

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | DECEMBER 2025

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

MALTA 2024

KEY POINTS

- **The Maltese government worked on the draft consultation document on Malta's Labour Migration Policy. The document was published in January 2025.**
- **There was a change in portfolio in the Ministry for Home Affairs, which included the dossier of employment.**
- **The National Strategy and Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Malta (2024-2030) was launched in August 2024.**



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

Malta supported migration-related initiatives by contributing financially to various organisations and supporting projects in official development assistance (ODA)-eligible countries. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism (MTF) led projects in ODA-eligible countries, helping to create jobs, build capacity for women and young people, and empower participants towards a better future.



LEGAL MIGRATION

The Maltese government worked on the draft consultation document on Malta's Labour Migration Policy, which prioritises the worker as an individual and adopts a broad view of economic prosperity. It follows four guiding principles: retention and stability; protection of employee rights and enhancement of working conditions; alignment of labour migration with labour market needs; and a skills-based approach to migration. The policy contains 32 recommendations, guided by the four principles.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The International Protection Agency (IPA) suspended the review and examination of asylum applications from Syrian nationals following the fall of the Assad regime and the anticipated significant changes in country conditions.



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

Temporary protection was extended for persons fleeing Ukraine until March 2026, in line with the European Union (EU) [Council Decision of 25 June 2024](#).



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2024, Malta continued to follow the framework set out in the [Minor Protection \(Alternative Care\) Act](#), which came into effect in July 2021. The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) remained actively involved in disembarkation processes, with trained professionals continuing to carry out age assessments as required. The AWAS continued to liaise with Child Protection Services, supporting unaccompanied minors, including family reunification efforts. It worked to strengthen its relationship and liaison with the Red Cross and the Dublin Unit to facilitate family reunification under the Dublin III Regulation, which allows unaccompanied minors to be reunited with family members legally residing in another EU Member State.

In 2024, the AWAS began implementing the EU co-funded project, Provision of Psychosocial Services for Beneficiaries of International Protection and Asylum Seekers. Continuing a previous project, this new phase included developments such as the establishment of a play therapy room at AWAS facilities and the recruitment of additional psychologists, psychotherapists, counsellors, assistant psychology officers and interpreters to support the psychosocial needs of vulnerable asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection (BIPs).



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

The Human Rights Directorate continued to encourage migrants living in Malta to attend the courses offered under the [I Belong programme](#). Work on restructuring the operating system of the programme is expected to continue in 2025.

A Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project, First Step: Pre-Departure Integration Measures (PDIMs), concluded

in 2024. It achieved better stakeholder understanding of the needs and resources necessary for sustainable PDIMs, as well as focusing on the capacities and skills needed by Maltese authorities to implement tailored PDIMs.

The Citizens, Equalities, Rights and Values (CERV)-funded END-RACISM-MT project ended in 2024. It had supported the implementation of the first [National Action Plan Against Racism](#) (NAPAR), which aimed to improve Maltese public authorities' responses to multiple and intersectional discrimination, racism, and xenophobia.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments in 2024.



SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN BORDER MANAGEMENT AND VISA POLICIES

Preparations for the implementation of the new entry-exit system (EES) continued in 2024. Malta temporarily reintroduced internal border controls from 1 December to 6 December 2024 during the Ministerial Council of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which took place in Malta.

[Identita](#), the Maltese public service agency for e-ID cards, e-passports, visas, residence documents, acts of civil status and public deeds, continued to develop its extended service, expanding its outreach to more countries. The D Visa process was enhanced, with efforts made to provide applicants with comprehensive information and support.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

No significant developments in 2024.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The [National Strategy and Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Malta \(2024-2030\)](#) was launched in August 2024. This milestone equipped Malta with more effective tools to prevent trafficking in human beings for third-country nationals, protect victims, and prosecute offenders. Implementation of the Strategy and National Action Plan (NAP) strengthened the human rights-based, gender and child-sensitive, interdisciplinary, and cross-sectoral approach to combating trafficking in human beings, developing a system for early identification of victims and provision of timely assistance to victims, including access to justice and compensation.

Throughout 2024, the Human Rights Directorate continued to work on a [national awareness-raising campaign](#) targeting different groups, including third-country nationals. It aimed to inform them of what constitutes the crime of trafficking in human beings, ensuring that the public was knowledgeable about the indicators of trafficking and sharing relevant contact information to report suspicious activities. Campaign efforts aimed to inform victims about red flags and indicators of trafficking, their rights, and the relevant authorities from which to seek help.

The Human Rights Directorate developed a calendar of events to commemorate the 2024 Blue Heart Campaign to raise awareness of trafficking in human beings, including among third-country nationals.

Malta developed an updated national referral mechanism (NRM) to enhance cooperation between national authorities in identifying and detecting third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings. This was part of the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2024-2030). It sought to ensure that victim identification, referral, assistance, and protection through the NRM followed a multi-disciplinary approach, with all relevant stakeholders cooperating effectively.

RETURN AND READMISSION

In 2024, the Ministry for Home Affairs took steps to improve the return rate and enhance the services offered, such as return counselling, promotional material, and awareness campaigns, including a bus shelter campaign. The cash incentive¹ offered by the Ministry for Home Affairs was increased to include more migrants who had been in Malta for a certain number of years. Return counselling continued, including a walk-in service at the office in Valletta. The Migration Directorate undertook an [awareness campaign](#) to increase awareness of return and reintegration.

Efforts were made to enhance readmission cooperation with third countries, notably Bangladesh, Egypt, Somalia, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Pakistan. Officers from the Ministry for Home Affairs were in contact with different countries of origin through the European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) and the European Return Liaison Officer (EURLO). There were three verification missions by third countries (Senegal, Ivory Coast and Ethiopia) in Malta in 2024. The Migration Directorate continued to work with

Frontex and different EURLO to enhance cooperation on readmission management with third countries, specifically Somalia and Guinea.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Malta supported migration-related initiatives by contributing financially to various organisations and supporting projects in ODA-eligible countries, such as a [project](#) led by the MFT to provide Syrian women refugees in Türkiye with essential resources and opportunities for empowerment. During 2024, Malta provided financial support to the United Nations World Food Programme (UN WFP) operations in Myanmar and Lebanon, assisting refugees and host communities and providing financial support for migration policy development and research. Malta also worked with a major international organisation in Ukraine, The People-To-People Health Foundation Inc. (Project HOPE) to renovate a healthcare centre to serve local communities and internally displaced persons.

Malta's ODA was used to support several regional and international organisations working to address crisis response, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and UNHCR, which assisted Ukrainian, Syrian, and Palestinian refugees during 2024. Malta also provided an unearmarked contribution to UNHCR to enhance its capacity to provide urgently needed support.

Malta's ODA contributed to [strengthening Ghana's health sector](#) by increasing the operational capacity of a local hospital, creating jobs in the community and anticipating supporting e-health initiatives in future.

Malta invested in education through scholarships at Master's level across various disciplines (e.g. sustainable energy, sustainable development, humanitarian action, conflict resolution, diplomacy, and subjects of direct relevance to the specificities of small island developing states (SIDS)), helping locals to access better employment opportunities and fostering overall community development. For the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, young people from Tunisia, Ghana, Palestine, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Djibouti, Libya and Egypt studied at the University of Malta, while students from Fiji, Mauritius and Cape Verde were awarded scholarships at Master's level, by research, as part of an agreement between the MFT and the University of Malta to applicants from ODA-eligible SIDS.

¹ The cash incentive update enhanced the in-cash allowance for certain categories, including for persons aged 55 years or older and individuals with a serious medical condition or other vulnerabilities. The in-cash allowance was also increased depending on the length of irregular stay.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Malta 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 mostly cover the period from 2021 to 2024. Since 2024 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the period 2021-2023 is covered.

Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2025. The data were extracted between 6 to 10 June 2025. The manuscript was completed in June 2025. The Eurostat website is constantly being updated. Therefore, it is likely that fresher data will have become available since the data was extracted for the production of this publication. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the most recent 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.

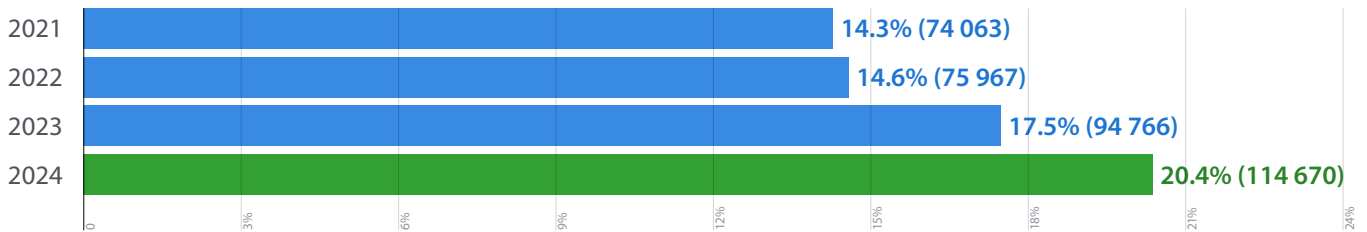
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2021–2024

