AUSTRIA
EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET 2022

Main developments in migration and international protection, including latest statistics

August 2023

OVERARCHING CHANGES

As a result of COVID-19, existing special regulations in areas such as citizenship law or settlement and residence were extended, and new regulations were introduced.

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Work-related migration

Comprehensive amendments to a number of laws, including the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals and the Settlement and Residence Act, led to a reform of the Red-White-Red Card, including a lowering of the minimum salary for applicants and the possibility for them to apply from within Austria. A new Registered Seasonal Worker Regulation extended the possibility for certain seasonal workers to obtain a work permit outside the quota system and without a labour market test. A new category of Red-White-Red Card was created for regular workers in tourism, agriculture and forestry. The minimum amount of initial capital for start-up founders was reduced from €50 000 to €30 000. The list of shortage occupations was extended to 68 occupations nationwide. The statutory minimum salary for

KEY POINTS

- Reform of the Red-White-Red Card included lowering minimum salary requirements, simplification of procedures and changes to the allocation of points.

- Increased focus on migration from India, with a specialised campaign to support voluntary return as well as Europe's first Frontex charter operation to India organised by Austria. Negotiations on a comprehensive migration and mobility partnership agreement between the Austrian federal government and the Republic of India are ongoing.

- Extensive measures were adopted to support beneficiaries of temporary protection.

university graduates was abolished, making it easier for graduates to obtain this residence permit.

Students and researchers

Pupils at a school of healthcare and nursing or participants in a nursing assistant course now have the opportunity to receive a Temporary Residence Permit – School Pupil.

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Main national developments in relation to temporary protection

Austria adopted the Regulation on Displaced Persons, based on the EU Temporary Protection Directive, granting temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine. The range of support measures was adapted and expanded, in cooperation with the Austrian Integration Fund. The criteria for legal access to the labour market were defined by a decree issued by the Federal Minister for Labour.

Main measures taken outside the legal framework of the Temporary Protection DirectivE

Ukrainian nationals whose residence permit was due to expire at the end of February 2022 were offered lawful residence even before the Regulation on Displaced Persons came into force. The decision of the Council of Ministers of 21 December 2022 laid the foundation for the extension of the temporary right of residence for displaced persons in Austria until 4 March 2024. The COVID-19 Entry Regulation 2021 was amended to exempt people entering the country due to military conflict. Austria agreed to take in up to 2 000 displaced Ukrainians from the Republic of Moldova and up to 500 displaced Ukrainians from Poland.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Legislative and policy developments related to international protection

The Agreement between the Federal State and the Provinces on Basic Care – Article 15(a) Federal Constitutional Act was adapted as part of a supplementary agreement, with certain maximum costs being increased. An amendment to the Regulation on Countries of Origin saw Ukraine removed from the list of safe countries of origin.

MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Minors

A number of measures were put in place to improve the protection and legal status of child refugees. Firstly, a child protection concept was developed by the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services. Secondly, case workers at the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum were provided with a checklist to facilitate interviewing of minors. Thirdly, judges at the Federal Administrative Court have access to new guidelines on the best interests of the child in asylum and aliens law. Fourthly, measures were introduced to improve school pupils' language skills. Finally, pupils at all levels of education were made aware of the dangers of the ideologies of inequality and their resilience to radicalisation was strengthened.

INTEGRATION

National integration strategy

The **duration of the compulsory orientation and values courses was** extended from one day (eight hours) to three days (24 hours). The extended course includes a sensitisation module on antisemitism.

Education and training of adults/ labour market and skills

In partnership with course providers, the Austrian Integration Fund significantly expanded the range of German courses and opportunities to learn German for persons granted asylum, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and displaced persons from Ukraine. The Austrian Integration Fund also committed to expand the range of German courses further.

CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Acquisition of citizenship

The special right to acquire Austrian citizenship granted to victims of Nazis and their direct descendants was extended to include, under certain circumstances, cases where people were deported or murdered by the Nazi party or authorities of the German Reich or because of their support for the democratic Republic of Austria.

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Border management

At ministerial level, there were calls for a robust system to protect Austria's external borders, including a discussion of border security fences.

Schengen governance

The existing temporary controls at the borders to Slovenia and Hungary were continued and new temporary border controls were introduced at the border to the Slovak Republic. Austria voted against admitting Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen Area**.**

IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Preventing facilitation of irregular migration ('smuggling') and preventing irregular stay

Austria undertook an information campaign to raise awareness among migrants in countries of origin and transit, on the potential dangers of irregular migration, misinformation spread by smuggling organisations, and the realities and prospects in Europe (such as the low likelihood of being granted protection status).

RETURN AND READMISSION

Main national developments

Austria held a ministerial conference on return issues. Voluntary return to India was encouraged through a short-term special campaign to support voluntary return. Austria also organised Europe's first Frontex charter operation to India.

Cooperation with third countries

The Austrian federal government began negotiating with the Republic of India on an agreement on a comprehensive migration and mobility partnership.

The intention of the agreement was to strengthen cooperation, particularly with regard to information exchange on opportunities for the regular migration of skilled workers, students and researchers as well as their family members and school pupils. Part of the agreement were also the easier access to visas for bona fide business travellers, clear procedures for return and readmission, tackling irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

National actions

The new Three-Year Programme on Austrian Development Policy states that migration and forced displacement are one of three global challenges set to play a pivotal role in shaping activities in the coming years.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Austria 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 were extracted on 8 May 2023, with the exception of data on first-time applicants extracted on 7 June 2023. They cover the period 2019-2022. Since 2022 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the period 2019-2021 is covered.

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.

An online data code available under each table/figure can be used to directly access to the most recent data on Eurostat's website.

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2019–2022
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)

Year		
2019		7.9 % (703 443)
2020		8.0 % (711 778)
2021		8.1 % (719 393)
2022		8.3 % (741 486)
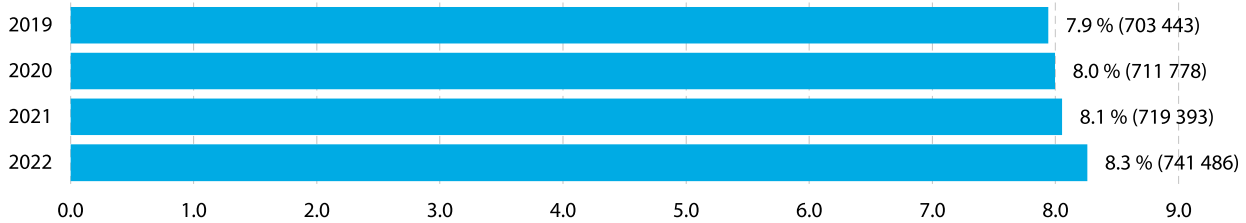
Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2022
%

