

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

GERMANY 2023



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

A 51% increase in first-time asylum applications within one year led to major challenges for Germany, particularly in providing adequate accommodation. 2023 was also marked by a sharp increase in the number of unaccompanied minor refugees.

The increased demand for labour and skilled workers remains an important issue for Germany. In 2023, important legislative changes were introduced to facilitate the immigration of labour and skilled workers.



LEGAL MIGRATION

On 18 November 2023 several elements of the Act on the further development of immigration of skilled workers (*Gesetz zur Weiterentwicklung der Fachkräfteeinwanderung*) entered into force:

- Implementation of the European Union (EU) Blue Card Directive 2021/1883;
- Skilled workers with a vocational training qualification or university degree are entitled to a residence permit if they fulfil certain requirements;



KEY POINTS

A 51% increase in first-time asylum applications within one year led to major challenges for Germany, notably adequate accommodation.

Elements of the Act on the further development of immigration of skilled workers (*Gesetz zur Weiterentwicklung der Fachkräfteeinwanderung*) entered into force.

The development of migration partnerships is an increasingly important component of German migration policy, facilitating comprehensive cooperation with countries of origin.

- Access to the labour market was eased for information technology (IT) specialists;
- Simplified approval by the Federal Employment Agency for the employment of professional drivers from third countries;
- The federal government introduced so-called recognition partnerships, extended the Western Balkans Regulation, and opened the labour market to foreign nursing assistants.

Other major parts of the legislation will come into force in 2024.

Germany joined EU Talent Partnerships with Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Pakistan and began negotiations with Bangladesh. Germany also expanded EU-level cooperation with other third countries, mainly through the EU regional programme 'Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa' (THAMM) and the Centres for Migration and Development, to promote counselling on legal migration and facilitate the immigration of workers from these third countries.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Georgia and the Republic of Moldova were classified as safe countries of origin in federal law and added to the list of safe countries of origin. On 1 January 2023 the Law to Accelerate Asylum Court Procedures and Asylum Procedures (*Gesetz zur Beschleunigung der Asylgerichtsverfahren und Asylverfahren*) entered into force, amending the current Law on Asylum (*Asylgesetz*). It introduced changes to the deadlines for deciding procedures for international protection, in line with Article 31 of Directive 2013/32. It also revised paragraphs on the withdrawal and revocation of status.

To reduce waiting times for visas for family reunification, Germany's federal states issued a global approval of cases of privileged family reunification if they came from countries with a reliable system of documentation. This ensured the proper implementation of Directive 2003/86/EC.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND OTHER MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

In accordance with the prolongation of temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine, Germany issued an ordinance to automatically extend residence permits for temporary protection that are still valid until 1 February 2024, to 4 March 2025.

To provide care for unaccompanied minors from Ukraine, Germany established a federal coordination centre

for evacuated orphanages and children's homes from Ukraine. It consists of a coordination office and an SOS reporting centre.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Other vulnerable groups

With the entry into force of the Law to Accelerate Asylum Court Procedures and Asylum Procedures (*Gesetz zur Beschleunigung der Asylgerichtsverfahren und Asylverfahren*) on 1 January 2023, an independent counselling offer was implemented for asylum seekers, including special legal advice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, queer and other vulnerable persons (LGBTIQ+). It is operated by non-statutory welfare organisations and other civil society actors.

In 2023, LGBTIQ+ refugees from Afghanistan arrived in Germany via the federal admission programme for Afghanistan, whose admission criteria for the first time explicitly includes people at risk of persecution due to their sexual orientation and gender identity.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

National Integration Strategy

The paradigm shift in the German government's immigration policies ('integration for all from the beginning') entailed a legal right for all groups of immigrants to apply for language courses. Asylum seekers can now access courses regardless of their prospects of staying. This has led to a significant increase in applications for admission. In addition, a legislative change enabled all types of courses to be offered online.

The Act on New Residence Opportunities (*Gesetz zur Einführung eines Chancen-Aufenthaltsrechts*) came into force on 31 December 2022. Under the Act, immigrants who either have a non-permanent residence permit, or a postponement of removal but who are well integrated in Germany, have the possibility to obtain a permanent right of residence. For 18 months, these immigrants can endeavour to fulfil the requirements for a permanent residence permit.

Pre-departure/Post-arrival integration programmes

For the first time, pre-departure measures were enshrined in German law. Pre-departure measures were included in the Act on the further development of immigration of skilled workers (*Gesetz zur Weiterentwicklung der Fachkräfteinwanderung*) adopted in July 2023. The measures can be offered in selected third countries from 2026.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments to report in 2023.



BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

The National EU Entry/Exit System (EES) legislation and European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) legislation was implemented on 24 April 2023. The law provides for amendments to the Residence Act and other laws, and regulates the responsibilities of the authorities to implement the tasks in the EU regulations, as well as technical requirements.

In light of the new Integrated Border Management (IBM) 2.0 legislation (on the European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) and repealing Regulations) and the Technical and Operational (Frontex) Strategy (TO-FX Strategy) Germany revised its national integrated border management strategy, including action plans with relevant stakeholders.

Temporary checks were continued at Germany's land borders with Austria and reintroduced at Germany's land borders with Poland, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The Federal Ministry of the Interior developed a strategy to fight serious and organised crime. Its goal is to disrupt criminal structures of migrant smuggling networks permanently and to systematically recover criminal proceeds.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

National Strategic Policy Developments

The coalition agreement of the federal government foresees the drafting of a national action plan against human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. In 2023, the federal government agreed a national action plan that will address all forms of human trafficking. It is intended to serve as a framework for combating human trafficking in Germany and is planned to be finalised within this legislative period, which ends in autumn 2025.



RETURN AND READMISSION

(Assisted) Voluntary Return and Reintegration

In 2023, there were preparatory works for a comprehensive enhancement of the national voluntary return programme (REAG/GARP) to a REAG/GARP 2.0. With this transformation, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees becomes responsible for processing applications and organising voluntary returns. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), which previously implemented the programme, will remain an active service partner in 2024. The launch of the new set-up is scheduled for 2024.

New guidelines for return counselling centres were published as a basis for advisory services. The guidelines are to be introduced nationwide and are an important step towards binding quality standards at federal and state level.

Building on Frontex's expansion activities, Germany extended the availability of the Joint Reintegration Services (JRS) from 18 countries of origin (April 2022) to 34 countries of origin (December 2023). This comprehensively extended the use of the EU reintegration programmes.

Germany concluded an Agreement on Migration and Mobility with the government of Georgia on 19 December 2023 and a Joint Declaration of Intent with the Kyrgyz Republic on 29 September 2023. These agreements facilitate the entry of skilled workers and improve cooperation on return of persons obliged to leave the country. The federal government established a Special Commissioner for Migration Agreements in February 2023 to conclude more such agreements.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development opened the Centres for Migration and Development, exemplifying the paradigm shift in Germany's migration policy by supporting the link between return, reintegration and regular labour migration and promoting intra-regional mobility. Originally designed for return and reintegration advisory services in partner countries, existing centres (in Pakistan, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Nigeria, Ghana) have been transformed to also advise on regular migration routes towards Germany and Europe, and within the region. New centres have been established in Jordan and Indonesia.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Germany on aspects of migration and international protection. It was prepared by Eurostat and it is organised in ten thematic sections, including legal residence, temporary protection, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.

The data presented in the annex regard third-country nationals, which means persons who are not EU citizens, including stateless persons. The data cover the period 2020-2023. Since 2023 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the

period 2020-2022 is covered. Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2024. **The data were extracted during April–May 2024. The manuscript was completed in May 2024.**

The Eurostat website is constantly updated. Therefore, it is likely that more recent data will have become available since. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the latest data on [Eurostat's website](#).

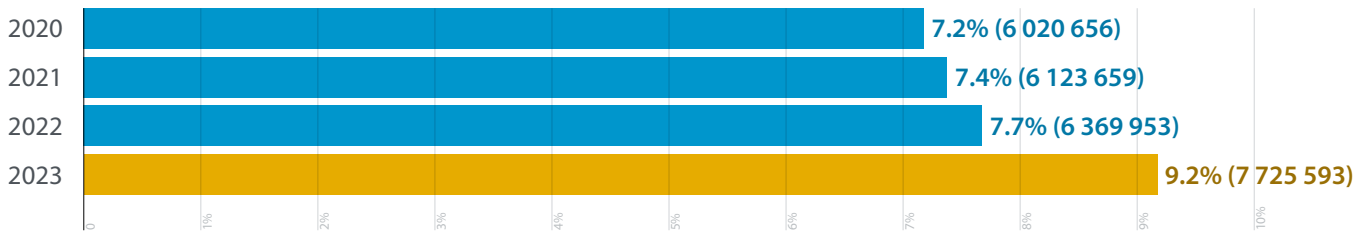
For some indicators, data are rounded at the source. Due to this, in some cases, the sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value.