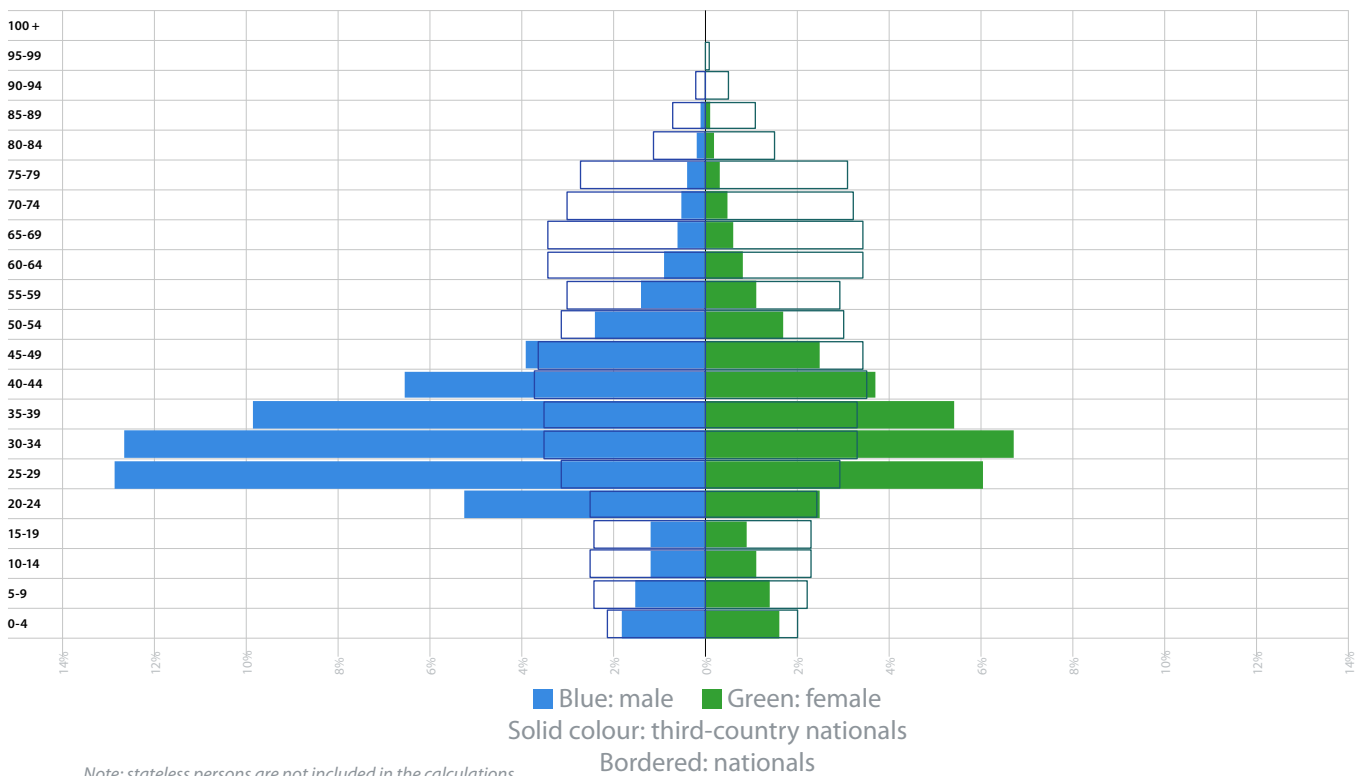
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

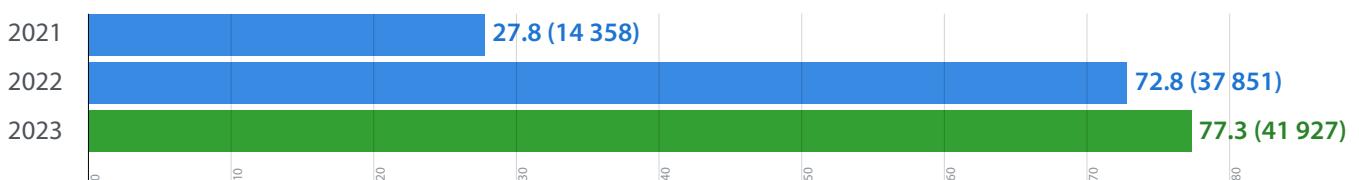
Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2024

%



First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2021–2023

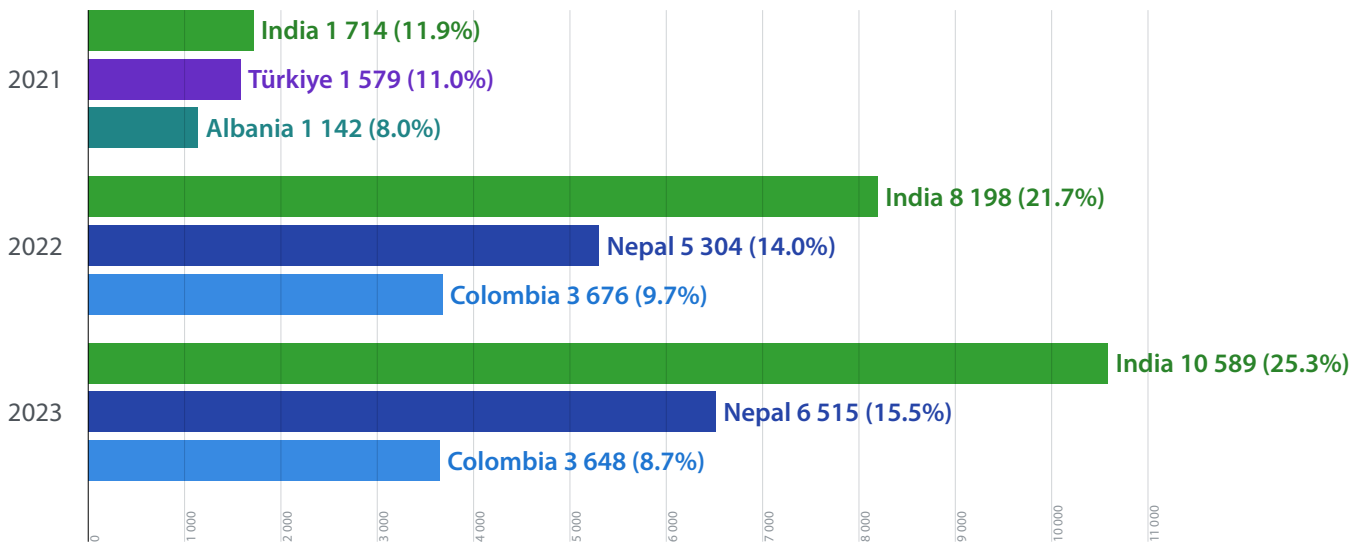
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [demo_gind](#) and [migr_respop](#))

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2021–2023

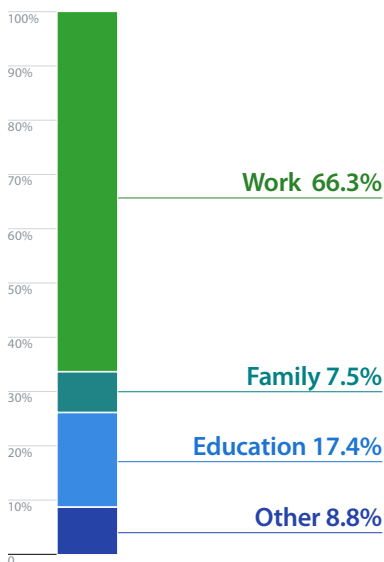
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#))

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2023

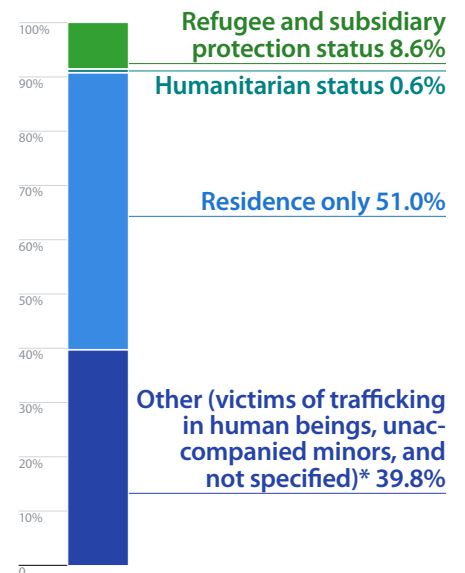
All permits, by reason



Work reason, by type



Other reason, by detailed reason



* The list of categories covered may differ from country to country.

