



RESEARCH DATA CENTRE (FDZ)
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at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB)

FDZ-DATENREPORT

Documentation of labour market data

03|2026 EN International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa) Cohort 1 Wave 1 – Version 2425 v1

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Die FDZ-Datenreporte beschreiben die Daten des FDZ im Detail. Diese Reihe hat somit eine doppelte Funktion: zum einen stellen Nutzerinnen und Nutzer fest, ob die angebotenen Daten für das Forschungsvorhaben geeignet sind, zum anderen dienen sie zur Vorbereitung der Auswertungen.

FDZ-Datenreporte (FDZ data reports) describe FDZ data in detail. As a result, this series of reports has a dual function: on the one hand, those using the reports can ascertain whether the data offered is suitable for their research task; on the other, the data can be used to prepare evaluations.

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Abstract

The new International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa) is a longitudinal online survey that systematically investigates the causes, patterns and effects of emigration dynamics of migrants in Germany. In the first wave (December 2024 to April 2025), around 50,000 individuals were surveyed. Going forward, new baseline surveys are planned every two years, supplemented by annual follow-up surveys over a four-year period.

Zusammenfassung

Das neue International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa) ist eine längsschnittliche Online-Befragung, die systematisch Ursachen, Muster und Auswirkungen der Abwanderungsdynamik von nach Deutschland Eingewanderten untersucht. In der ersten Welle (Dezember 2024 bis April 2025) wurden rund 50.000 Personen befragt. Zukünftig sollen alle zwei Jahre neue Erstbefragungen stattfinden, ergänzt durch jährliche Wiederholungsbefragungen über vier Jahre hinweg.

Outline

Name	IMP _a
Long name	International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMP _a) Cohort 1 Wave 1 – Version 2425 v1
Dataset version	v1
Topics	Multi-cohort panel of migrants with focus on mobility
Research unit	Individual
Number of cases	41.637 completed interviews
Period	First wave 2024/25 (2. December 2024-15. April 2025)
Time reference	current
Data collection method	Computer-assisted web interviewing (CAWI) of a random sample of migrants in Germany
Institutions involved	Institute for Employment Research (IAB)
Frequency of data collection	Annual
File format	Stata
File architecture	Waves and start cohorts
Data access types	Remote data access, On-site use
Anonymization degree	weakly anonymous
Standards for the citation of data and data documentation	<p>Data:</p> <p>Kosyakova, Yuliya; Olbrich, Lukas; Gallegos Torres, Katia; Hammer, Luisa; Koch, Theresa; Wagner, Simon; Goßner, Laura; Hallyburton, Jasmin; Reinold, Julia (2026): „International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMP_a) Cohort 1 Wave 1 – Version 2425 v1“. Forschungsdatenzentrum der Bundesagentur für Arbeit (BA) im Institut für Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung (IAB). DOI: 10.5164/IAB.IMP_a2425.de.en.v1</p> <p>Data documentation:</p> <p>Kosyakova, Yuliya; Olbrich, Lukas; Gallegos Torres, Katia; Hammer, Luisa; Koch, Theresa; Wagner, Simon; Goßner, Laura; Hallyburton, Jasmin; Reinold, Julia (2026): „International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMP_a) Cohort 1 Wave 1 “. FDZ-Datenreport 03/2026 (en), Nürnberg. DOI: 10.5164/IAB.FDZD.2603.en.v1</p>

The dataset described in this document is available for use by professional researchers. Further information can be found on the website <http://fdz.iab.de>

1. Introduction

The central aim of the survey is to analyze the structure and selectivity of return and onward migration as well as effects on labor market integration and the potential workforce in Germany. To this end, we conduct a longitudinal online survey of immigrants. The design is based on a multi-cohort panel survey in which several cohorts are re-interviewed over a longer period of time (up to five years). In the first wave of the survey, information is collected on the migration biography, settlement and emigration considerations, concrete migration plans and preparations, intended destination countries, reasons for emigration or the choice of destination and prospects to return to Germany. The second wave focuses on actual migration movements and future migration intentions. A total of up to four re-interviews are planned. Figure 1 shows the planned course of the survey across the cohorts.

Figure 1: Multi-cohort panel design of the IMPa survey



Source: Own representation.

A special feature of the study is the possibility to link the survey data with administrative IEB data¹. In the survey, respondents are asked for their consent to do so. This link enables a dynamic and life course-related perspective (over time) on return and onward migration intentions.

¹ The Integrated Labor Market Biographies (IEB) allow individual employment histories to be tracked on a daily basis. They include all persons who have one of the following employment statuses at least once during the observation period: Employment subject to social insurance contributions (recorded from 1975), marginal employment (recorded from 1999), receipt of benefits according to the SGB III legal system (recorded from 1975) or SGB II (recorded from 2005), registered with the Federal Employment Agency (BA) as a jobseeker (recorded from 2000) or (planned) participation in a labor market policy measure (recorded from 2000). This information comes from various administrative data sources and is merged in the IEB (cf. Graf et al., 2025).

2. Data use

2.1. Data access

The weakly anonymized version of the IMPa-data can be analyzed exclusively via remote data access or during on-site research visits. To use the data, an application must be submitted to the FDZ. The FDZ then decides on the approval of the research project on behalf of and, if necessary, in coordination with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS). Once the research project has been approved, a data use agreement is concluded with the researchers' scientific institution. Further information on applying for the dataset and the possibilities for data processing can be found on the FDZ website (<https://fdz.iab.de/en/startseite-en/>).

2.2. Sensitive variables

Sensitive variables that could facilitate the de-anonymization of individuals are only included in the data in a coarsened version. They are only available in their original form if the coarsened information is insufficient to achieve the research objective. This must be explicitly justified in the application for data access. If a dataset with sensitive variables is provided, the corresponding non-sensitive variables are deleted, as these can be re-generated by the users themselves. The variables which are particularly sensitive from a data protection legislation perspective are:

- FP0800a: number of daughters
- FP0800b: number of sons
- FP0900: number of children living in Germany

2.3. Application information

The data has both German and English labels. With the stata commands *label language en* and *label language de* the labels can be switched to English or German.

