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# Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the U.S. Are Often More Educated Than Those in Top European Destinations

*Sub-Saharan immigrants in the United States are also more highly educated than U.S. native-born population*

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## Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the U.S. Are Often More Educated Than Those in Top European Destinations

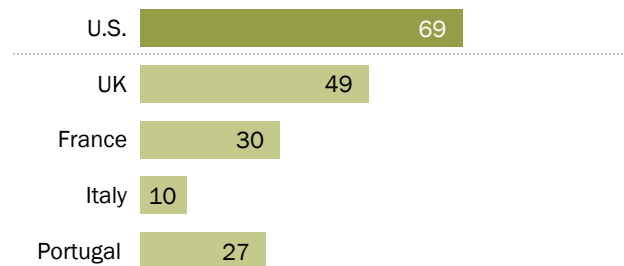
*Sub-Saharan immigrants in the United States are also more highly educated than U.S. native born population*

As the [annual number of migrants](#) from sub-Saharan Africa to both the United States and Europe has grown for most years this decade, a Pew Research Center analysis of 2015 U.S. Census Bureau and Eurostat data finds that sub-Saharan immigrants in the U.S. tend to be more highly educated than those living in the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Portugal – Europe’s historically leading destinations among sub-Saharan immigrants.<sup>1</sup>

In the U.S., 69% of sub-Saharan immigrants ages 25 and older in 2015 said they had at least some college experience.<sup>2</sup> In the same year, the share in the UK who reported some college experience was 49%, while it was lower still in France (30%), Portugal (27%) and Italy (10%).

### Sub-Saharan African immigrants in the U.S. are more highly educated than counterparts in top European destinations

*% of immigrants ages 25 and older with some college education or more, by country of residence, in 2015*



Note: Some college education includes those who said they have completed some postsecondary education following the equivalent of a high school diploma, which can include vocational schools or a bachelor’s or advanced degree. See Methodology for more details. See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Countries ordered by size of sub-Saharan immigrant population living outside sub-Saharan Africa, according to UN estimates.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of data from 2015 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS), downloaded April 2016 and Eurostat’s 2015 Labor Force Survey, received March 2018. “Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the U.S. Are Often More Educated Than Those in Top European Destinations”

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<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, “Europe” refers to European Union countries, Norway and Switzerland, 30 countries in all. In 2015, the UK was still part of the EU even though it voted to leave it in 2016. This analysis of sub-Saharan African immigrants in Europe is based on data from the 2015 Eurostat Labor Force Survey, which does not disaggregate sub-Saharan Africa into specific countries; consequently, country-specific analysis is not available. Additionally, Sudan is included as a sub-Saharan African country in this report, but Reunion is not. These changes differ from [previous reports](#). This modification is due to the classification of sub-Saharan African countries by Eurostat. See [Appendix D](#) for list of countries and territories that are considered part of sub-Saharan Africa for this report.

<sup>2</sup> All foreign born are considered immigrants in this report even though they may have been citizens of the U.S. or selected European countries when they were born abroad.

Immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa living in the U.S. are also somewhat more likely to be employed than their counterparts in Portugal, France and Italy.<sup>3</sup> In 2015, 92.9% of U.S.-based sub-Saharan immigrants said they had a paying job, compared with 84.9% in Portugal, 83.7% in France and 80.3% in Italy.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, the share of sub-Saharan immigrants in the UK who are working (91.5%) was nearly equal to that in the U.S.

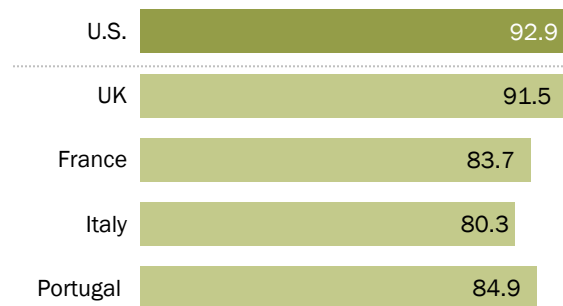
The U.S., UK, France, Italy and Portugal are some of the top destinations of sub-Saharan migrants living *outside* of sub-Saharan Africa. As of 2015, however, more than two-thirds (69%) of migrants from sub-Saharan countries actually lived in other sub-Saharan African countries.