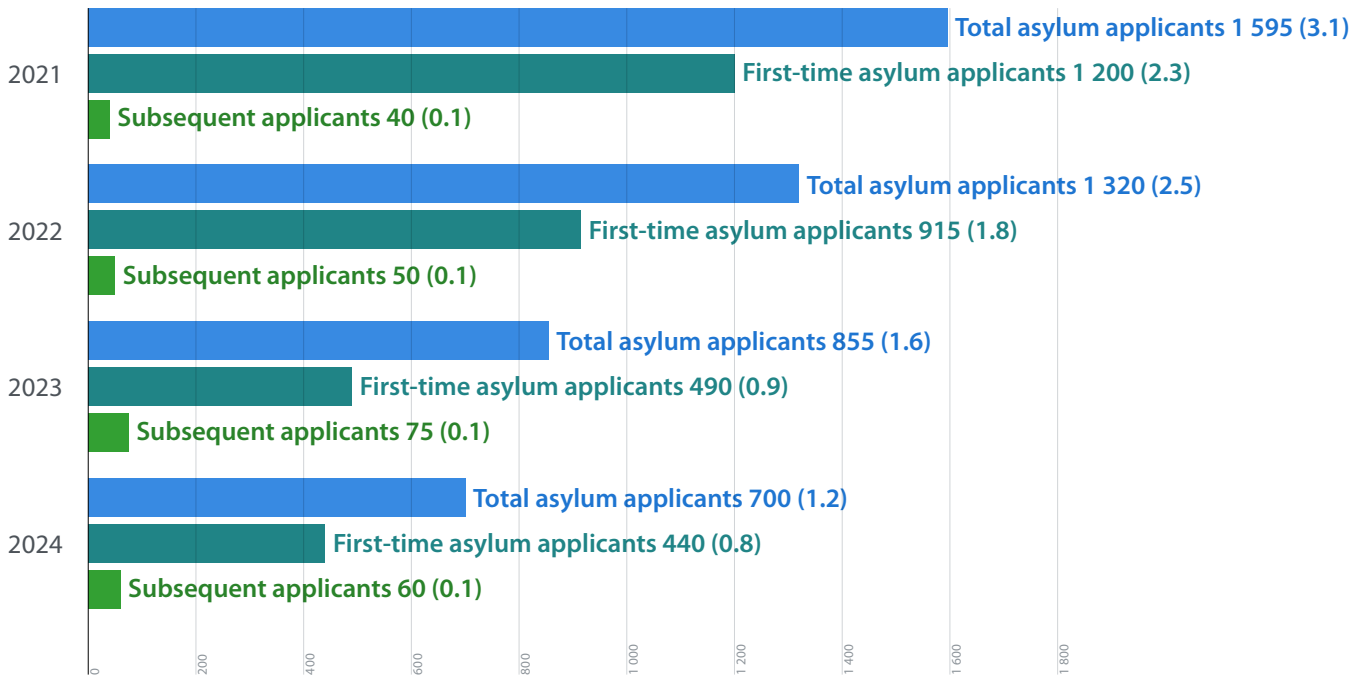
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [migr_resfpc](#), [migr_resocc](#) and [migr_resoth](#))



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2021–2024

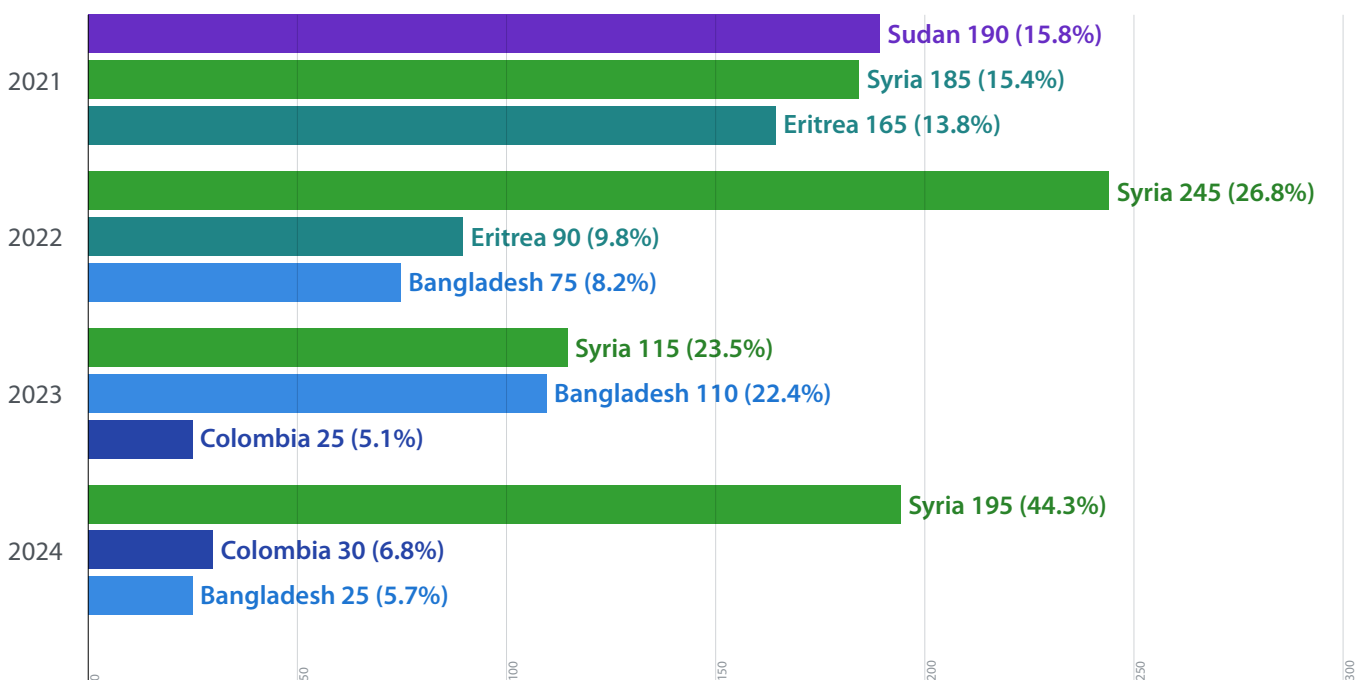
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#), [demo_gind](#) and [migr_asyapp1mp](#))

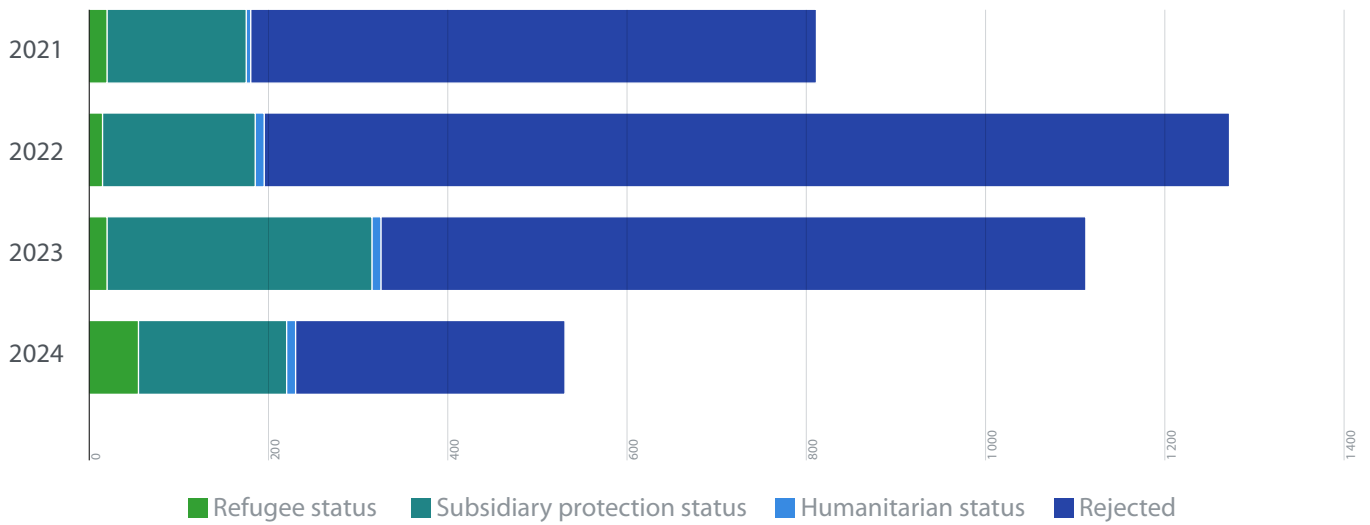
Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2021–2024

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



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#))

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2021-2024

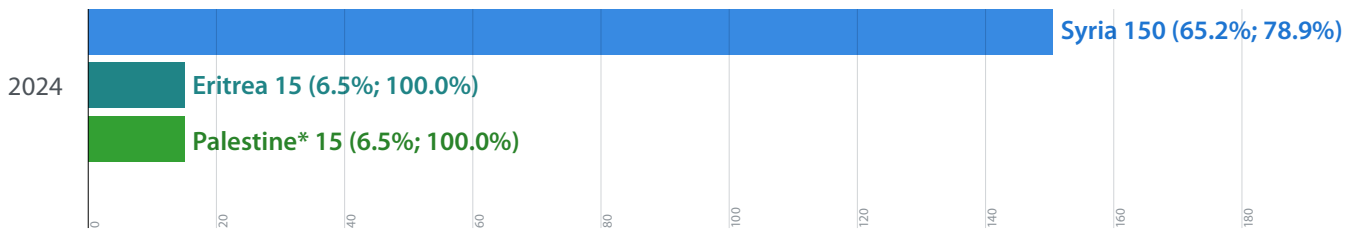


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	20 (2.2%)	155 (19.3%)	5 (0.7%)	630 (77.8%)
2022	15 (1.0%)	170 (13.4%)	10 (0.7%)	1 075 (84.9%)
2023	20 (1.8%)	295 (26.5%)	10 (0.9%)	785 (70.8%)
2024	55 (10.4%)	165 (31.1%)	10 (1.9%)	300 (56.5%)

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfsta](#) and [migr_asydec1pc](#))