3. Population and sampling basis

The population of the survey consists of all persons aged 18 to 65 who were ever registered with a foreign nationality in the data of the Integrated Employment Biographies (IEB) and for whom at least one notification was available on the sampling date (30.04.2024). Due to the restriction that the persons were "ever registered with a foreign nationality", the sample also includes persons who now have German citizenship, e.g. due to naturalization. As the IEB notifications are based on various data sources, e.g. employment information from companies and information from the BA in the case of unemployment or support measures, there are instances where the stated nationalities are incorrect. It is therefore possible that people without a migration background, whose nationality was incorrectly stated once, are included in the sample. These were later filtered out during the survey.

Due to the delay in processing, the current version of the IEB (December 31, 2023) was supplemented by a cross-section of current notifications as of April 30, 2024 with a limited number of variables (gender, date of birth, origin of notification, place of residence and nationality). As a large share of emigration takes place in the first months and years after entry, a large time gap between the reference date of the sample and the invitation of respondents could lead to many people having already left Germany again at the time of contacting. As this group is of particular interest, the more recent cross-sectional dataset was used.

When interpreting the results, it must be taken into account that, due to the sample basis, civil servants, the self-employed, students and the so-called hidden reserve - as long as there is no parallel notification in the BA for them - are not part of the population.

The maximum estimated emigration rate is six percent of the foreign population. The main aim of the survey is to recruit as many respondents who left Germany again as possible for the second survey wave. However, this group is generally difficult to reach due to their higher mobility (Schündeln 2014) and presumably more difficult to contact once they have left the country. For this reason, people with a higher probability of emigration were sampled with a higher probability.

For this purpose, the population was divided into 47 groups based on five duration of stay groups (less than 1 year, 1 to less than 2 years, 2 to less than 5 years, 5 to less than 10 years, more than 10 years) and ten country of origin groups (EU East, Turkey, countries of asylum², EU/Schengen, Asia, Africa, English, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Ukraine³). The exact duration of stay of the respondents is not available in the IEB and was approximated using the duration since the first IEB notification. Emigration rates for these groups were approximated on the basis of the Central Register of Foreigners (AZR) of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). For the gross sample, a minimum group size (N = 6,250) was defined for each group in order to obtain sufficient case numbers for the net sample⁴. The remaining gross sample was distributed proportionally to the AZR-based emigration rates. In total, the gross sample consists of 700,000 people. The composition of the sample is discussed in detail in sections 2.5 and 2.6.

² This group includes the following countries: Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, Iran Islamic Republic, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria.

³ For Ukraine, separate categories were only created for the duration of stay categories "less than 1 year" and "1 to less than 2 years". For the other categories, Ukrainian nationals were added to the "Eastern Europe" country group, as the group size

of Ukrainian immigration cohorts before 2022 was too small.

⁴ For the two Ukraine groups, the gross sample was set at 31,250 due to their current significance. At the same time, departure rates based on the AZR data before the war in Ukraine were used for these groups.

4. Methods and fieldwork

The 700,000 target persons were recruited for the survey by a postal invitation. The invitation letter contained a one-page German version of the cover letter, a one-page English version of the cover letter, a page with ten short paragraphs in other languages (Romanian, Polish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Czech) and a data protection sheet. The cover letter contains a link to the survey homepage as well as a personalized password (consisting of 6 to 10 capital letters), which the participants must enter at the beginning. The cover letter also announced the incentive in the form of a voucher worth 5 euros. The survey homepage contains additional information on data protection and frequently asked questions and is available in various languages.

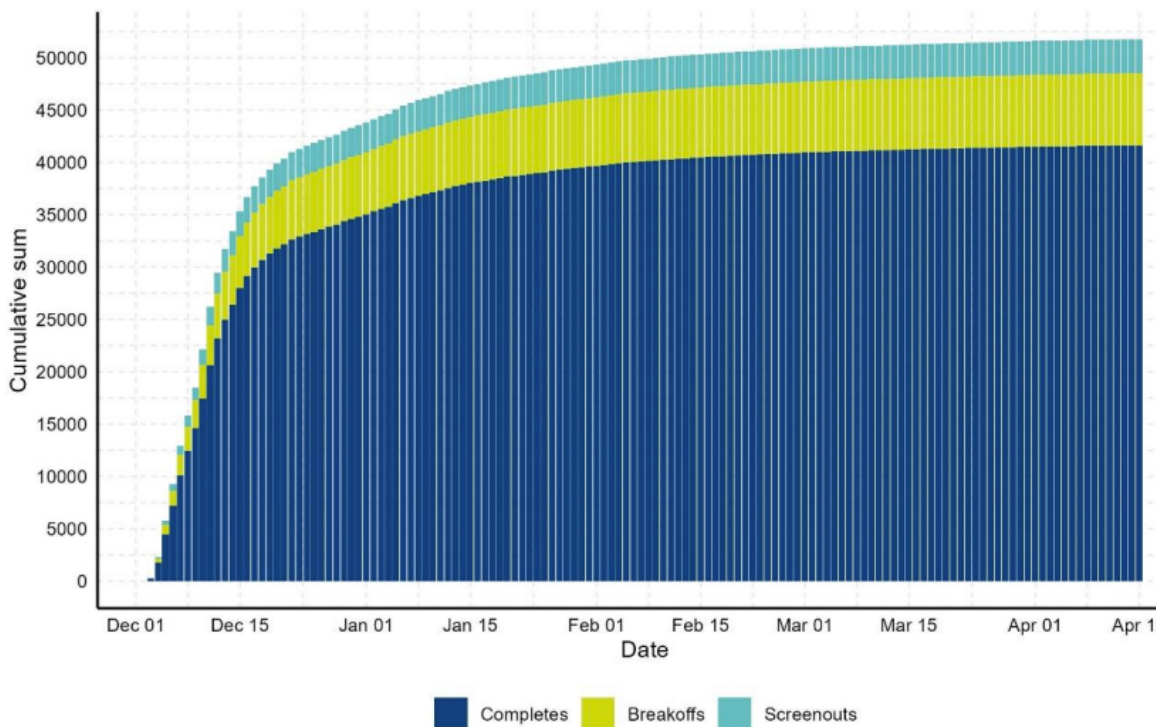
The mailing of the letters was initiated on December 2, 2024 and took place in daily packages of 100,000 letters each. An estimated 10 percent of the letters could not be delivered. Analyses based on the pre-test data⁵ showed that the group of people whose letters could not be delivered differed only marginally from other non-participants. As a consequence, respondents who could not be reached were not considered separately in the further course (e.g. for weighting).

