

RB280: COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Topic and detailed topic: Person and household characteristics / Citizenship and migrant background

Variable type: Core Variable/ First wave /Annual

Unit: All current household members (of any age)

Reference period: Constant

Mode of collection: Household respondent or registers

In use (period): New, from 2021

Series' differences: New from 2021 (moved from P-file to R-file, used instead of PB210 previously used)

VALUES AND FORMAT

SCL GEO code	<i>Country of birth ()</i>
FOR	<i>Foreign-born but country of birth unknown</i>

FLAGS

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Collected via survey/interview |
| 2 | Collected from administrative data |
| 3 | Imputed |
| 4 | Not possible to establish a main source |
| -1 | Missing |
| -7 | Not applicable (RB010 < 2021) |

DESCRIPTION

The variable is part of standardised list of social variables. The country of birth of an individual is defined as the country of usual residence (in its current boundaries) of the individual's mother at the time of delivery.

Information on the country of birth is used to distinguish between native-born (born in the reporting country) and foreign-born (born in a country other than the reporting country) residents.

Information on the country of birth should be obtained according to the current national boundaries and not according to the boundaries in place at the time of birth.

More detailed information on the locality could be required if the boundaries of a country have changed. When data are collected by interview, the respondent can be asked additional questions. When data are derived from administrative registers, it is more difficult to ensure that the definition is followed. If detailed information on the mother's place of usual residence exists in the register, the country of birth should be re-coded so that it is coded according to the current national borders.

Particular care is needed in cases where national boundaries have changed and/or where previously existing countries have split to form two or more new countries. As noted in the [UNECE 2020](#) census recommendations (par. 651), a person should not be regarded as foreign-born (i.e. recorded as born in a country other than the reporting country) simply because the national boundaries of the country of birth have changed. The following important exception to the general rule of considering the current borders might exist: a person whose mother's place of usual residence was, at the time of his/her birth, part of the person's actual country of origin (e.g. as indicated by his/her citizenship or current place of usual residence) but is not any more due to changed borders. In this case the country of birth can exceptionally be enumerated at the boundaries at the time of birth.

The country of birth of a person, who was born during the mother's short-term visit to a country other than her country of usual residence, should be the country where the mother had her place of usual residence. Only if information on the place of usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth is not available, the place where the birth took place should be reported.

The list of countries is defined according to the Eurostat Standard Code list (SCL) GEO which is largely based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 3166 country codes (3166-1 alpha-2). The short list of country codes corresponding to Ramon (GEO) classification as defined in the annex of the guidelines for standardised variables is included in [Annex 10](#).