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance by outcome, 2024

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

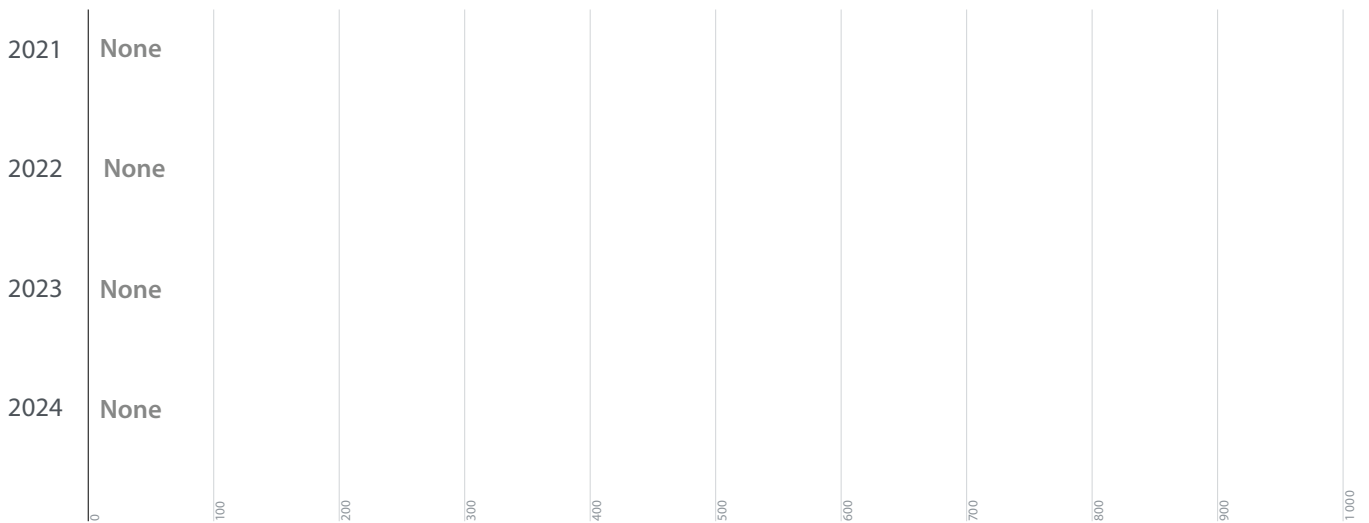


*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU countries on this issue.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#))

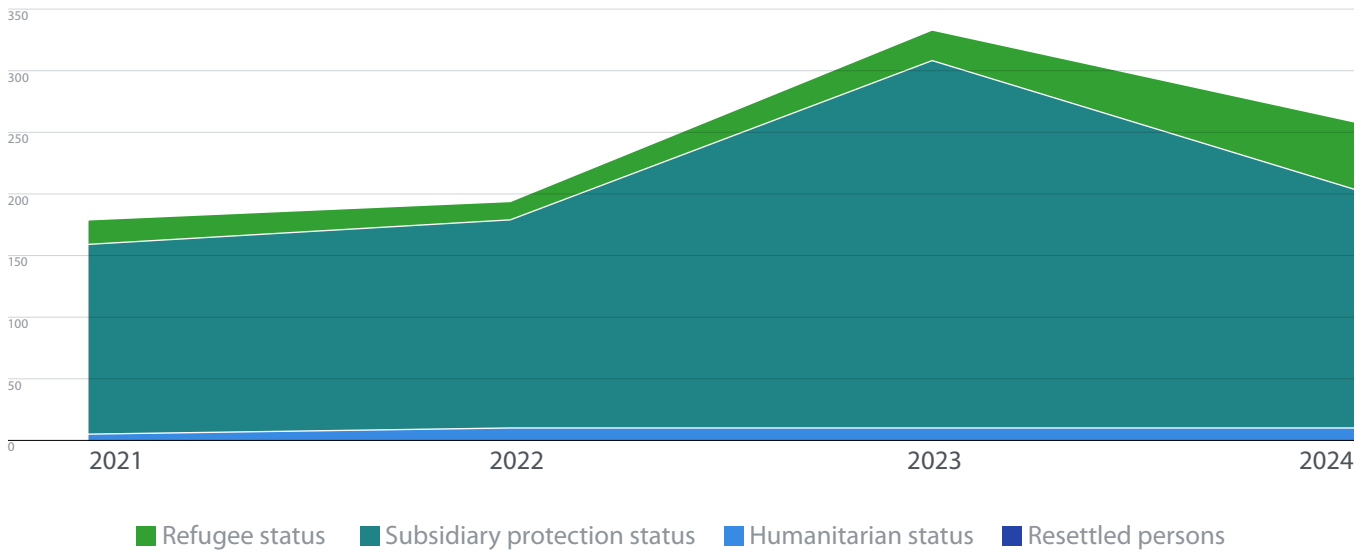
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyresa](#))

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2021–2024



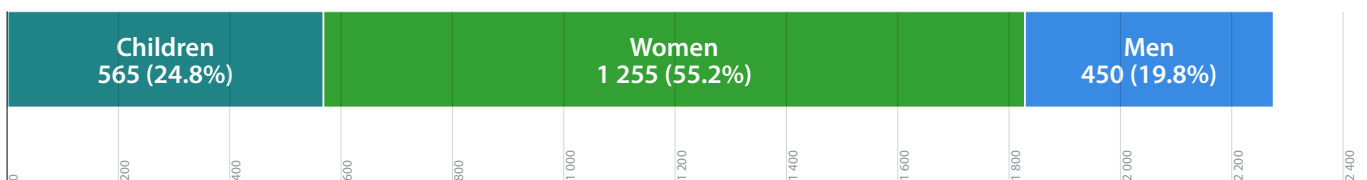
Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2021	20	155	5	0
2022	15	170	10	0
2023	25	300	10	0
2024	55	195	10	0

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfna](#) and [migr_asyresa](#))

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2025

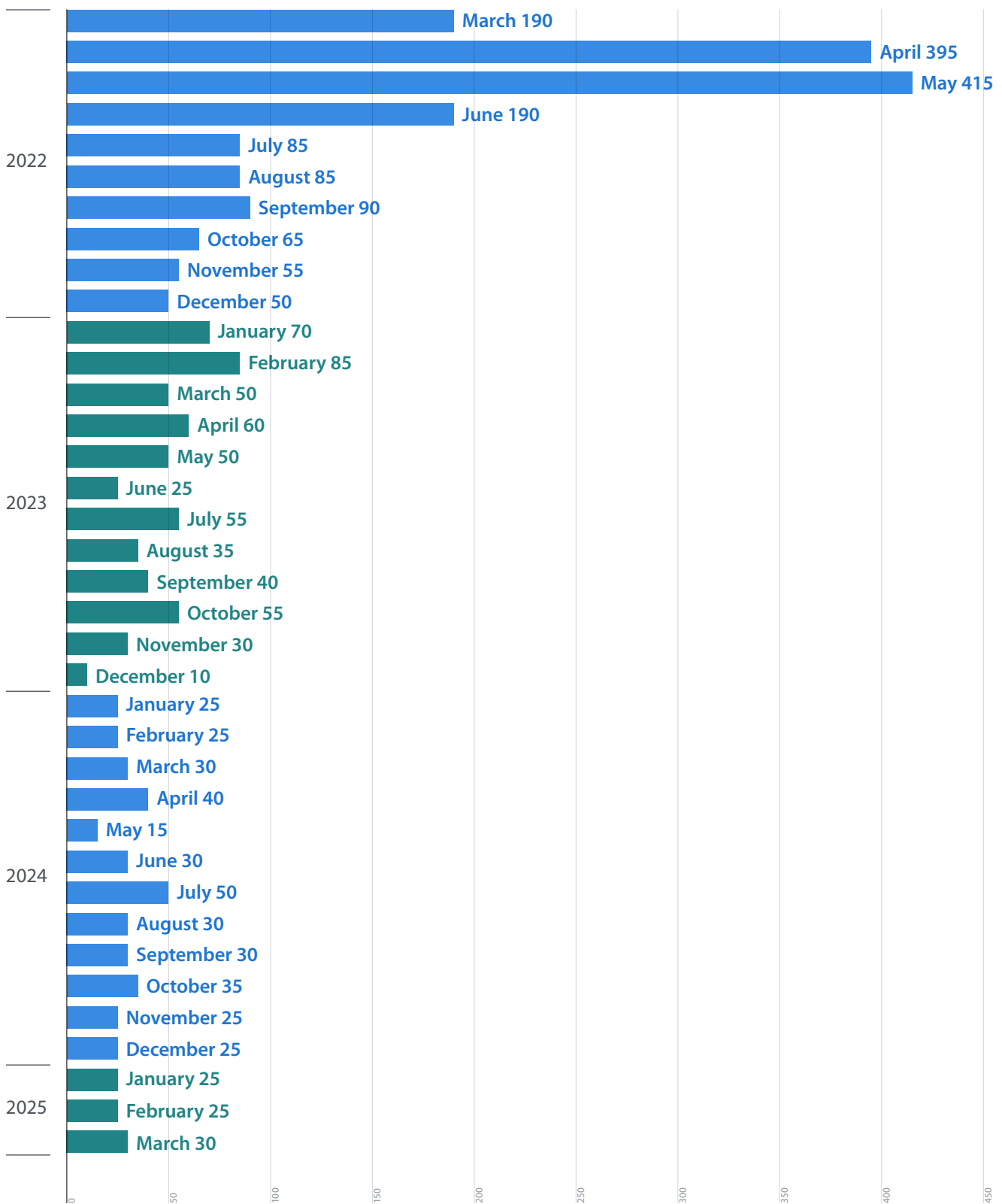
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Note: Data are rounded at the source. Due to this, the sum of percentages does not add up to 100.

