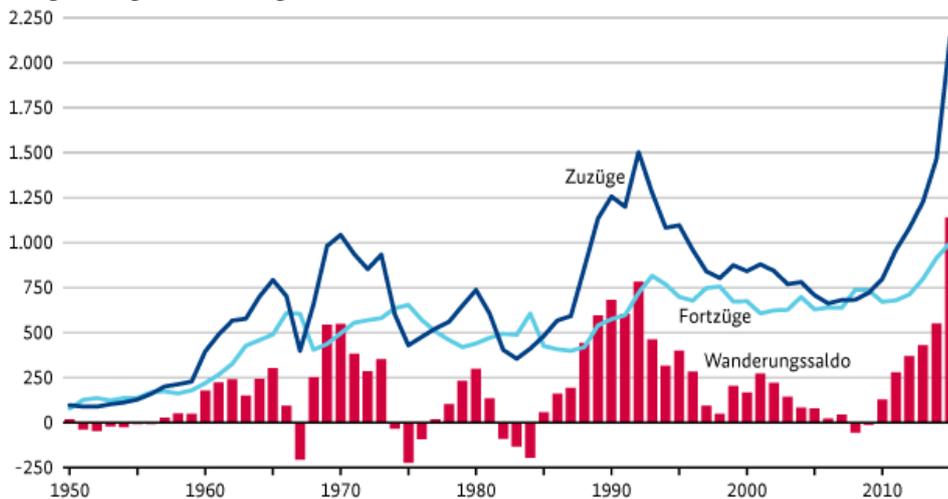


## Attractive for immigrants

In recent years, Germany has become one of the world's most popular destination countries for immigrants. While the Federal Republic of Germany was reporting a net outflow just a few years ago, according to the OECD, the country has now become the second most popular immigration country after the USA.

### Wanderungen zwischen Deutschland und dem Ausland, 1950-2015\*

Zuzüge, Fortzüge und Wanderungssaldo in 1.000



\* bis einschließlich 1990 früheres Bundesgebiet  
Datenquelle: Statistisches Bundesamt

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Figure 1 The highest ever recorded migration surplus in the history of Germany with an influx of around 2 million foreigners, the net migration was around 1.1 million immigrants.<sup>i</sup>

2 million immigrants in 2015 are a clear indication that Germany is still very attractive for migrants. The Cologne Institute for Economic Research talks of “record immigration” for Germany.<sup>ii</sup> The high number is therefore not just attributable to the high level of refugee migration. Refugees accounted for less than half of all immigrants in 2015. The encouraging situation on the labour market and the openness of society are, according to experts, the main reasons for the strongest immigration in the history of the Federal Republic.

The figures also show that immigrants are not only coming into the country in large numbers but are also staying long-term. According to the Federal Institute for Population Research, by the end of 2015 there were 9.1 million foreigners (except for those who were naturalised) living in Germany for an average of 16.3 years. This shows a gradient based on nationality. Syrians who have fled to Germany to escape the civil war have only been in Germany for a few years. This is also the case for many migrants from eastern and south-eastern EU countries, who have migrated in recent years under the provisions of the freedom of movement of workers. On the other hand, nationalities that came into the country between 1955 and 1973 as so-called guest workers have been living in Germany for many years, e.g. Turks for an average of 28.1 years. Immigrants obviously benefit from a good quality of life in Germany<sup>iii</sup>.

Because with a high standard of living and low income inequality, Germany is above the OECD average. The quality of life is particularly good with regard to social ties, work-life balance, education and the environment, according to the latest OECD economic report in Germany.

**Further fact sheets:** [www.employland.de/press/facts](http://www.employland.de/press/facts)

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<sup>i</sup> *Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung* 2016: Deutschland ist ein Zuwanderungsland  
[https://www.demografie-portal.de/SharedDocs/Informieren/DE/ZahlenFakten/Wanderung\\_Deutschland\\_Ausland.html](https://www.demografie-portal.de/SharedDocs/Informieren/DE/ZahlenFakten/Wanderung_Deutschland_Ausland.html)

<sup>ii</sup> *Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln* 2016: Bei weitem nicht nur Flüchtlinge  
<http://www.iwkoeln.de/presse/iw-nachrichten/beitrag/zuwanderung-bei-weitem-nicht-nur-fluechtlinge-273631>

<sup>iii</sup> *Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung* 2016: Viele Ausländer bleiben langfristig in Deutschland  
[https://www.demografie-portal.de/SharedDocs/Informieren/DE/ZahlenFakten/Aufenthaltsdauer\\_Auslaender.html](https://www.demografie-portal.de/SharedDocs/Informieren/DE/ZahlenFakten/Aufenthaltsdauer_Auslaender.html)

Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017