Solid colour: third-country nationals
Bordered: nationals

■ Males   ■ Females
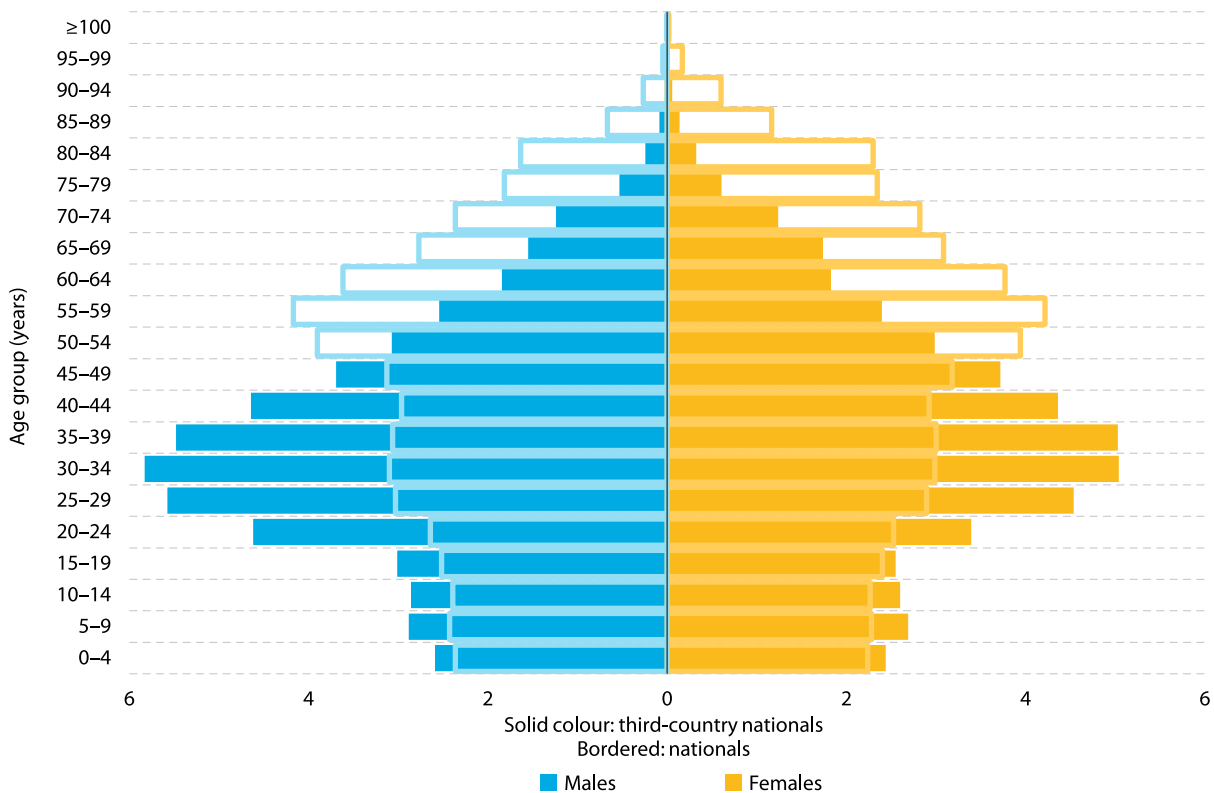
Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2019–2021
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)

Year		
2019		4.5 (39 865)
2020		3.9 (34 759)
2021		5.4 (47 892)

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst and migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2019–2021
Absolute number (and the share in total number)

2019
- Afghanistan: 6 191 (15.5 %)
- Serbia: 3 764 (9.4 %)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 3 165 (7.9 %)

2020
- Afghanistan: 5 134 (14.8 %)
- Serbia: 3 276 (9.4 %)
- Syria: 3 260 (9.4 %)

2021
- Syria: 8 212 (17.1 %)
- Afghanistan: 5 651 (11.8 %)
- Serbia: 3 806 (7.9 %)
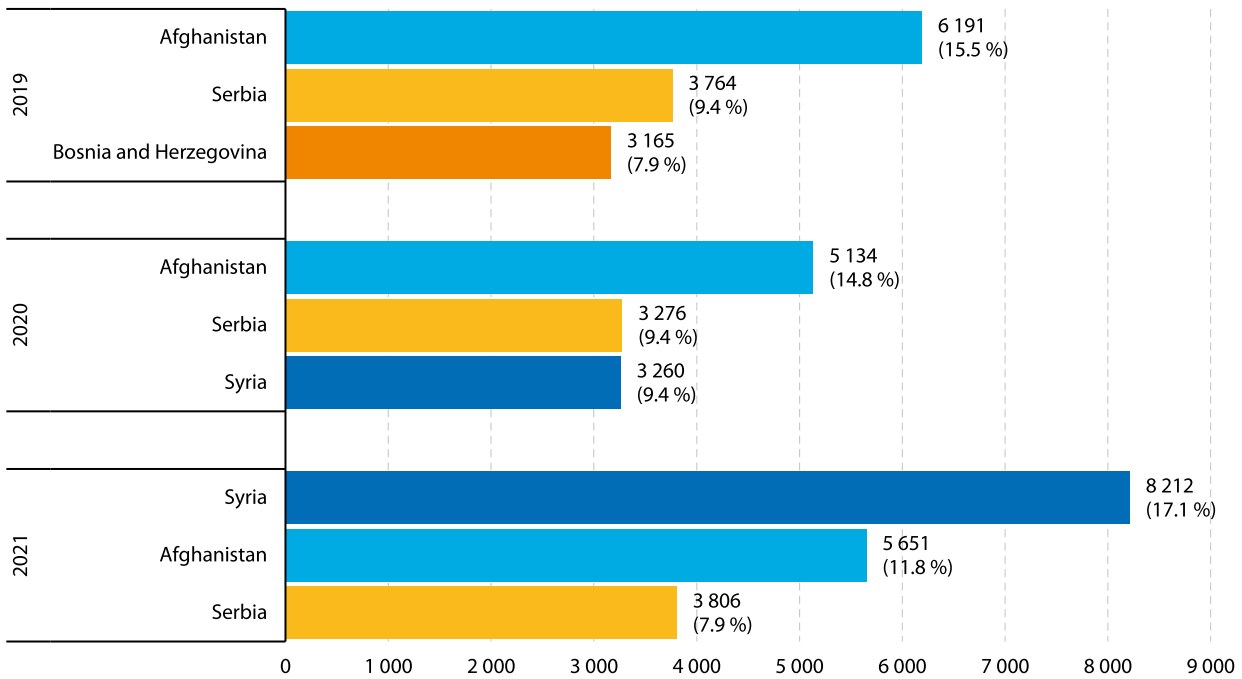
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

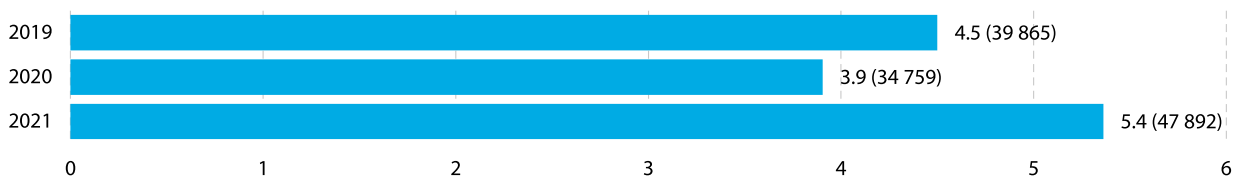**First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2021**
%

Work reason, by type
- Other activities (29.7 %)
- Seasonal workers (0.0 %)
- EU Blue card (7.4 %)
- Researchers (17.7 %)
- Highly skilled workers (45.2 %)

All permits, by reason
- Family 30.2 %
- Education 9.8 %
- Work 8.2 %
- Other reason 51.8 %
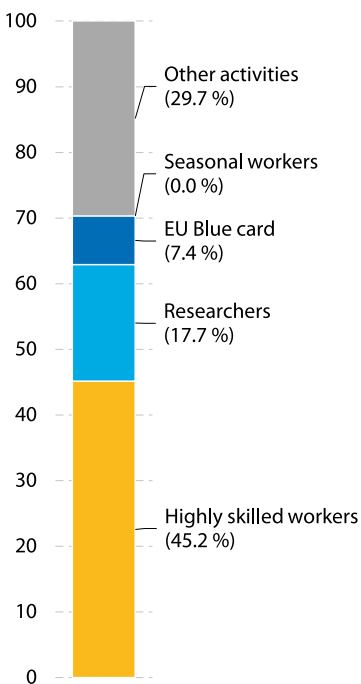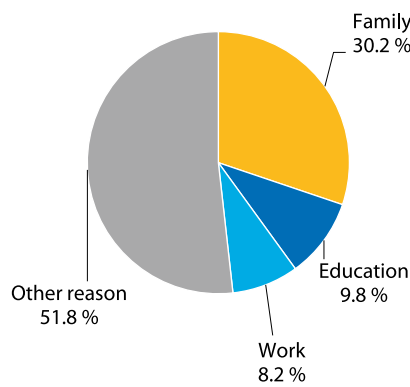
Other reason, by detailed reason
- Residual (59.9 %)
- Residence only (1.2 %)
- Humanitarian reasons (6.3 %)
- Refugee status and subsidiary protection (32.7 %)
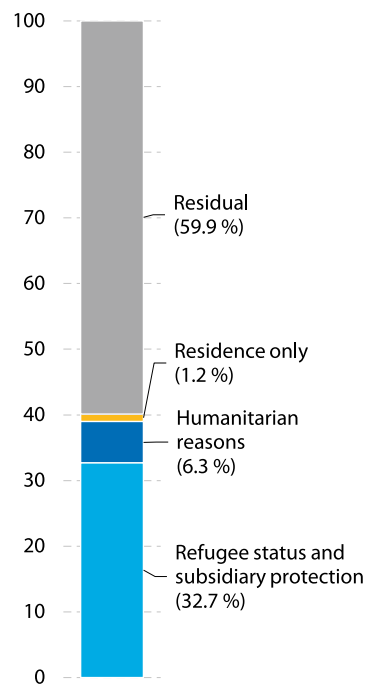
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resocc and migr_resoth)