A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2020–2023

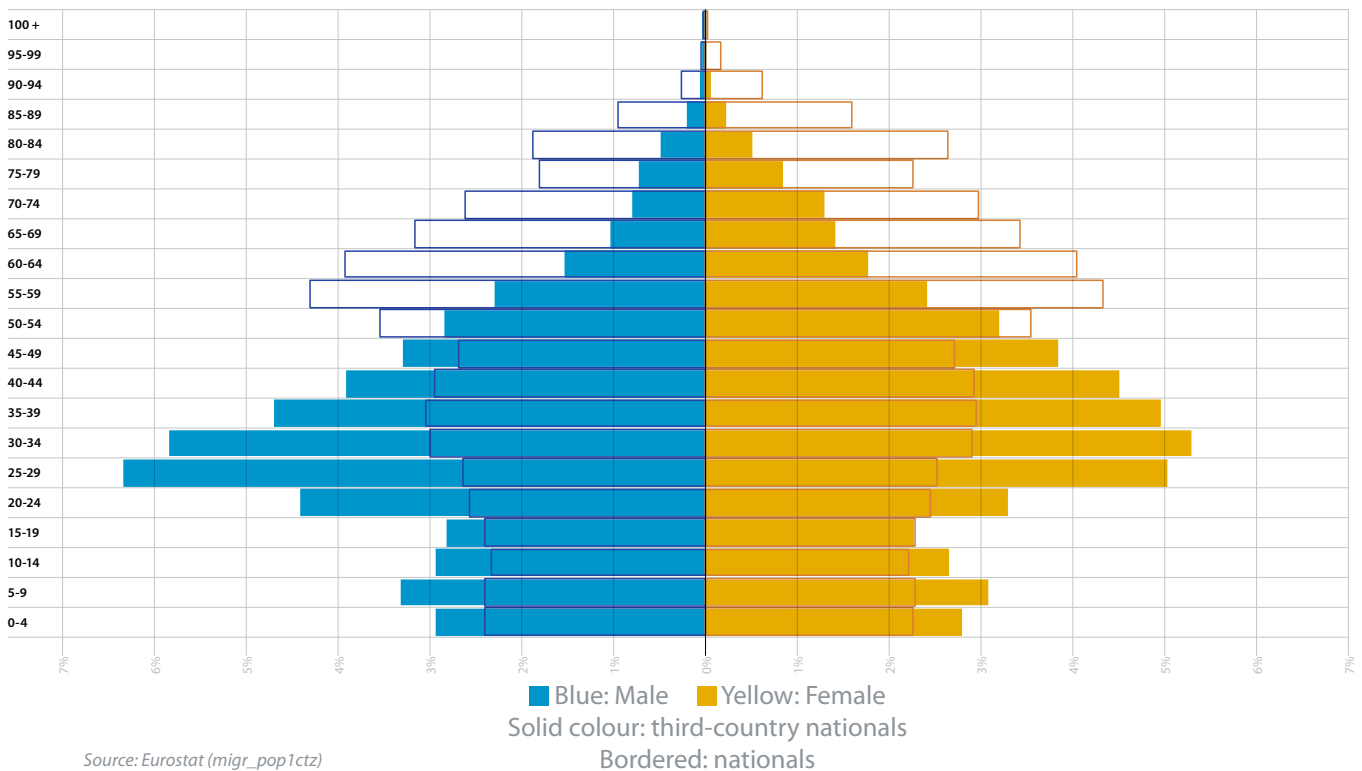
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2023

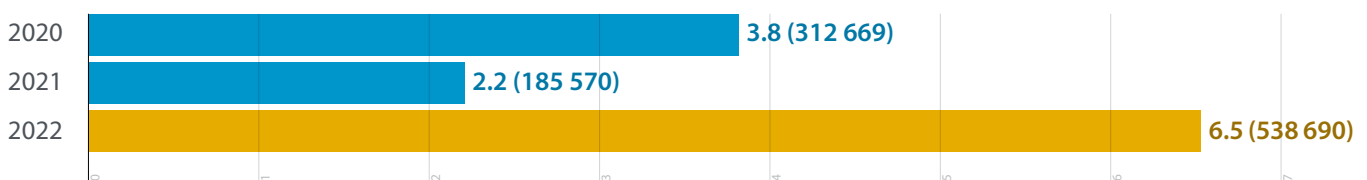
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2020–2022

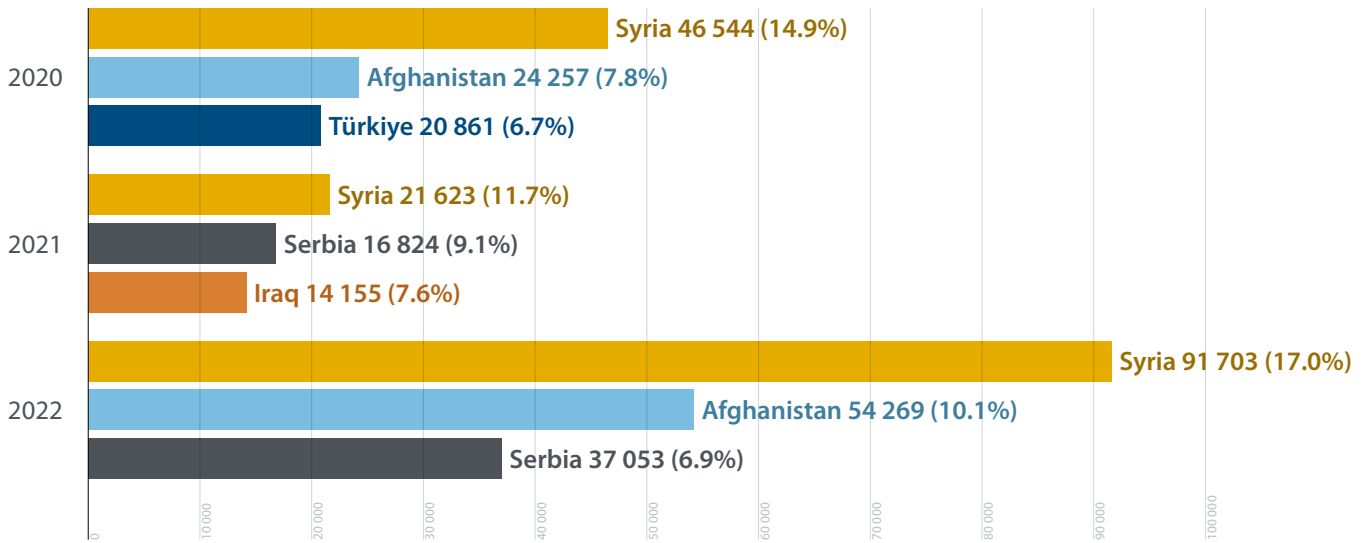
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz and migr_resp)

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2020–2022

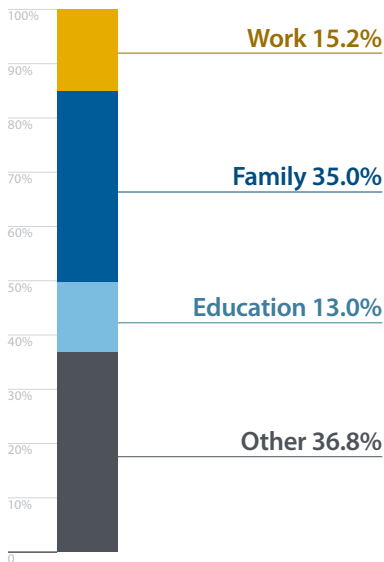
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



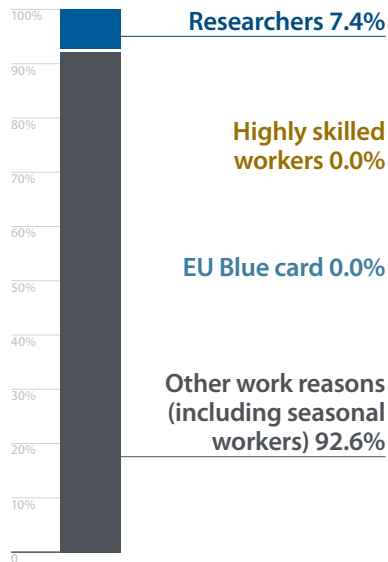
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2022

