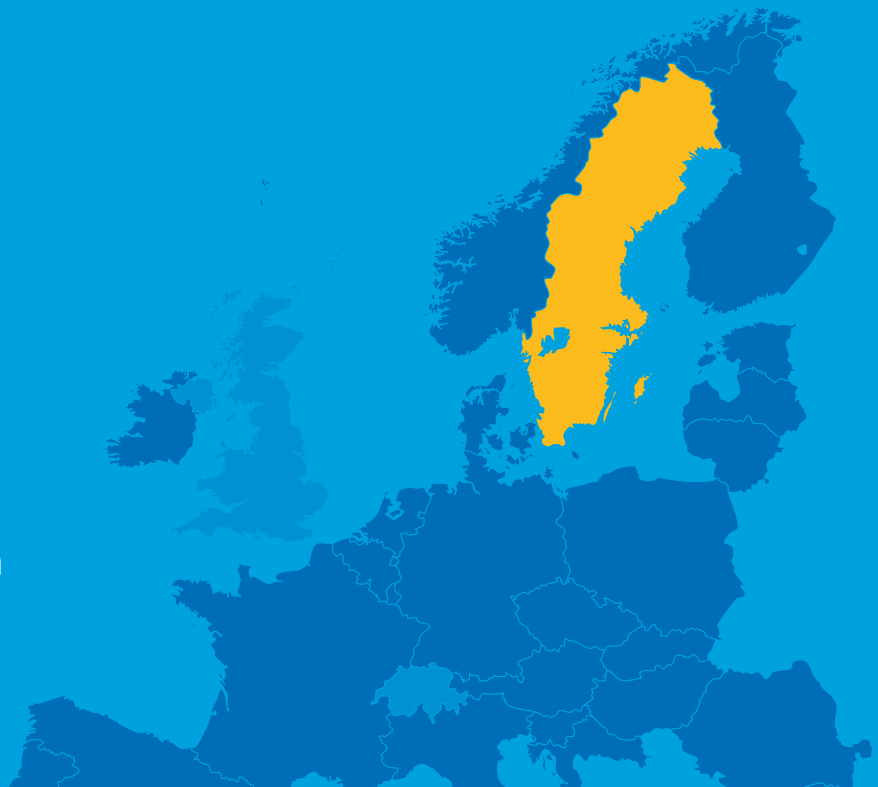


SWEDEN

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET 2022

Main developments in migration
and international protection,
including latest statistics

August 2023



OVERARCHING CHANGES

A new government took office on 18 October 2022. It consists of the Moderate Party, the Christian Democrats, and the Liberal Party, with support from the Sweden Democrats. The parties' written agreement (Tidöavtalet) addressed migration and integration, among other key issues, seeking to adjust the Swedish migration to the minimum level under EU law.

Some of the planned reforms within the framework of the agreement include:

- Time-limited permits as a general rule;
- Stricter conditions for family reunification;
- Limited right to a publicly funded interpreter;
- Transit centre where applicants stay throughout the asylum process;
- Stricter requirements for Swedish citizenship;
- Increased opportunities to withdraw residence permits;
- Expulsion of criminals who do not have Swedish citizenship;
- Further incentives for voluntary returns.

The government set out its intention to shift the politics of integration towards being requirement-based. Someone who stays in Sweden for a long-term shall themselves be responsible for becoming part of Swedish society.

KEY POINTS



In 2022, the European Union (EU) Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) was activated in Sweden for people who fled the war in Ukraine. A number of new laws and policies were put in place to manage the process of TPD and those who applied for temporary protection.



A new government took office in 2022, consisting of the Moderate Party, the Christian Democrats and the Liberal Party, support by the Sweden Democrats. The written agreement (Tidöavtalet) between the parties addressed migration and integration, seeking to adjust Swedish migration to the minimum level under EU law.



The new government intends to reduce the number of refugees to be resettled each year, from 5 000 to 900. The Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) was tasked with preparing to move to that lower level of resettlement.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Overarching legal or policy changes in legal migration

In October 2022, the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) took a strategic decision to cooperate long-term with the National Government Service Centre. The aim is to provide the Swedish Migration Agency with geographical accessibility and services and to increase flexibility when addressing the changes in the number of applicants. This means that there will be more service offices helping the Swedish Migration Agency with several services for applicants.