Together, the U.S., UK, France, Italy and Portugal were home to more than half (57%) of the sub-Saharan migrant population living outside sub-Saharan Africa in 2015, according to global migrant population estimates from the [United Nations](#). And the four European countries featured in this report accounted for roughly three-quarters (74%) of all sub-Saharan immigrants living in EU countries, Norway and Switzerland in the same year.

Historically, sub-Saharan immigrants have made up small shares of the total population in the U.S., UK, France, Italy and Portugal – 3% or less in each country, as of 2015. But annual migration to the U.S. and Europe from sub-Saharan Africa [rose most years this decade](#). In all, [well more than a million sub-Saharans](#) have migrated to the U.S. and to EU countries, Norway and Switzerland since 2010. Migration pressures for some sub-Saharans to leave Africa are expected to continue as

### Sub-Saharan African immigrants in U.S. and UK are more likely to be employed than those in other top European destination countries

*% of immigrants ages 15 and older who are employed, by country of residence, in 2015*



Note: Only includes those active in the labor force. See Methodology for more details. See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Countries ordered by size of sub-Saharan immigrant population living outside of sub-Saharan Africa, according to UN estimates.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of data from 2015 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS), downloaded April 2016 and Eurostat's 2015 Labor Force Survey, received March 2018. "Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the U.S. Are Often More Educated Than Those in Top European Destinations"

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<sup>3</sup> Employment rates are based on those in the labor market.

<sup>4</sup> High educational attainment and employment levels among immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa in these destination countries do not imply sub-Saharan immigrants are necessarily working in high-level occupations. Comparable occupational data across the U.S. and European countries were unavailable. Separate analyses in each dataset, however, show that there could be a mismatch of occupations with education levels for sub-Saharan immigrants in these contexts, especially within France and Italy, where lower shares of highly educated sub-Saharan immigrants are less likely to be in higher occupations than native-born populations in these countries.

the continent's population grows, young people struggle to find employment and protracted conflicts continue.

### **About the data**

Total migrant population estimates across destination countries of sub-Saharan immigrants are from the United Nations. These estimates were used to determine top destinations and origins of sub-Saharan immigrants.

The demographic and economic characteristics of sub-Saharan African immigrants living in the U.S. and top European destinations in 2015 were drawn from two sources: the U.S. Census Bureau's [American Community Survey](#) and (2) Eurostat's [Labor Force Survey](#).

Both surveys are nationally representative and interviewed hundreds of thousands of people. Of those interviewed, at least 1,500 in each country were immigrants born in sub-Saharan countries. Interviews were generally conducted in the language of the survey country. Many of sub-Saharan immigrants were born in countries that also speak the same language as the survey country, according to UN estimates. (One exception is Italy, where many sub-Saharan immigrants were born in non-Italian-speaking countries).

Demographic variables like sex, age and marital status as well as socioeconomic variables such as education and employment were standardized across the two datasets for maximum comparability. Other variables such as occupation were not as comparable across surveys. See the [Methodology](#) for more details on the selection and standardization of variables.

U.S. data for demographic and economic findings were accessed via the University of Minnesota's [Integrated Public Use Microdata Series](#) (IPUMS). European microdata were provided by [Eurostat](#).

## Migration policies have helped shape the educational profile of sub-Saharan immigrants

Globally, migrants from Africa with higher levels of education have been [more likely to move](#) to more developed countries than those from other regions of the world. Some studies also have found that the [least educated sub-Saharan Africans](#) are not always the ones to migrate. But the specific destinations of those with higher education levels can vary.

Between 2010 and 2016, about a [quarter of sub-Saharan African](#) immigrants entered the U.S. through its [diversity visa program](#), which requires applicants to have at least a high school education. This requirement may help explain why relatively few sub-Saharan immigrants in the U.S. – just 11% – have less than a high school education.<sup>5</sup>

In recent years, nearly half of lawful permanent residents entering the U.S. from sub-Saharan Africa have entered as family members of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Statistics on the education levels for this specific population are not publicly available. However, hints of overall education levels can be found in [U.S. immigration statistics](#) from 2015: about half of all immigrants from both North and sub-Saharan Africa who were active in the labor force and had obtained legal permanent residence reported working in a professional or managerial occupation.<sup>6</sup> Often such occupations require a relatively high level of education.<sup>7</sup>

Within Europe, Pew Research Center's analysis finds that educational levels of sub-Saharan immigrants varies across the region's top destination countries, with those living in the UK better educated than those in Italy.