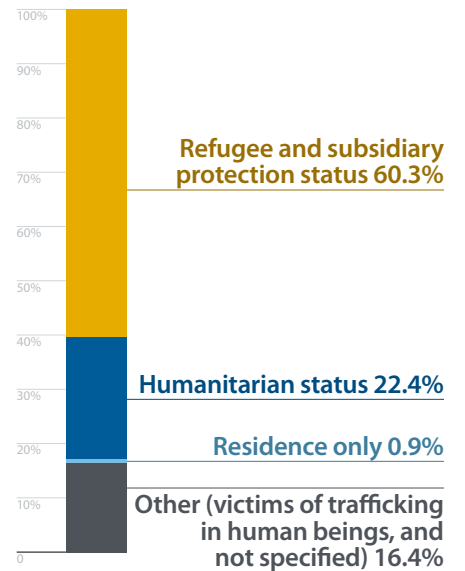
All permits, by reason, %



Work reason, by type, %



Other reason, by detailed reason, %



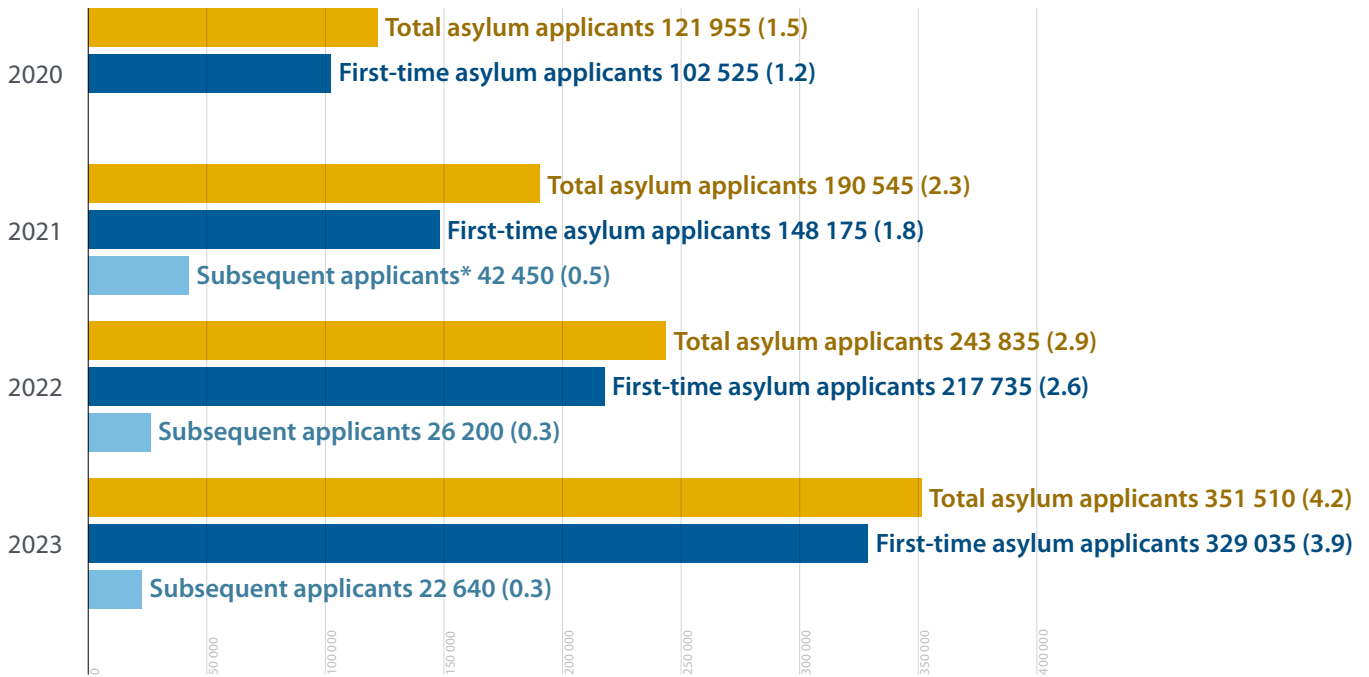
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resfpc, migr_resocc and migr_resoth)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

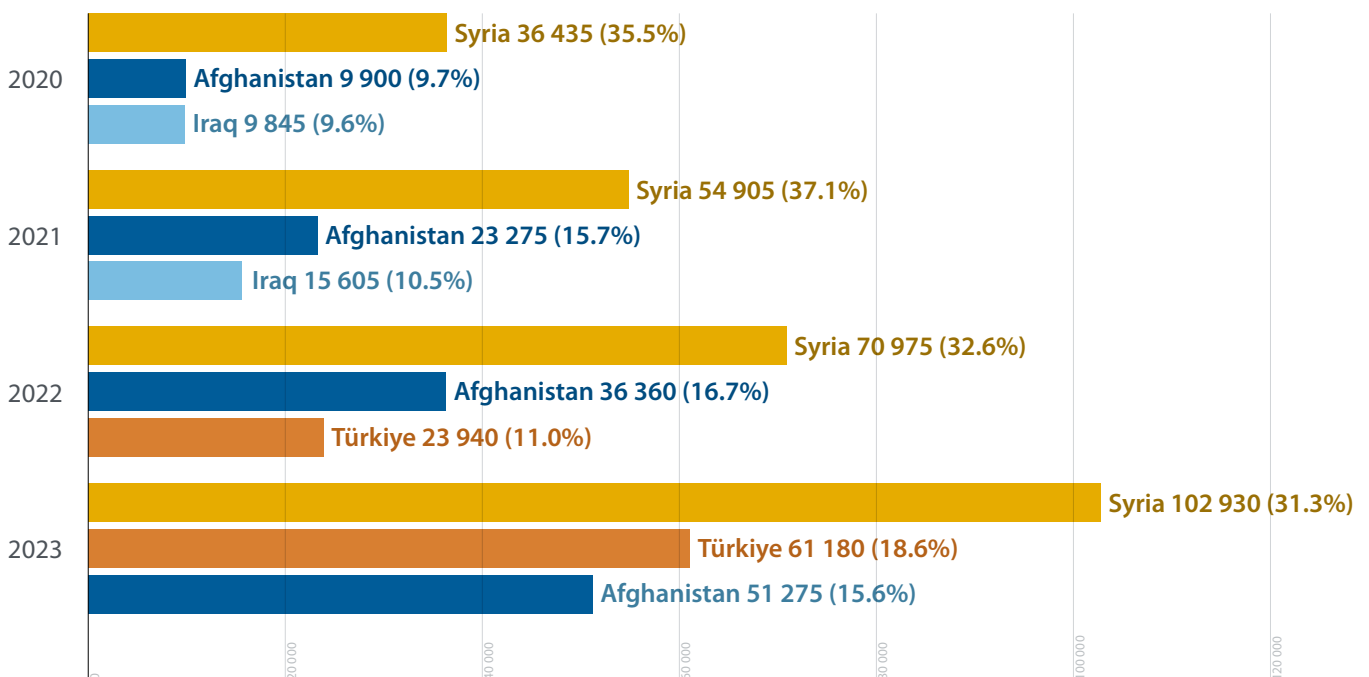


* Data collection from 2021.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz and migr_asyapp1mp)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2020–2023

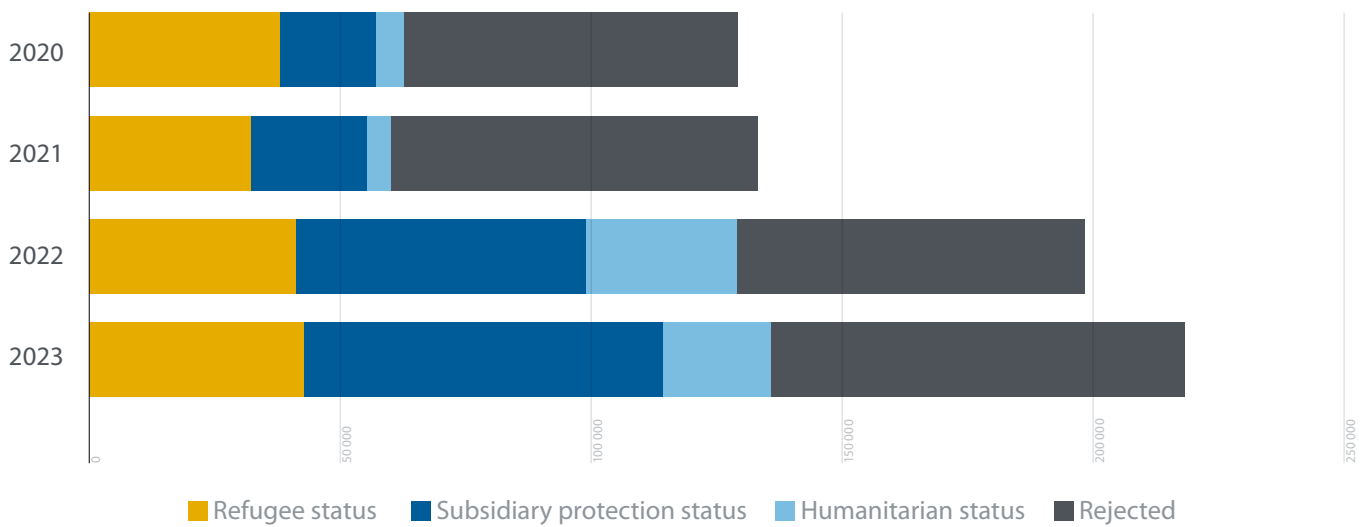
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

