

# THE NETHERLANDS

## EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET 2022

Main developments in migration  
and international protection,  
including latest statistics

August 2023



### OVERARCHING CHANGES

Following parliamentary elections in March 2021, the coalition agreement between the political parties forming the [next government](#) was presented on 15 December 2021. The 50-page agreement set out the main policy plans and priorities for the new government, including paragraphs on (civic) integration and migration.

On 9 March 2022, a [high level political-administrative crisis structure](#) was created to coordinate and decide – in consultation with public and private partners – all integral measures to deal with the influx of beneficiaries of temporary protection, as well as non-Ukrainian third-country nationals previously residing legally in Ukraine.



### LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

#### Work-related migration

On 1 January 2022, the [Dutch Aliens Employment Act](#) (Wet arbeid vreemdelingen, WAV) was modernised. The standard validity period of various work permits was extended from one to three years (unless the employment contract is shorter). This applies to migrants wanting to work in the Netherlands based on a combined residence and work permit (GVVA).

### KEY POINTS



Following the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive, the Dutch government issued measures to create a reception system for beneficiaries of temporary protection.



Municipalities are primarily responsible for execution of the new Civic Integration Act. Migrants affected by the new Act are required to participate in society as soon as possible, preferably through employment.



The high influx of asylum seekers and limited outflow of beneficiaries of international protection to regular housing created an urgent need for additional reception capacity for asylum seekers.

#### Family reunification

On 19 April 2022, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) announced [measures to shorten the waiting time for people applying for family reunification](#) with beneficiaries of international protection. To prevent long waiting times, the administrative practice in the country of origin is considered, lower requirements are set for evidence of a plausible biological family relationship, and certain additional investigations are limited.

On 26 August 2022, [a package of temporary measures](#) sought to alleviate pressure on the asylum reception and

housing system. Part of this package was a temporary measure suspending the issuance of visas for family reunification for a maximum of six months unless adequate accommodation can be found for the entire family within that time.

### Other measures

On 29 August 2022, the IND announced that from 1 October 2022 onwards, applications for a residence permit (except asylum) by Turkish citizens, including those falling under the EU-Turkey Association Agreement and their family members, will be denied if the person has not obtained the right visa, a provisional residence permit (MVV).



## TEMPORARY PROTECTION

### Main national developments in relation to temporary protection

On 8 March 2022, the Minister of Justice and Security and the Minister for Migration informed parliament that preparations were underway for swift and uniform registration of people arriving from Ukraine in the Municipal Personal Records Database (Basisregistratie Personen – BRP).

On 17 March 2022, the Minister for Migration informed parliament of the right to education for children under 18 benefiting from temporary protection. Where possible, children up to 12 years old would be placed in the existing specialised newcomer education system in the Netherlands. For children between 12 and 18 years old, an international transition class serves as a bridge into ordinary secondary education.

On 30 March 2022, the Minister for Migration informed parliament of the scope of application of the Temporary Protection Directive in the Netherlands.

On 30 March 2022, the process for issuing proof of residence to beneficiaries of temporary protection was set out. The process for issuing proof of the right to temporary protection was merged with the asylum procedure as part of the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive. Beneficiaries of temporary protection were thus formally required to submit an application for asylum.

On 30 March 2022, the Minister for Migration announced that from 1 April 2022, beneficiaries of the Temporary Protection Directive would be retroactively exempted (up until 4 March 2022) from requiring a work permit to enter paid employment.

On 30 March 2022, the Minister for Migration announced that all third-country nationals who resided legally in Ukraine, regardless of their nationality and whether they fall under the Temporary Protection Directive, qualify for basic departure and reintegration assistance to their country of origin in cases of voluntary departure.

On 1 April 2022, the Reception of Displaced Persons from Ukraine Regulation (ROOO) came into effect, regulating

the reception of refugees from Ukraine by mayors (and their municipalities). The scheme regulates the monthly financial allowance (food and living) that refugees from Ukraine receive to meet their living needs.

In June 2022, a new process was implemented for the registration of unaccompanied minors from Ukraine, driven in part by concerns that they were at risk of exploitation and trafficking in human beings.

On 24 June 2022, the Ministry of Justice and Security and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports jointly established the Medical Care Scheme for Displaced Persons from Ukraine (RMO), covering all healthcare needs of beneficiaries of temporary protection who registered at a municipality in the Netherlands between 1 August 2022 and 1 March 2023.

On 18 July 2022, the Minister for Migration informed parliament that third-country nationals who held a temporary residence permit in Ukraine on 23 February 2022 would be excluded from temporary protection if they were not registered in the BRP by 19 July 2022. Registering in the BRP extended their temporary protection status to 4 March 2023.

On 19 July 2022, the residence document (document O) and sticker were introduced for third-country nationals deriving their right to residence from temporary protection.

On 4 November 2022, the Minister for Migration introduced financial return assistance for non-Ukrainian third-country nationals who resided legally in Ukraine, who meet all the requirements, and who apply for return between 15 November 2022 and 1 February 2023.

### Main measures taken outside of the legal framework of the Temporary Protection Directive

On 25 February 2022, the IND announced it would apply leniency to Ukrainians applying for a residence permit. This applied, for example, to those who were not able to pick up their MVV in Ukraine, who had overstayed their short-stay visa, or who could not provide all documents required for a residence permit.



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

### Relocation and resettlement <sup>1</sup>

The Netherlands pledged to resettle 1 915 refugees in 2022 under the EU 2021–2022 resettlement programme (915 in the framework of the national quota and 1 000 in the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement).<sup>2</sup> On 26 August 2022, the Minister for Migration announced the temporary halt of resettlement selection missions in the framework of the EU-Turkey Statement.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Includes Humanitarian Admission Programmes

<sup>2</sup> Information provided by the Ministry of Justice and Security on 31 January 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Parliamentary Papers II, 2022, 19637, no. 2908.



## MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

### Minors

On 4 November 2022, the Minister for Migration announced that unaccompanied minors residing in designated reception locations during their asylum procedure (procesopvang locatie amv – POA) would be transferred to regular spots in reception centres three months before turning 18 (i.e. aged 17 years and nine months).<sup>4</sup> Those who are at least 17 years and nine months old when they arrive in the Netherlands are also placed in regular reception centres. This is a temporary measure (1 February 2022 to 1 March 2023) to free-up more specialised reception places for younger and particularly vulnerable minors.<sup>5</sup>

### Other vulnerable groups

On 31 March 2022, the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines were changed. If the identity of the applicant was deemed trustworthy in a previous procedure, the IND must take into account the information provided by the applicant on accessibility to necessary medical care, even if there are no original identification documents.<sup>6</sup>

On 23 September 2022, the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines were altered to clarify acceptable proofs when substantiating claims that care is not accessible in the country of origin.<sup>7</sup>



## INTEGRATION

### National integration strategy

The [amended Civic Integration Act](#) came into effect on 1 January 2022. Municipalities are primarily responsible for its execution, unlike the previous version of the Act, which was deemed to overemphasise migrants' own responsibility to civically integrate. Under the new Act, migrants are required to participate in society as soon as possible, preferably through employment.

### Education and training of adults/ labour market and skills

The [amended Civic Integration Act](#) raised the expected language level for migrants from level A2 to B1, including for Turkish nationals, who were previously exempt from the language requirement. For third-country nationals obliged to participate in civic integration there are three learning pathways to meet the obligation. The pathway aims to facilitate self-reliance and participation in Dutch society.



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

### Border management

On 14 December 2022, the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State (Afdeling bestuursrechtspraak van de Raad van State, AbRvS) ruled that the IND can no longer impose an entry ban on a third-country national with a right of residence in another EU Member State. The Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines will be adjusted accordingly.<sup>8</sup>

### Visa policy

From 1 December 2022, Turkish nationals require an Airport Transit Visa (ATV) for a transfer at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam.<sup>9</sup>



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

### Preventing and tackling irregular migration in legal migration channels

On 10 October 2022, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the Minister for Migration stated that there is increased awareness of (the potential for) misuse of residence permits for the purpose of studying in the Netherlands.<sup>10</sup> The revised Code of Conduct for International Student Higher Education (Gedragscode Internationale Student Hoger Onderwijs) became effective on 1 October 2022, clarifying the requirements for higher education institutions to cooperate with third parties in recruiting international students.

