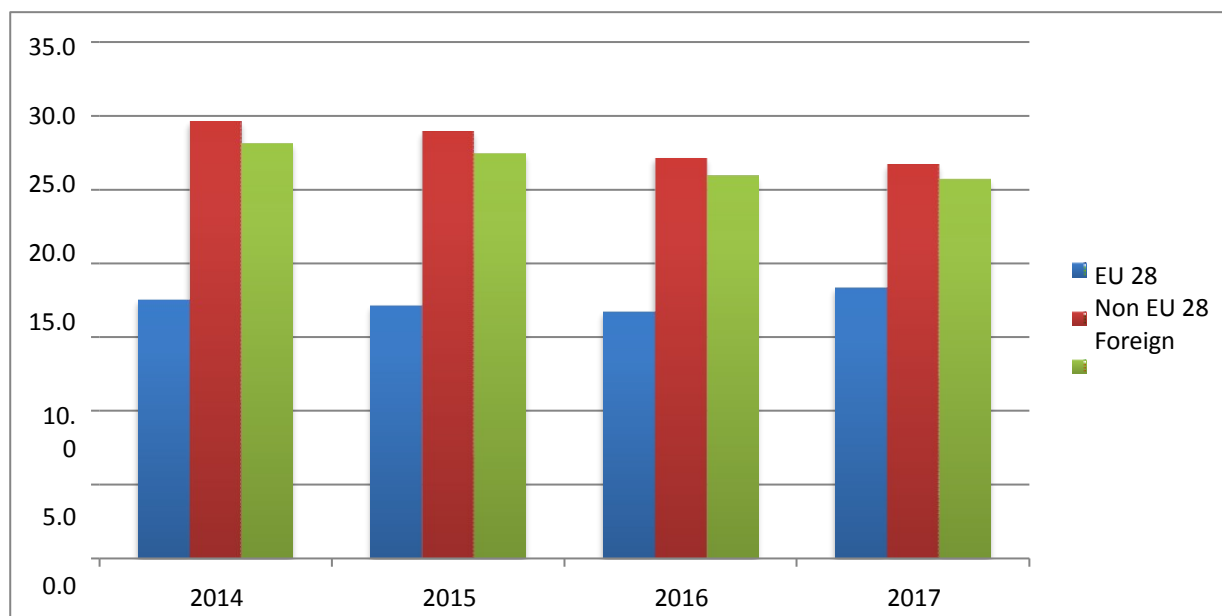
Most women are immigrants for reasons related to education, this almost totally affects the total percentage of migrants. Even in the case of women the percentage of employed migrants to obtain protection international remains among the highest. However, data concerning others are absent categories (work).



Social inclusion: income distribution and monetary poverty, risk of poverty

At-risk-of-poverty rate by broad group of country of birth (population aged 18 and over)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
EU 28	17,5	17,1	16,7	18,3	:
Non EU 28	29,6	28,9	27,1	26,7	:
Foreign	28,1	27,4	25,9	25,7	:

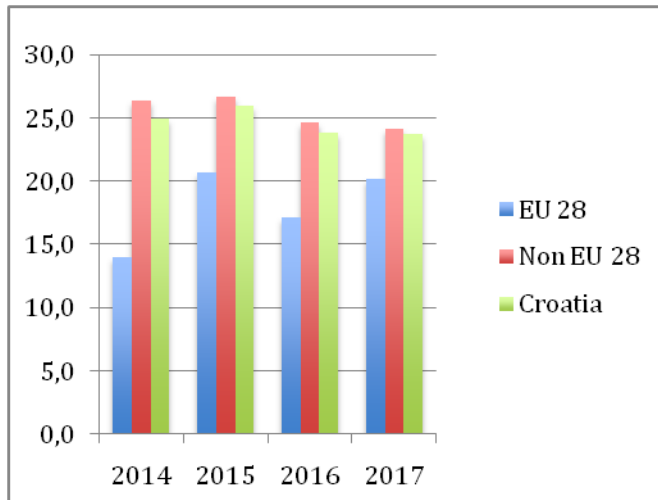


Source: Eurostat [ilc_li32]

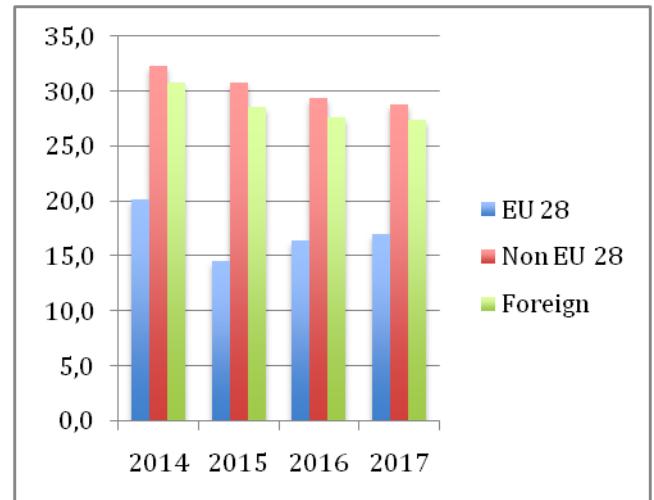
The graph shows that immigrants are more at risk of poverty from extra-European regions. The risk remains constant over the 4 years taken consideration.