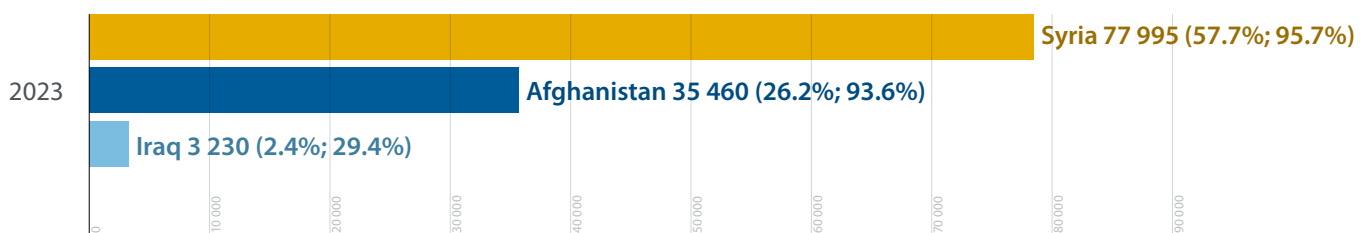


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	37 820 (29.4%)	18 950 (14.7%)	5 700 (4.4%)	66 120 (51.4%)
2021	32 065 (24.2%)	22 995 (17.3%)	4 785 (3.6%)	72 830 (54.9%)
2022	40 910 (20.7%)	57 530 (29.1%)	30 020 (15.2%)	69 075 (35.0%)
2023	42 525 (19.6%)	71 290 (32.8%)	21 460 (9.9%)	82 155 (37.8%)

Source: Eurostat (*migr_asydcfsta* and *migr_asydec1pc*)

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, 2023

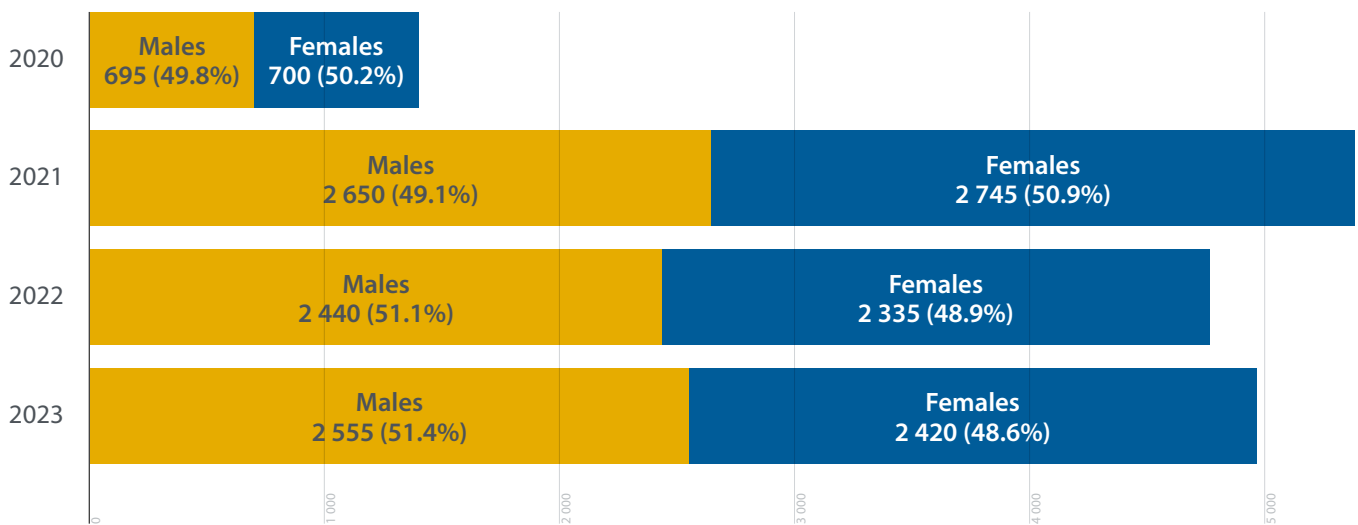
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat (*migr_asydcfsta*)

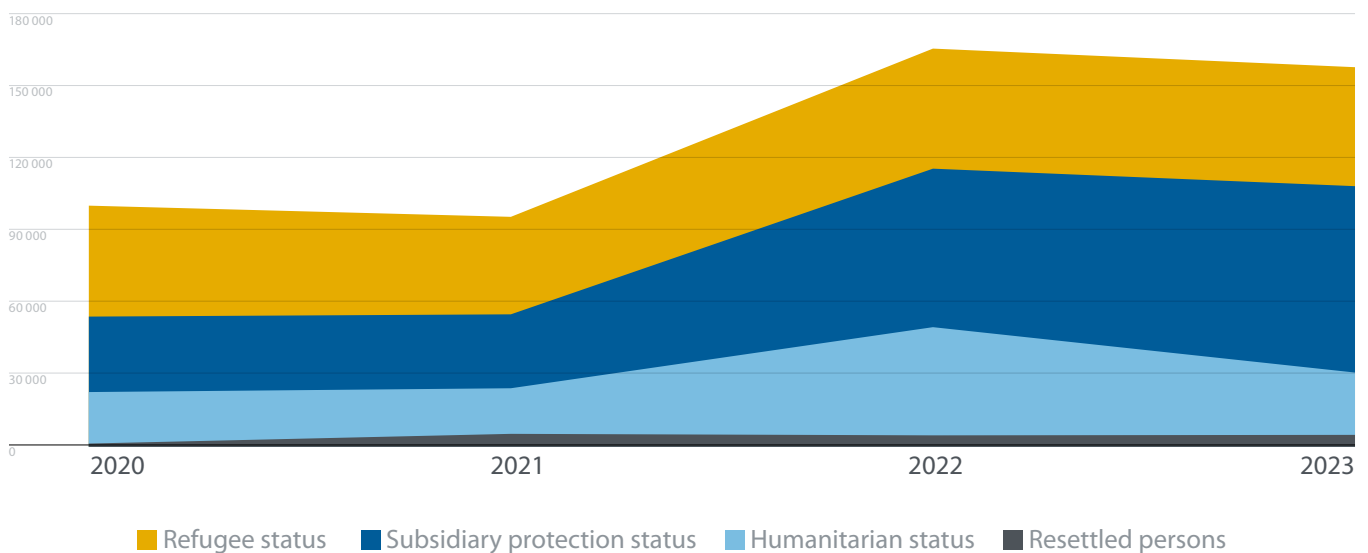
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of total resettled third-country nationals)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2020–2023



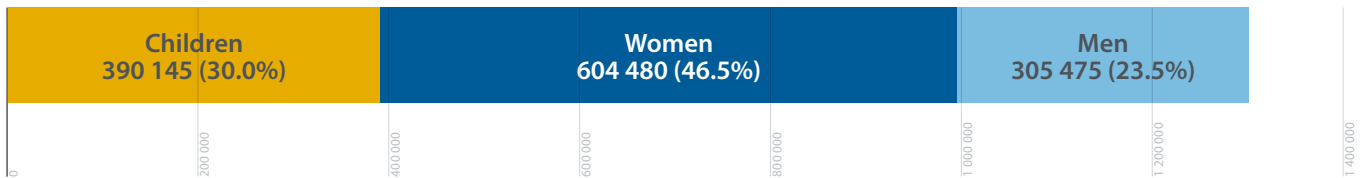
Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2020	45 715	31 095	21 220	1 395
2021	40 175	30 455	18 790	5 395
2022	49 475	65 310	44 580	4 775
2023	49 025	76 795	25 680	4 975