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Third-country nationals who fled Ukraine and were benefitting from temporary protection at the end of March 2023
Absolute number (and the share within the total)

22 435 (31.4 %)	36 205 (50.6 %)	12 875 (18.0 %)

0   10 000   20 000   30 000   40 000   50 000   60 000   70 000   80 000

■ Children   ■ Women   ■ Men

Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

Number of decisions granting temporary protection to third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2023

2022
Mar	32 230
Apr	26 680
May	9 545
Jun	5 140
Jul	3 480
Aug	3 590
Sep	3 075
Oct	2 900
Nov	2 315
Dec	1 730

2023
Jan	1 750
Feb	1 740
Mar	1 765

0   5 000   10 000   15 000   20 000   25 000   30 000   35 000

Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)

Distribution by age and sex of decisions granting temporary protection to third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2023
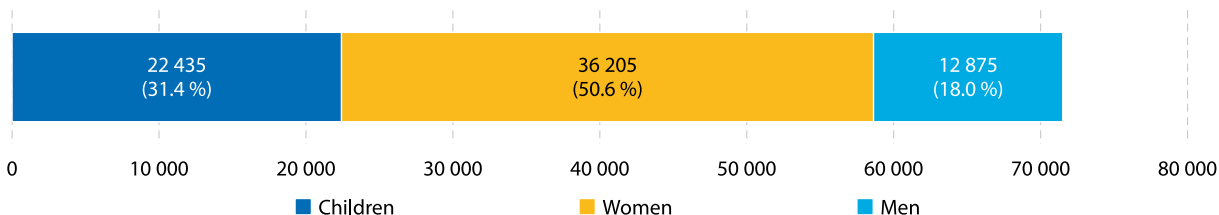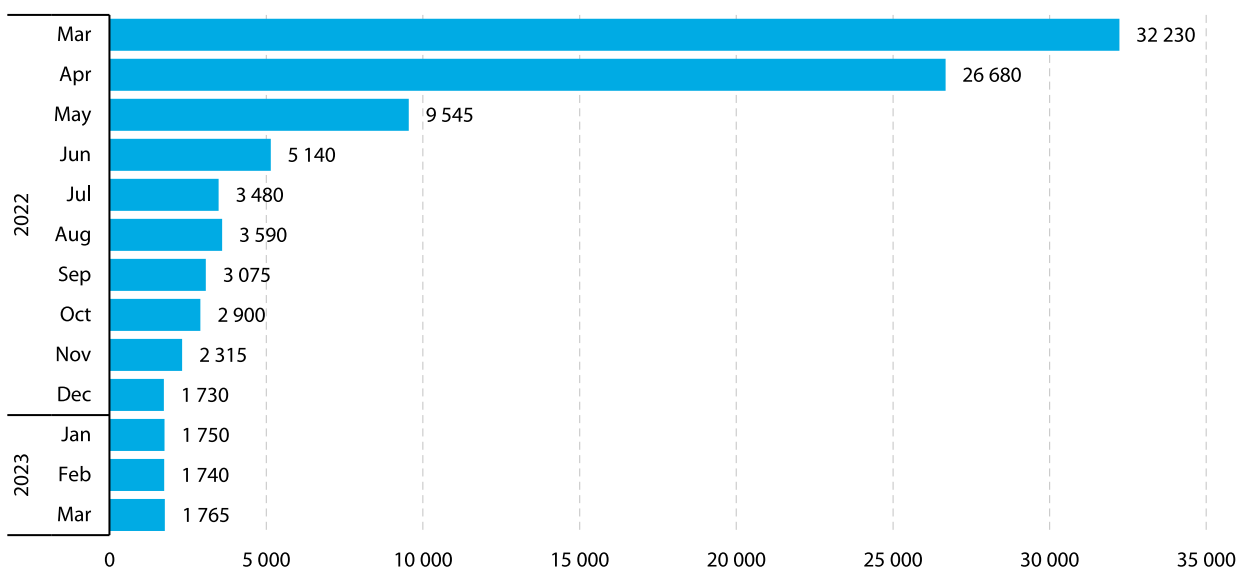%

2022
	Children	Women	Men
Mar	39	51	10
Apr	38	50	12
May	33	51	16
Jun	27	54	19
Jul	27	51	22
Aug	29	48	24
Sep	28	47	25
Oct	25	48	27
Nov	23	48	29
Dec	22	49	28

2023
	Children	Women	Men
Jan	24	49	28
Feb	23	47	30
Mar	20	49	30

0   10   20   30   40   50   60   70   80   90   100

■ Children   ■ Women   ■ Men
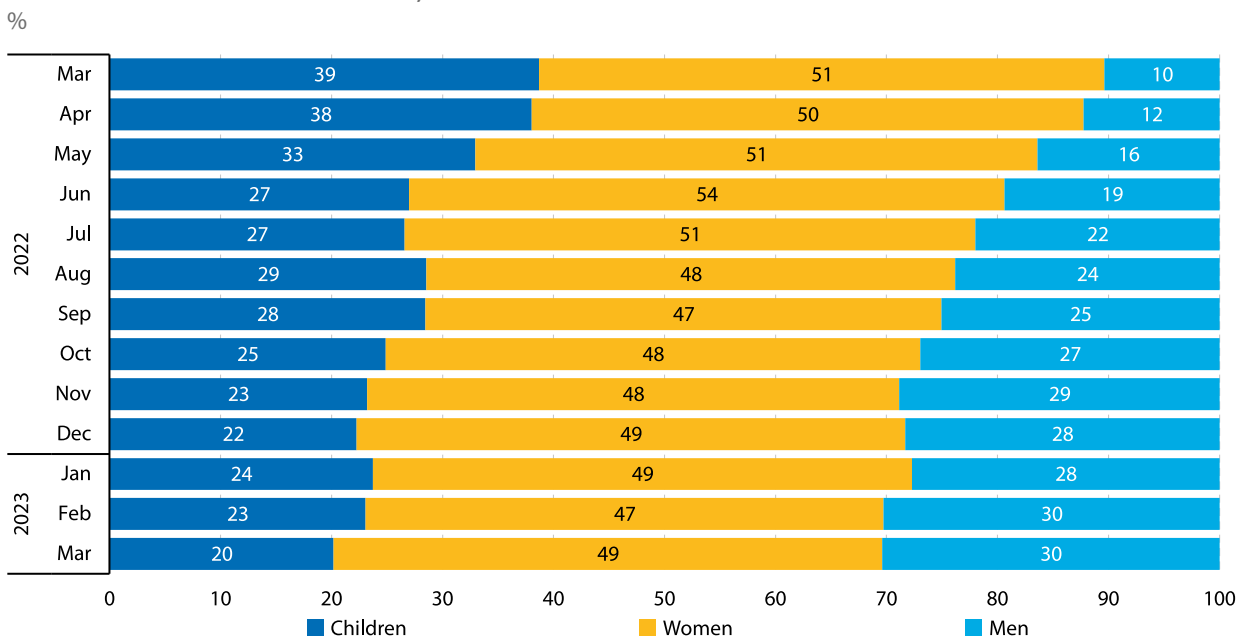
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants (third-country nationals), by type of application, 2019–2022
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