Participation in the survey only took place online. Sending a paper questionnaire to the participants would have been a possible alternative. However, this would risk that individuals who leave Germany are no longer reachable in the second wave. Since this is one of the main aims of the project, this mode was not used. Participants were given a voucher worth 5 euros as an incentive for their participation. For a subgroup of respondents, this amount was increased to 10 euros as part of an experiment on panel consent. After completing the survey, respondents were redirected to the voucher portal to redeem the voucher. There they had the option of choosing from various providers (including supermarkets, DIY stores and furniture manufacturers).

4.1. Utilization

Figure 2 shows the fieldwork progress of the survey. 70 percent of all completed interviews (29,103 observations) were collected in the first two weeks. By the end of 2024, 84 percent of all complete interviews (34,778 observations) had been collected. In total, the people invited were able to participate until April 15, 2025.

Figure 2: Cumulative survey participation over the field



Note: Screenout refers to the excluded participants who are not part of the survey population because they were born in Germany.

Source: International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa), wave 1, unweighted.

The evaluation of the final response rate is shown in Table 1. A total of 51,770 people (7.4 percent of the gross sample) started the survey. However, 13.3 percent of them did not complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire was classified as completed as soon as the respondents had answered the question about their willingness to participate in the panel at the end of the questionnaire. Furthermore, 6.2 percent of participants were excluded because they were born in Germany ("screenout" in Figure 3). For people who stated that they were born in Germany, the persons were either born before 2000, so that birth in Germany did not lead to German citizenship, they have dual citizenship and are second or third generation migrants, or there may be an incorrect declaration of foreign citizenship in the IEB reports. They therefore received an alternative questionnaire. In addition, the willingness to link the survey data with the IEB was also asked for these persons, so that a detailed investigation of the source of error is possible for persons who gave their consent (2,681 observations; 83.1 percent). However, this group of respondents will not be discussed in the remainder of the report.

Table 1: Participation

	N	Percent
Gross sample	700,000	100.0
Interviews started	51,770	7.4
including:		
Completes	41,637	80.4
Breakoffs	6,908	13.3
Screenouts	3,225	6.2
Participation rate (share of complete interviews)	41,637	5.9

Source: International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa), wave 1, unweighted values.

4.2. Record linkage and panel consent

The focus of the project is on contacting respondents who left Germany between the first and second survey wave. Consequently, consent to be contacted again is central. At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their consent to be contacted again. Respondents could indicate that they would only like to be contacted by email, only by text message, by email or text message or not. People who agreed to be contacted were then asked to enter their contact details. Respondents who initially declined to be contacted again were asked to reconsider their decision once.

A total of 89.4 percent gave their consent (see Table 2). This high consent rate implies that the majority of respondents can be contacted again. This in turn increases the potential number of interviews with people who will have emigrated. With regard to the mode of recontact, 81.1 percent stated that they would only like to be contacted by email. 3.5 percent would only like to be contacted by text message. 15.4 percent would like to be contacted by email or text message. This share is relatively high compared to similar surveys (see Coban et al., 2024, for OPAL; Dollmann et al., 2023, for dezim.panel), although the generally higher willingness to participate in these surveys must be taken into account.

Table 2: Record linkage and panel consent

	N	Percent
Panel consent	37,217	89.4
Record linkage consent	38,291	92.0
Panel consent, but no consent to linkage	2,329	5.6

Source: International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa), wave 1, unweighted values.

Linking the survey data with the administrative data available at the IAB is also particularly informative for studies on emigration. As part of the study, respondents were asked at the beginning of the questionnaire for their consent to linking the collected data with the process data available at the IAB. Respondents who did not agree to this request were asked for their consent again at the end of the questionnaire. A total of 92.0 percent of respondents gave their consent to this, 8.0 percent refused (see Table 2). 5.6 percent of respondents did not give their consent, but agreed to participate in further surveys. In the subsequent waves, these respondents - if they participate - will be asked for their consent again.

⁵For the pretest, 10,000 people were contacted by post at the end of June 2024 and invited to take part. No incentives were awarded for participation. The aim of this procedure was to identify potential problems in the process and questionnaire in order to avoid them in the actual survey.

5. Contents of the survey

When designing the questionnaire, the focus was placed on collecting key variables relating to the considerations and plans to move away. The modules were surveyed in the following order:

1. Nationality, origin and arrival in Germany
2. Migration biography
3. Housing situation
4. Intention to stay
5. Life experiences in Germany
6. Family and partnership
7. Self-assessment
8. Language skills
9. Education and qualification
10. Employment
11. Social contacts
12. Health
13. Life situation and preferences

The questions and questionnaire modules are largely based on existing and tested surveys, including the IAB-BAMF-SOEP Survey of Refugees (Brücker et al., 2017), the IAB-SOEP Migration Sample (Brücker et al., 2014), OPAL (Coban et al., 2024), DEZIM.panel (Dollmann et al., 2023), GERPS (Etté et al., 2019), Make it in Germany (Liebig and Senner, 2024), HOPP (Haas et al. 2021) and the Labor Force Survey (Eurostat, 2022). Questions developed for other modes were adapted to the web mode and supplemented with project-specific questions. The questionnaire was first tested internally and then evaluated in a pre-test. As part of this, particular attention was paid to limiting the burden on respondents, with an average survey duration of 20 minutes. The contents of the survey and the general procedure were reviewed and approved by the ethics committee at the IAB (review no.: 2024_003).