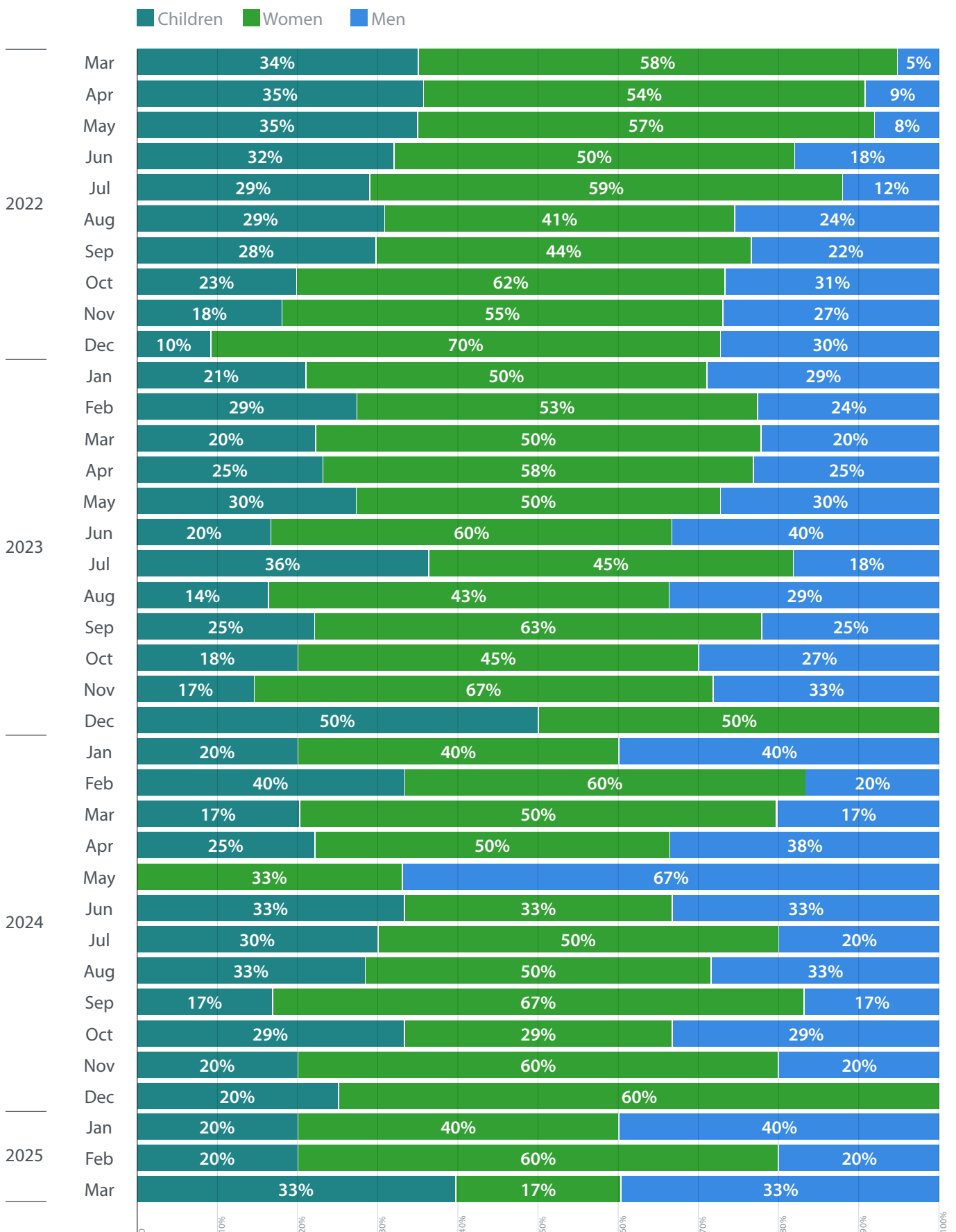
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asytpsm](#))

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2025



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asytpfm](#))

Decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion by main population groups, March 2022-March 2025



Note: Data are rounded at the source. Due to this, in some cases, the sum of percentages might not add up to 100.

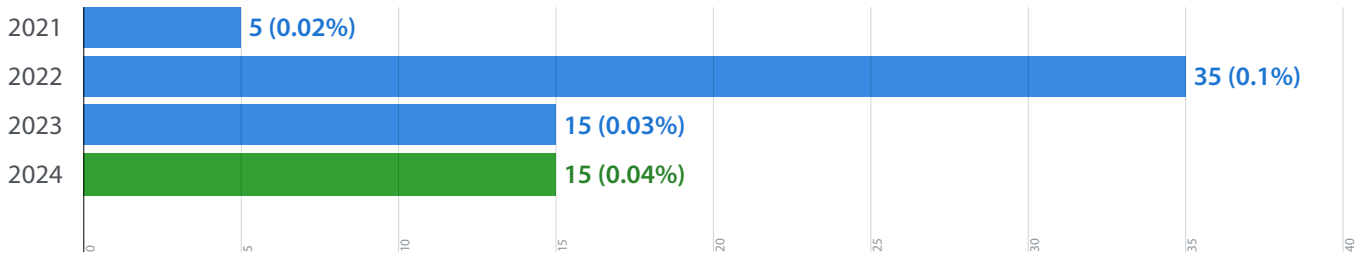
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asypfm](#))



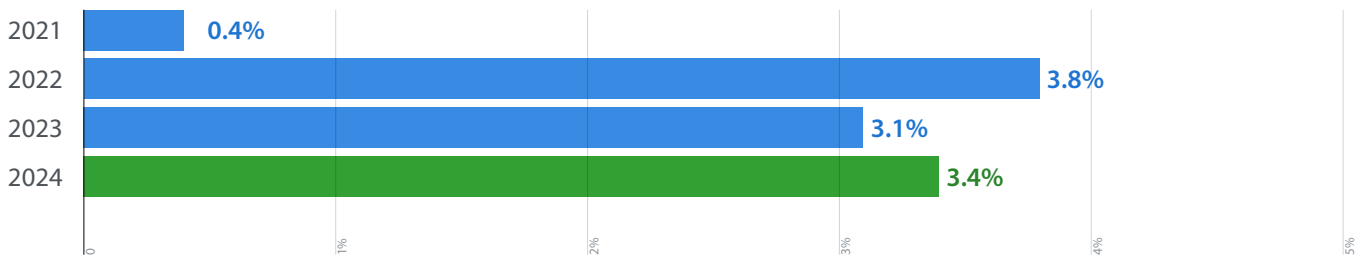
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2021–2024

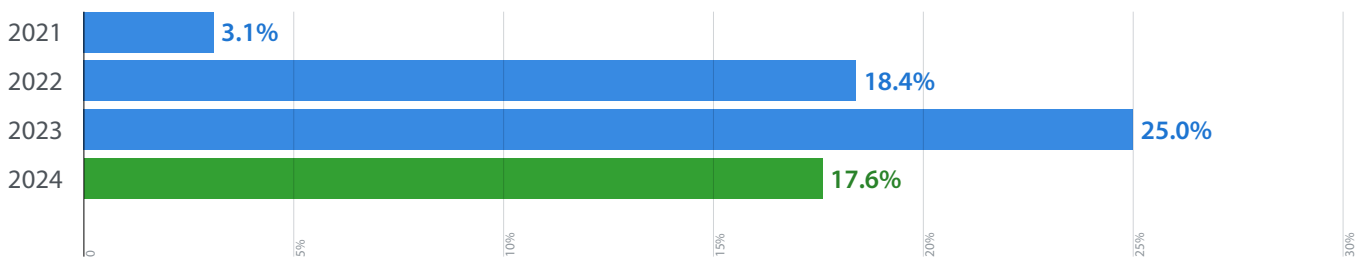
Number of first-time asylum applicants (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



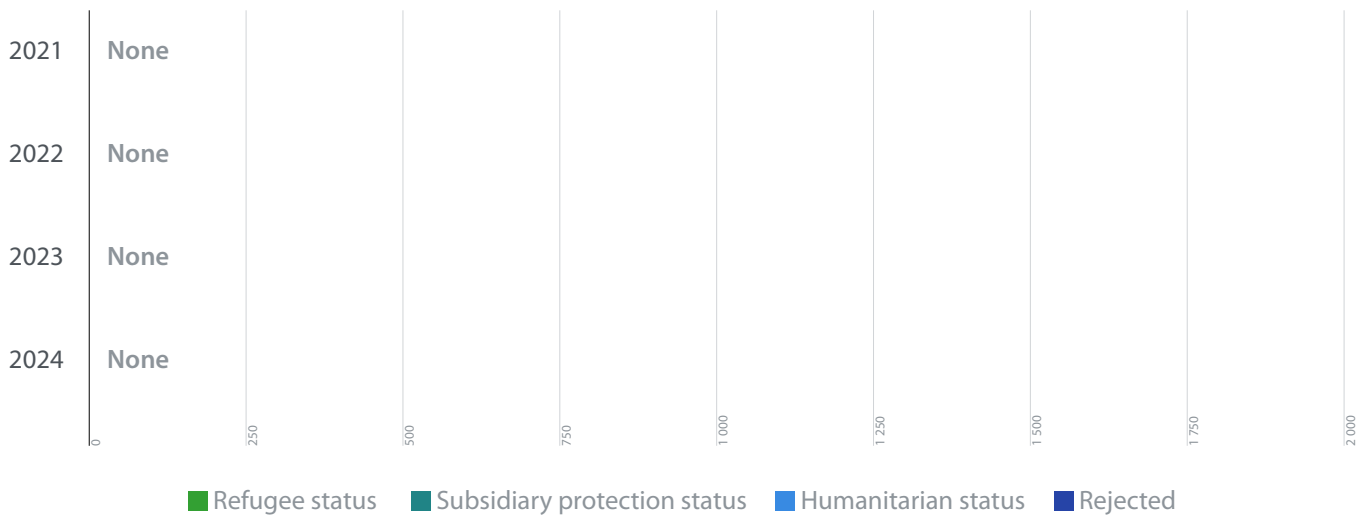
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyumacta](#) and [migr_asyappctza](#))