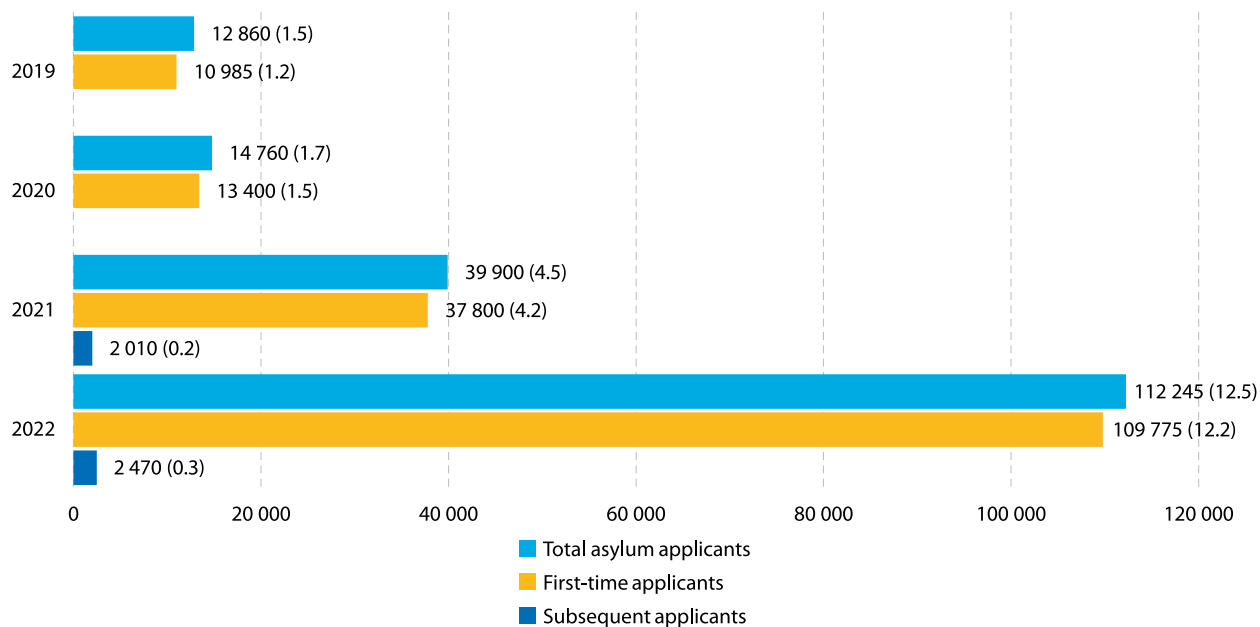| Year	Total asylum applicants	First-time applicants	Subsequent applicants
2019	12 860 (1.5)	10 985 (1.2)	
2020	14 760 (1.7)	13 400 (1.5)	
2021	39 900 (4.5)	37 800 (4.2)	2 010 (0.2)
2022	112 245 (12.5)	109 775 (12.2)	2 470 (0.3)

Legend:
- ■ Total asylum applicants
- ■ First-time applicants
- ■ Subsequent applicants

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza and migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2019–2022
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)

2019
- Syria: 2 675 (24.4 %)
- Afghanistan: 2 585 (23.5 %)
- Iran: 660 (6.0 %)

2020
- Syria: 5 080 (37.9 %)
- Afghanistan: 2 825 (21.1 %)
- Morocco: 705 (5.3 %)

2021
- Syria: 16 130 (42.7 %)
- Afghanistan: 8 050 (21.3 %)
- Morocco: 1 850 (4.9 %)

2022
- Afghanistan: 23 655 (22.2 %)
- India: 19 320 (18.2 %)
- Syria: 19 005 (17.9 %)
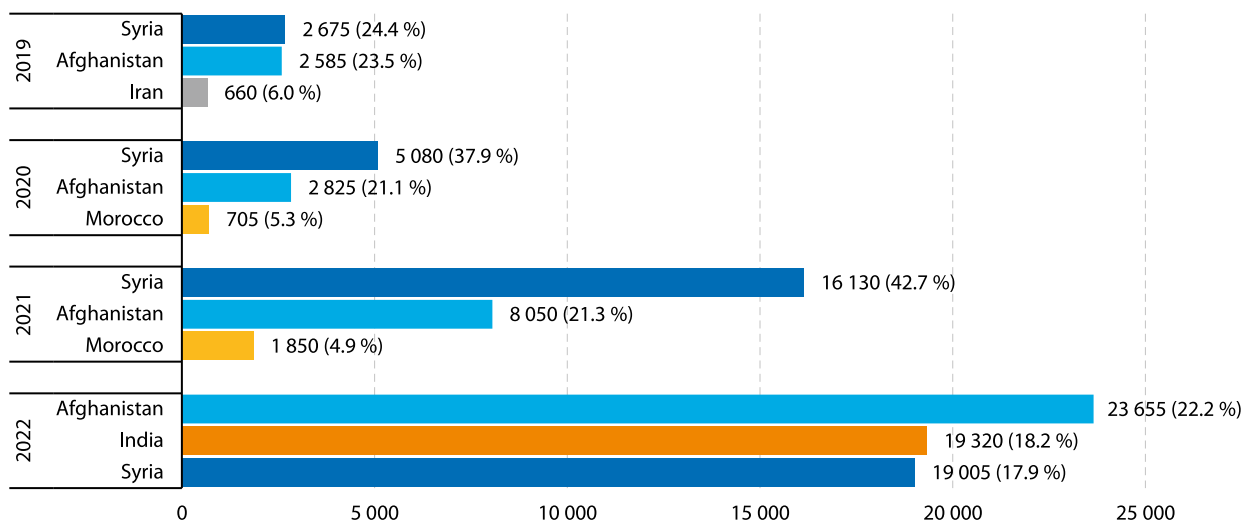
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

Number of first instance asylum decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022
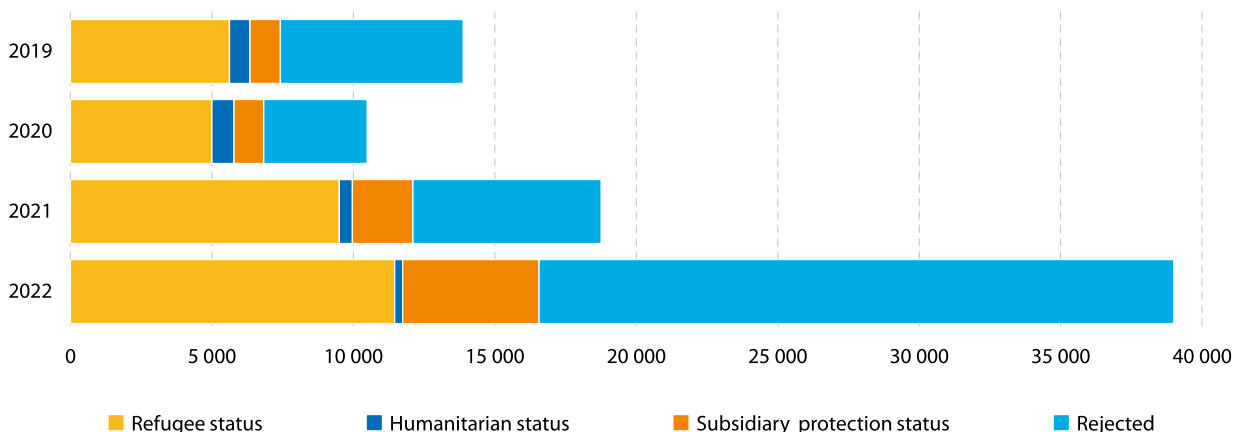
|	Refugee status			Humanitarian status			Subsidiary protection status			Rejected	
	Number	Share in total (%)		Number	Share in total (%)		Number	Share in total (%)		Number	Share in total (%)
2019	5 620	40.5	**2019**	725	5.2	**2019**	1 075	7.7	**2019**	6 465	46.6
2020	5 000	47.7	**2020**	780	7.4	**2020**	1 050	10.0	**2020**	3 660	34.9
2021	9 500	50.6	**2021**	460	2.5	**2021**	2 145	11.4	**2021**	6 655	35.5
2022	11 455	29.4	**2022**	290	0.7	**2022**	4 815	12.3	**2022**	22 440	57.5