Males and Female at-risk-of-poverty rate by broad group of country of birth (population aged 18 and over)

Males



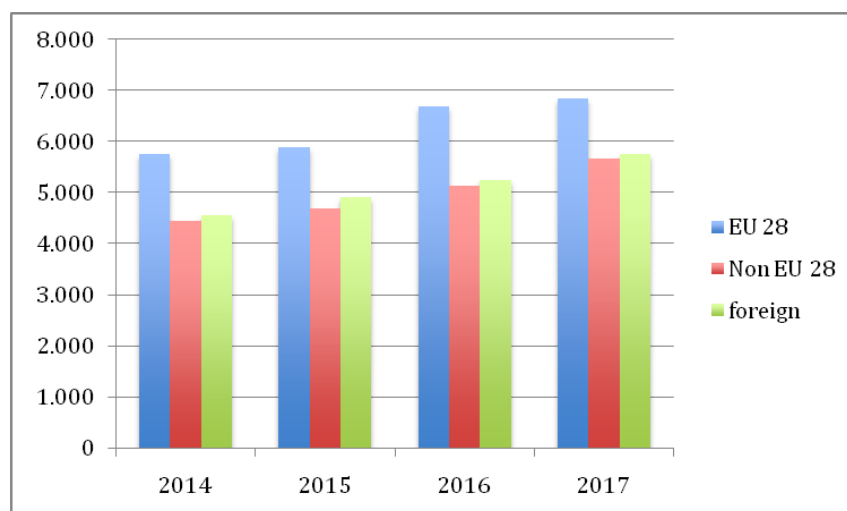
Females

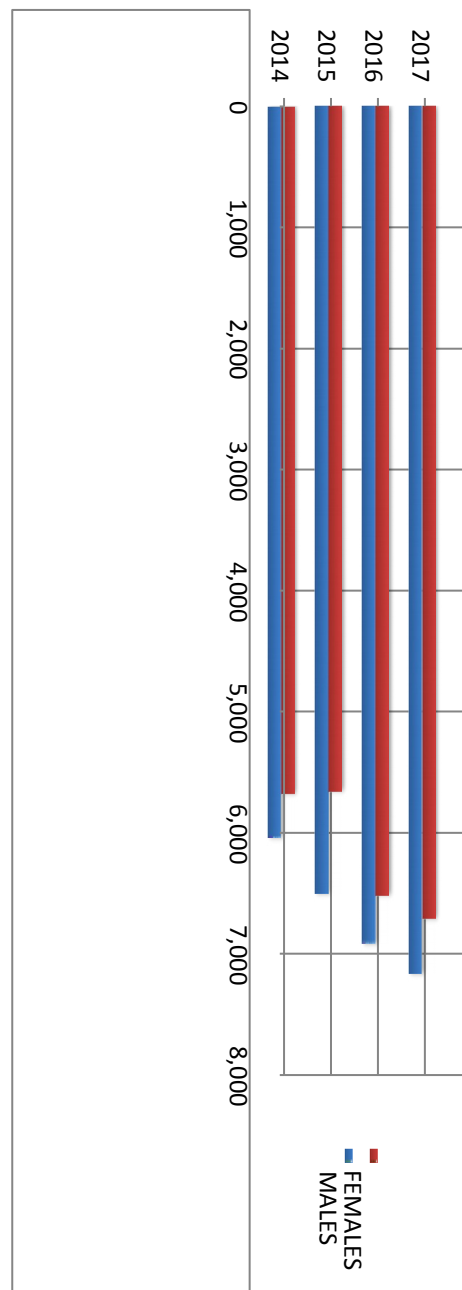


Disaggregating the data dividing them into genders we can see that the risk of poverty however it remains greater for those who come from a region outside of the EU but in the case of European women (EU 28) the risk is lower by almost points percentages especially in 2015.

Median equivalised net income by broad group of country of birth (population aged 18 and over) The median equivalised net, or disposable income, is the median of total income of all households, after tax and other deductions, that is available for spending or saving, divided by the number of household members converted into equivalised adults; household members are equalised or made equivalent by weighting each according to their age, using the so-called modified OECD equivalence scale.