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



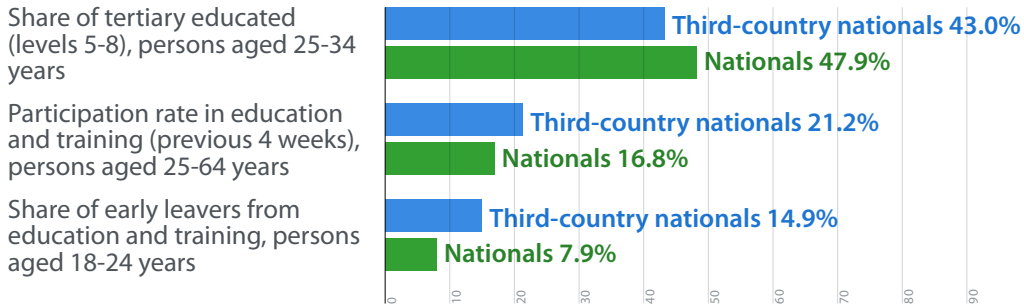
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyumdcfa](#))

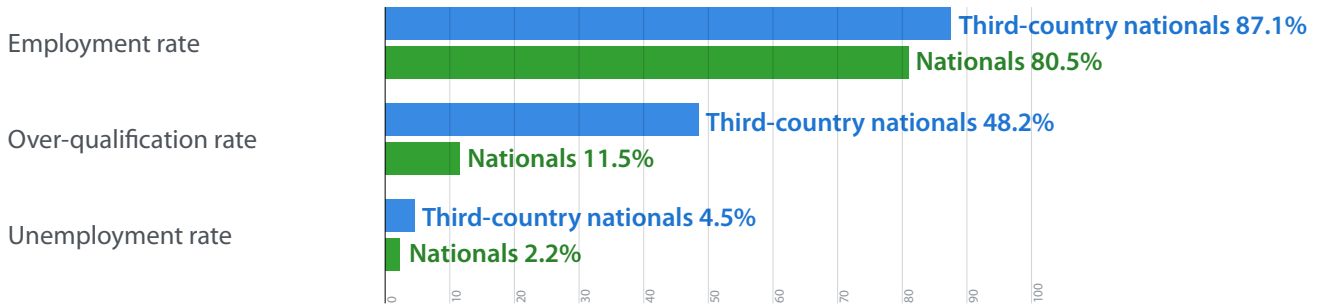
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2024

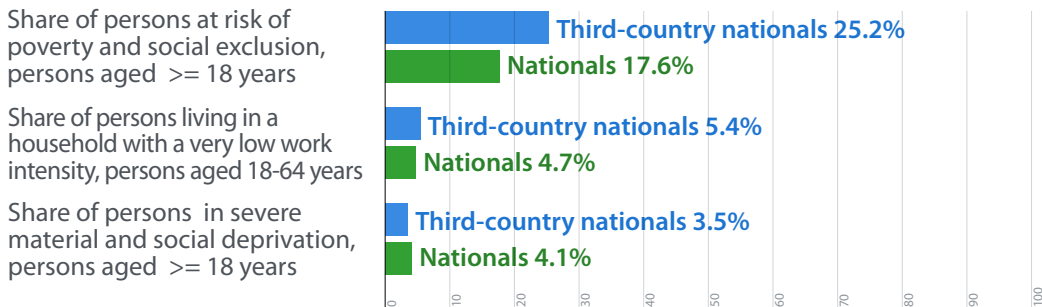
Education



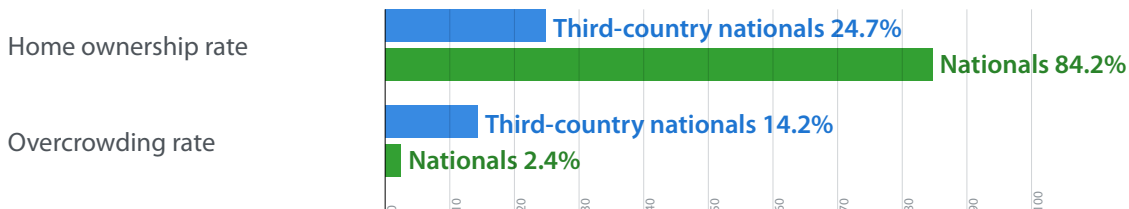
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years



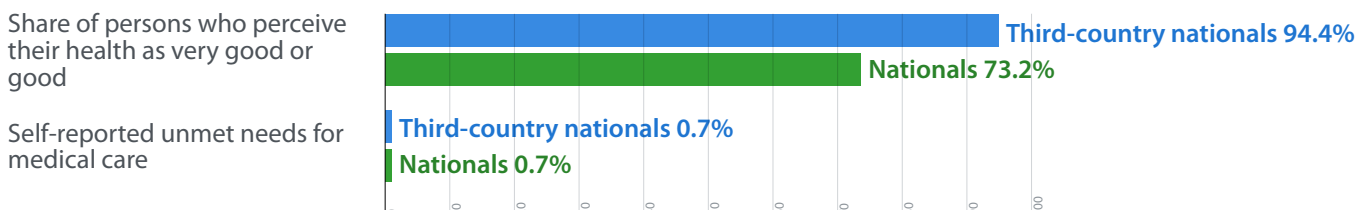
Social inclusion



Housing, persons aged ≥ 18 years



Health, persons aged ≥ 16 years

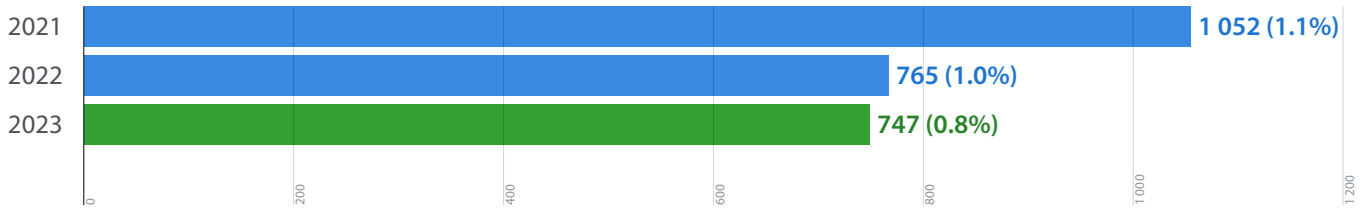




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2021–2023

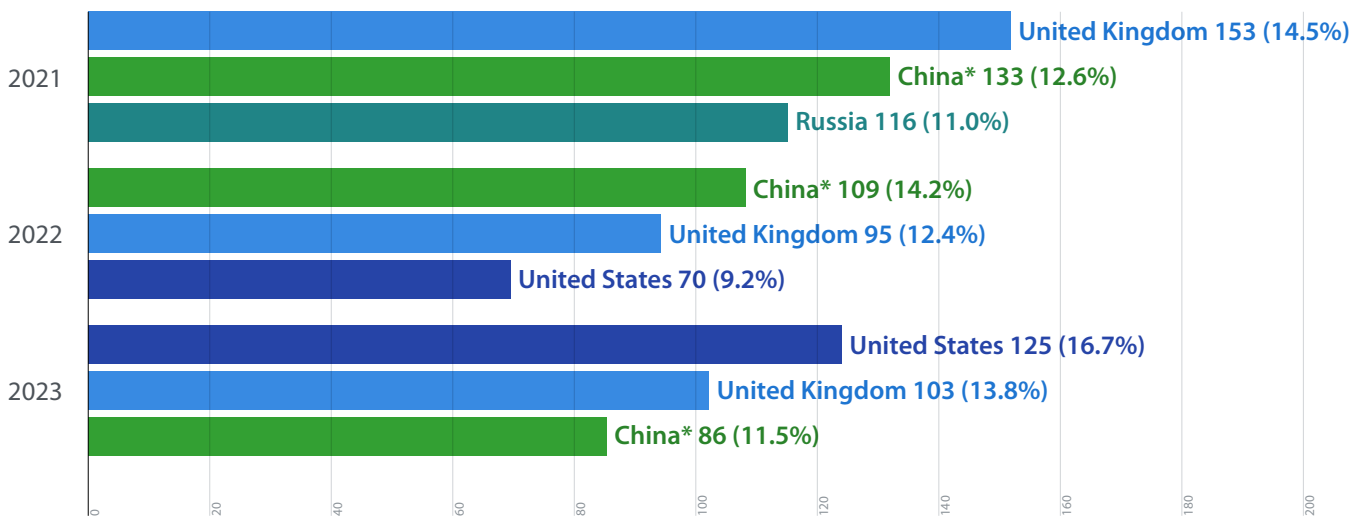
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#) and [migr_pop1ctz](#))