Work-related migration

On 1 June 2022, [new rules for labour immigration](#) came into force. These introduced the requirement for an employment contract and obliged employers to report any deterioration in the terms of employment. The purpose of the changes is to counteract the exploitation of workers and to attract and retain international competence.

On 1 September 2022, a [Government Bill](#) for increased maintenance requirements for labour migration was submitted. The proposal aimed to strengthen the position of labour migrants and to counteract the unfair competition of low wages, with the current regulatory framework believed to facilitate corrupt employers in employing cheap labour and engaging in wage dumping and worker exploitation.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Sweden has transposed the Temporary Protection Directive mainly under Chapter 21 of the Swedish Aliens Act. This legal provision sets out who is entitled to a residence permit for temporary protection and for how long. Although the procedural aspects are not set out in the Aliens Act the Swedish Migration Agency has issued a legal guideline regarding temporary protection for people from Ukraine and related aspects as well as internal guidelines on how to handle applications for residence permits for temporary protection.

On 28 December 2022, a [legal position paper](#) (RS/003/2022) was adopted by the Swedish Migration Agency on the Temporary Protection Directive, based on which, residence and work permits granted according to Directive 2001/55/EC must be valid until 4 March 2024.

Due to the altered security situation in the country, the Swedish Migration Agency has decided to suspend the enforcement of decisions regarding applicants from Ukraine, consequently, no refusal of entry or deportation decisions will be enforced with regard to people from Ukraine.

A [new Article](#) was introduced in the Swedish Aliens Ordinance for including persons who left Ukraine prior to the invasion to the provisions of temporary protection in Sweden. This applies to those who travelled and stayed

in Sweden between 30 October 2021 and 23 February 2022.

In the beginning of April, [an electronic service](#) was launched where Ukrainian citizens can register themselves. The e-service can only be used for Ukrainian citizens living in Sweden.

The Government gave the Swedish Public Employment Services and the SMA the assignment to increased [information to Ukrainians regarding opportunities for Ukrainians to get an employment](#) in Sweden. Future changes has taken place in 2023.

On 1 July 2022, [a new law](#) was introduced requiring municipalities to take over the management of housing for people under the Temporary Protection Directive.

The invasion of Ukraine forced a large number of people to seek refuge in Sweden which led to a great need for humanitarian action by the civil society organisations (e.g coordination and support of various types of voluntary efforts in the reception of people in need of protection). To this end, the Swedish state reinforced the civil society with SEK 100 million.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Legislative and policy developments related to international protection

Sweden applies EU rules on so-called 'safe countries of origin'. In order to be assessed as a safe country of origin, several criteria need to be met. This list is held by the Swedish Migration Agency and was updated in June 2022. Ukrainian was excluded from the list to clarify that asylum cases with Ukrainian nationality is not possible to return.

During the year several developments in relation to operational aspects have taken place when it comes to digitalization of different internal processes in the Swedish Migration Agency.

Relocation and resettlement ¹

A pledge was made in 2022 to resettle 900 refugees in 2023 and 2024. This figure is considerably lower than the commitment to resettle 5 000 refugees in 2022.



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Minors

The Swedish government asked the National Board of Health and Welfare, the Swedish Migration Agency and the Swedish Police Agency to carry out a joint three-year development project on the issue of unaccompanied children who disappear.

¹ Includes Humanitarian Admission Programmes

The National Board of Forensic Medicine carries out medical age assessments in asylum cases. The method used for those medical age assessments was updated in 2022. The update provided a more detailed and transparent description of the margin of error, factors affecting the statistical model, and steps to minimise the risks.

INTEGRATION

National integration strategy

On November 2022, [a number of measures were presented in the Budget Bill](#) for 2023 for improved integration. Some of the measures that are planned to ensure that residents, in poorer areas, are included in the Swedish society are: investments in the sport sector, promotion of health, prevention of work among children and young people, increased opportunities for women and girls, measures against honour crimes and repression.