6. Data quality

6.1. Quality assurance during the field period

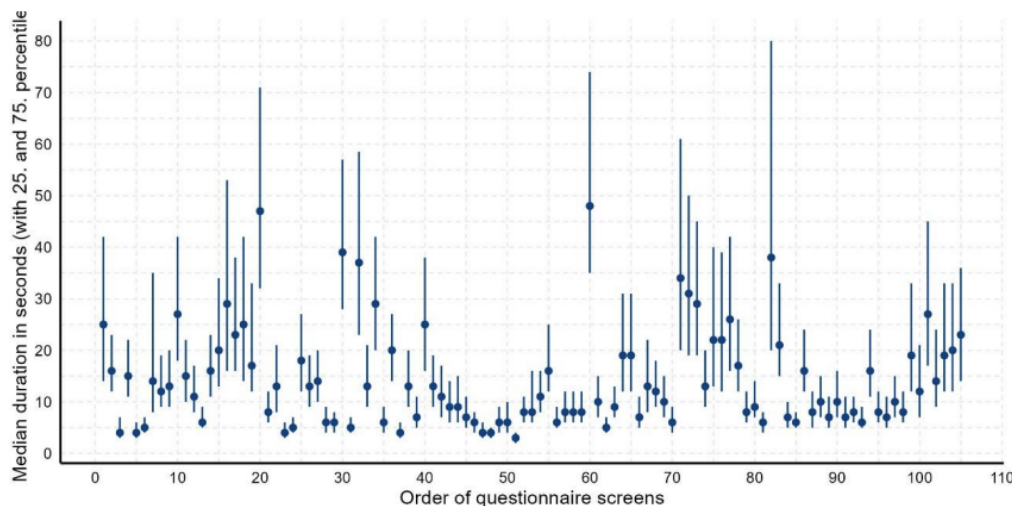
To ensure the quality of the data and to monitor the field progress, a dashboard was programmed that contains several quality indicators and enables, for example, a quick examination of the distribution of variables. This would have enabled programming errors to be identified and adjusted accordingly, for example. In the event of other quality problems (e.g. frequent terminations at certain points), the project team would also have been able to intervene.

6.2. Paradata

The median interview duration is just under 22 minutes. However, it varies greatly between respondents (5th percentile: 11.2 minutes, 95th percentile: 60.3 minutes). When considering the total duration for online surveys, however, it must be taken into account that interruptions during the questionnaire can lead to an overestimation of the total duration. In addition, the length of the questionnaire depends heavily on the individual filter guidance.

Figure 3 shows the median duration for each questionnaire screen over the course of the interview. As expected, the duration varies greatly between the individual screens. For example, more complex questions such as those on record linkage and panel consent have significantly longer durations than questions on demographic characteristics. Screens that contain several questions also have longer durations. In addition, some of the screens differ greatly in the variation of the measured durations. These differences can result, for example, from differences in the complexity of the questions or the composition of the respondents.

Figure 3: Median duration by questionnaire screen



Source: International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa), wave 1, unweighted values.

6.3. Item non-response

The share of so-called item non-response per question, i.e. the lack of answers to individual questions, averages 0.8 percent. In contrast, the median - i.e. the middle value of the distribution - is significantly lower at 0.01 percent. This discrepancy arises from the relatively high item non-response for individual questions, which have a greater influence on the average value than the median. Two questions have

significantly higher percentages compared to the other questions. These include the questions on earnings: gross earnings (40.3 percent) and net earnings (38.3 percent). Questions on earnings often have high item non-response rates, as many respondents consider such information to be sensitive, do not know their exact income or do not wish to provide any information for data protection reasons. Apart from these two questions, the item non-response rate for all other questions was less than 4 percent.

6.4. Translation errors

The questionnaire could be answered in 19 different languages (German, English, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Arabic, Polish, Italian, Romanian, French, Portuguese, Croatian, Hungarian, Greek, Serbian, Bulgarian, Dari, Czech). The questionnaires were translated by professional service companies and reviewed by native speakers.

A large proportion of the participants answered the questionnaire in German (32.7 percent) or English (31.6 percent). A further 7.7 percent answered the questionnaire in Russian, and 5.3 percent in Spanish. For the other languages, the share was below 4 percent.

In case of three questions or languages, translation errors occurred. Table 3 gives an overview.

Table 3: Overview of translation errors

Language	Item	Description of the problem	N affected	Problem solving
Hungarian	EW0400	In the Hungarian language version, 'employed' has been translated as 'Rész munkaidős foglalkoztatott', which, however, means part-time.	330	Almost 180 of the respondents avoided the "other" answer option and an open answer. These were hand-coded, but no follow-up questions were asked about workload and wages. Approx. 100 respondents classified themselves in the two affected categories despite the error. The impact of the translation error should therefore be limited.

Turkish	BR0600	The answer option "Tax benefits in this country" was not translated, instead the translation for "Reasons for residence (e.g. Immigration Law, Asylum Procedures, Family Reunification).	50	
Italian	EW1200	The questionnaire text translated that overtime pay should not be taken into account.		

7. Weighting

Due to the unequal probability of being drawn and the presumably selective participation of the respondents contacted, the survey data is weighted to ensure representativeness. This is done in two steps, which are explained in more detail in the following sections.

7.1. Design weights

In order to contact as many people as possible who could leave Germany again after the first survey, certain groups were sampled with a higher or lower probability. To correct for these unequal sampling probabilities, the design weight is first calculated for each respondent (1/sampling probability). As a result, people who were sampled with a lower probability are given a higher weight than people who were sampled with a higher probability.

