

Quality and metadata reporting



Visa statistics¹

Concept Name	Description
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A Data description (metadata)

Data description	<p>Statistics on applications for short stay and airport transit visas and the decisions taken on such applications, disaggregated by the country where the application is made and by the consulate/Member State that processes the application. Data on multiple-entry visas and visas with limited territorial validity and data on visas applied for and issued at the external border crossing points are also collected.</p> <p>Data on national short-stay visas issued by Member States not yet fully applying the Schengen acquis (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania) are presented separately.</p> <p>The data is collected according to Article 46 of the Visa Code (Regulation 810/2009) which requires Member States to compile and submit annual statistics on visas; Annex XII specifies the indicators to be reported and sets general rules for the submission of the data.</p>
Statistical population	The events in the scope of the visa statistics are visa applications and decisions (visas issued and not issued).
Reference period	Calendar year
Frequency of dissemination	Annual
Geographical reference area	<p>Member States fully applying the common visa policy (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) and Schengen associated countries (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) (SACs). Liechtenstein is a Schengen associated country but does not process short stay visa applications but is represented by Switzerland for this purpose.</p> <p>Data on national short-stay visas issued by Member States not yet fully applying the Schengen acquis (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania) are collected and presented separately.</p>
Unit of measure	<p>Number of applications and number of decisions (visas issued and not issued).</p> <p>Each applicant, including minors and persons covered by another person's travel document, must apply individually. Accordingly, each recorded application corresponds to a single person.</p>
Basic statistical concepts and definitions	<p>Visa means an authorisation issued by a Member State or a SAC with a view to (a) an intended stay in the territory of the Member States of a duration of no more than 90 days in any 180 days period (b) transit through the international transit areas of airports of the Member States and SACs.</p> <p>Uniform visa means a visa valid for the entire territory of the Member States and SACs. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry, double or multiple entries (MEV).</p> <p>Visa with limited territorial validity (LTV) means a visa valid for the territory of one or more Member States and SACs but not all.</p> <p>Airport transit visa (ATV) means a visa valid for transit through the international transit areas of one or more airports of the Member States and SACs. Such visas can be issued for a single airport transit or for multiple airport transits (multiple ATV).</p> <p>Not issued visas include refused visas and applications where the examination has been discontinued as provided for in Article 8(2) of the Visa Code.</p>
Classifications used	Not applicable
Statistical Confidentiality	The data transmitted by Member States and SACs do not contain any personal data such as names that would allow the identification of a person.

B Data quality

Relevance	<p>The data set is complete, with all countries in the geographical reference area reporting the data.</p> <p>Visa statistics are an important means of monitoring fluctuations in the volumes of applications and refusal rates. The data is used by Commission services, Member States, media etc.</p>
Timeliness	<p>Visa statistics are to be submitted to the Commission by 1 March in accordance with the Visa Code and disseminated in April, i.e. 3-4 months after the end of the reference year.</p>
Accuracy and reliability	<p>The data are provided by national authorities, based on administrative data sources (administrative registers maintained by Member States and Schengen associated countries).</p> <p>The data are gathered using a common template provided by the Commission. The template is accompanied by detailed reporting instructions. Formulas (sums, shares and ratios) are encoded in the Excel template in order to reduce the possibility of errors.</p> <p>The data submitted by Member States are checked for inconsistencies and obvious typing errors, including by comparison with previous years. In case of suspected errors, the data provider is contacted in order to</p>

¹ This document is based on a template provided by Eurostat and based on the [SIMS standard](#) for reporting on reference metadata and quality of statistical products. The content is the sole responsibility of the publisher.

verify the data.

Accessibility and clarity

The full data set is disseminated at <https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy#stats>, in Excel files that include filters allowing for detailed searches.

Coherence and comparability

The geographical comparability between countries is ensured by the application of common definitions specified in the Visa Code and the common reporting template.

The data is also comparable over time although in case of Member States not yet fully applying the Schengen acquis there have been some data gaps in previous years.

C Contact and update

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Metadata update

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