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

On 28 November 2022, a [legislative proposal](#) was issued for consultation at the Council of State (Raad van State, RvS) to broaden the extraterritorial jurisdiction on migrant smuggling, such that anyone who is guilty of migrant smuggling can be prosecuted before a Dutch court. It also proposes increasing the maximum sentences for migrant smuggling (Article 197a, paragraphs 1 to 6 of the Dutch Criminal Code).

4 There are three categories of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) who are excluded from this measure: 1) UAMs who will shortly be transferred to Nidos, the national guardianship institution for unaccompanied and separated children in the Netherlands, (this applies to UAMs who have received a residence permit), 2) who have medical appointments or appointments related to their asylum procedure, or 3) who have an extra vulnerability.

5 Parliamentary Papers II, 2022-2023, 19637, no. 195.

6 Government Gazette (Staatscourant), 2022, no. 8628.

7 Government Gazette (Staatscourant), 2022, no. 25406.

8 This information was provided by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) on 17 January 2023.

9 Information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17 January 2023.

10 Letter from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science of 10 October 2022, 2022Z16234.



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### National strategic policy developments

On 7 February 2022, the Minister for Migration announced that the national government will invest € 2 million in the national programme 'Together against Trafficking in Human Beings' (Samen tegen mensenhandel), from 2023 onwards. The programme details are being discussed by the Ministry of Justice and Security and the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sports, together with other stakeholders.

### Identification and information to victims of trafficking in human beings

In 2022, the European Multidisciplinary Programme Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) began two new programmes (8.6 and 8.7). The Netherlands participates in the new EMPACT programme South-Eastern partnership on trafficking in human beings (8.7), jointly led by France and Spain.



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### Main national developments

On 20 May 2022, the government decided that the Repatriation and Departure Service (Dienst Terugkeer & Vertrek, DT&V) **no longer needs to investigate access to healthcare in the country of return** (Toegankelijkheidsonderzoek) in asylum cases if the IND accepts the returnee's claim that the necessary access is not available. However, the third-country national must prove that the required medical treatment will not be available on their return.



## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### National actions

The Netherlands announced a revised **Strategy for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (BHOS)** based on the coalition agreement 2021-2025. The goals of the new BHOS seek to address the root causes of irregular migration, promote voluntary return, reduce irregular migration, counter radicalisation, and increase the reception of refugees.



## STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for The Netherlands 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](#).

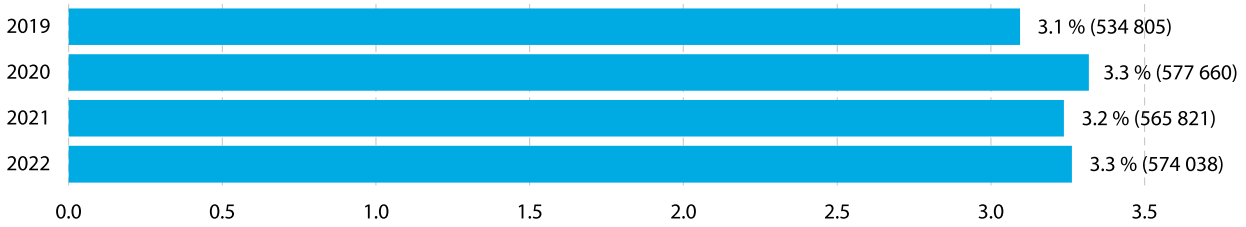
An online data code available under each table/figure can be used to directly access to the most recent data on [Eurostat's website](#).



## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

### Third-country nationals, 1 January 2019–2022

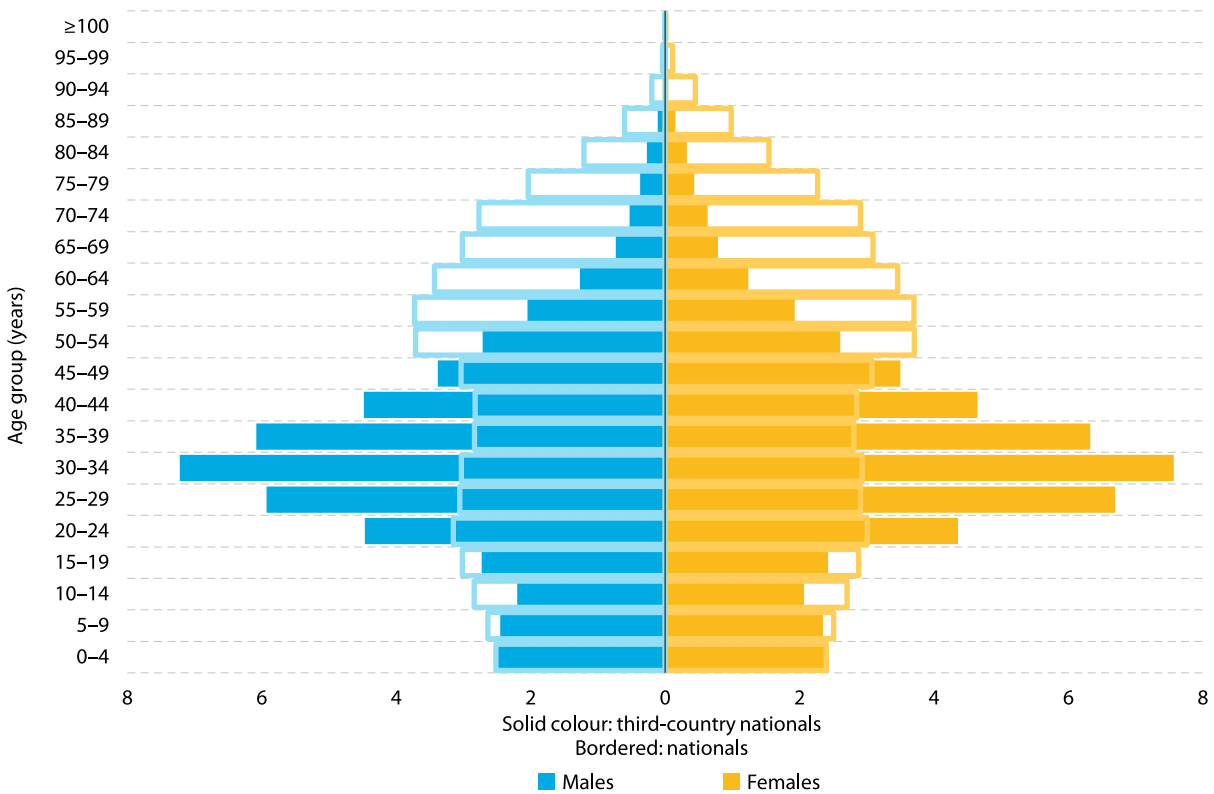
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

