



## FRANCE

### The beneficial effects of migration on the economy

Migrants in France are a major component of the country's economy as they consist of more than 10% of the total workload and thus, account for 6% of GDP.

Migration provides skilled and unskilled labour force, both are useful because there is a shortage of both qualified and non-qualified workers. Non-qualified labour is crucial for the present and future economy of the country as the population ages and the European low birth rate leads to a lack of workforce in the long term.

### THE CHARACTERISTICS

- ✓ Migration has an historical importance for France. In the early 2000s, **25% of the population have migrant background**, from the first, second or third generation.
- ✓ As of 2019, the country was the **third most popular European destination** for refugees after Germany and the United Kingdom.
- ✓ 29.4 million people aged 15 to 64 living in Metropolitan France were active in 2018. Within this active population, there were 3.1 million migrants. **Migrant workers represent 10.5% of the total working population** in France, of which almost 70% come from countries outside the EU. 69.2% of the migrants aged from 15 to 64 years old are active.





## Migrant's cultural integration and contribution to French society

Migrants in France play a significant role in influencing French daily life in many ways:

- Primarily seen in terms of the varieties of **restaurants**, the mix of French and other countries food traditions.
- Increasingly some of the **radio stations** and **TV programs** in France have become a reference point for news and cultural events involving the French Arab community, but it is also of interest to French people of all origins.
- The contributions migrants make to the **artistic and athletic life** are numerous: French soccer champion Zinedine Zidane remains one of the country's most admired figures; one of the leading members of the Paris opera-ballet is of North African origin; the movie star Jamel Debbouze has Moroccan origin as well.
- Linguistically, migrants originated for a **new French slang language** known as "**verlan**" that was founded in France's migrant-heavy housing projects. "Verlan" is a kind of argotic vocabulary of the suburbs, the inner cities, where they change the order of the syllables.
- Malek Boutih, from **SOS Racism**, believes the influence of ethnic Arabs has revitalised French arts and sports and will emerge as a dominating influence in French culture this century.

To learn more about France and the integration of newcomers, as well as these initiatives, be sure to look at the [research reports of the MAX project!](#)

**#KeyMessage: Value migrant skills, work and other contributions to society**

If you would like to do your bit in supporting a welcoming multicultural society, follow like/share/contact [FEDIF](#) and the [MAX project!](#)