7.2. Calibration

The design weights can correct for the sample design, but not for the selective participation of respondents. For this purpose, the net sample is adjusted for marginal distributions of various characteristics available in the sampling frame. The following characteristics from the administrative data of the IEB are used for this purpose:

- Gender x nationality group
- Highest educational qualification
- Age
- Federal state
- Ever registered with German citizenship
- Employed × approximated length of stay
- Employed × nationality group

Note that some characteristics are not available for individuals who only appear in the cross-sectional dataset (see chapter 2.1) and who did not previously appear in the IEB. In addition, some of the calibration variables are variable over time, but are only available at the reference date. Changes over time can therefore marginally distort the marginal adjustments. The design weights form the basis for calculating the calibration weights.

7.3. Marginal distributions before and after weighting

Table 4 shows the marginal distributions of the calibration characteristics for the population, the gross sample, the unweighted net sample and the weighted net sample. Differences between the population and the gross sample result from the sampling design (primarily due to the disproportionate sampling probabilities). Differences between the gross sample and the unweighted net sample result from selective participation. The last column shows that the shares correspond to the shares in the population due to the weighting. With regard to gender, it can be seen that men are less willing to participate than the population as a whole. The sampling design attracts younger people with a disproportionately high probability, but no clear pattern can be identified for the willingness to participate. The 18-28 and 49-58

age groups participated disproportionately less, whereas the 29-38 age group participated disproportionately more.

Table 4: Marginal distributions of the calibration characteristics in the population, the gross sample, the net sample and after weighting

Variable	Category	Population, percentage	Gross sample, number	Net sample, percent	Net sample weighted, percent
Gender	Male	54.5	55.0	50.8	54.5
	Female	45.5	45.0	49.2	45.5
Age	18-28	18.3	30.0	24.6	18.3
	29-38	27.5	31.4	39.2	27.5
	39-48	25.7	21.2	22.6	25.7
	49-58	20.4	13.0	10.4	20.4
	59-65	8.0	4.4	3.2	8.0
Education	(University of) Applied Sciences	19.3	21.2	45.5	19.3
	A-levels	7.7	6.9	7.1	7.7
	A-levels and vocational training	8.0	5.0	5.3	8.0
	Vocational training	25.4	13.5	7.7	25.4
	No degree	25.4	22.2	12.3	25.4
	Missing	14.2	31.2	22.2	14.2
Employed	Employed	73.2	74.7	76.5	73.2
	Not employed	26.8	25.3	23.5	26.8
Federal state	Baden-Württemberg	16.2	15.3	15.1	16.2
	Bavaria	17.0	18.1	19.5	17.0
	Berlin	6.6	8.2	11.1	6.6
	Brandenburg	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.3
	Bremen	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2
	Hamburg	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.3
	Hesse	9.6	9.1	8.7	9.6
	Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7
	Lower Saxony	7.8	7.8	7.0	7.8
	North Rhine-Westphalia	23.7	20.5	17.6	23.7
	Rhineland-Palatinate	4.5	4.5	3.8	4.5
	Saarland	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0
	Saxony	2.1	2.9	3.8	2.1
	Saxony-Anhalt	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.1
Schleswig-Holstein	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.5	

	Thuringia	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.2
	Missing	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.1
German citizenship	Ever reported	45.2	22.2	19.6	45.2
	Never reported	54.8	77.8	80.4	54.8
Length of stay	0 to under 2	17.1	43.4	43.5	17.1
	2 to under 5	11.7	21.5	23.3	11.7
	5 to under 10	24.8	20.0	19.8	24.8
	More than 10	46.4	15.1	13.4	46.4
Country group	Africa	4.9	7.2	6.6	4.9
	Asia	7.0	9.0	10.5	7.0
	Asylum countries of origin	14.6	8.6	6.7	14.6
	EU East	22.8	26.4	14.3	22.8
	EU/Schengen	12.2	11.8	14.0	12.2
	English speaking	1.3	5.4	11.0	1.3
	Latin America	1.8	5.6	11.6	1.8
	Eastern Europe	14.1	10.2	8.6	14.1
	Turkey	14.3	6.2	6.0	14.3
	Ukraine	7.1	9.7	10.8	7.1
Observations		10,077,286	700,000	41,627	

Source: International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa), wave 1.

With regard to the level of education, people with vocational training were sampled with a lower probability, which can be explained by the disproportionate drawing of people with a shorter period of residence. The higher share of missing values for the level of education in the gross sample is due to the fact that no educational information is available for people who only appear in the cross-sectional dataset. In general, there is a highly selective participation with regard to education: people with a higher level of education show a significantly higher willingness to participate.

For the employment status, which is determined via the source of the last notification, there are only marginal differences between the calculated shares. This also applies to the federal state. German citizenship was ever reported for 45.2 percent of people in the population. In the gross sample, this value is halved. However, there are only marginal differences in terms of willingness to participate.

As mentioned above, the length of stay is approximated by the time since the first appearance in the IEB data. The actual length of stay is on average likely longer. The sampling design (disproportionately large sample of persons with shorter approximated durations of stay) results in pronounced differences between the population and the gross sample. Persons with a shorter duration of stay were sampled with a higher probability, whereas persons with a duration of stay of more than 10 years were sampled with a lower probability. However, there are only marginal differences in terms of willingness to participate.

The sampling design also results in differences for the country groups based on the nationality reported in each case. For example, people from Turkey, Eastern Europe and countries of asylum origin were

sampled with a lower probability, whereas people from Asia, Latin America and English-speaking countries, for example, were sampled with a higher probability. There are also major differences between the country groups in terms of willingness to participate. For example, people from Eastern Europe are significantly less likely to participate than people from English-speaking countries or Latin America. There are many different explanations for this (e.g. general accessibility, language skills, level of education, address quality, seasonal migration), but these cannot be conclusively investigated with the available data.