Top 3 countries of non-EU citizens acquiring citizenship, 2021-2023

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

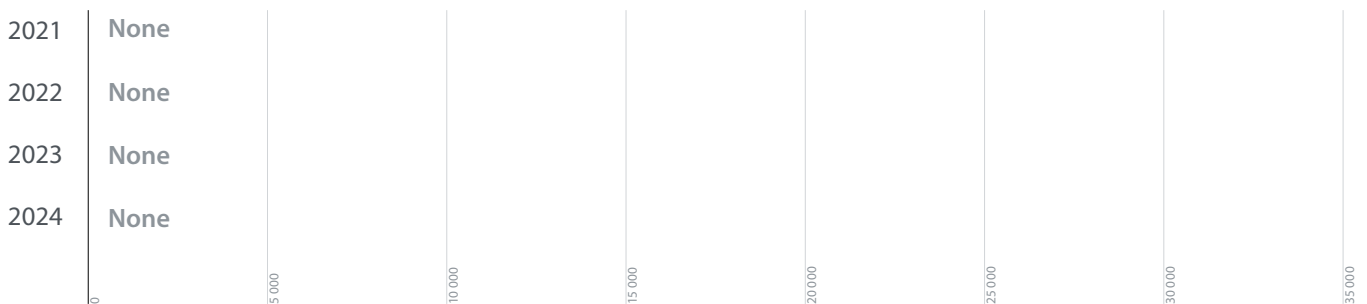


* Including Hong Kong.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

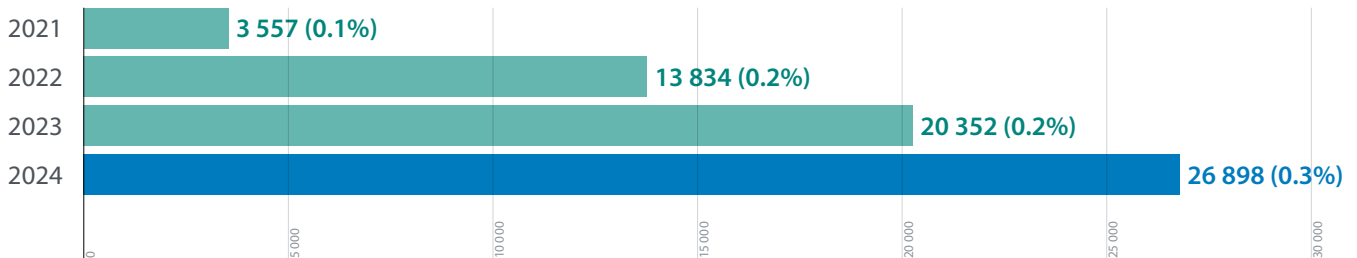


Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2021–2024

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

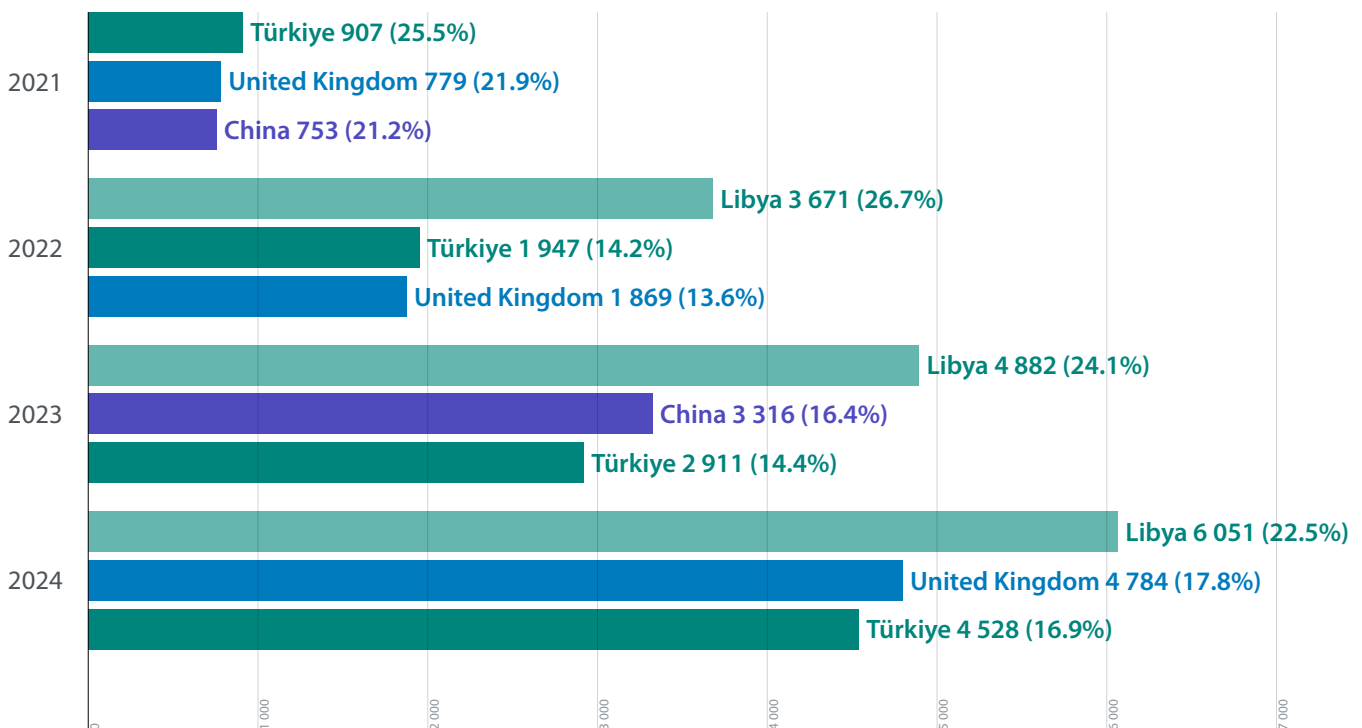


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: [Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs](#)

Top 3 consulate countries where the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2021–2024

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.

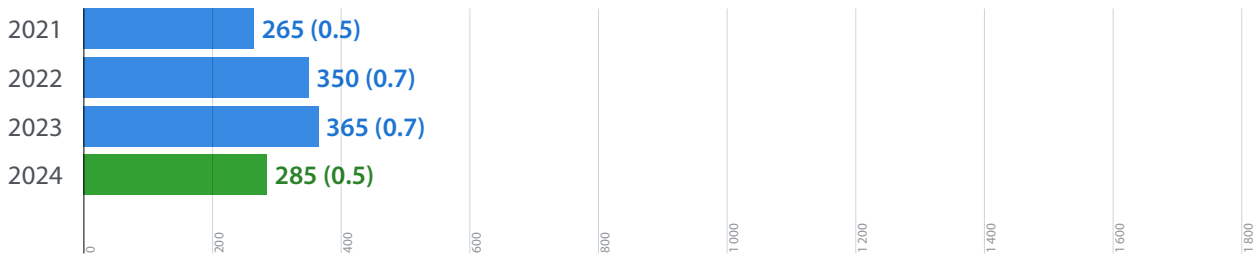
Source: [Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs](#)

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

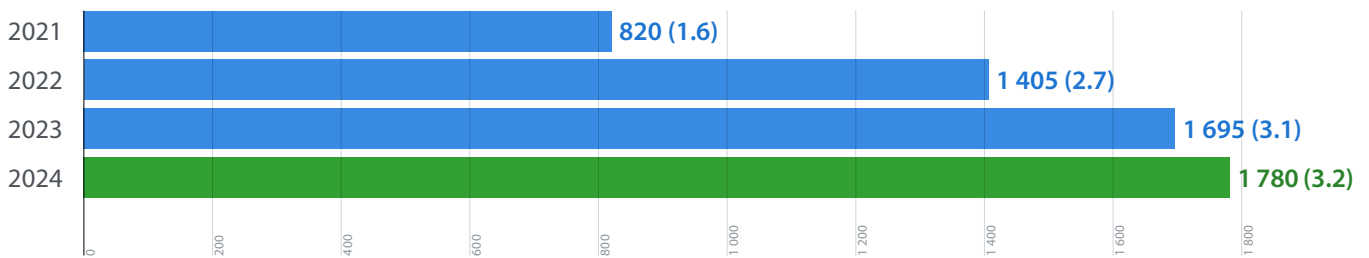
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

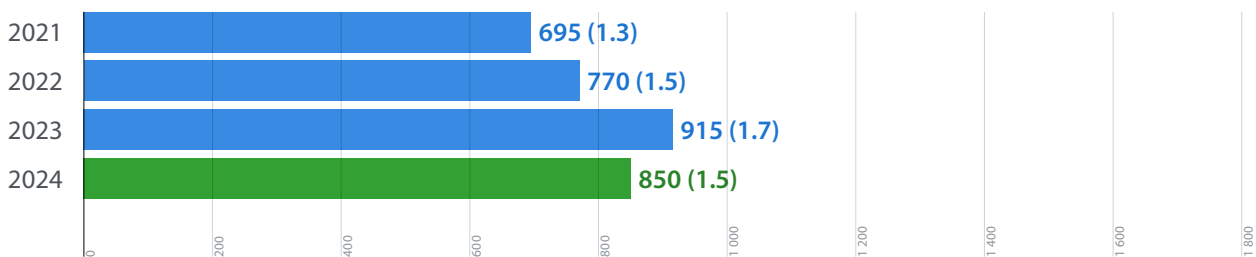
Persons refused entry



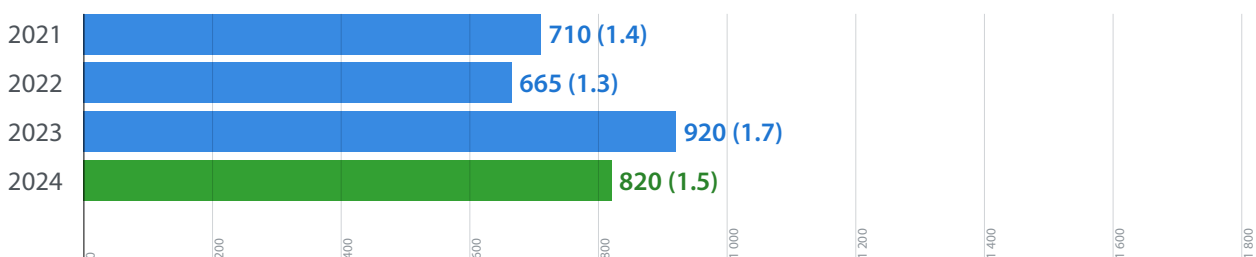
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

