

Classification of the quality of estimates (see also Vogel and Kovacheva 2008)

I. High quality	II. Medium quality	III. Low quality	IV. Low quality with plausibility warning
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Groups	Definition	Year	Estimate			Main data source	Short explanation	Reference
			minimum	central	maximum			
Total stocks of irregular foreign residents (IFR) in the EU27								
IFR – estimate 1	IFR	2008	1 949 000		3 811 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: based on a collection and rough adjustment of country estimates aggregated into an EU estimate	Kovacheva & Vogel 2009
Total stocks of irregular foreign residents (IFR) in the EU25								
IFR – estimate 2	IFR	2008	1 940 000		3 797 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: based on a collection and rough adjustment of country estimates aggregated into an EU estimate	Kovacheva & Vogel 2009
IFR – estimate 3	IFR	2005	2 364 000		5 385 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: based on a collection and rough adjustment of country estimates aggregated into an EU estimate	Kovacheva & Vogel 2009
IFR – estimate 4	IFR	2005	4 500 000			unknown	Academic expert estimate: based on rule of thumb; 1% of the total EU population is irregular	Papademetriou 2005a; European Commission 2007
IFR – estimate 5	IFR	2005	7 000 000		8 000 000	unknown	Academic expert estimate: based on rule of thumb; 15 to 20% of the foreign population in Europe is irregular	Papademetriou 2005b; European Commission 2007
IFR – estimate 6	IFR	2005	6 000 000		8 000 000	unknown	Academic expert estimate: based on unreferenced estimate by Le Figaro for 9 of 15 EU member states in 2004	Krieger 2005
Total stocks of irregular foreign residents (IFR) in the EU15								
IFR – estimate 7	IFR	2008	1 820 000		3 256 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: based on a collection and rough adjustment of country estimates aggregated into an EU estimate	Kovacheva & Vogel 2009
IFR – estimate 8	IFR	2005	2 236 000		4 775 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: based on a collection and rough adjustment of country estimates aggregated into an EU estimate	Kovacheva & Vogel 2009



Groups	Definition	Year	Estimate			Main data source	Short explanation	Reference
			minimum	central	maximum			
Total stocks of irregular foreign residents (IFR) in the EU15								
IFR – estimate 9	IFR	2002	3 059 000		5 311 000	multiple sources	Academic expert estimate: based on a collection and rough adjustment of country estimates aggregated into an EU estimate	Kovacheva & Vogel 2009
IFR – estimate 10	IFR	2000	5 000 000			unknown	International expert estimate: based on rule of thumb; 10% of the foreign population in Europe is irregular	GCIM 2005
Total stocks of irregular foreign workers (IFW)								
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References

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- Vogel, D., Kovacheva, V. (2008): Classification report: Quality assessment of estimates on stocks of irregular migrants, Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI), Database on Irregular Migration, Working paper No.1, http://www.irregular-migration.hwwi.net/Working_papers.6113.0.html.

Annotations

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IFR – estimate 1: Low quality due to insufficient quality of underlying estimates; based on low quality estimates for countries with 46 percentage of the official EU population and on medium quality estimates for countries with 54 percentage of the EU population (for assessment logic, see Kovacheva & Vogel 2009: 10; for estimate calculation, see Annex 3 to Kovacheva & Vogel 2009).

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IFR – estimate 2: Low quality due to insufficient quality of underlying estimates; based on low quality estimates for countries with 43 percentage of the official EU population and on medium quality estimates for countries with 57 percentage of the EU population (for assessment logic, see Kovacheva & Vogel 2009: 10; for estimate calculation, see Annex 2 to Kovacheva & Vogel 2009).

IFR – estimate 3: Low quality due to insufficient quality of underlying estimates; based on low quality estimates for countries with 52 percentage of the official EU population and on medium quality estimates for countries with 48 percentage of the EU population (for assessment logic, see Kovacheva & Vogel 2009: 10; for estimate calculation, see Annex 2 to Kovacheva & Vogel 2009).

IFR – estimate 4: Low quality due to lack of empirical foundation of the applied rule of thumb. This estimate is quoted in Papademetriou (2005a: 1) and in European Commission (2007: 6, 44) which refers to IOM 2000. Estimate was not found in IOM 2000.

IFR – estimate 5: Low quality due to lack of empirical foundation of the applied rule of thumb. This estimate is quoted in Papademetriou (2005b: 2) and in European Commission (2007: 6) which refers to United Nations' Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2003 Revision.

IFR – estimate 6: Low quality due to lack of documentation. There is no explanation how the estimate was obtained on the basis of a previous estimate for 9 of the EU15 countries provided by Le Figaro in 2004.

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IFR – estimate 7: Low quality due to insufficient quality of underlying estimates; based on low quality estimates for countries with 32 percent of the official EU population and on medium quality estimates for countries with 68 percent of the EU population. We suggest two conditions for a medium quality estimate on the EU level: 1) countries with at least 70 per cent of the regular population covered. 2) No indications that there are considerable irregular foreign populations in the remaining countries. As condition 1) is nearly achieved in this estimate, it should be noted that condition 2) is not fulfilled, as there are indications of substantial irregular foreign populations in some of the remaining member states (Portugal, Belgium) (for assessment logic, see Kovacheva & Vogel 2009: 10; for estimate calculation, see Annex 3 to Kovacheva & Vogel 2009).



IFR – estimate 8: Low quality due to insufficient quality of underlying estimates; based on low quality estimates for countries with 43 percentage of the official EU population and on medium quality estimates for countries with 57 percentage of the EU population (for assessment logic, see Kovacheva & Vogel 2009: 10; for estimate calculation, see Annex 1 to Kovacheva & Vogel 2009).

IFR – estimate 9: Low quality due to insufficient quality of underlying estimates; the minimum estimate is based on low quality estimates for countries with 78 percentage of the official EU population and on medium quality estimates for countries with 22 percentage of the EU population; the maximum estimate is based on low quality estimates for countries with 67 percentage of the official EU population and on medium quality estimates for countries with 33 percentage of the EU population (for assessment logic, see Kovacheva & Vogel 2009: 10; for estimate calculation, see Annex 1 to Kovacheva & Vogel 2009).

IFR – estimate 10: Low quality due to lack of empirical foundation of the applied rule of thumb (GCIM 2005: 94).

Comments on the table are welcomed by the HWWI-team: [Dita Vogel](#) and [Vesela Kovacheva](#).

Suggested quotation: HWWI (2009): Stocks of Irregular Migrants: Estimates for the European Union, last change November 2009, Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI), Database on Irregular Migration.

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