Education and training of adults/ labour market and skills

The Swedish Government tasked the Swedish Public Employment Service to increase the entry of foreign-born woman into the labour market. The later authority together with the Swedish Gender Equality Agency, the Swedish Migration Agency and a number of other authorities commissioned to present a plan on how to break-up segregation and to enhance gender equality. [Regeringen.se](https://www.regeringen.se).

In 2022, the Swedish Government granted OECD with 90 000 euros for a [study about foreign-born woman's parenthood and how can affect their establishment in the labour market](#).

As of 1 March 2022, The Public Employment Service can issue a knowledge certificate to a participant in the Integration Programme who, through participation for at least one year in language-intensive and work-related activities, has achieved basic Swedish skills and professional knowledge in a certain profession or industry.

On 7 July, the Government granted funds to the Swedish association of Local authorities and Regions in order to shorten the time for labour market integration.

The Swedish Government proposed to transfer to municipalities the responsibility for the education of adults. Municipalities will be providing a coherent education of the labour market policy programme for those who do not have sufficient education to match available jobs.

Fighting racism and discrimination

In June 2022, the Swedish Government adopted five action programmes against various forms of racism; [Afrophobia](#), [Antisemitism](#), [Antiziganism](#), [Islamophobia](#) and [racism against the Sami people](#).

Basic services

In the [Budget Bill for 2022](#) the Swedish Government proposed to increase the funding of civil society and municipalities by SEK 30 million for 2022 with the aim to ensuring access to civic information and health promotion activities to asylum seekers.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Border management

The Swedish Government decided to prolong border controls at Sweden's internal borders from 12 November 2022 to 11 May 2023. The decision was based on the Government's assessment that there is a serious threat to public order and internal security in Sweden.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Preventing and tackling irregular migration in legal migration channels

In autumn 2022, the political platform of the new Swedish Government introduced a new focus, namely on the linkages between migration and development. The platform emphasised, inter alia, the need to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement and to promote cooperation on return and readmission.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Identification and information to victims of trafficking in human beings

In 2022, the Swedish Migration Agency, initiated an educational/training process for the employees in all the units for detention, with the aim to increasing the ability to identify victims of trafficking.



RETURN AND READMISSION

Main national developments

On 22 June 2022, the Swedish Government tasked the Swedish Migration Agency, the Swedish Police Authority and the Swedish Prison and Probation Service to ensure greater effectiveness in the return procedure. The number of returns should increase by 50 % in 2023, compared to 2021.

In 2022, [the government instructed the SMA](#) to increase the number of detention places. In April, the SMS presented a plan to increase the detention places together with an analysis of the need of detention places over time.

On 1 August, the law on expulsion on account of criminals offences was amended and became stricter.

On 30 July 2022, the Joint Reintegration Service (JRS) of Frontex took over from ERRIN along with the new RIAT operational system. This led the SMA to increase the list of countries being granted reintegration support.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Two new strategies were introduced with a focus on migration: the development cooperation with Iraq and the regional development cooperation between Sweden and Africa.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

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

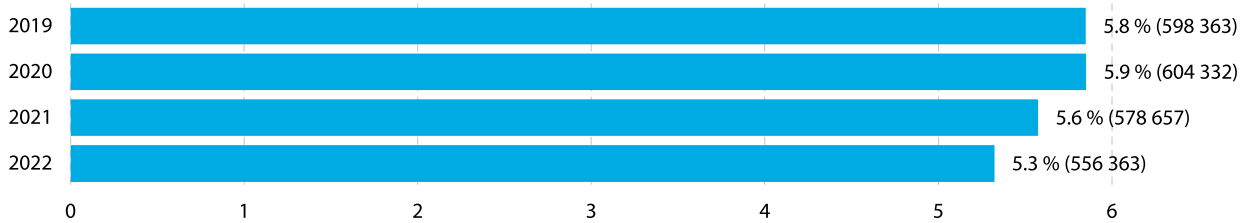
An online data code available under each table/figure can be used to directly access to the most recent data on [Eurostat's website](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2019–2022