Colonial histories have helped contribute to the flow of sub-Saharan immigrants to specific countries. For instance, many of sub-Saharan immigrants living in the UK, France and Portugal were born in countries that were once under the rule of these European states. A key factor can be language. Fluency in a European tongue, whether English, French or Portuguese, may be an advantage for a migrant seeking a job and creating a new life in a destination country.

Thus, UN data show that most of the sub-Saharan immigrant populations in the U.S. and UK come from countries where English is spoken. In fact, English is a language of importance in six of the 10 biggest source countries for sub-Saharan African immigrants in the U.S. and the UK: Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

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<sup>5</sup> Randy Capps, Kristen McCabe, and Michael Fix. "[Diverse Streams: African Migration to the United States](#)." Migration Policy Institute. April 2012.

<sup>6</sup> This analysis is among those who stated an occupation and are in the labor force.

<sup>7</sup> Some research has noted that the [number of doctors](#) emigrating from sub-Saharan Africa to the U.S. is also on the rise.

The top countries of origin for sub-Saharan Africans now living in France and Portugal also share a bond of language with these destinations. For example, many of the top birthplaces for sub-Saharan African immigrants in France are French-speaking African nations or territories, with Madagascar, Senegal or the Ivory Coast accounting for 34% of all sub-Saharan migrants living in France. A similar trend can be seen in Portugal, where the three largest birthplaces for sub-Saharan African immigrants were at one time under Portuguese rule: Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde. Together, they make up the vast majority (80%) of all sub-Saharan migrants living in Portugal. (See [Appendix C](#) for a list of top birthplaces.)

Migrants do not necessarily stay at the same educational level as when they entered the destination country. Consequently, some sub-Saharan immigrants may have achieved their current educational attainment after arriving in the destination country. The data used in this report do not distinguish the location of schooling. Nonetheless, migration policies and pathways can lead some demographic groups – for example, those with lower or higher education – to leave their countries and choose to migrate to one country over another.

## In the U.S., UK and Portugal, a higher share of sub-Saharan immigrants than the native born have some college education

Immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa ages 25 and older in the U.S. not only stand out from those in Europe, but they are also more likely than the overall U.S.-born population to have at least some college experience (69% vs. 63%). A similar pattern is present in the UK and Portugal.<sup>8</sup>

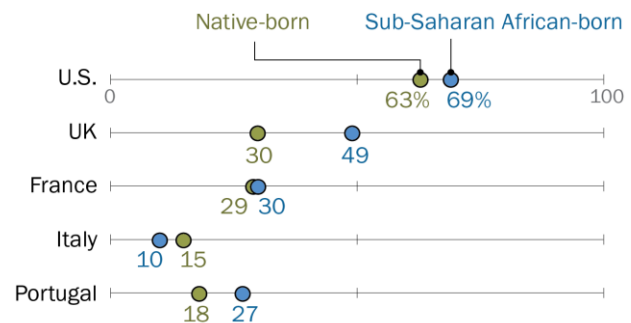
There are more modest educational differences between sub-Saharan African immigrants and the native-born populations in France and Italy for the share with a college education, with a *lower* share of sub-Saharan immigrants in Italy (10%) having some college education than those born in Italy (15%).

Employment levels of immigrants from sub-Saharan African countries living in the U.S. are about the same as those of native born in the U.S. In 2015, 92.9% of sub-Saharan immigrants were employed compared with 93.8% of those born in the U.S.

By contrast, sub-Saharan immigrants in parts of Europe generally have lower levels of employment than native-born populations in the nations in which they reside. These differences are most pronounced in Italy. Some 80.3% of sub-Saharan immigrants in Italy were employed in 2015, compared with 88.7% of all those born in Italy. Gaps are somewhat smaller in the UK (91.5% among sub-Saharan immigrants versus 94.9% for UK-born), France (83.7% vs. 90.5%) and Portugal (84.9% vs. 87.8%). (For country-specific details on educational attainment and employment, see [Appendix B.](#))

### Sub-Saharan African immigrants in the U.S., UK and Portugal are more likely than native-born populations to have some college education

*% of each group ages 25 and older who have some college education or more, by country of residence in 2015*



Note: Some college education includes those who said they have completed some postsecondary education following the equivalent of a high school diploma, which can include vocational schools or a bachelor's or advanced degree. See Methodology for more details. See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Countries ordered by size of sub-Saharan immigrant population living outside of sub-Saharan Africa, according to UN estimates.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of data from 2015 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS), downloaded April 2016 and the 2015 Eurostat's Labor Force Survey, received March 2018. "Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the U.S. Are Often More Educated Than Those in Top European Destinations"

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<sup>8</sup> The reported level of educational attainment among the UK-born population should be interpreted with some caution because roughly 20% of UK-born respondents did not answer the educational attainment question in Eurostat's Labor Force Survey.