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

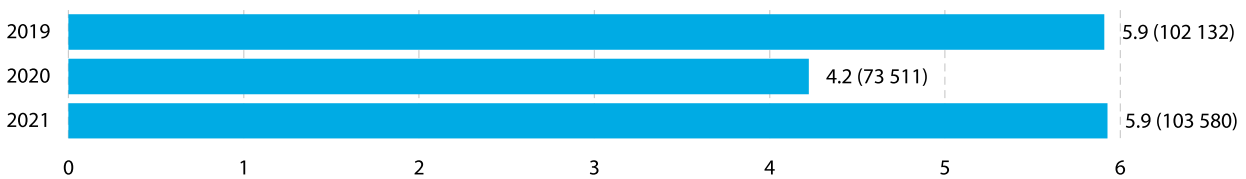
%



Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

### First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2019–2021

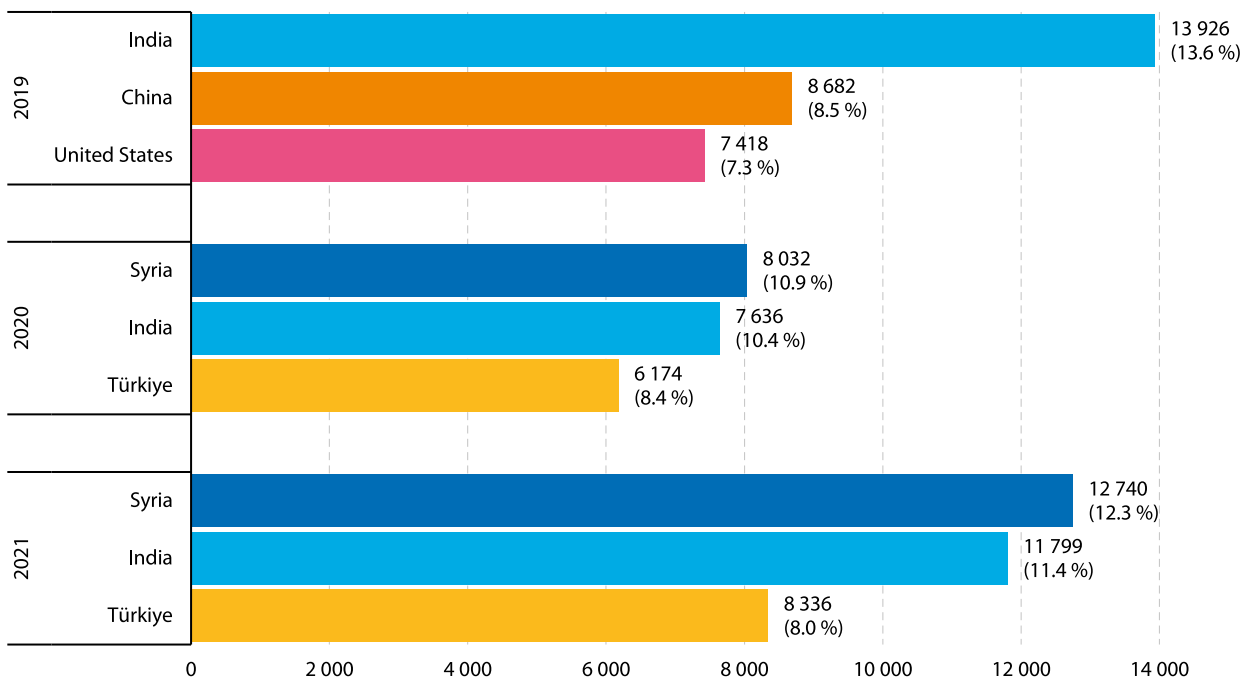
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



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)

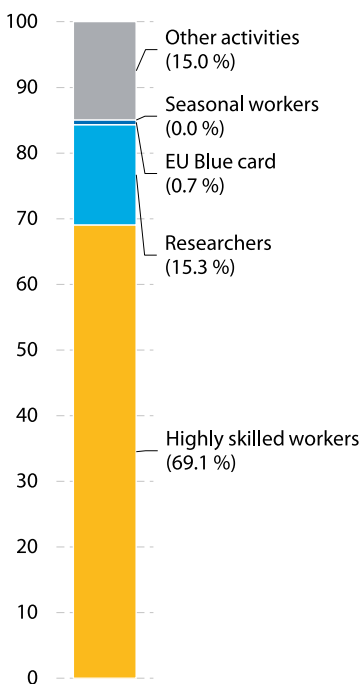


Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)

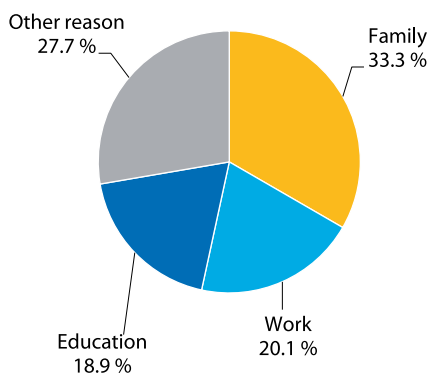
### First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2021

%

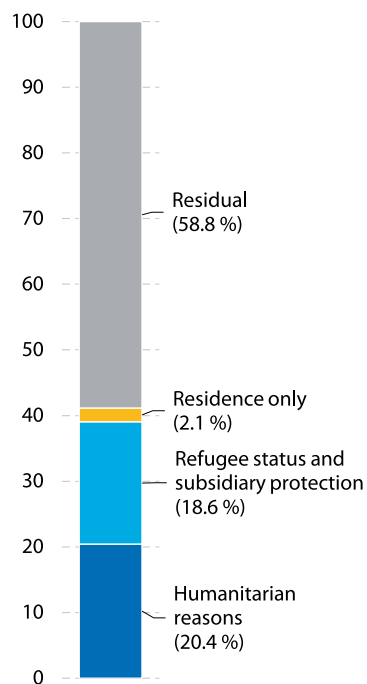
#### Work reason, by type



#### All permits, by reason



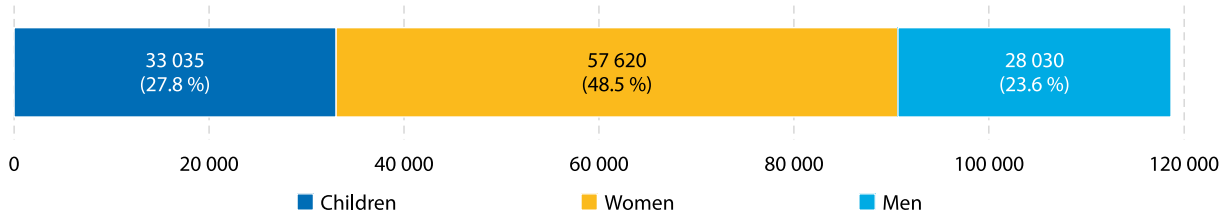
#### Other reason, by detailed reason



Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst, migr\_resoccc and migr\_resoth)

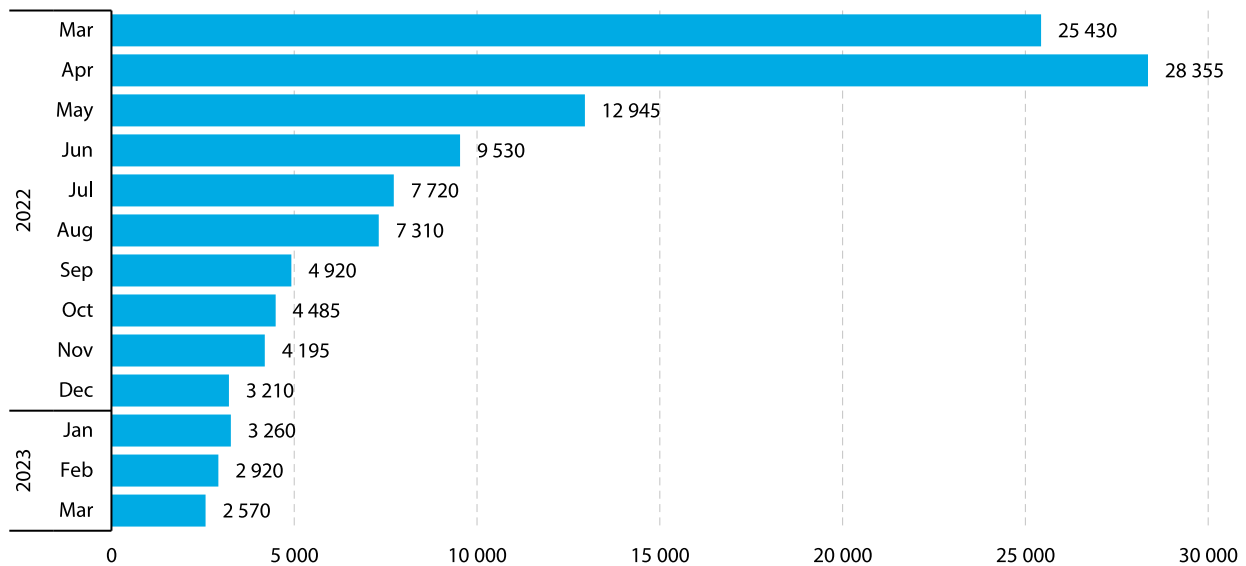
## TEMPORARY PROTECTION

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)