8. Socio-demographic characteristics based on the survey data

Table 5 shows the distribution of socio-demographic characteristics based on the survey data, both unweighted and weighted. It should be noted that differences between the weighted and unweighted results may arise due to the unequal sampling probabilities of certain groups and the selective participation of certain groups. Overall, the participants are significantly younger than the target population, with more than 66 percent of participants under the age of 40, while the weighted share is over 48 percent. There are similarly large differences in the length of stay of the respondents. Just under 47 percent of respondents last moved to Germany three or fewer years ago; on a weighted basis, this share is just over 21 percent. This difference is mainly due to the sampling design. With regard to the respondents' highest level of education, almost two thirds of respondents have a university degree. The weighting corrects this share to 35 percent. When interpreting this data, it must be taken into account that international education systems are difficult to compare, which makes the standardized collection of the education level more difficult. Just over 13 percent of respondents have German citizenship. Due to the sampling design, this share is corrected to over 30 percent by weighting. With regard to the legal basis for immigration, there are also differences between the weighted and unweighted shares; for example, the weighted share of people whose basis was "work/job search" is significantly lower than the unweighted. In contrast, the weighted share for asylum seekers is significantly higher than the unweighted. With regard to current residence status, the biggest difference is for people with German citizenship, whose share more than doubles when weighted.

Table 5: Socio-demographic characteristics, unweighted and weighted

	Category	Observations, number	Net sample, percent	Net sample, weighted percent
Age	<25	4,662	11.2	9.6
	25-29	7,020	16.9	11.2
	30-34	8,608	20.7	13.2
	35-39	7,319	17.6	14.6
	40-44	5,255	12.6	13.5
	45-49	3,573	8.6	11.6
	50-54	2,419	5.8	11.3
	55-59	1,613	3.9	8.4
	60+	1,105	2.7	6.5
Length of stay	0 years	1,612	3.9	2.5
	1 years	6,023	14.5	7.6
	2 years	7,636	18.4	6.9
	3 years	4,091	9.8	4.4
	4 years	2,569	6.2	2.9
	5 years	2,927	7.0	3.8

	6 years	2,331	5.6	4.3
	7 years	1,881	4.5	4.6
	8 years	1,775	4.3	4.6
	9 years	1,901	4.6	5.6
	10-19 years	5,299	12.7	20.9
	20+ years	3,529	8.5	32.0
Highest educational qualification	Vocational training	8,907	21.4	41.6
	Higher education	2,6471	63.7	35.1
	No degree	6,166	14.8	23.3
German citizenship	Yes	5,532	13.3	30.5
	No	36,042	86.7	69.5
Legal basis for immigration	Work / job search	14,250	34.3	25.8
	Asylum seekers / refugees	7,111	17.1	22.9
	Education / recognition	8,200	19.7	12.8
	Family members	7,469	18.0	24.8
	Germans born abroad	700	1.7	4.7
	Tourists / others	3,832	9.2	9.0
Residence status	Recognized protection status	1,355	3.3	3.0
	Temporary residence permit	8,117	19.5	11.1
	German citizenship	5,532	13.3	30.5
	Tolerated stay / permission to stay	1,410	3.4	3.3
	EU citizens	10,346	24.9	24.6
	Settlement permit	6,659	16.0	17.4
	Visa	2,246	5.4	1.9
	Ukrainian residence permit	3,481	8.4	4.5
	Other	2,425	5.8	3.8

Source: International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa), wave 1

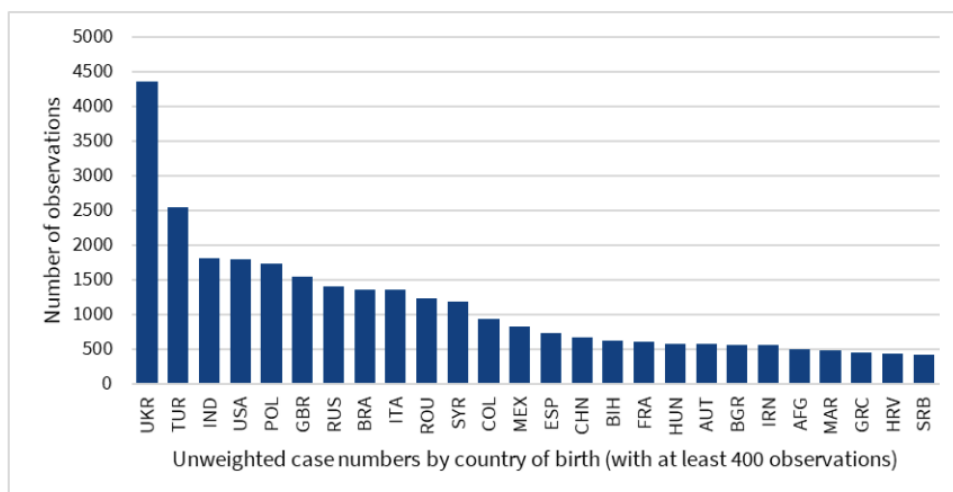
With regard to the respondents' highest level of education, almost two thirds of respondents have a university degree. The weighting corrects this share to 35 percent. When interpreting this data, it must be taken into account that international education systems are difficult to compare, which makes the standardized collection of the education level more difficult. 13 percent of respondents have German

citizenship. Due to the sampling design, this share is corrected to 30 percent by weighting. With regard to the legal basis for immigration, there are also differences between the weighted and unweighted shares; for example, the weighted share of people whose basis was "work/job search" is significantly lower when weighted. In contrast, the weighted share for asylum seekers is significantly higher. The weighting also significantly increases the share of people who have at least one child. With regard to current residence status, the biggest difference is for people with German citizenship, whose share more than doubles when weighted.

In total, immigrants from 188 countries participated in the survey. Around 70 percent of respondents come from 26 countries of birth. Figure 4 shows the absolute number of cases for these countries of origin. At least 400 complete interviews are available for each of these 26 countries, which enables well-founded country-specific analyses. Most observations are available for Ukraine (4,367 persons, 10.5 percent), followed by Turkey (2,554 persons, 6.1 percent), India (1,818 persons, 4.4 percent), the USA (1,803 persons, 4.3 percent) and Poland (1,737 persons, 4.2 percent). In addition, over 43 other countries of origin are represented with at least 100 cases each. The high diversity of origins underlines the broad analytical potential of the panel - particularly for comparative studies on migration intentions, integration experiences and motives for return by group of origin.