## Majority of sub-Saharan immigrants in U.S. and top European destinations arrived a decade ago or earlier

Most [sub-Saharan immigrants in the U.S.](#) and other top European destinations have lived in these countries for a decade or more.

This is especially true in Portugal, where 87% of sub-Saharan African immigrants there have lived in the country for at least 10 years.<sup>9</sup> In the U.S. and most other European countries, roughly two-thirds of sub-Saharan immigrants have lived in the destination country for a decade or longer.

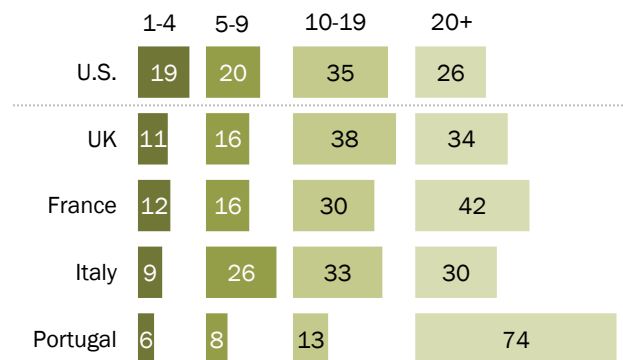
In some countries, however, the remaining share living in the destination country for less than a decade is notably large. In 2015, roughly four-in-ten sub-Saharan African immigrants (39%) had lived in the U.S. one to nine years, including 19% who have arrived within one to four years.<sup>10</sup>

Italy is also home to many newly arrived sub-Saharan Africans: Roughly a third (35%) of this foreign-born population arrived one to nine years ago as of 2015.<sup>11</sup>

In all, more than 1.5 million sub-Saharan African immigrants lived in the U.S. in 2015, according to UN global migration estimates; 1.2 million lived in the UK, and close to 1

### Most sub-Saharan African immigrants in U.S. and top European destinations arrived 10 years ago or more

*% of immigrants who have lived in each country for \_\_\_\_ years, as of 2015*



Note: Those living in each country for less than one year are not available for European nations and therefore are not included for the U.S. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding or small shares who did not respond to the survey question. See Methodology for details. See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Countries ordered by size of sub-Saharan immigrant population living outside sub-Saharan Africa, according to UN estimates.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of data from 2015 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS), downloaded April 2016 and Eurostat's 2015 Labor Force Survey, received March 2018. "Sub-Saharan African Immigrants in the U.S. Are Often More Educated Than Those in Top European Destinations"

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<sup>9</sup> Portugal began [experiencing large waves of immigration](#) in the 1970s. Many of these new immigrants migrated from former Portuguese-ruled territories in Africa. More recent cycles of migration in the mid-1980s to the late 1990s and were dominated by those from African nations.

<sup>10</sup> Those living in each country for less than one year are not available for European nations and therefore are not included for U.S. figures.

<sup>11</sup> Since data are from the 2015 Eurostat Labor Force Survey, the results do not capture the most recent wave of sub-Saharan migration to Europe. Furthermore, the Eurostat Labor Force Survey was only conducted in each country's official language; therefore those who did not speak the language may be undercounted. This may be especially true of the recently arrived African immigrants to Italy given the top birthplaces are non-Italian speaking nations. See [Methodology](#) to learn more about survey methods and limitations.

million resided in France. Italy and Portugal had about 370,000 and 360,000, respectively.

Regardless of when or where sub-Saharan immigrants have arrived in these destination countries, not all sub-Saharan immigrants are living in these countries legally. Some, for instance, are unauthorized immigrants who may have overstayed their visa or did not receive asylum after a lengthy application process.

In the U.S., for example, Pew Research Center estimated there were roughly 250,000 unauthorized sub-Saharan immigrants living in the U.S. in 2015. This amounts to roughly one-in-seven sub-Saharan immigrants living in the country.

There are no official Europe-wide estimates for the unauthorized, or irregular, migrant population of sub-Saharan Africans living in Europe.<sup>12</sup> But the Center's recent report on the status of asylum seekers applying for asylum during the asylum surge of 2015 and 2016 in all EU countries, Norway and Switzerland combined estimates that between 60,000 and 70,000 sub-Saharan African asylum applicants had an unknown status at the end of 2016. Most with an unknown status applied for asylum in Italy.