Source: Eurostat [ilc_di16]

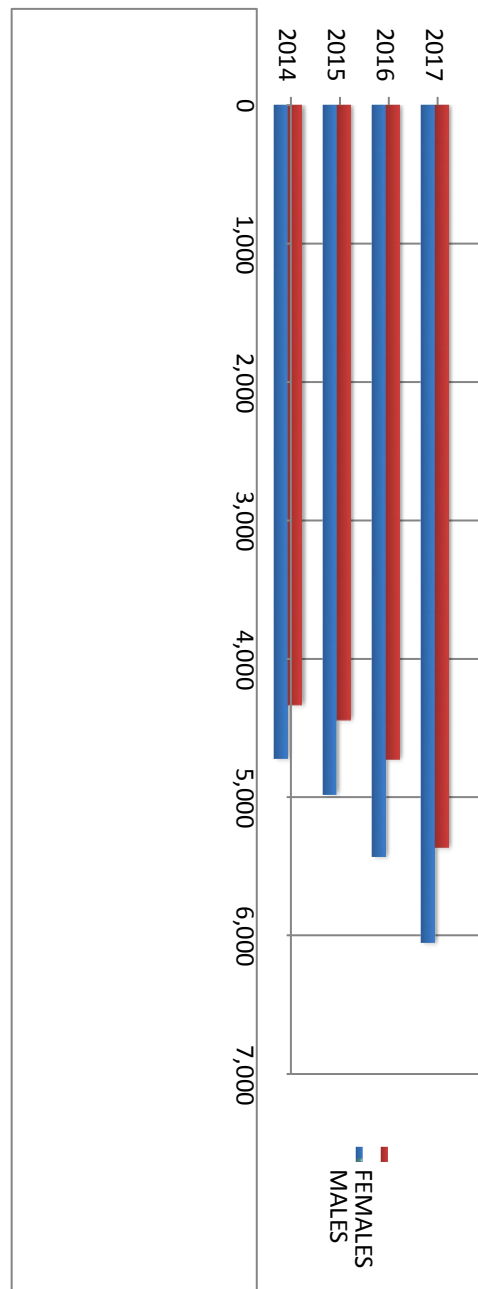




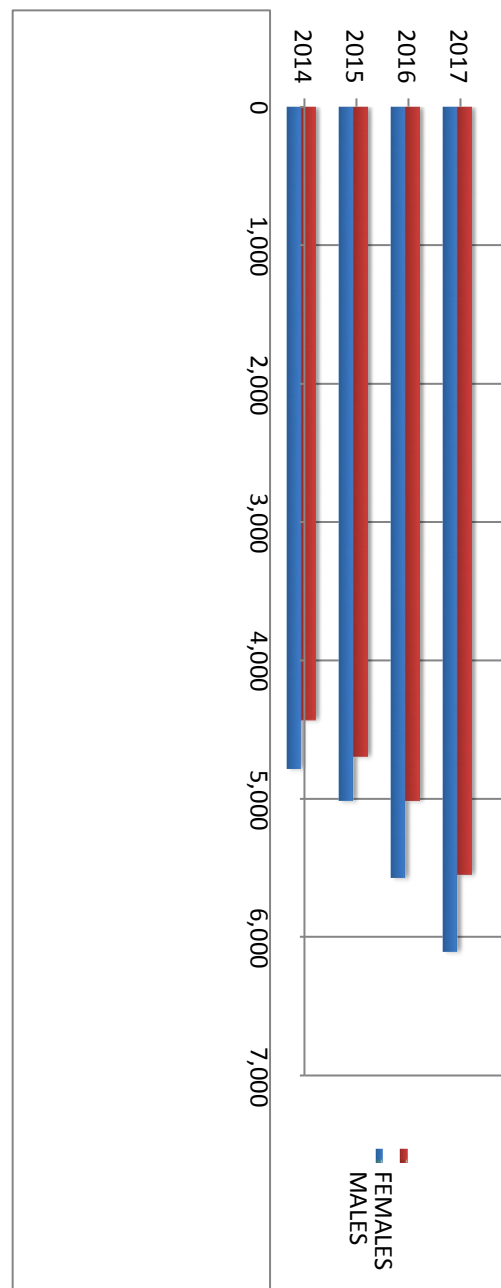
The average salary in Croatia is about € 835 per month, the average income of the migrant population remains below the one of the Croatian population. Between migrants can be said that the income is higher for those who come from the EU countries 28. From 2014 we can see an increase in the income of all the migrants considered but differences listed above persist.



NON EU 28



FOREIGN



Disaggregating the data by origin it can be seen as for all the categories from 2014 to 2017 wages have increased but gender differences persist for all provenances and periods taken into consideration, it is a difference in income almost equal to € 500 / year. In 2015 there was a disparity among EU 28 immigrants between men and women of almost € 700 / year.



Conclusion

Between 1990 and 2017 the number of international migrants worldwide rose up and most of this increase occurred from 2005 to 2017.⁹ In today's world migrations of populations are increasingly frequent due to a variety of reasons. Different states approach this issue in a different way. Croatia has built its immigration policy on the fact that it is among the countries with the biggest diaspora in the world, implementing more restrictive immigration policies. What is important to note is that Croatia is living migration since a lot of years, before with emigration and then with immigration, which is overlapping with the economic and demographic situation, destabilizing the country and the government that is not able to manage all the flows.

⁹ <https://worldmapper.org/maps/migration-to-croatia-1990-2017/>