Figure 4: Number of complete interviews by country of birth

Countries with at least 400 observations each, absolute figures



Source: International Mobility Panel of Migrants in Germany (IMPa), wave 1, unweighted values.

9. Anonymisation

To ensure data protection and prevent individuals from being re-identified, anonymization measures were taken at the variable level.

The month of birth has been completely removed from the dataset because combining the year and month of birth would significantly increase the risk of re-identification. Also the number of daughters / sons (FP0800a and FP0800b (number of sons/daughters)) was classified as a sensitive variable to be released only on request. However, the total number of children was generated, the variables are children_tot (total number of children without distinction of sons/daughters) and children_ger (number of children in Germany).

10. Variables of actual wave(s)

10.1. IMPa, Cohort 1, Wave 1

Label lists of the individual expressions and counts in German and English can be found at:

- https://doku.iab.de/fdz/reports/2026/DR_03-26_frequencies_labels_en.zip
- https://doku.iab.de/fdz/reports/2026/DR_03-26_frequencies_labels_en.zip

10.1.1. IMPa, questionnaire, cohort 1, wave 1

10.1.1.1. Linkage consent (LC)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
LC0100	LC0100	LC0100	nominal

10.1.1.2. Nationality, origin and arrival in Germany (SHA)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
SHA0100b	SHA0100b	SHA0100b	metric
SHA0300	SHA0300	SHA0300	nominal
SHA0400	SHA0400	SHA0400	nominal
SHA0500	SHA0500	SHA0500	metric
SHA0600	SHA0600	SHA0600	metric
SHA0700	SHA0700	SHA0700	nominal
SHA0800	SHA0800	SHA0800	nominal
SHA0800a	SHA0800a	SHA0800a	nominal

10.1.1.3. My migration background (MIG)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
MIG0100	MIG0100	MIG0100	metric
MIG0200a	MIG0200a	MIG0200a	nominal
MIG0200b	MIG0200b	MIG0200b	metric
MIG0200c	MIG0200c	MIG0200c	nominal
MIG0300	MIG0300	MIG0300	nominal
MIG0400	MIG0400	MIG0400	nominal
MIG0500	MIG0500	MIG0500	nominal
MIG0500a	MIG0500a	MIG0500a	nominal
MIG0500b	MIG0500b	MIG0500b	nominal
MIG0610	MIG0610	MIG0610	nominal
MIG0710a	MIG0710a	MIG0710a	nominal

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
MIG0710b	MIG0710b	MIG0710b	metric
MIG0800a	MIG0800a	MIG0800a	nominal
MIG0800b	MIG0800b	MIG0800b	nominal
MIG0800c	MIG0800c	MIG0800c	nominal
MIG0800d	MIG0800d	MIG0800d	nominal
MIG0800e	MIG0800e	MIG0800e	nominal
MIG0800f	MIG0800f	MIG0800f	nominal
MIG0800g	MIG0800g	MIG0800g	nominal
MIG0800h	MIG0800h	MIG0800h	nominal
MIG0800i	MIG0800i	MIG0800i	nominal
MIG0800j	MIG0800j	MIG0800j	nominal
MIG0800k	MIG0800k	MIG0800k	nominal
MIG0800l	MIG0800l	MIG0800l	nominal
MIG0800m	MIG0800m	MIG0800m	nominal
MIG0800n	MIG0800n	MIG0800n	nominal
MIG0800o	MIG0800o	MIG0800o	nominal
MIG0800p	MIG0800p	MIG0800p	nominal
MIG0900	MIG0900	MIG0900	nominal
MIG1000	MIG1000	MIG1000	nominal

10.1.1.4. My current living situation (WH)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
WH0100	WH0100	WH0100	nominal
WH0200a	WH0200a	WH0200a	nominal
WH0200b	WH0200b	WH0200b	nominal
WH0200c	WH0200c	WH0200c	nominal
WH0200d	WH0200d	WH0200d	nominal
WH0200e	WH0200e	WH0200e	nominal
WH0200f	WH0200f	WH0200f	nominal
WH0200g	WH0200g	WH0200g	nominal
WH0310	WH0310	WH0310	nominal
WH0510	WH0510	WH0510	nominal

10.1.1.5. My intention to stay (BR)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
BR0100	BR0100	BR0100	nominal
BR0210	BR0210	BR0210	nominal
BR0310	BR0310	BR0310	nominal
BR0410	BR0410	BR0410	nominal
BR0510	BR0510	BR0510	nominal
BR0610a	BR0610a	BR0610a	nominal
BR0610b	BR0610b	BR0610b	nominal
BR0610c	BR0610c	BR0610c	nominal
BR0610d	BR0610d	BR0610d	nominal
BR0610e	BR0610e	BR0610e	nominal
BR0610f	BR0610f	BR0610f	nominal
BR0610g	BR0610g	BR0610g	nominal
BR0610h	BR0610h	BR0610h	nominal
BR0610i	BR0610i	BR0610i	nominal
BR0610j	BR0610j	BR0610j	nominal
BR0610k	BR0610k	BR0610k	nominal
BR0610l	BR0610l	BR0610l	nominal
BR0610m	BR0610m	BR0610m	nominal
BR0610n	BR0610n	BR0610n	nominal
BR0710	BR0710	BR0710	nominal
BR0810	BR0810	BR0810	nominal
BR0910a	BR0910a	BR0910a	nominal
BR0910b	BR0910b	BR0910b	nominal
BR0910c	BR0910c	BR0910c	nominal
BR0910d	BR0910d	BR0910d	nominal
BR0910e	BR0910e	BR0910e	nominal
BR0910f	BR0910f	BR0910f	nominal
BR0910g	BR0910g	BR0910g	nominal
BR0910h	BR0910h	BR0910h	nominal
BR0910i	BR0910i	BR0910i	nominal
BR1010a	BR1010a	BR1010a	nominal
BR1010b	BR1010b	BR1010b	nominal