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<sup>12</sup> Clandestino is a comprehensive research project on irregular migration within Europe, but estimates across all EU countries for specific origin regions are limited.

## **Few differences on gender, age and household composition between sub-Saharan immigrants in the U.S. and in top European destinations**

The gender composition of sub-Saharan African immigrants in the U.S. and France is equally balanced, while this population skews more female in Portugal and the UK. Meanwhile, in Italy – unlike other top destinations – sub-Saharan African immigrants are more likely to be male than female (58% vs. 42%).

When compared with sub-Saharan African immigrants in Europe, those who live in the U.S. are somewhat younger, with a median age of 38 years versus 47 in Portugal and 42 in the UK, France or Italy.<sup>13</sup>

Marriage rates among sub-Saharan immigrants in the U.S. and top European destination countries present only a few differences. In the U.S., 55% of sub-Saharan African immigrants ages 20 and older in 2015 were married. This share is identical or similar for those living in the UK (55%) and Italy (57%). Meanwhile, the shares of sub-Saharan immigrants living in France and Portugal each hover around 50%, slightly lower than those in other leading destinations of immigrants from sub-Saharan African countries.

At the same time, roughly nine-in-ten married sub-Saharan immigrants in these countries live with their spouses. With the exception of Italy, where roughly seven-in-ten married sub-Saharan immigrants live with their spouse, these rates are largely similar to the total native born population in the U.S. and European countries.

Household size varies little among this immigrant population: The mean household size of sub-Saharan immigrants living in the U.S. and top European destinations is three – which is on par with the native-born populations in the countries where they reside.

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<sup>13</sup> Median age figures from the Eurostat Labor Force Survey use five-year age bands, so 42 is a median age group of ages 40 to 44 while 47 is a median age group of ages 45 to 49.

## Acknowledgements

This report was written by Monica Anderson, research associate, and Phillip Connor, senior researcher. Mark Hugo Lopez, director of Global Migration and Demography research; James Bell, vice president of global strategy; and Neil Ruiz, associate director of Global Migration and Demography research, reviewed the report and provided editorial comments. Jens Manuel Krogstad, writer/editor, provided writing assistance. Jeffrey S. Passel, senior demographer, provided data analysis assistance. The report was number-checked by Antonio Flores, research assistant, and Jynnah Radford, research assistant. Michael Keegan, information graphics designer, provided graphics support. David Kent was the copy editor. Ariana Rodriguez-Gitler, digital producer, provided web support.

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## Methodology

To provide comparable data across countries, population estimates for countries of residence and countries and territories of birth for sub-Saharan migrants rely on global migrant stock by their origins and destinations as estimated by the [United Nations \(UN\) for 2015](#). Estimates for the number of sub-Saharan immigrants living in each destination country differ slightly from totals provided by destination governments featured in this report because of [UN estimation procedures](#).

Demographic and economic findings, such as education, employment, time in country, sex, age, marital status and household composition, were based on two large-scale household surveys – the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2015 [American Community Survey](#) (ACS) and Eurostat’s 2015 [Labor Force Survey](#), a data compilation of common variables from labor force surveys across European Union countries.

### Survey sampling designs, populations of analysis and data access

Survey countries’ data collection methods vary. For the surveys’ complete sampling and data collection methodologies, see the ACS’s [methodology website](#) and Eurostat’s Labor Force Survey [annual methodological report](#). All surveys are considered nationally representative.

The year 2015 was the common year for migrant population estimates from the UN as well as surveys in the U.S. and European countries. The United States and top European countries of residence for sub-Saharan immigrants (United Kingdom, France, Italy and Portugal) as estimated by the UN, were selected for analysis.

Many sub-Saharan immigrants in the U.S. and selected European countries were born in African countries where the European-surveyed country’s language is also widely spoken. Consequently, it is expected that many sub-Saharan African immigrants surveyed could respond to the surveys. Italy is an exception; in most of the origin countries for sub-Saharan immigrants, Italian is not an official language.