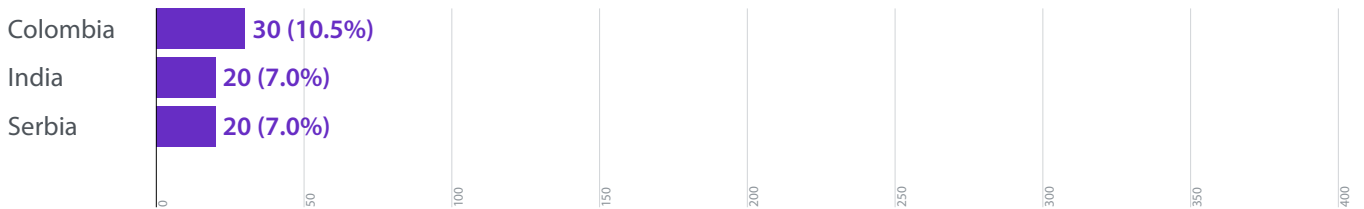


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#), [migr_eirtn](#), [migr_eilpop](#) and [demo_gind](#))

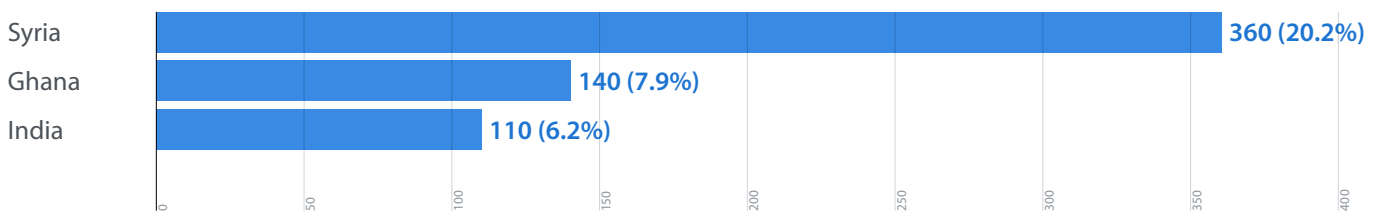
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2024

Absolute number (and the share in the respective total)

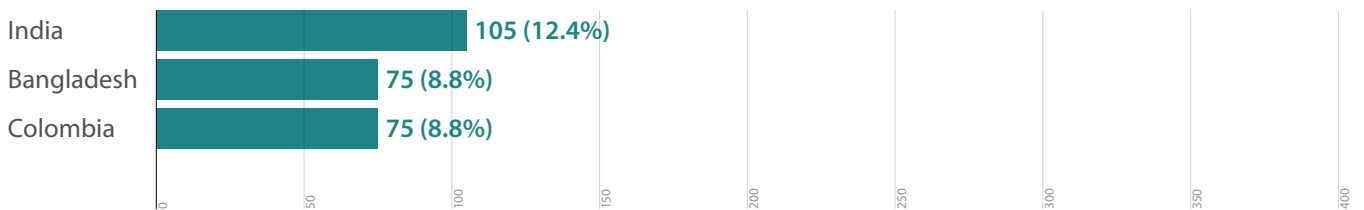
Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

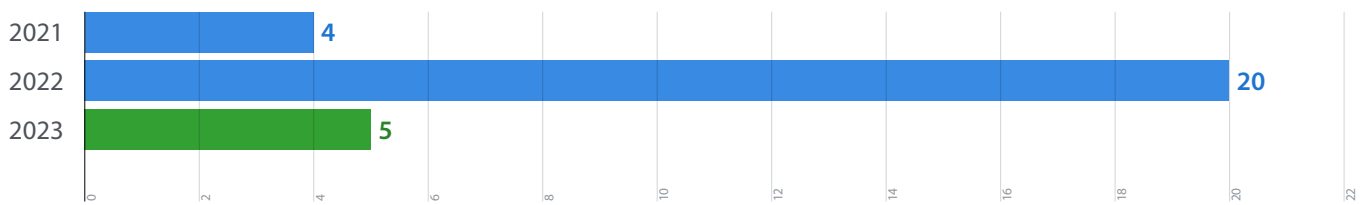


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#) and [migr_eirtn](#))



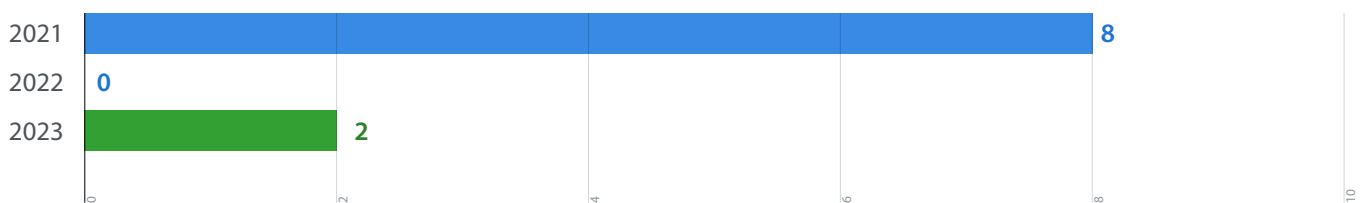
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2021-2023



Source: Eurostat ([crim_thb_vctz](#))

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2021-2023

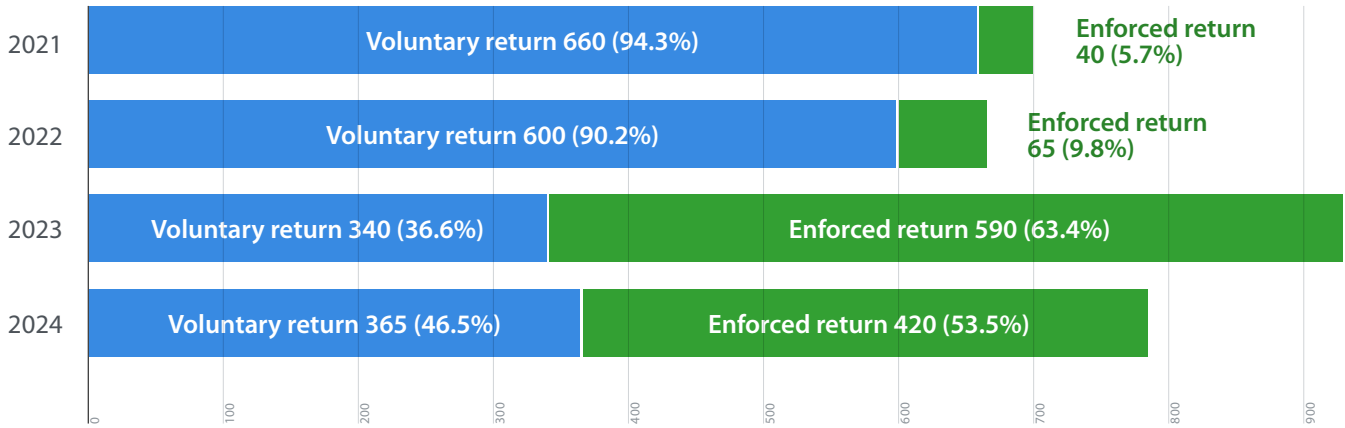


Source: Eurostat ([migr_resoth](#))

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2024

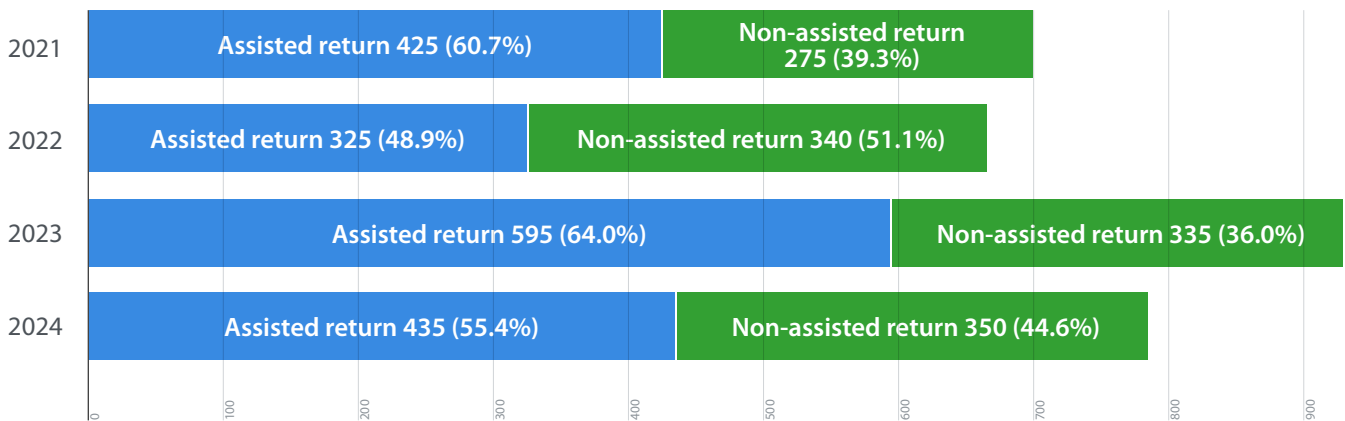
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirtn1](#))

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirtn1](#))