Note: the shares are calculated using the sum of the four outcomes as the denominator.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

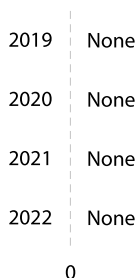**Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, by outcome, 2022**
Absolute number (and share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)
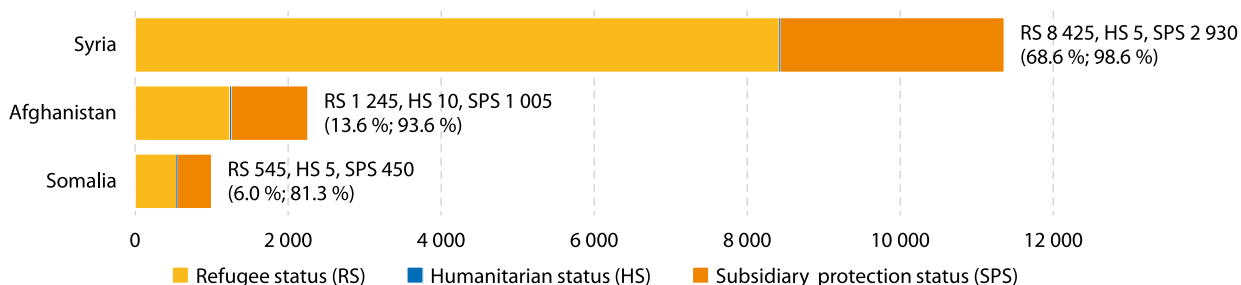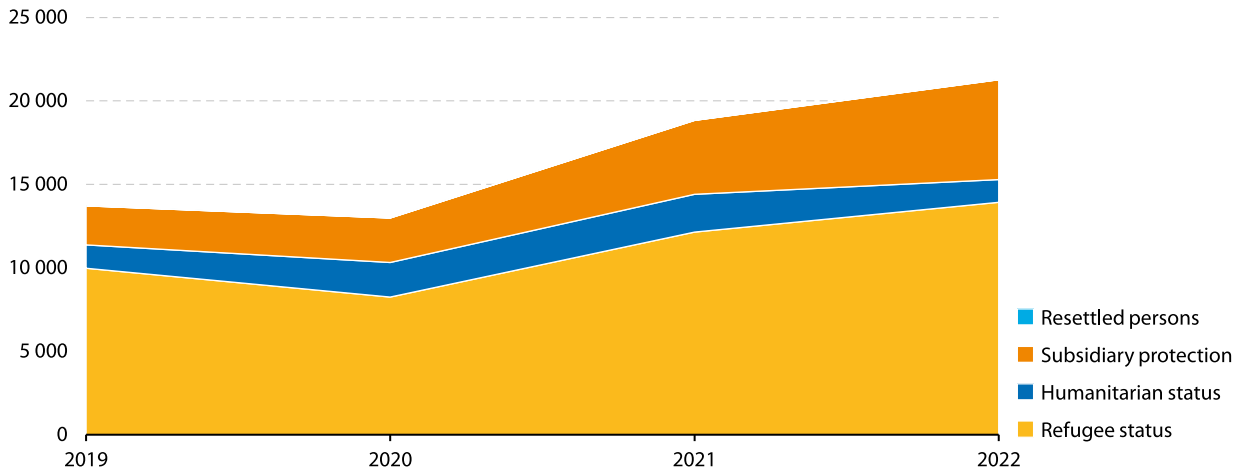

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

Resettled third-country nationals, 2019–2022
Absolute number (and the share of the total resettled within the EU)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022

- Resettled persons
- Subsidiary protection
- Humanitarian status
- Refugee status

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals) applying for asylum, 2019–2022

Number

- 2019: 860
- 2020: 1 370
- 2021: 5 605
- 2022: 13 275

Share of all first-time applicants (share of first-time applicants aged less than 18 years)

- 2019: 7.8 % (14.6 %)
- 2020: 10.2 % (24.6 %)
- 2021: 14.8 % (47.9 %)
- 2022: 12.5 % (59.8 %)
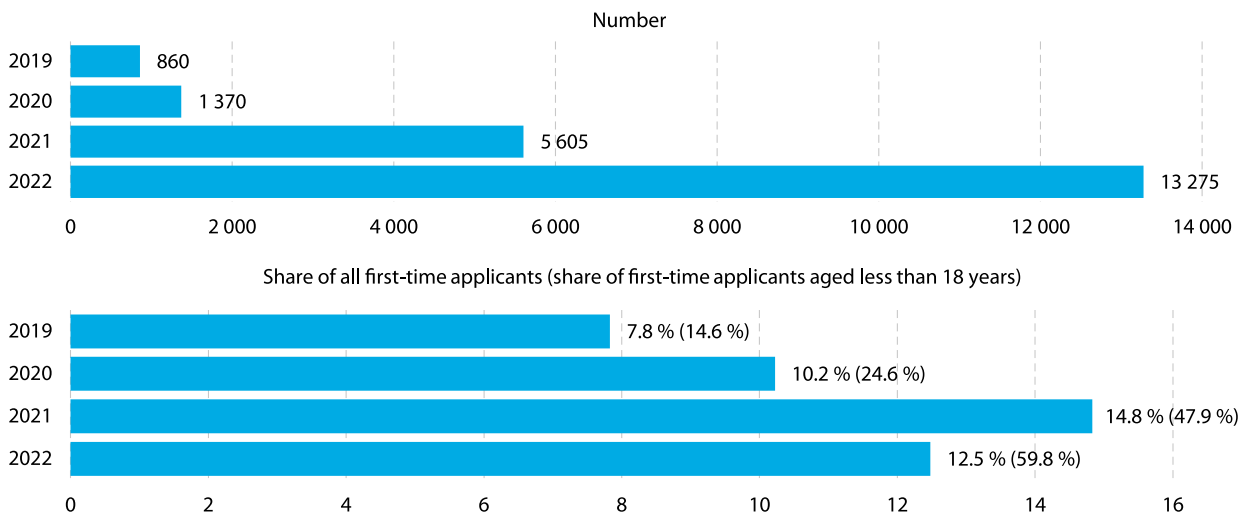
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa and migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals), by outcome, 2021 and 2022
Absolute number (and the share in the total)

- 2021: RS 140 (36.8 %); HS 0 (0.0 %); SPS 205 (53.9 %); REJ 35 (9.2 %)
- 2022: RS 160 (31.1 %); HS 0 (0.0 %); SPS 325 (63.1 %); REJ 30 (5.8 %)

- Refugee status (RS)
- Humanitarian status (HS)
- Subsidiary protection status (SPS)
- Rejected (REJ)
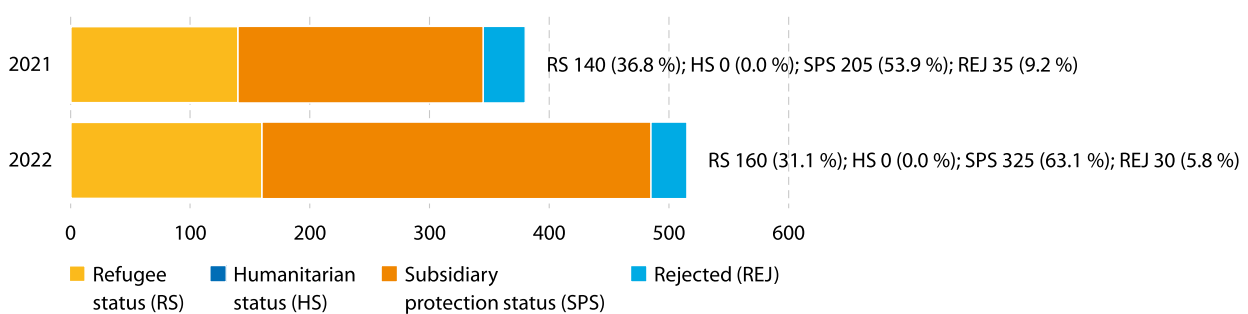
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdcfq)

INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2021 or 2022
%

|		
Education, 2022	Share of tertiary educated (levels 5–8), persons aged 25–34 years	Third-country nationals: 33.0 / Nationals: 43.2
	Participation rate in education and training (previous 4 weeks), persons aged 25–64 years	Third-country nationals: 15.4 / Nationals: 15.7
	Share of early leavers from education and training, persons aged 18–24 years	Third-country nationals: 23.1 / Nationals: 6.2
Labour market, persons aged 20–64 years, 2022	Employment rate	Third-country nationals: 64.9 / Nationals: 78.6
	Over-qualification rate	Third-country nationals: 48.7 / Nationals: 24.9
	Unemployment rate	Third-country nationals: 11.4 / Nationals: 3.4
Social inclusion, persons aged ≥18 years, 2021	Share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion	Third-country nationals: 44.1 / Nationals: 12.4
	Overcrowding rate	Third-country nationals: 47.1 / Nationals: 7.7
	Home ownership rate	Third-country nationals: 12.3 / Nationals: 60.3

■ Third-country nationals
■ Nationals

Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9911, trng_lfs_12, edat_lfse_01, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_eoqgan, lfsa_urgan, ilc_peps05n, ilc_lvho15 and ilc_lvps15)

CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

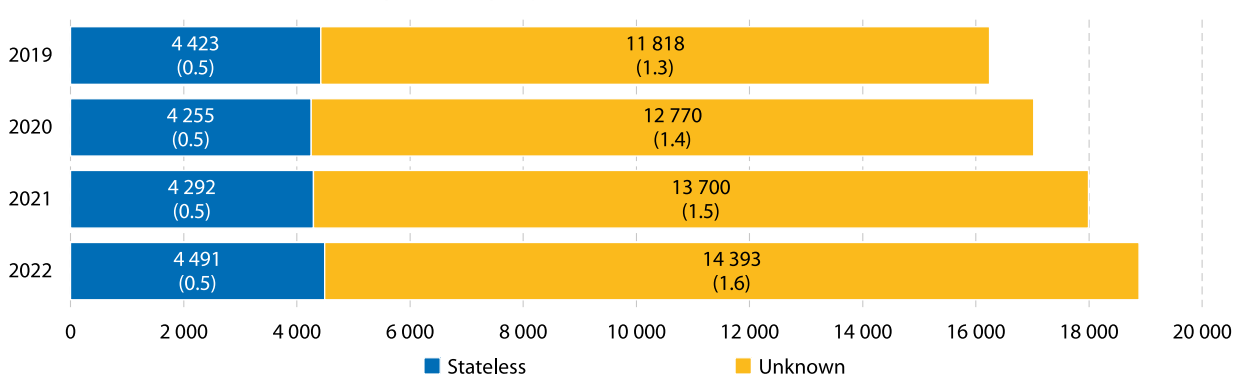**Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2019–2021**
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)

Year	Value
2019	8 616 (1.2 %)
2020	7 358 (1.0 %)
2021	14 380 (2.0 %)
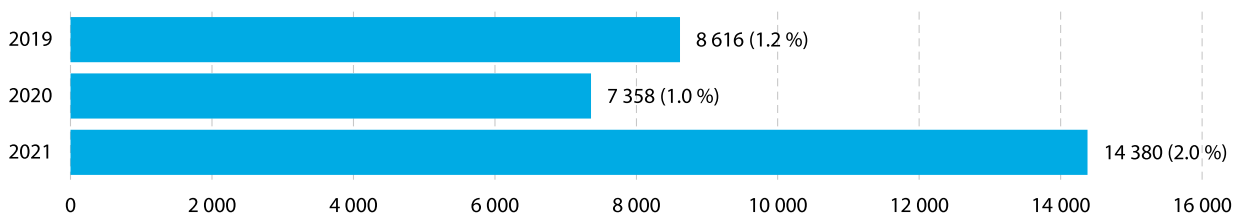
Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons, persons with unknown citizenship and recognised non-citizens, 2019–2022
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Year	Stateless	Unknown
2019	4 423 (0.5)	11 818 (1.3)
2020	4 255 (0.5)	12 770 (1.4)
2021	4 292 (0.5)	13 700 (1.5)
2022	4 491 (0.5)	14 393 (1.6)

■ Stateless   ■ Unknown

Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2021
Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals plus stateless)

Israel	2 635 (18.2 %)
United States	1 659 (11.5 %)
United Kingdom	1 190 (8.2 %)
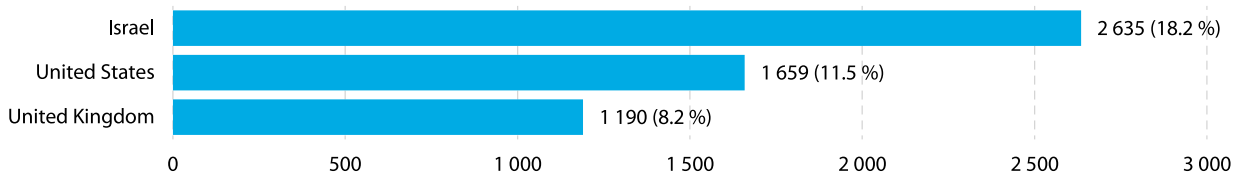
Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2019–2022
Absolute number (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued within the Schengen Area)

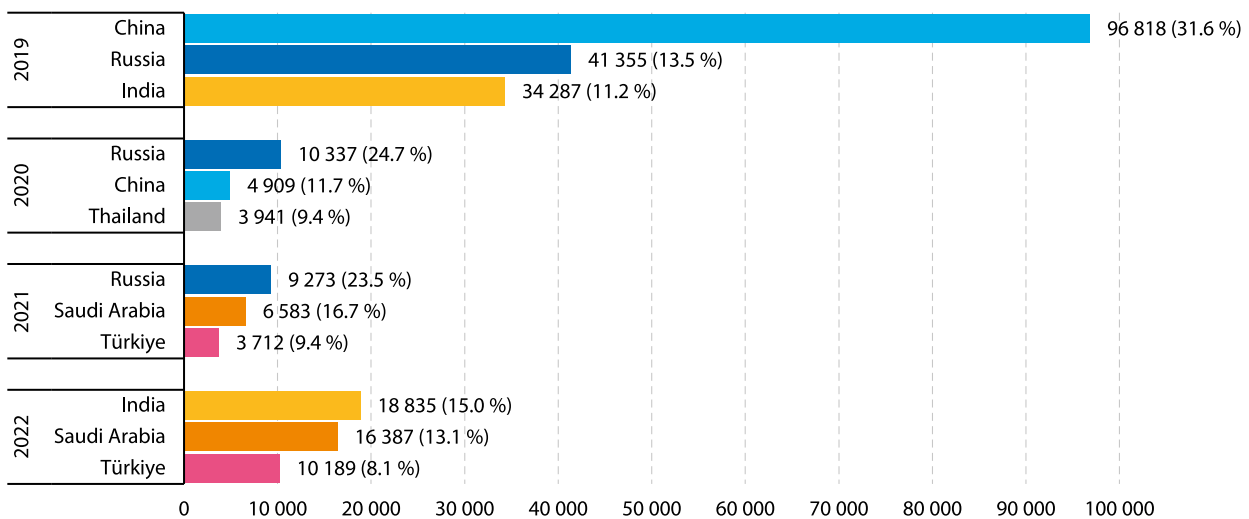|	
2019	306 471 (2.0 %)
2020	41 952 (1.6 %)
2021	39 421 (1.6 %)
2022	125 311 (2.1 %)
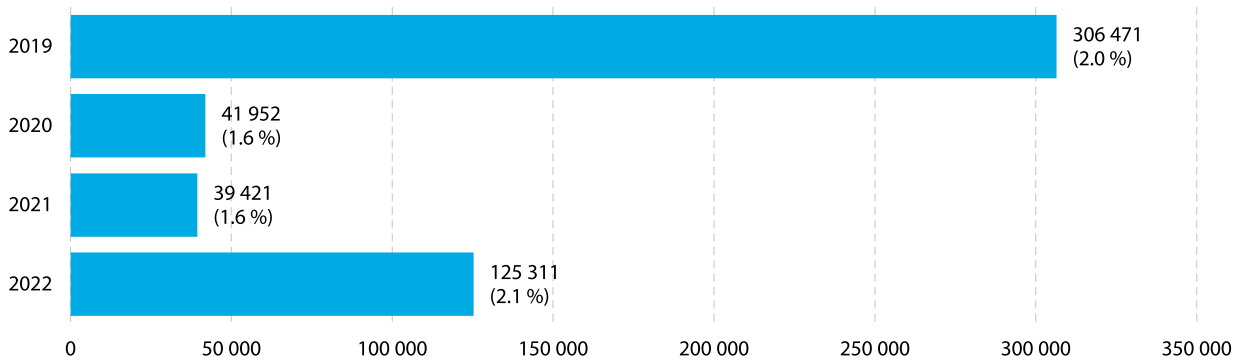
Note: Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania were not part of the Schengen Area. Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Three consulate countries in which the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2019–2022
Number of uniform short-stay visas issued (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued in consulate countries)