Survey findings presented in this report exclude the small share of respondents living in institutions (e.g., schools, hospitals, prisons). Immigrants are those born outside of the survey country of residence, even if they were citizens of the survey country when they were born.<sup>14</sup> Native-born respondents were born in the survey country, even if their parents were foreign born. Sub-Saharan African-born respondents were born in any of the sub-Saharan African countries

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<sup>14</sup> Respondents living in [France’s overseas departments](#) were considered part of France, even when these territories were in sub-Saharan Africa (for example, Reunion). One exception is Mayotte, which Eurostat considers a sub-Saharan African territory.

listed in [Appendix D](#).<sup>15</sup> The European data do not permit further breakdowns for specific sub-Saharan countries of birth, as Eurostat categorizes all of sub-Saharan Africa as a single group.

The American Community Survey data were accessed via Integrated Public Use Microdata Series or [IPUMS-USA \(University of Minnesota\)](#). Eurostat's [Labor Force Surveys](#) was provided by Eurostat to use microdata for scientific use. Data in both surveys were anonymized to protect the identity of respondents.

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## Survey respondent counts

*Unweighted number of respondents, by population group, 2015*

	Sub-Saharan African born	Foreign born	Native born	Total sample
United States	12,750	381,713	2,616,539	2,998,252
United Kingdom	1,515	10,246	71,687	81,933
France	7,281	55,759	471,217	526,976
Italy	2,674	52,729	545,143	597,872
Portugal	4,330	10,623	155,872	166,495

Note: See Methodology text for more details. See Appendix for list of countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey, Eurostat's 2015 Labor Force Survey. Does not include those living in institutional setting.

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## Variables used in each survey

Comparable variables between the U.S. and European countries are reported. The following table lists the variables, universes, variable names and categories.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Sudan is included as a sub-Saharan African country in this report. This differs from [previous reports](#), in which Sudan was included as a North African country. This modification is due to the classification of sub-Saharan African countries by Eurostat. Eurostat defines "Other Africa" in the Labor Force Survey to be [these countries](#) outside of North Africa.

<sup>16</sup> Missing cases in the Eurostat data representing don't knows or refusals are not reported, but were included in the overall analyses. Very low shares of responses among sub-Saharan immigrants were missing for any particular variable. But, a large share (20%) of the UK-born was missing for the education variable; thus, this estimate in particular should be treated with some caution.

## Demographic and economic variables

	Universe	U.S. American Community Survey (IPUMS) variable names	U.S. American Community Survey (IPUMS) categories and definitions	Eurostat Labor Force Survey variable names	Eurostat Labor Force Survey categories and definitions
Gender	All respondents	SEX	Male Female	SEX	Male Female
Age	All respondents	AGE	Median age	AGE	Median age based on 5 year bands
Years in country	Foreign born	YRSUSA1	Number of years living in U.S	YEARESID	Number of years of residence in survey country after 9 years based on 5-year bands.
Educational attainment	Ages 25 and older	EDUCD	Less than high school (Grades 12, no diploma and lower). High school graduate (diploma or GED). Some college+ (completed less than 1 year of college or more)	HAT11LEVEL	Less than high school (ISCED 0 to ISCED 3c- shorter than 2 years). High school diploma (ISCED 3c-2 years and more to ISCED 4 without distinction). Some college + (ISCED 4 and higher)
Employment	Ages 15 and older in the labor force	EMPSTAT	Employed Unemployed	ILOSTAT	International Labor Organization working status. Employed Unemployed
Marital status	Ages 20 and older	MARST	Not married (single, widowed, divorced or legally separated). Married	MARSTAT	Not married (single, widowed, divorced or legally separated). Married
Spouse living in household	Ages 20 and older	MARST	Married, spouse present. Married, spouse absent.	HHPARTN	Relationship of reference person in household. Spouse (or cohabiting partner) of reference person
Persons in household	Mean number, including minor children	NUMPREC	Total number of persons in household	HHNBERS	Total number of persons in household

Note: Does not include those living in institutional settings. Those living in each country for less than one year are not available for European nations and therefore are not included for the U.S. In the U.S., employment includes those in the military. The ability to distinguish those in the military and in the labor force is not available for European nations.

Source: 2015 U.S. American Community Survey IPUMS definitions, 2015 Eurostat LFS user guide.