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
BR1010c	BR1010c	BR1010c	nominal
BR1010d	BR1010d	BR1010d	nominal
BR1010e	BR1010e	BR1010e	nominal
BR1010f	BR1010f	BR1010f	nominal
BR1010g	BR1010g	BR1010g	nominal
BR1010h	BR1010h	BR1010h	nominal
BR1010i	BR1010i	BR1010i	nominal
BR1010j	BR1010j	BR1010j	nominal
BR1010k	BR1010k	BR1010k	nominal
BR1010l	BR1010l	BR1010l	nominal
BR1010m	BR1010m	BR1010m	nominal
BR1010n	BR1010n	BR1010n	nominal
BR1010o	BR1010o	BR1010o	nominal
BR1010p	BR1010p	BR1010p	nominal

10.1.1.6. Experiences in Germany (LE)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
LE0100	LE0100	LE0100	nominal
LE0210	LE0210	LE0210	nominal
LE0310a	LE0310a	LE0310a	nominal
LE0310b	LE0310b	LE0310b	nominal
LE0310c	LE0310c	LE0310c	nominal
LE0310d	LE0310d	LE0310d	nominal
LE0310e	LE0310e	LE0310e	nominal
LE0310f	LE0310f	LE0310f	nominal

10.1.1.7. Family and partner (FP)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
FP0100	FP0100	FP0100	nominal
FP0200	FP0200	FP0200	nominal
FP0300	FP0300	FP0300	nominal
FP0400	FP0400	FP0400	nominal
FP0500	FP0500	FP0500	nominal
FP0700	FP0700	FP0700	nominal

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
FP0800a	FP0800a	FP0800a	metric
FP0800b	FP0800b	FP0800b	metric
FP0900	FP0900	FP0900	metric
FP1000	FP1000	FP1000	metric
FP1100	FP1100	FP1100	metric
FP1200	FP1200	FP1200	nominal
FP1300a	FP1300a	FP1300a	nominal
FP1300b	FP1300b	FP1300b	nominal
FP1300c	FP1300c	FP1300c	nominal
FP1410	FP1410	FP1410	nominal
RE0100	RE0100	RE0100	nominal

10.1.1.8. Self-assessment (LPI)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
LP0100a	LP0100a	LP0100a	ordinal
LP0100b	LP0100b	LP0100b	ordinal
LP0100c	LP0100c	LP0100c	ordinal
LP0100d	LP0100d	LP0100d	ordinal
LP0100e	LP0100e	LP0100e	ordinal

10.1.1.9. Language skills (SP)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
SP0110	SP0110	SP0110	nominal
SP0200	SP0200	SP0200	nominal

10.1.1.10. Education and qualifications (BQ)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
BQ0100	BQ0100	BQ0100	nominal
BQ0100a	BQ0100a	BQ0100a	nominal
BQ0100ba	BQ0100ba	BQ0100ba	nominal
BQ0100bb	BQ0100bb	BQ0100bb	ordinal
BQ0100bc	BQ0100bc	BQ0100bc	nominal
BQ0200	BQ0200	BQ0200	nominal
BQ0200a	BQ0200a	BQ0200a	nominal
BQ0200b	BQ0200b	BQ0200b	nominal

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
BQ0300	BQ0300	BQ0300	nominal

10.1.1.11. Employment (EW)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
EW0100	EW0100	EW0100	nominal
EW0300	EW0300	EW0300	nominal
EW0410	EW0410	EW0410	nominal
EW0410aa	EW0410aa	EW0410aa	nominal
EW0410ab	EW0410ab	EW0410ab	nominal
EW0410ac	EW0410ac	EW0410ac	nominal
EW0410ad	EW0410ad	EW0410ad	nominal
EW0410ae	EW0410ae	EW0410ae	nominal
EW0410af	EW0410af	EW0410af	nominal
EW0410ag	EW0410ag	EW0410ag	nominal
EW0410ah	EW0410ah	EW0410ah	nominal
EW0410ai	EW0410ai	EW0410ai	nominal
EW0410aj	EW0410aj	EW0410aj	nominal
EW0410ak	EW0410ak	EW0410ak	nominal
EW0410al	EW0410al	EW0410al	nominal
EW0410am	EW0410am	EW0410am	nominal
EW0410an	EW0410an	EW0410an	nominal
EW0600a	EW0600a	EW0600a	nominal
EW0700	EW0700	EW0700	metric
EW0810	EW0810	EW0810	nominal
EW0910	EW0910	EW0910	nominal
EW1010	EW1010	EW1010	nominal
EW1100	EW1100	EW1100	nominal
EW1200a	EW1410a	EW1410a	nominal
EW1410b	EW1410b	EW1410b	nominal
EW1410c	EW1410c	EW1410c	nominal
EW1410d	EW1410d	EW1410d	nominal
EW1410e	EW1410e	EW1410e	nominal
EW1410f	EW1410f	EW1410f	nominal

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
EW1410g	EW1410g	EW1410g	nominal
EW1410h	EW1410h	EW1410h	nominal
EW1410i	EW1410i	EW1410i	nominal
EW1410j	EW1410j	EW1410j	nominal
EW1410k	EW1410k	EW1410k	nominal
EW1410l	EW1410l	EW1410l	nominal
EW1500	EW1500	EW1500	ordinal
EW1600	EW1600	EW1600	nominal

10.1.1.12. Social contacts (SK)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
SK0110	SK0110	SK0110	nominal
SK0210	SK0210	SK0210	nominal
SK0310	SK0310	SK0310	nominal
SK0400	SK0400	SK0400	nominal
SK0500	SK0500	SK0500	ordinal
SK0600	SK0600	SK0600	ordinal
SK0700	SK0700	SK0700	ordinal

10.1.1.13. Health (G)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
G0100	G0100	G0100	nominal

10.1.1.14. Life situation and preferences (LP II)

Question number	Name of variable	Label of variable	Measure level
LP0200	LP0200	LP0200	ordinal
LP0300	LP0300	LP0300	ordinal
LP0410	LP0410	LP0410	ordinal
LP0500	LP0500	LP0500	ordinal
LP0600	LP0600	LP0600	nominal

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