Year	Country	Value
2019	China	96 818 (31.6 %)
2019	Russia	41 355 (13.5 %)
2019	India	34 287 (11.2 %)
2020	Russia	10 337 (24.7 %)
2020	China	4 909 (11.7 %)
2020	Thailand	3 941 (9.4 %)
2021	Russia	9 273 (23.5 %)
2021	Saudi Arabia	6 583 (16.7 %)
2021	Türkiye	3 712 (9.4 %)
2022	India	18 835 (15.0 %)
2022	Saudi Arabia	16 387 (13.1 %)
2022	Türkiye	10 189 (8.1 %)

Note: the consulate country might not be the same as the country of citizenship of the visa applicant.
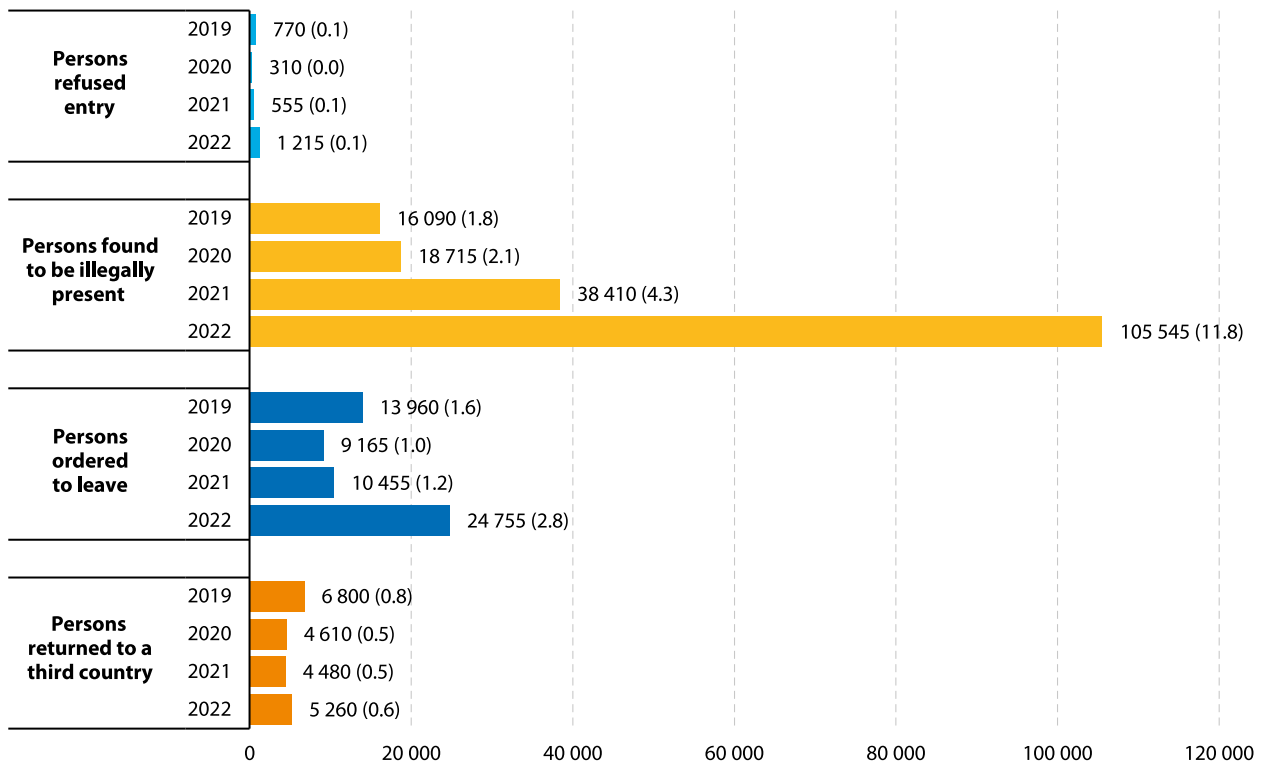*Source*: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

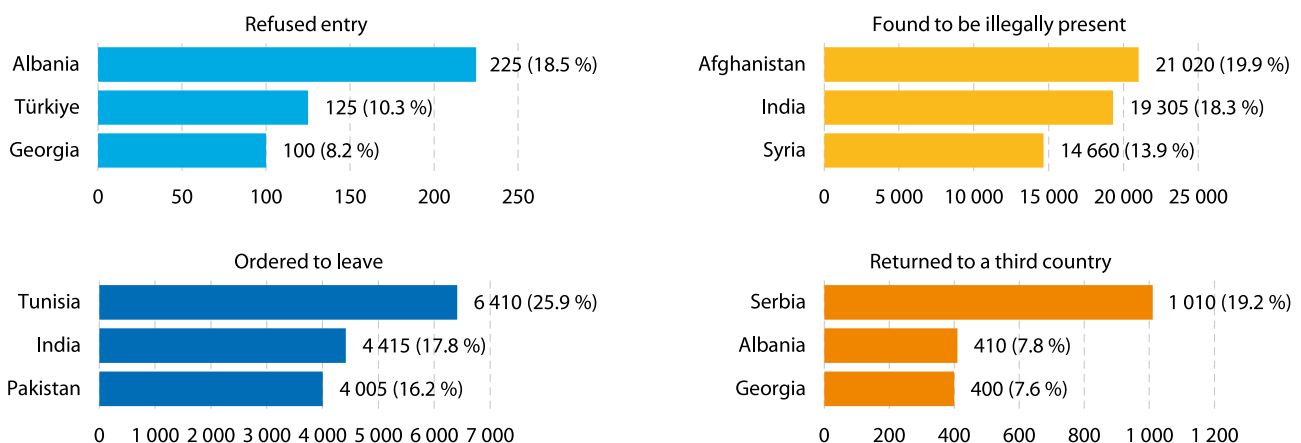**Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2019–2022**
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Persons refused entry	2019	770 (0.1)
	2020	310 (0.0)
	2021	555 (0.1)
	2022	1 215 (0.1)
Persons found to be illegally present	2019	16 090 (1.8)
	2020	18 715 (2.1)
	2021	38 410 (4.3)
	2022	105 545 (11.8)
Persons ordered to leave	2019	13 960 (1.6)
	2020	9 165 (1.0)
	2021	10 455 (1.2)
	2022	24 755 (2.8)
Persons returned to a third country	2019	6 800 (0.8)
	2020	4 610 (0.5)
	2021	4 480 (0.5)
	2022	5 260 (0.6)

Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn and migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2022
Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

Refused entry

Albania	225 (18.5 %)
Türkiye	125 (10.3 %)
Georgia	100 (8.2 %)

Found to be illegally present

Afghanistan	21 020 (19.9 %)
India	19 305 (18.3 %)
Syria	14 660 (13.9 %)

Ordered to leave

Tunisia	6 410 (25.9 %)
India	4 415 (17.8 %)
Pakistan	4 005 (16.2 %)

Returned to a third country

Serbia	1 010 (19.2 %)
Albania	410 (7.8 %)
Georgia	400 (7.6 %)

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

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

First residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2019–2021
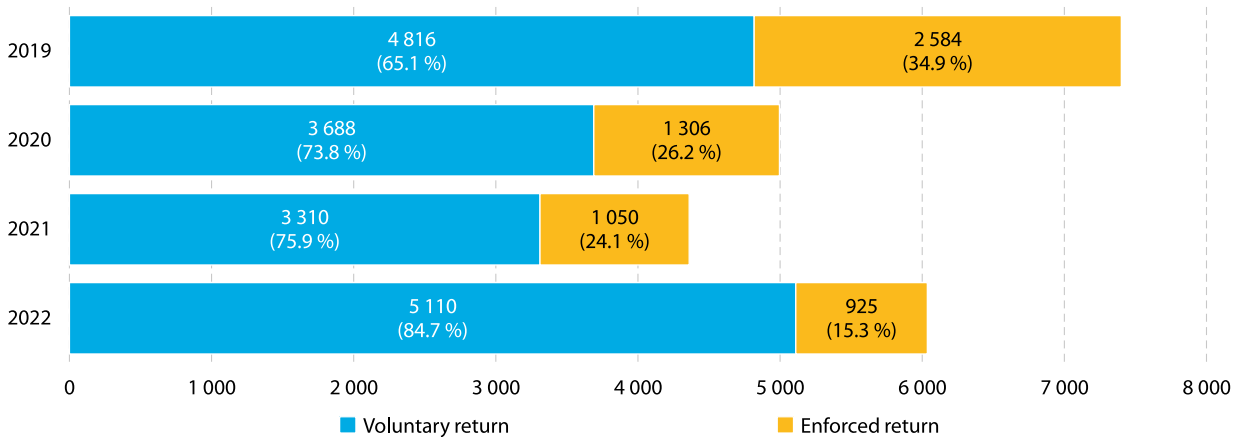Absolute number (and the share within the EU)

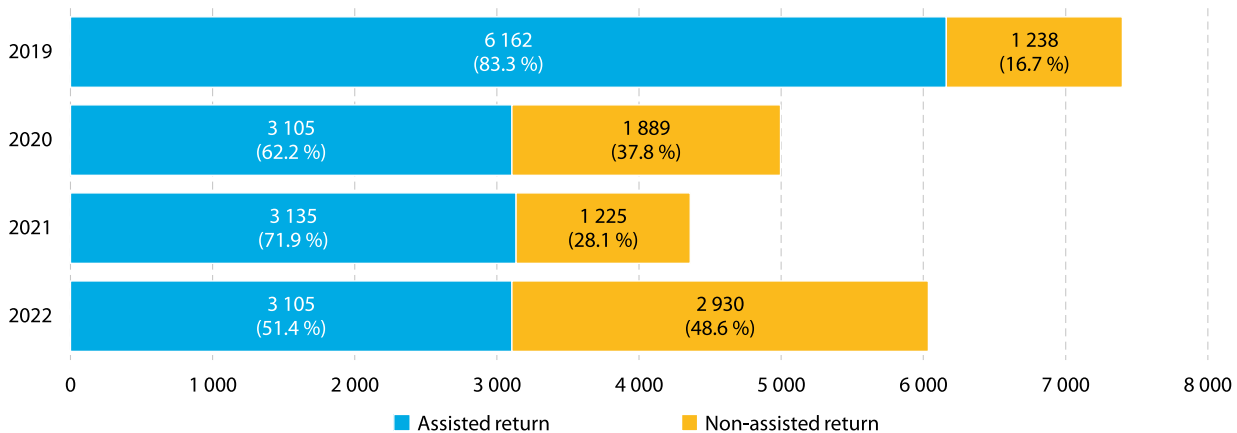|	
2019	None
2020	None
2021	None
0	

Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2019–2022
Absolute number (and the share within the total)

	Voluntary return	Enforced return
2019	4 816 (65.1 %)	2 584 (34.9 %)
2020	3 688 (73.8 %)	1 306 (26.2 %)
2021	3 310 (75.9 %)	1 050 (24.1 %)
2022	5 110 (84.7 %)	925 (15.3 %)

Note: data for 2019 and 2020 are from migr_eirt_vol. Data for 2021 and 2022 are from migr_eirtn1.
Source: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol and migr_eirtn1)

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2019–2022
Absolute number (and the share within the total)

	Assisted return	Non-assisted return
2019	6 162 (83.3 %)	1 238 (16.7 %)
2020	3 105 (62.2 %)	1 889 (37.8 %)
2021	3 135 (71.9 %)	1 225 (28.1 %)
2022	3 105 (51.4 %)	2 930 (48.6 %)

Note: data for 2019 and 2020 are from migr_eirt_ass. Data for 2021 and 2022 are from migr_eirtn1.
Source: Eurostat (migr_eirt_ass and migr_eirtn1)

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE EU

In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you online (european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en).

On the phone or in writing

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- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696,
- via the following form: european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us_en.

FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE EU

Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website (european-union.europa.eu).

EU publications

You can view or order EU publications at op.europa.eu/en/publications. Multiple copies of free publications can be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local documentation centre (european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en).

EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1951 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex (eur-lex.europa.eu).

EU open data

The portal data.europa.eu provides access to open datasets from the EU institutions, bodies and agencies. These can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The portal also provides access to a wealth of datasets from European countries.

For more information

EMN website: http://ec.europa.eu/emn
EMN LinkedIn page: https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-migration-network
EMN Twitter account: https://twitter.com/emnmigration
EMN YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@EMNMigration

EMN National Contact Points

Austria www.emn.at/en/

Belgium www.emnbelgium.be

Bulgaria www.emn-bg.com

Croatia https://emn.gov.hr/

Cyprus www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/emnncpc.nsf/home/home?opendocument

Czechia www.emncz.eu

Denmark www.justitsministeriet.dk/

Estonia www.emn.ee/

Finland https://emn.fi/en/

France www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europ-een-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europ-een-des-migrations-REM2

Germany https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/EMN/emn-node.html

Greece http://emn.immigration.gov.gr/en/

Hungary www.emnhungary.hu/en

Ireland www.emn.ie/

Italy www.emnitalyncp.it/

Latvia www.emn.lv/en/home/

Lithuania www.emn.lt/en/

Luxembourg https://emnluxembourg.uni.lu/

Malta https://emn.gov.mt/

The Netherlands https://www.emnnetherlands.nl/

Poland https://www.gov.pl/web/europejs-ka-siec-migracyjna

Portugal https://rem.sef.pt/

Romania https://www.mai.gov.ro/

Spain https://www.emnspain.gob.es

Slovak Republic https://emn.sk/en/

Slovenia https://emm.si/en/

Sweden http://www.emnsweden.se/

Norway https://www.udi.no/en/statis-tics-and-analysis/european-migration-net-work---norway

Georgia https://migration.commission.ge/index.php?article_id=1&clang=1

Republic of Moldova http://bma.gov.md/en

Ukraine https://dmsu.gov.ua/en-home.html

Montenegro https://www.gov.me/en/mup

Armenia https://migration.am/?lang=en

Serbia https://kirs.gov.rs/cir