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## Appendix B: Demographic and economic profiles

### Demographic characteristics of foreign-born sub-Saharan Africans in the U.S., 2015

% of \_\_\_\_ (except where noted)

	Sub-Saharan African born	All foreign born	All native born	Total population
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	50	48	49	49
Female	50	52	51	51
<b>Median age (in years)</b>				
	38	43	35	37
<b>Years in country</b>				
1-4	19	11	N/A	N/A
5-9	20	12	N/A	N/A
10-19	35	29	N/A	N/A
20+	26	48	N/A	N/A
<b>Educational attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>				
Less than HS graduate	11	28	9	12
High school diploma	19	22	28	27
Some college+	69	50	63	60
<b>Employment (ages 15 and older in labor force)</b>				
Employed	92.9	94.4	93.8	93.9
<b>Marital status (ages 20 and older)</b>				
Married	55	61	51	53
<b>Spouse living in household (married ages 20 and older)</b>				
	86	92	96	95
<b>Persons in household (mean number)</b>				
	3.0	3.1	2.4	2.5

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. See Methodology for more information on how figures were calculated.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2015 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS), downloaded April 2016.

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## Demographic characteristics of foreign-born sub-Saharan Africans in the UK, 2015

% of \_\_\_\_ (except where noted)

	Sub-Saharan African born	All foreign born	All native born	Total population
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	47	48	49	49
Female	53	52	51	51
<b>Median age (in years)</b>				
	42	37	42	37
<b>Years in country</b>				
1-4	11	21	N/A	N/A
5-9	16	21	N/A	N/A
10-19	38	27	N/A	N/A
20+	34	30	N/A	N/A
<b>Educational attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>				
Less than HS graduate	15	17	20	20
HS grad	28	28	30	30
Some college+	49	45	30	32
<b>Employment (ages 15 and older in the labor force)</b>				
Employment	91.5	93.6	94.9	94.7
<b>Marital status (ages 20 and older)</b>				
Married	55	59	51	52
<b>Spouse living in household (married ages 20 and older)</b>				
	97	98	99	99
<b>Persons in household (mean number)</b>				
	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.0

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. See Methodology for more information on how figures were calculated.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2015 Eurostat Labor Force Survey, received March 2018.

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## Demographic characteristics of foreign-born sub-Saharan Africans in France, 2015

% of \_\_\_\_ (except where noted)

	Sub-Saharan African born	All foreign born	All native born	Total population
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	50	48	49	48
Female	50	52	51	52
<b>Median age (in years)</b>				
	42	47	37	42
<b>Years in country</b>				
1-4	12	9	N/A	N/A
5-9	16	11	N/A	N/A
10-19	30	21	N/A	N/A
20+	42	59	N/A	N/A
<b>Educational attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>				
Less than HS graduate	41	46	29	31
HS grad	28	28	42	40
Some college+	30	26	29	29
<b>Employment (ages 15 and older in the labor force)</b>				
Employment	83.7	83.8	90.5	89.6
<b>Marital status (ages 20 and older)</b>				
Married	50	64	47	49
<b>Spouse living in household (married ages 20 and older)</b>				
	94	97	98	98
<b>Persons in household (mean number)</b>				
	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.0

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. See Methodology for more information on how figures were calculated.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2015 Eurostat Labor Force Survey received March 2018.

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## Demographic characteristics of foreign-born sub-Saharan Africans in Italy, 2015

% of \_\_\_\_ (except where noted)

	Sub-Saharan African born	All foreign born	All native born	Total population
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	58	46	49	49
Female	42	54	51	51
<b>Median age (in years)</b>				
	42	37	47	47
<b>Years in country</b>				
1-4	9	7	N/A	N/A
5-9	26	25	N/A	N/A
10-19	33	42	N/A	N/A
20+	30	25	N/A	N/A
<b>Educational attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>				
Less than HS graduate	63	45	51	51
HS grad	27	41	33	34
Some college+	10	14	15	15
<b>Employment (ages 15 and older in the labor force)</b>				
Employment	80.3	84.4	88.7	88.1
<b>Marital status (ages 20 and older)</b>				
Married	57	62	57	57
<b>Spouse living in household (married ages 20 and older)</b>				
	72	88	97	96
<b>Persons in household (mean number)</b>				
	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. See Methodology for more information on how figures were calculated.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2015 Eurostat Labor Force Survey received March 2018.