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

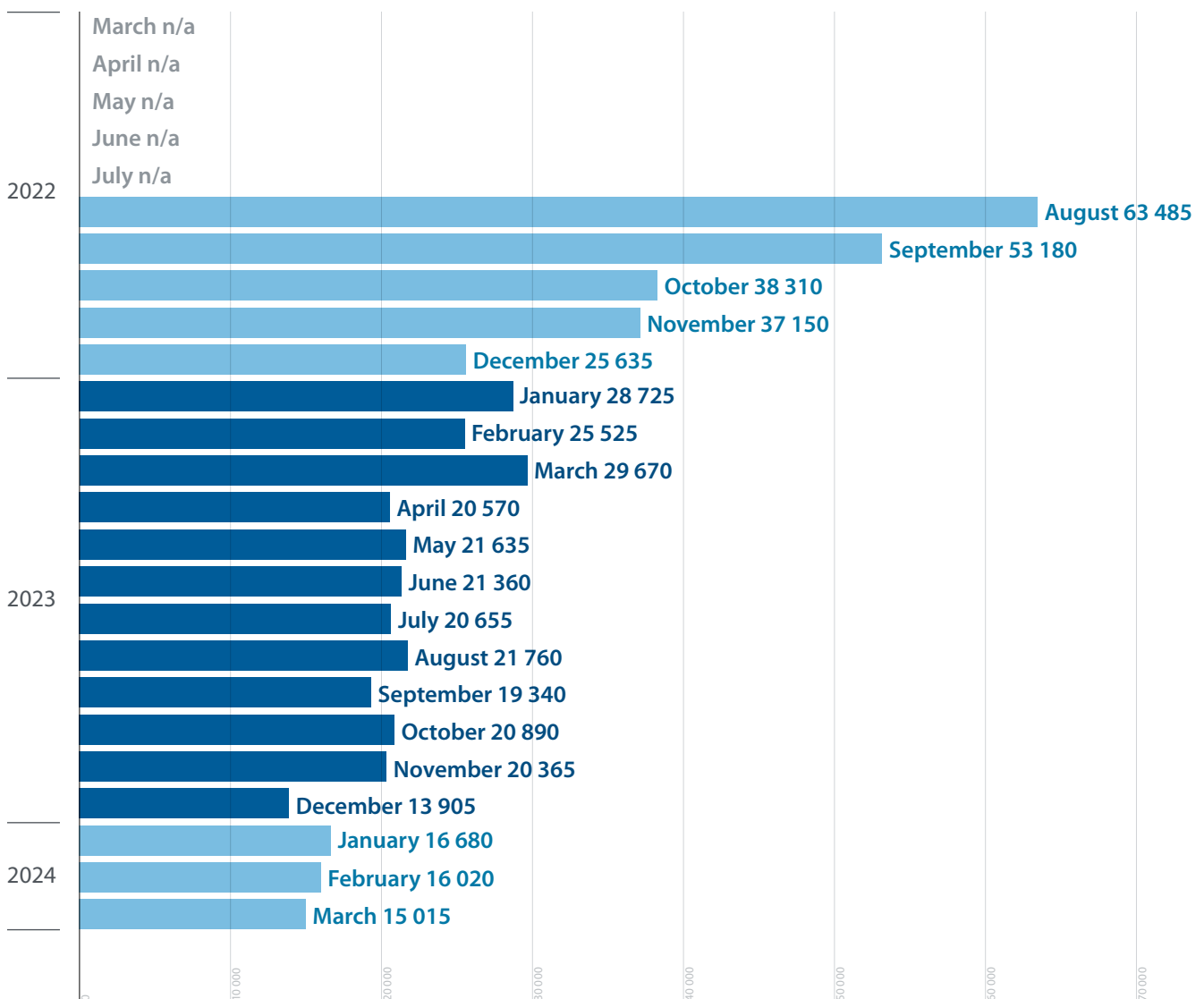
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



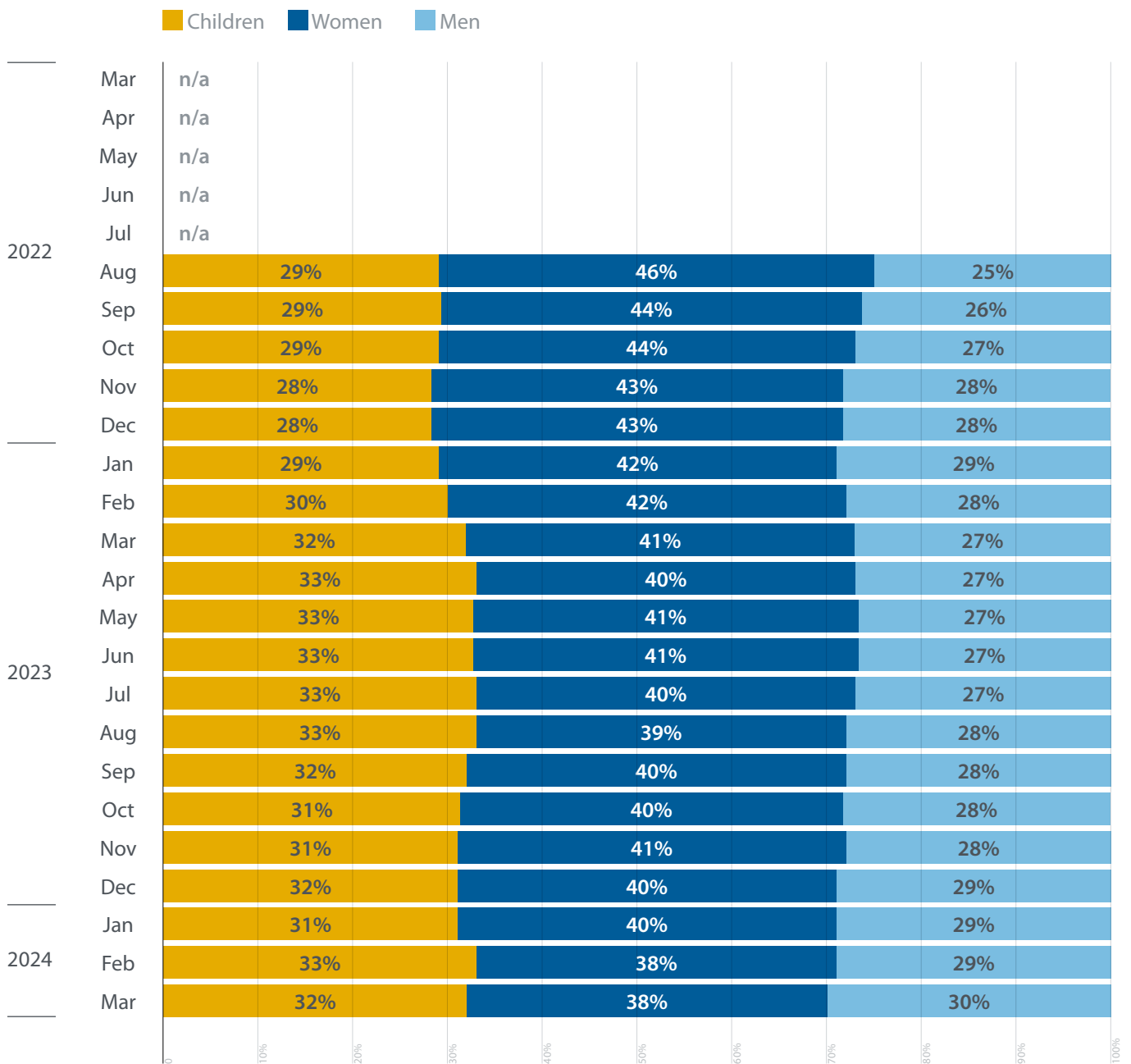
Note: In addition, 1 685 adults reported with unknown sex.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



Note: data not available from March to July 2022.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)

Distribution by age and sex of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



Note: data not available from March to July 2022.

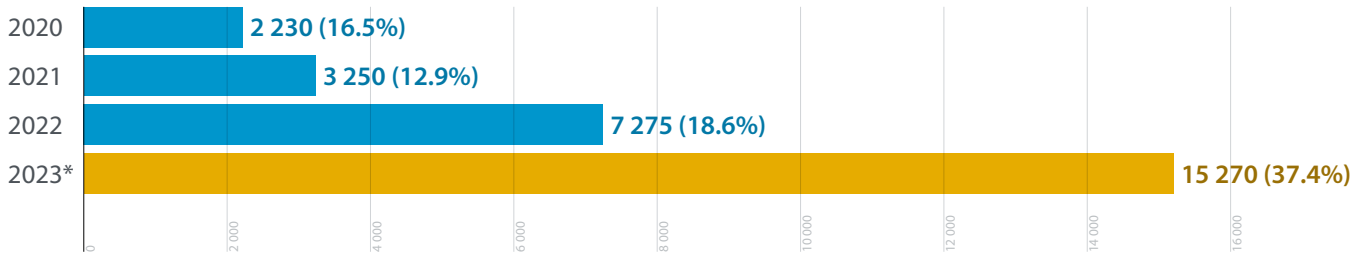
Source: Eurostat (migr_asypfm)



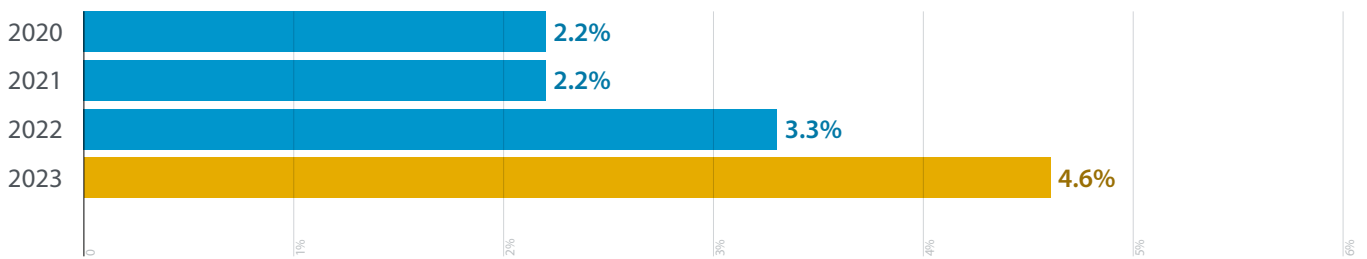
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