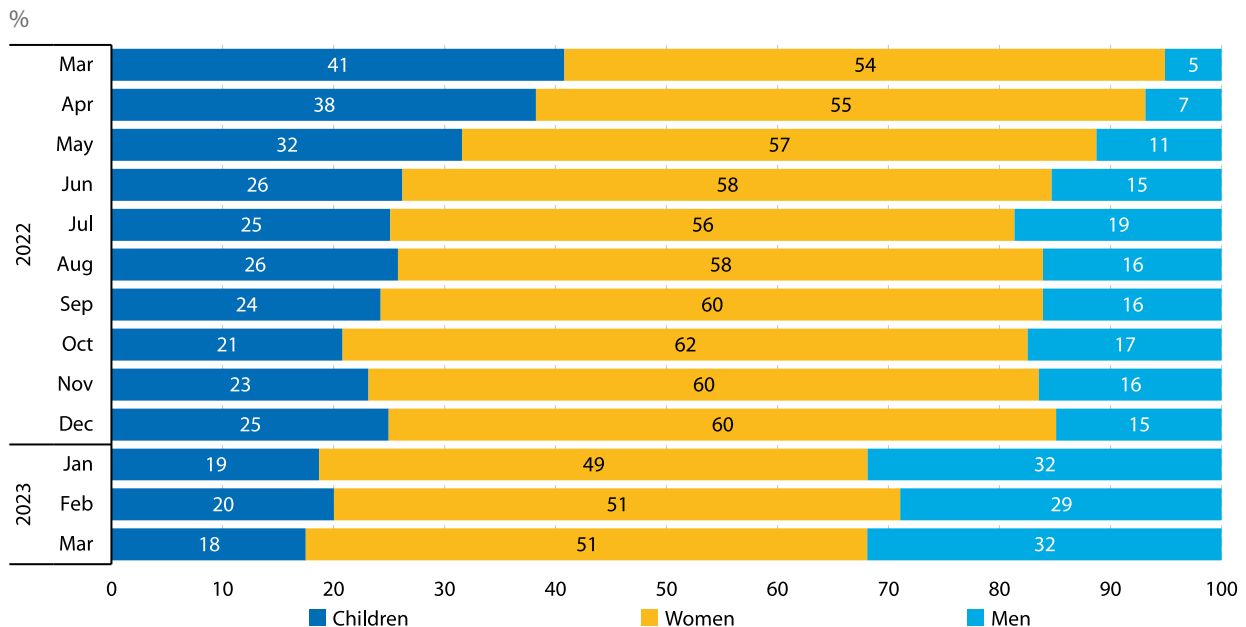
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpsm)

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



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



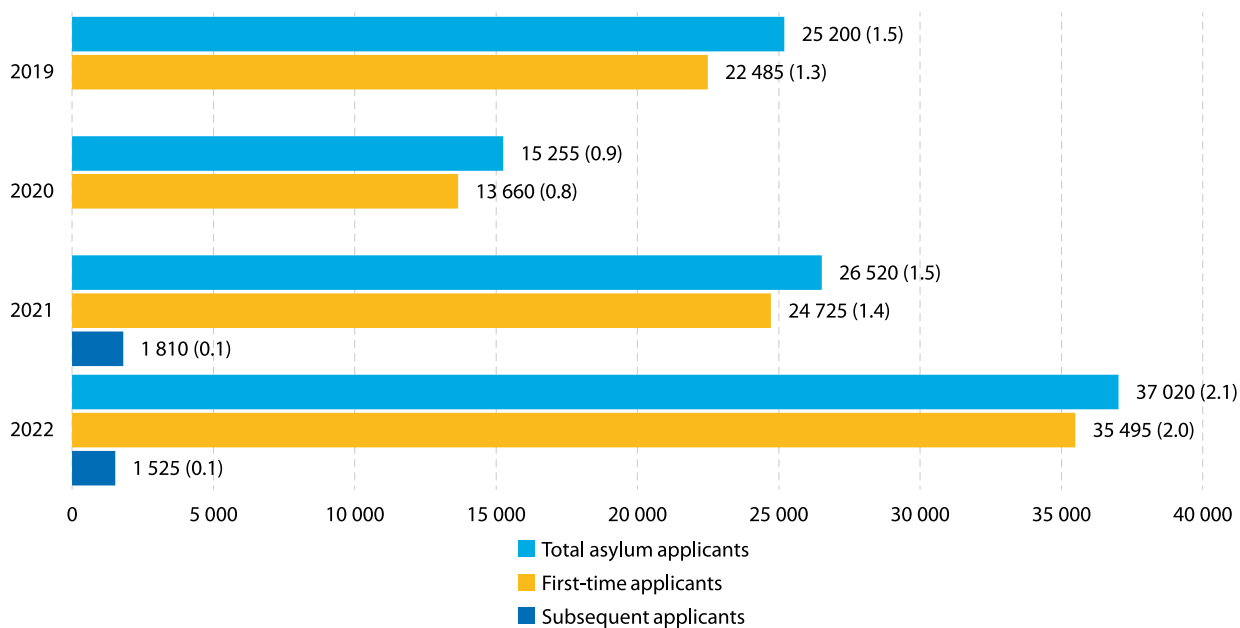
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpfm)



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

### Asylum applicants (third-country nationals), by type of application, 2019–2022

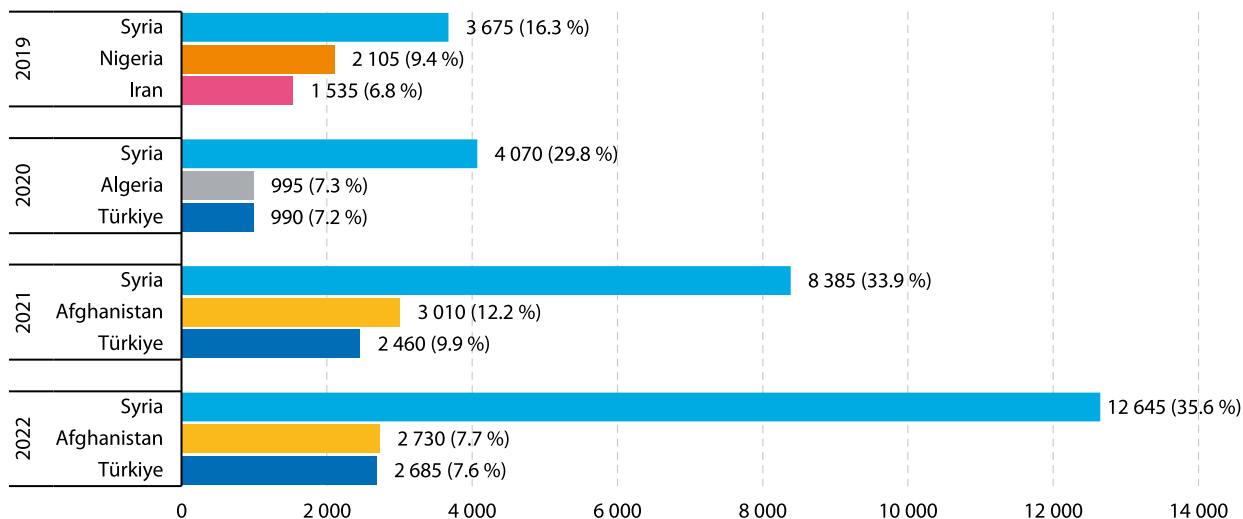
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza and migr\_pop1ctz)

### Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2019–2022

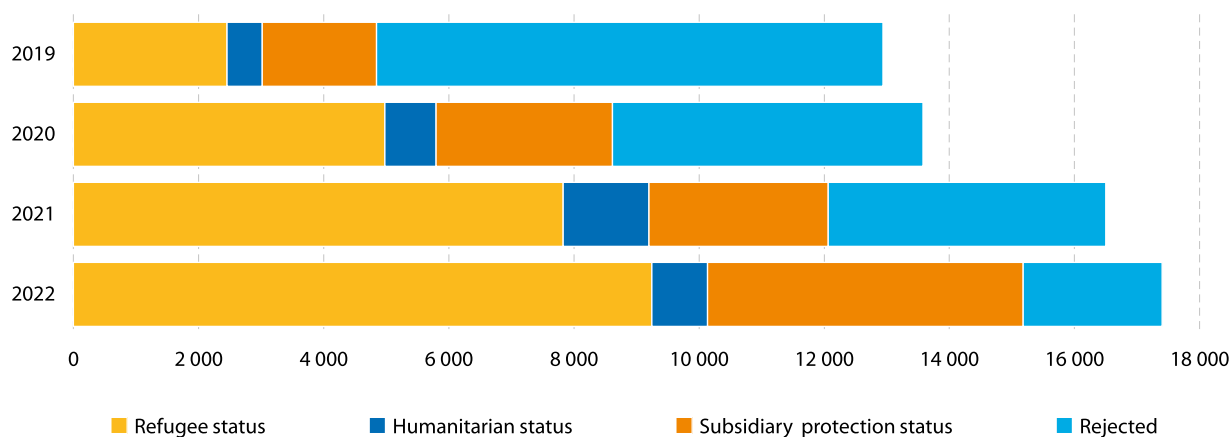
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza)



### Number of first instance asylum decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022



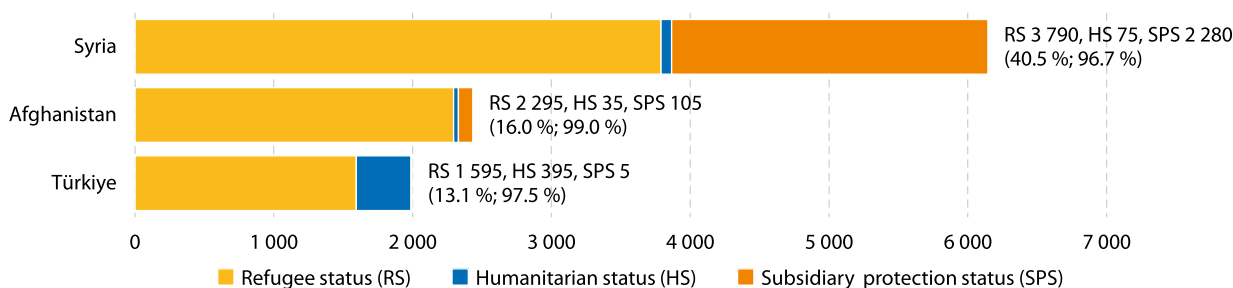
	Refugee status		Humanitarian status		Subsidiary protection status		Rejected	
	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)
<b>2019</b>	2 455	19.0	560	4.3	1 830	14.1	8 095	62.6
<b>2020</b>	4 975	36.6	820	6.0	2 820	20.8	4 965	36.6
<b>2021</b>	7 825	47.4	1 375	8.3	2 865	17.4	4 435	26.9
<b>2022</b>	9 245	53.1	890	5.1	5 045	29.0	2 220	12.8

Note: the shares are calculated using the sum of the four outcomes as the denominator.

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asydcfst](#))

### Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, by outcome, 2022

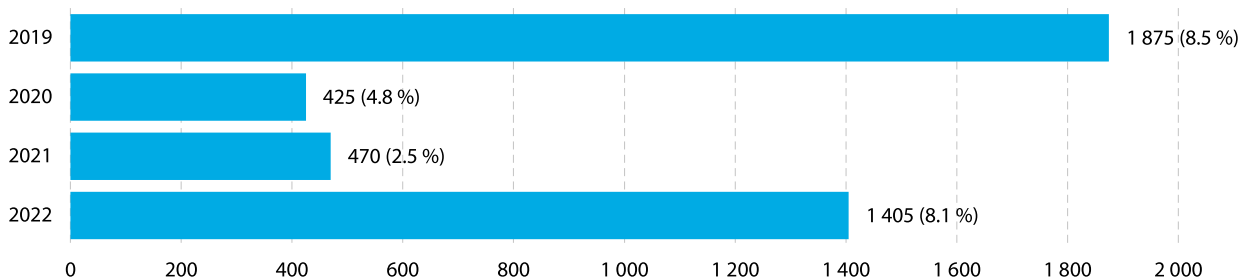
Absolute number (and share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asydcfst](#))

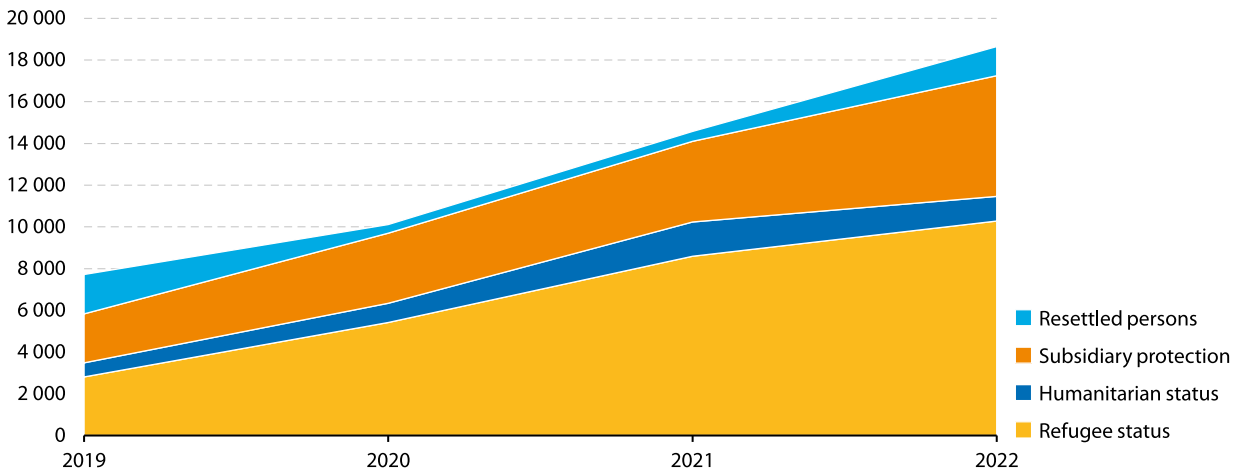
### Resettled third-country nationals, 2019–2022

Absolute number (and the share of the total resettled within the EU)



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyresa](#))

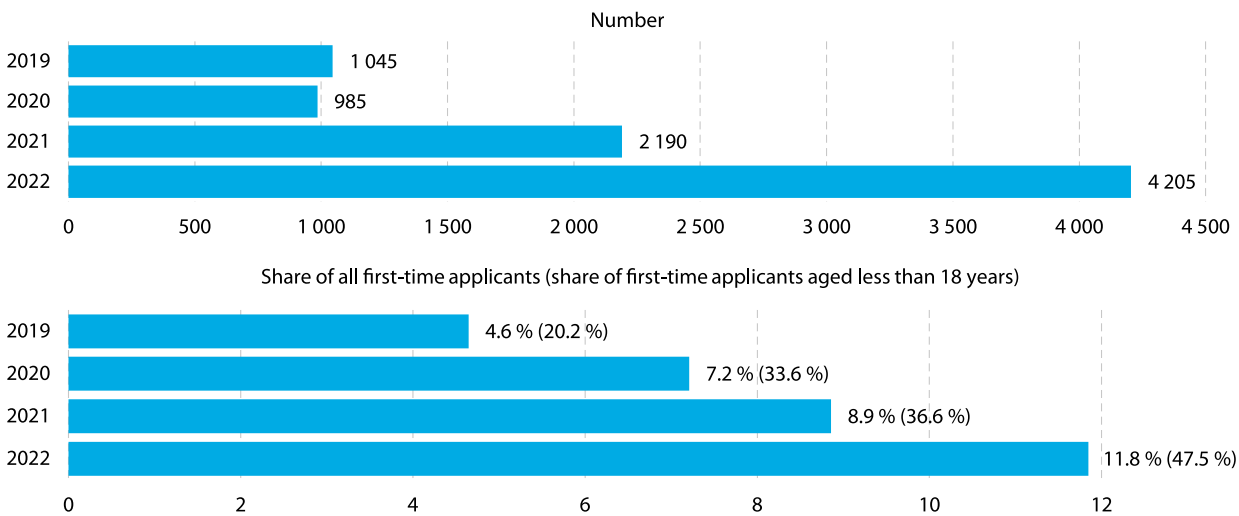
### Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022