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## Demographic characteristics of foreign-born sub-Saharan Africans in Portugal, 2015

% of \_\_\_\_ (except where noted)

	Sub-Saharan African born	All foreign born	All native born	Total population
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	44	44	48	47
Female	56	56	52	53
<b>Median age (in years)</b>				
	47	42	42	42
<b>Years in country</b>				
1-4	6	7	N/A	N/A
5-9	8	11	N/A	N/A
10-19	13	25	N/A	N/A
20+	74	56	N/A	N/A
<b>Educational attainment (ages 25 and older)</b>				
Less than HS graduate	49	39	67	65
HS grad	24	29	16	17
Some college+	27	32	18	19
<b>Employment (ages 15 and older in the labor force)</b>				
Employment	84.9	85.2	87.8	87.6
<b>Marital status (ages 20 and older)</b>				
Married	51	54	59	58
<b>Spouse living in household (married ages 20 and older)</b>				
	95	95	98	97
<b>Persons in household (mean number)</b>				
	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. See Methodology for more information on how figures were calculated.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2015 Eurostat Labor Force Survey received March 2018.

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## Appendix C: Countries of birth of sub-Saharan immigrants in top destinations

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### Top 10 birth countries of sub-Saharan immigrants living in the U.S., 2015

*Immigrant population in thousands*

Nigeria	270
Ethiopia	211
Ghana	153
Kenya	119
South Africa	96
Somalia	89
Liberia	81
Zimbabwe	53
Tanzania	48
Cameroon	47
Other sub-Saharan African countries	370
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,540</b>

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Includes citizens of destination countries born abroad.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of United Nations data, accessed April 20, 2018.

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### Top 10 birth countries of sub-Saharan immigrants living in the UK, 2015

*Immigrant population in thousands*

South Africa	200
Nigeria	199
Kenya	134
Somalia	114
Zimbabwe	112
Ghana	108
Uganda	60
Tanzania	41
Mauritius	34
Sierra Leone	31
Other sub-Saharan African countries	183
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,217</b>

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Includes citizens of destination countries born abroad.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of United Nations data, accessed April 20, 2018.

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### Top birth countries of sub-Saharan immigrants living in France, 2015

*Immigrant population in thousands*

Madagascar	139
Senegal	120
Ivory Coast	91
Cameroon	83
Democratic Republic of the Congo	78
Mali	77
Republic of Congo	71
Mauritius	50
Comoros	39
Guinea	31
Other sub-Saharan African countries	235
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,013</b>

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Includes citizens of destination countries born abroad. Includes those born in French overseas departments in sub-Saharan Africa.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of United Nations data, accessed April 20, 2018.

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### Top birth countries of sub-Saharan immigrants living in Italy, 2015

*Immigrant population in thousands*

Senegal	85
Nigeria	56
Ghana	47
Ethiopia	30
Ivory Coast	26
Eritrea	14
Burkina Faso	12
Somalia	12
Cameroon	11
Mauritius	9
Other sub-Saharan African countries	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Includes citizens of destination countries born abroad.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of United Nations data, accessed April 20, 2018.

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### **Top birth countries of sub-Saharan immigrants living in Portugal, 2015**

*Immigrant population in thousands*

Angola	156
Mozambique	70
Cape Verde	60
Guinea-Bissau	28
Sao Tome and Principe	18
South Africa	11
Guinea	5
Senegal	2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2
Zimbabwe	1
Other sub-Saharan African countries	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>

Note: See Appendix D for list of sub-Saharan African countries and territories. Includes citizens of destination countries born abroad.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of United Nations data, accessed December 23, 2017.

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## Appendix D: Sub-Saharan African countries and territories

The following list of countries and territories were used in the analysis as representing the sub-Saharan African region.

Angola	Ghana	Republic of the Congo
Benin	Guinea	Rwanda
Botswana	Guinea-Bissau	Sao Tome and Principe
Burkina Faso	Ivory Coast	Senegal
Burundi	Kenya	Seychelles
Cameroon	Lesotho	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde	Liberia	Somalia
Central African Republic	Madagascar	South Africa
Chad	Malawi	South Sudan
Comoros	Mali	St. Helena
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Mauritania	Sudan
Djibouti	Mauritius	Swaziland
Equatorial Guinea	Mayotte	Tanzania
Eritrea	Mozambique	Togo
Ethiopia	Namibia	Uganda
Gabon	Niger	Zambia
Gambia	Nigeria	Zimbabwe

Sub-Saharan Africa in this report includes Sudan but does not include Reunion (considered part of France). This differs from [previous](#) Pew Research Center reports featuring analyses of sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition to the countries listed above, the U.S. Census Bureau's 2015 American Community Survey's other grouped categories such as Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Africa were also considered part of sub-Saharan Africa. Countries known by their earlier names such as Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo) were included as sub-Saharan Africa.

Eurostat defines "Other Africa" in the Labor Force Survey to be [this list of countries](#) outside of North Africa. These countries are largely similar to the list above.