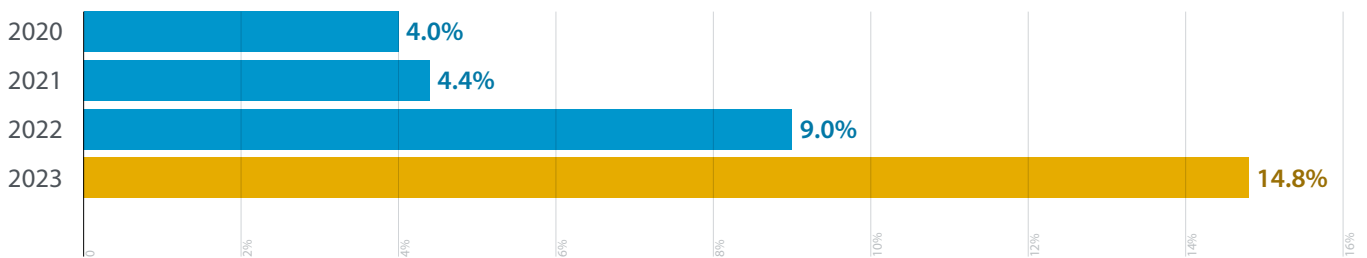
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years

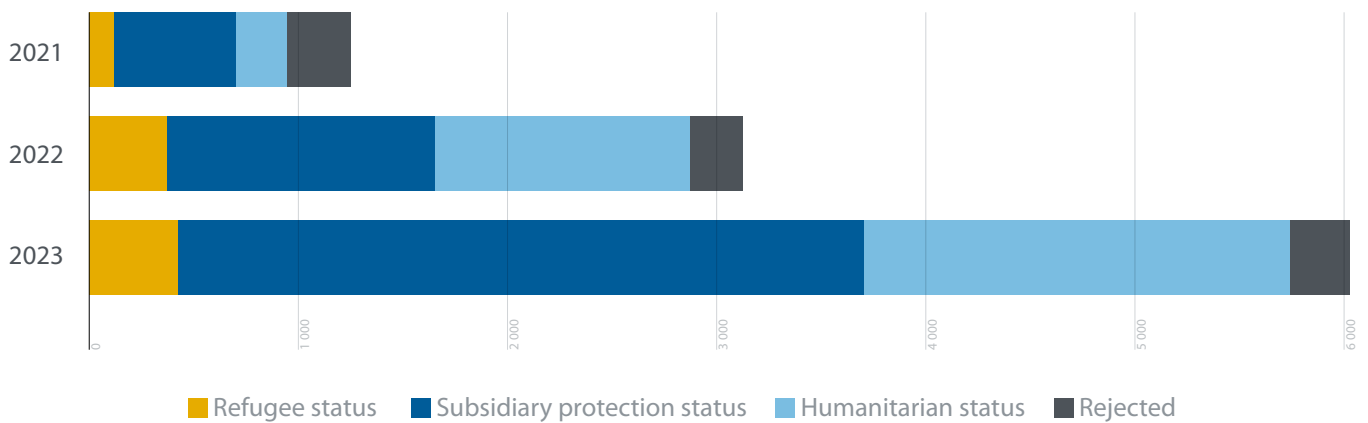


* The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes 2022 data for Cyprus.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa and migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



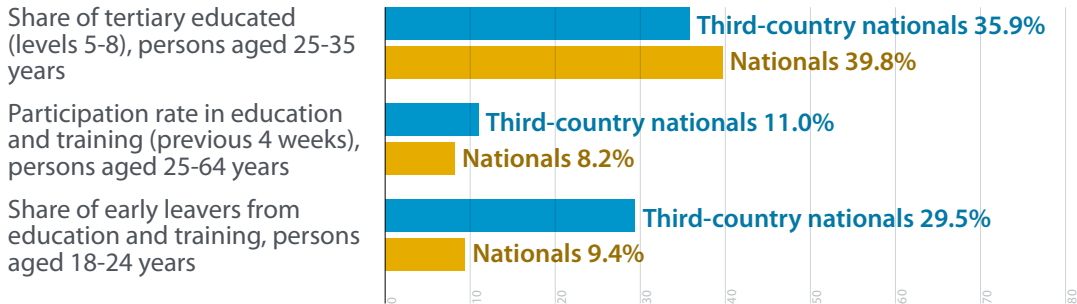
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	115 (9.2%)	585 (46.8%)	245 (19.6%)	305 (24.4%)
2022	370 (11.8%)	1 280 (41.0%)	1 220 (39.0%)	255 (8.2%)
2023	425 (7.1%)	3 275 (54.4%)	2 040 (33.9%)	285 (4.7%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdca)

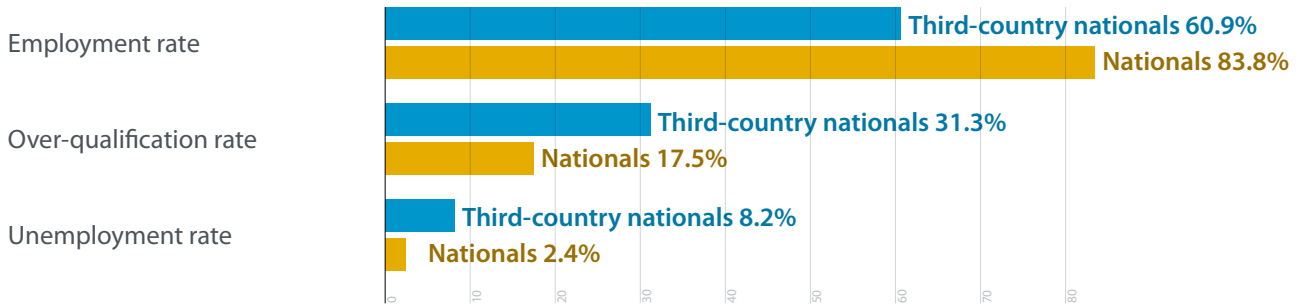
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

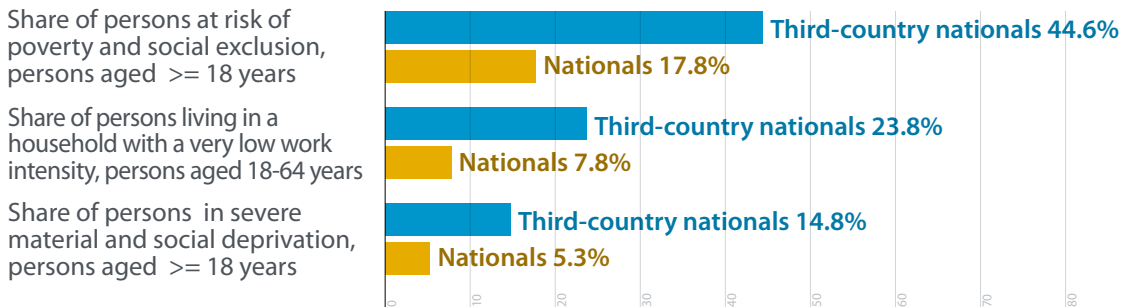
Education, 2023



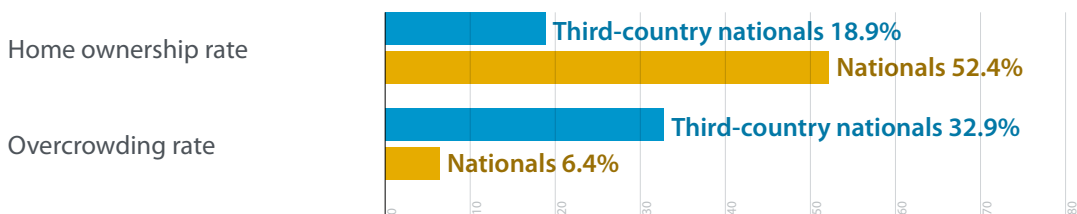
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