Source: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta, migr\_asydcfina and migr\_asyresa)

## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

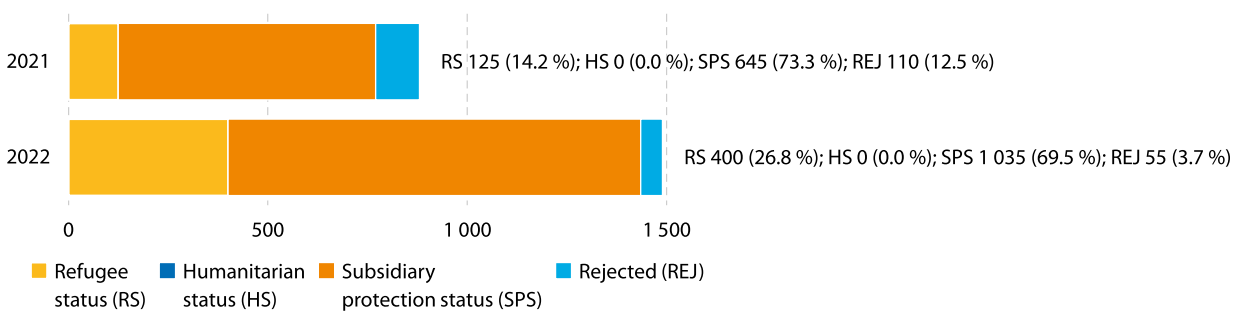
### Unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals) applying for asylum, 2019–2022



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)



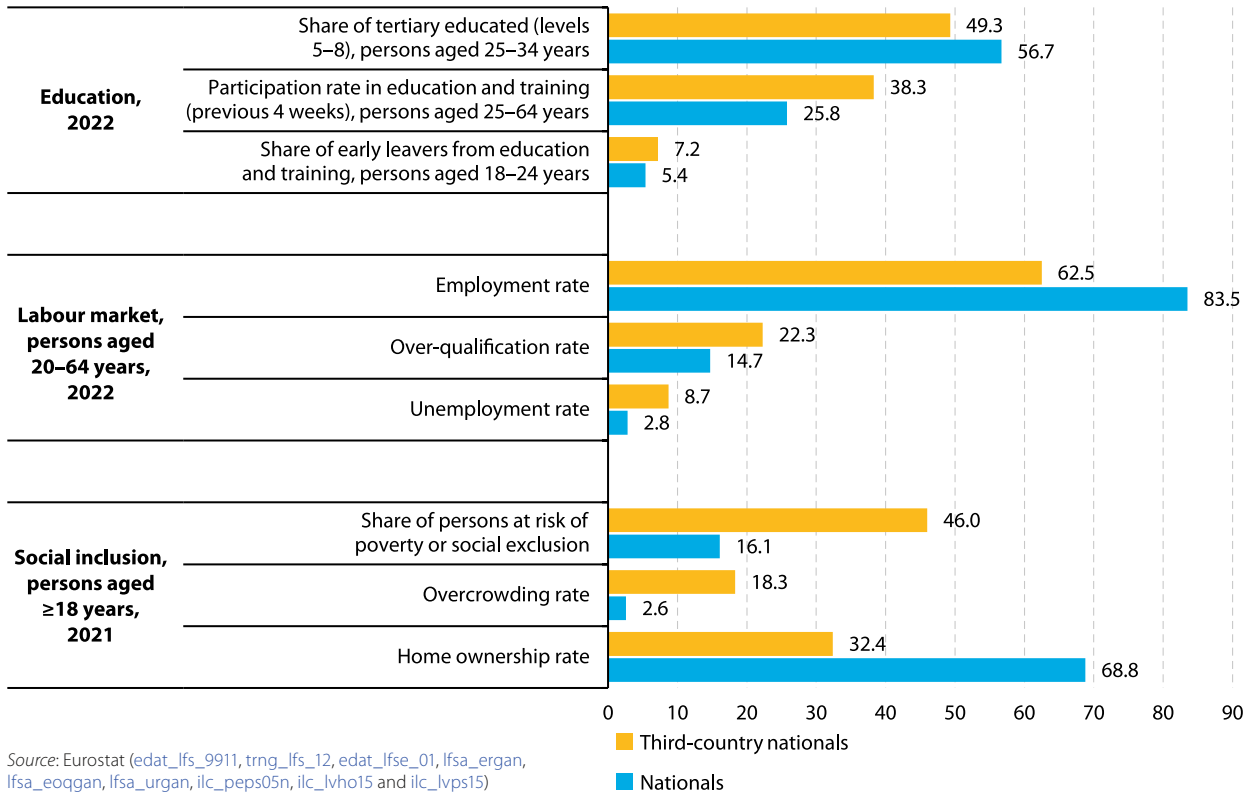
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyumdcfq)



## INTEGRATION

### Integration indicators, 2021 or 2022

%



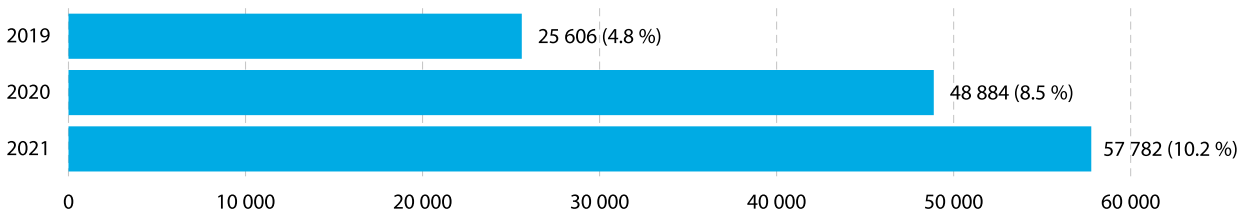
Source: Eurostat (edat\_lfs\_9911, trng\_lfs\_12, edat\_lfse\_01, lfsa\_ergan, lfsa\_eoqgan, lfsa\_urgan, ilc\_peps05n, ilc\_lvho15 and ilc\_lvps15)



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2019–2021

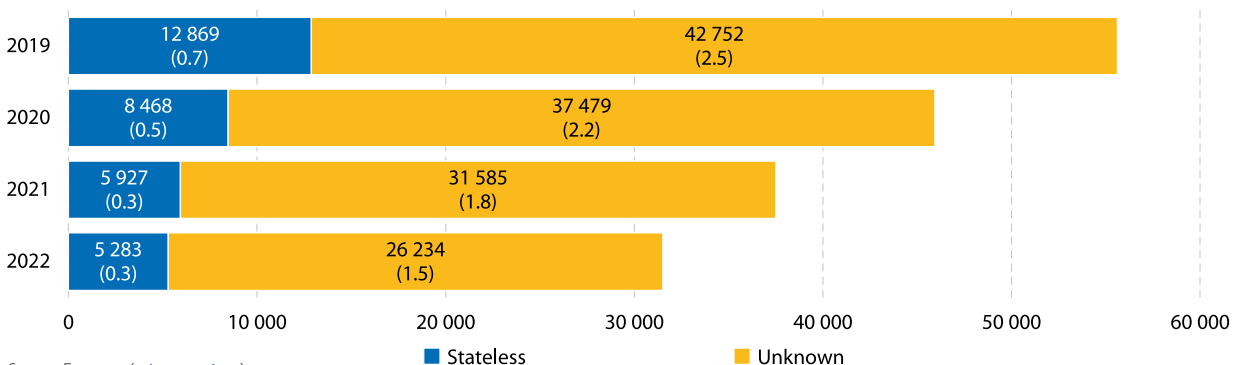
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr\_acq and migr\_pop1ctz)

### Stateless persons, persons with unknown citizenship and recognised non-citizens, 2019–2022

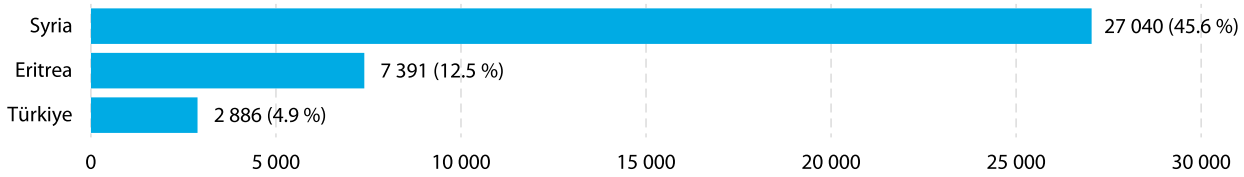
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

**Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2021**

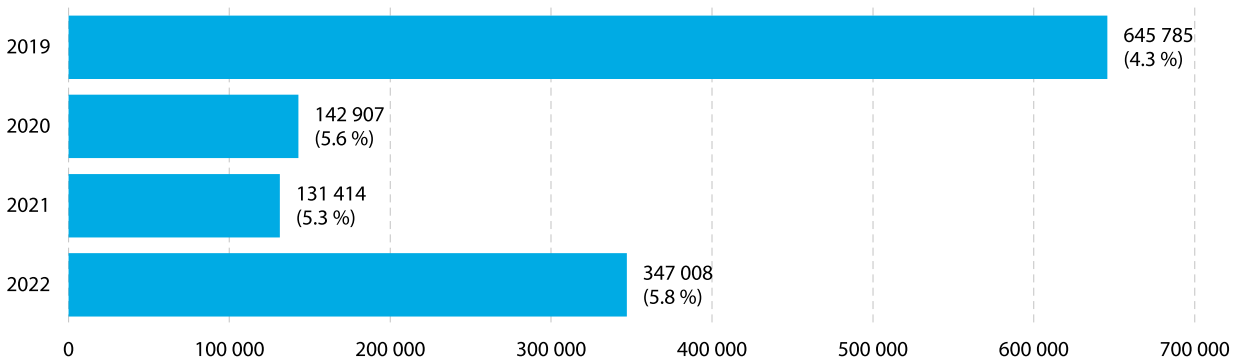
Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals plus stateless)



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)

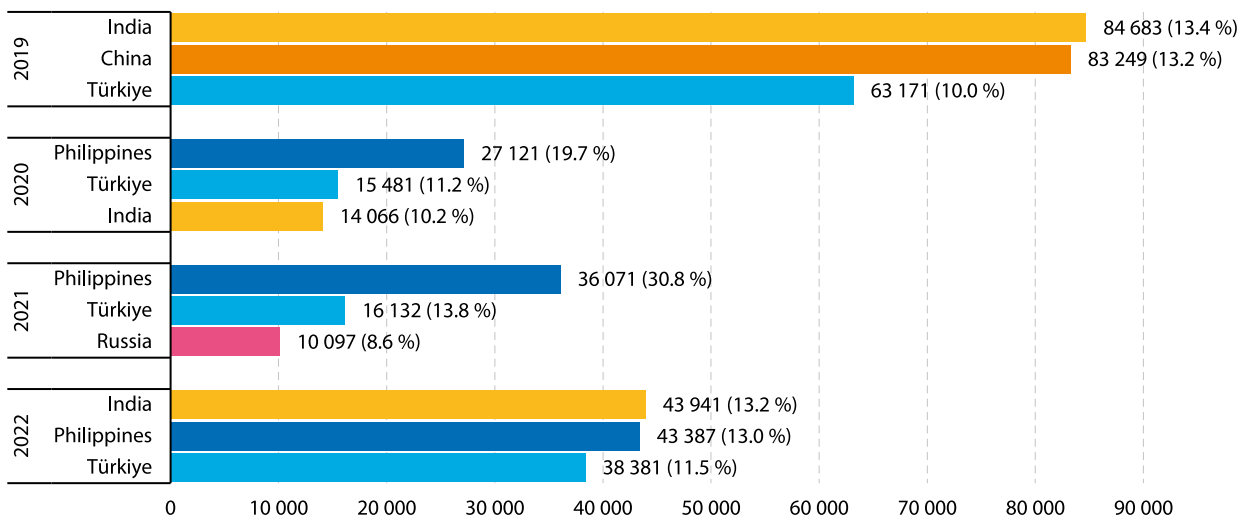


Note: Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania were not part of the Schengen Area. Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple 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)



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

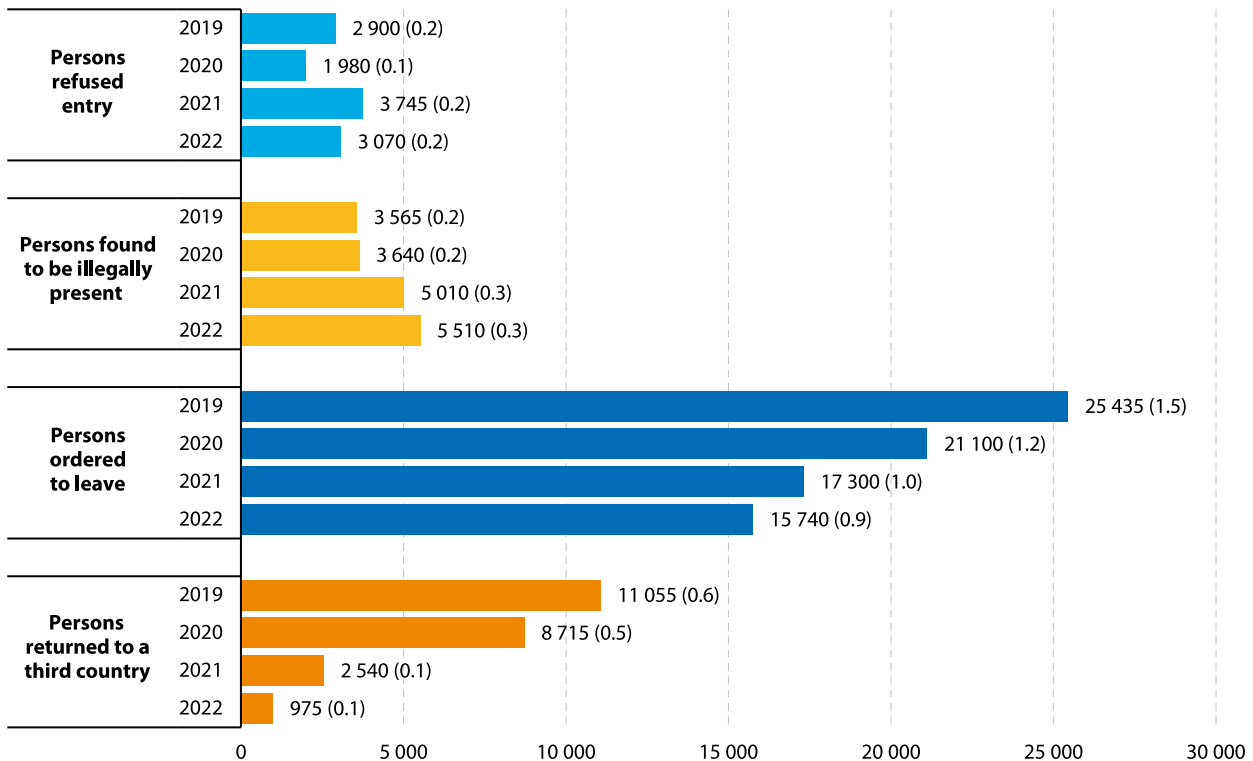
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2019–2022