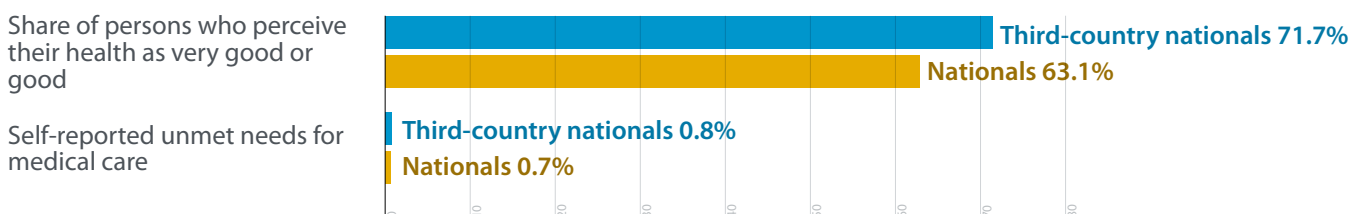
Social inclusion, 2023



Housing, persons aged ≥ 18 years, 2023



Health, persons aged ≥ 16 years, 2022

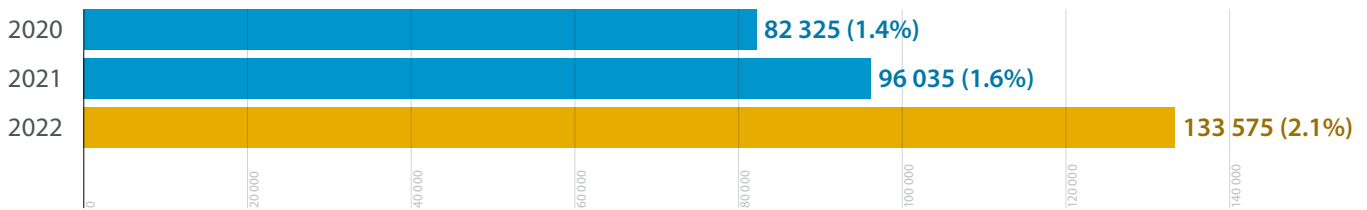




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2020–2022

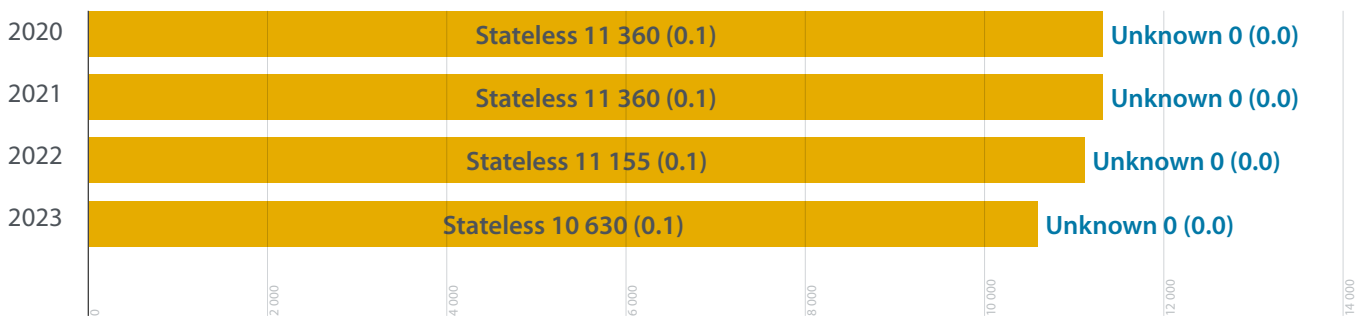
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2020–2023

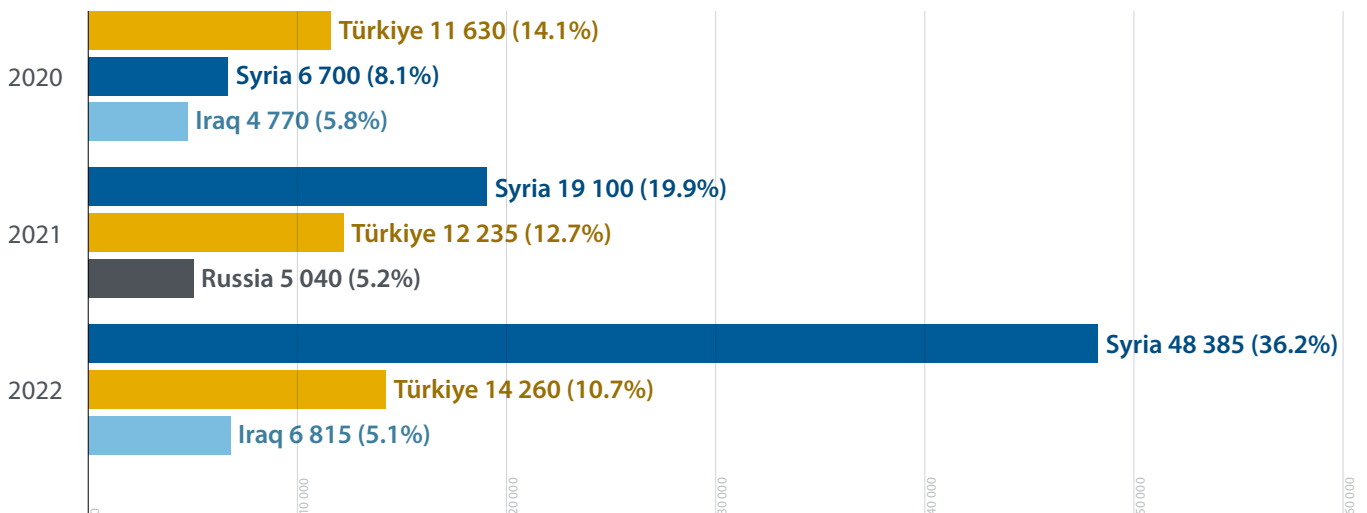
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2020–2022

Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals)

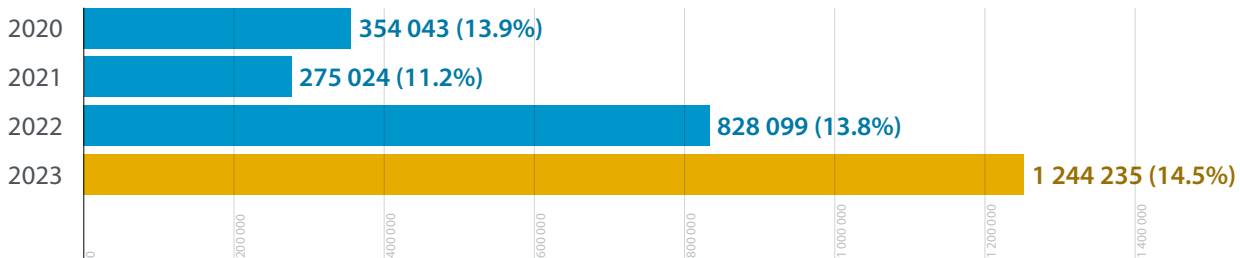


Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued within the Schengen Area)

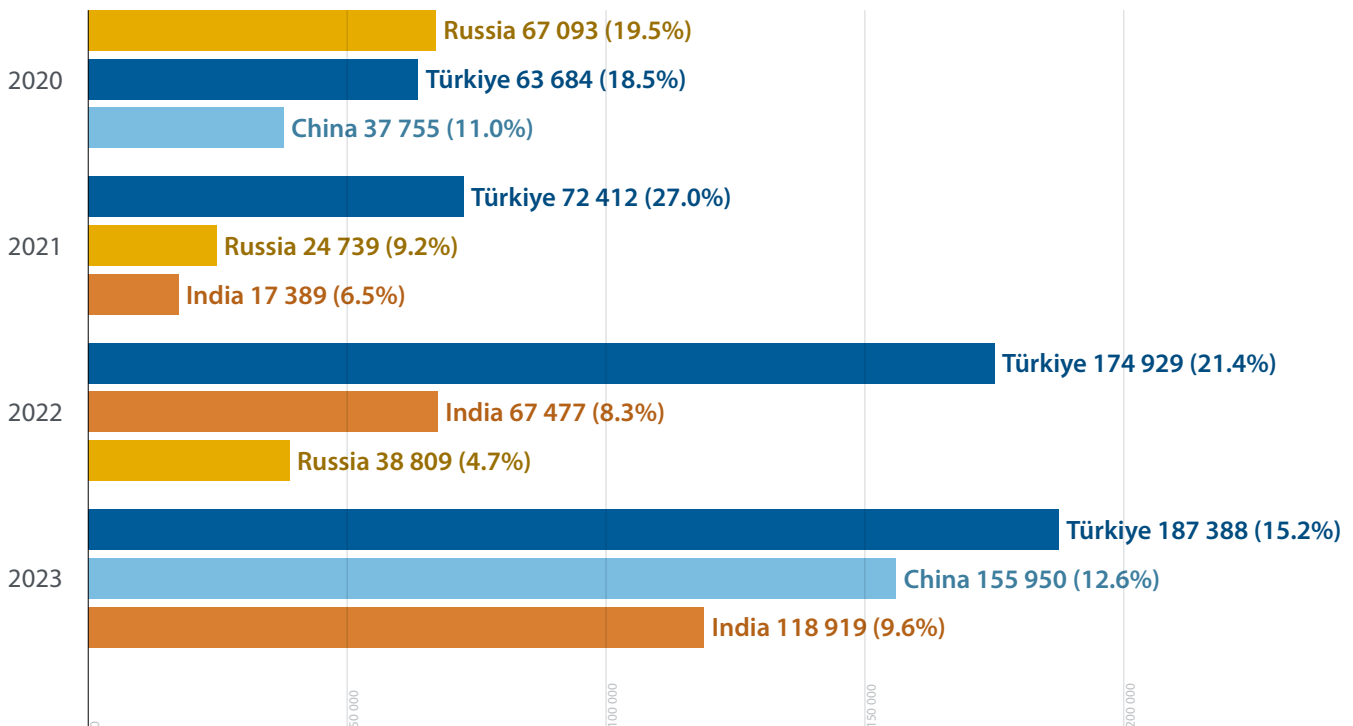


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Three consulate countries in which the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2020–2023

Number of uniform short-stay visas issued (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued in consulate countries)



Note: the consulate country might not be the same as the country of citizenship of the visa applicant.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