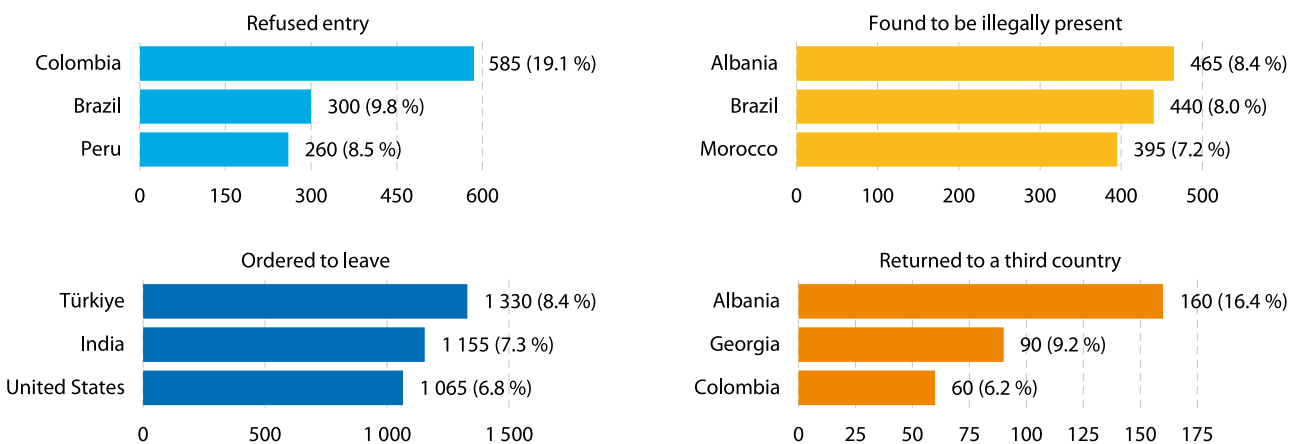
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)



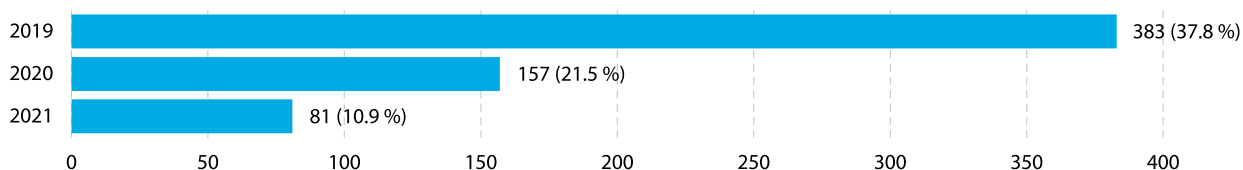
Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord and migr\_eirtn)



## 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)



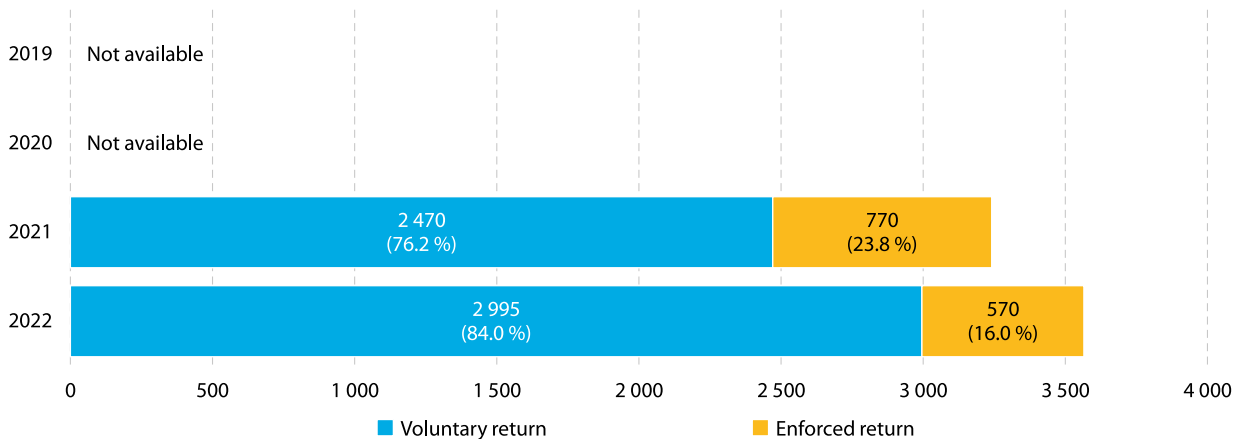
Source: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2019–2022

Absolute number (and the share within the total)

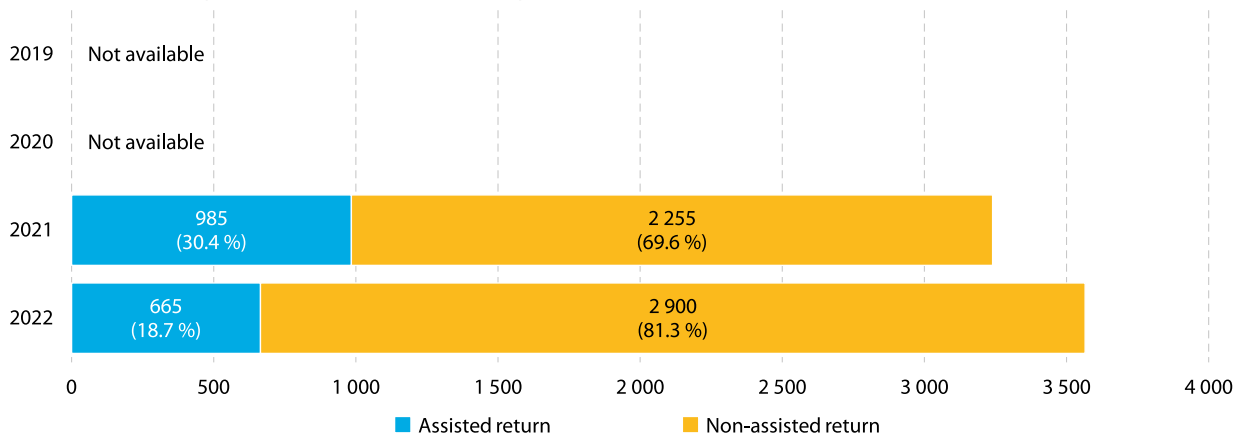


Note: data for 2019 and 2020 are from migr\_eirt\_vol. Data for 2021 and 2022 are from migr\_eirtn1.

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)



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)

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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](https://eur-lex.europa.eu)).

### EU open data

The portal [data.europa.eu](https://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/](http://www.emn.at/en/)

Belgium [www.emnbelgium.be](http://www.emnbelgium.be)

Bulgaria [www.emn-bg.com](http://www.emn-bg.com)

Croatia <https://emn.gov.hr/>

Cyprus [www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/emnncpc.nsf/home/home?opendocument](http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/emnncpc.nsf/home/home?opendocument)

Czechia [www.emncz.eu](http://www.emncz.eu)

Denmark [www.justitsministeriet.dk](http://www.justitsministeriet.dk)

Estonia [www.emn.ee/](http://www.emn.ee/)

Finland <https://emn.fi/en/>

France [www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM2](http://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europeen-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](http://www.emnhungary.hu/en)

Ireland [www.emn.ie/](http://www.emn.ie/)

Italy [www.emnitalyncp.it/](http://www.emnitalyncp.it/)

Latvia [www.emn.lv/en/home/](http://www.emn.lv/en/home/)

Lithuania [www.emn.lt/en/](http://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/europejska-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/statistics-and-analysis/european-migration-network---norway>

Georgia [https://migration.commission.ge/index.php?article\\_id=1&clang=1](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>