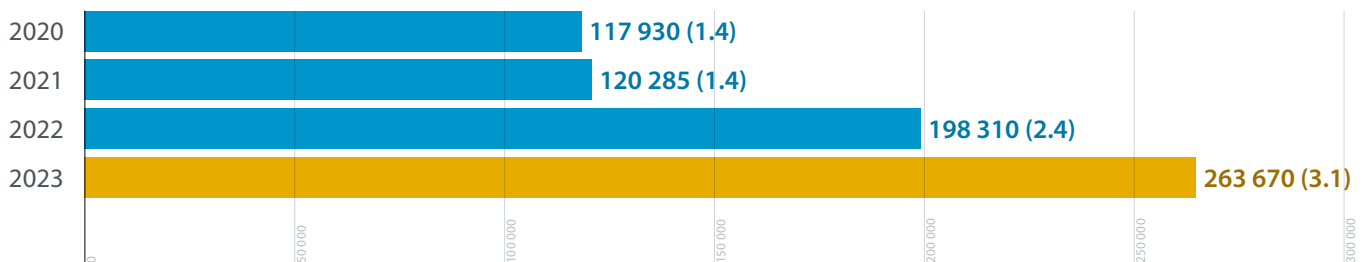
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country



Source: Eurostat (*migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn, demo_gind and migr_eilpop*)

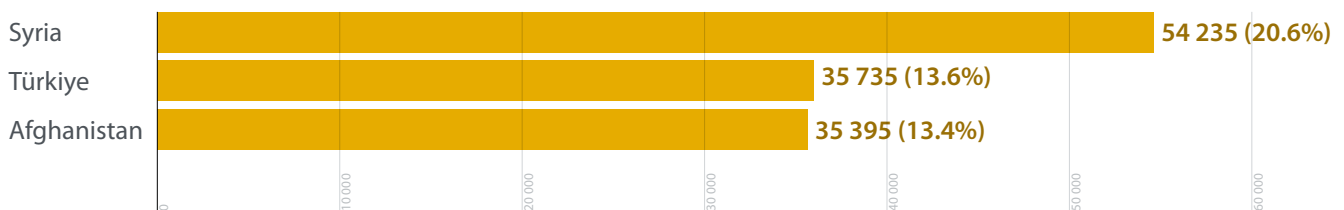
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

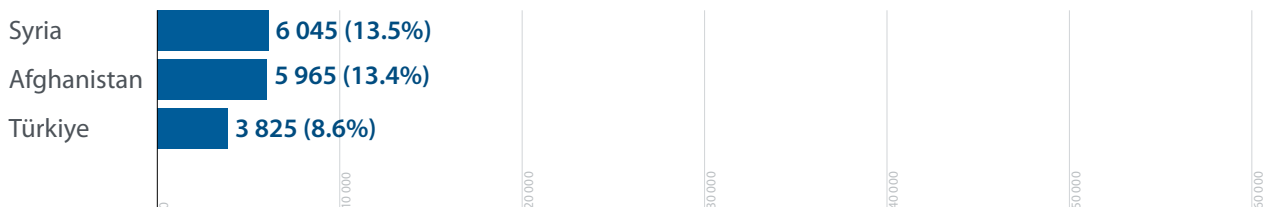
Persons refused entry



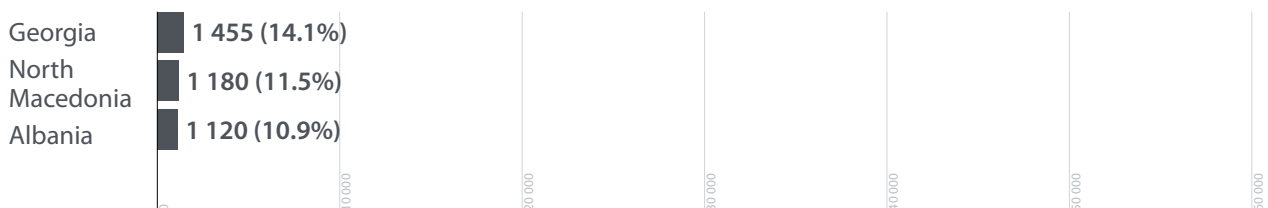
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

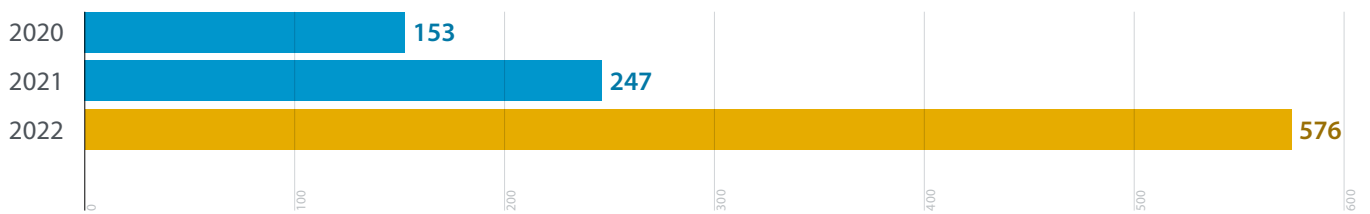


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



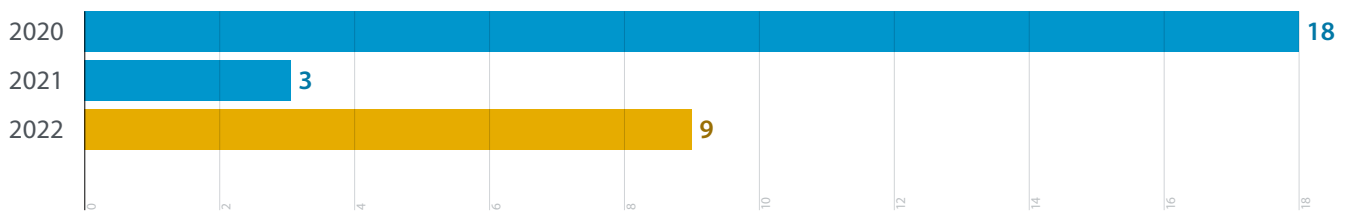
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022



Source: Eurostat (crim_thb_vctz)

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022

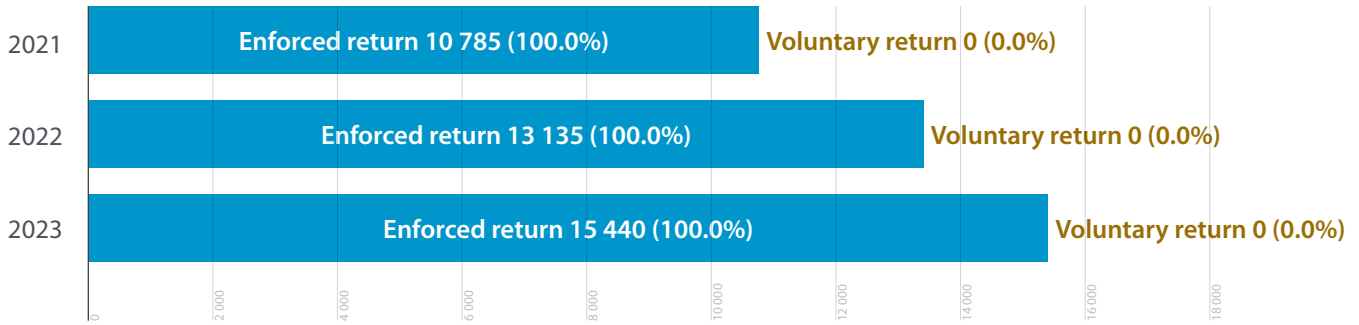


Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2023

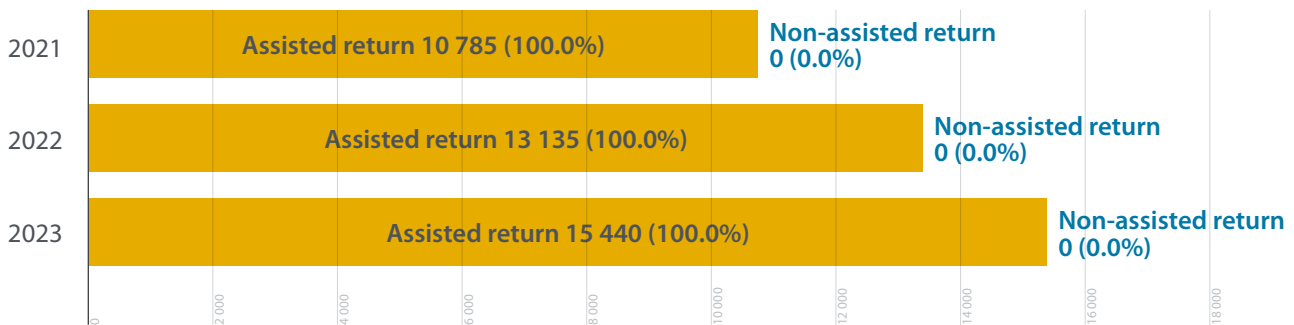
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)