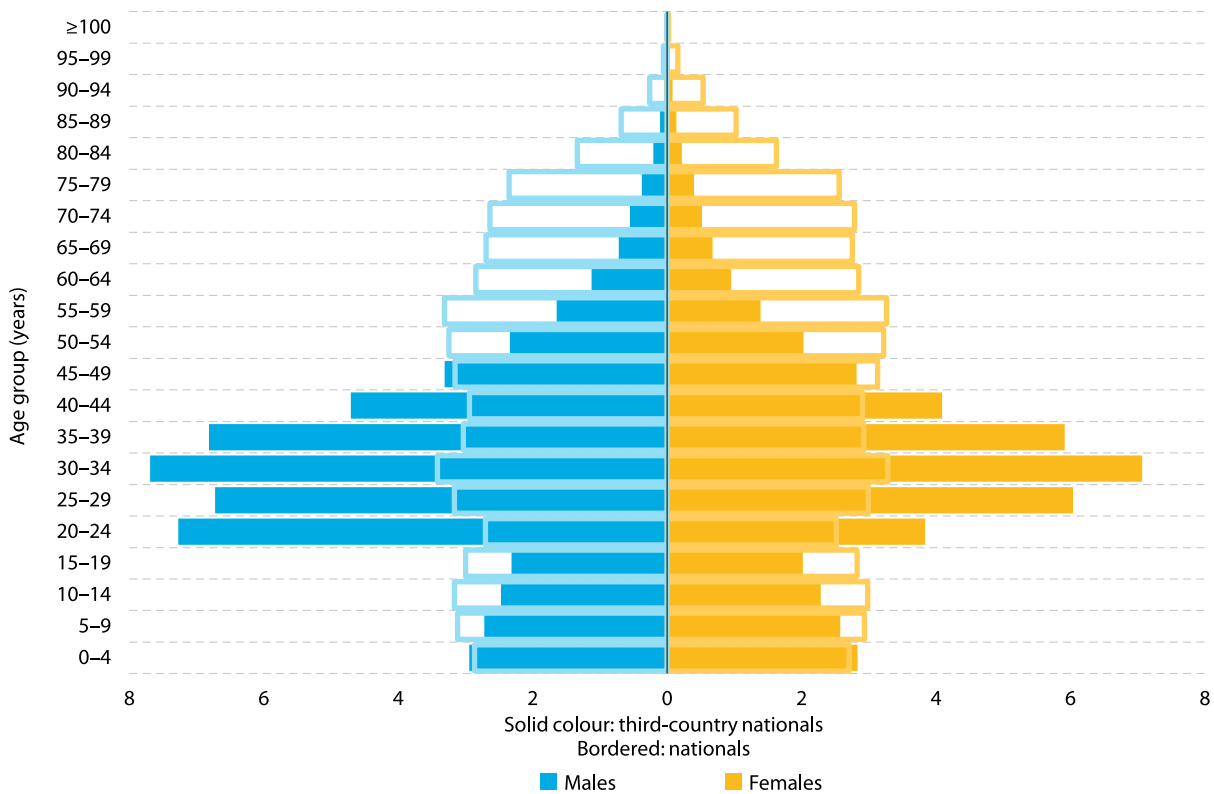
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

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

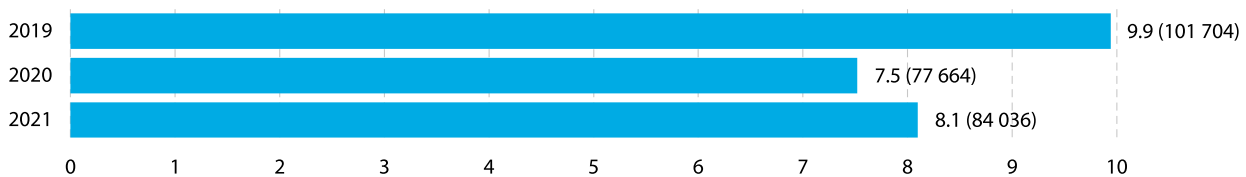
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

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

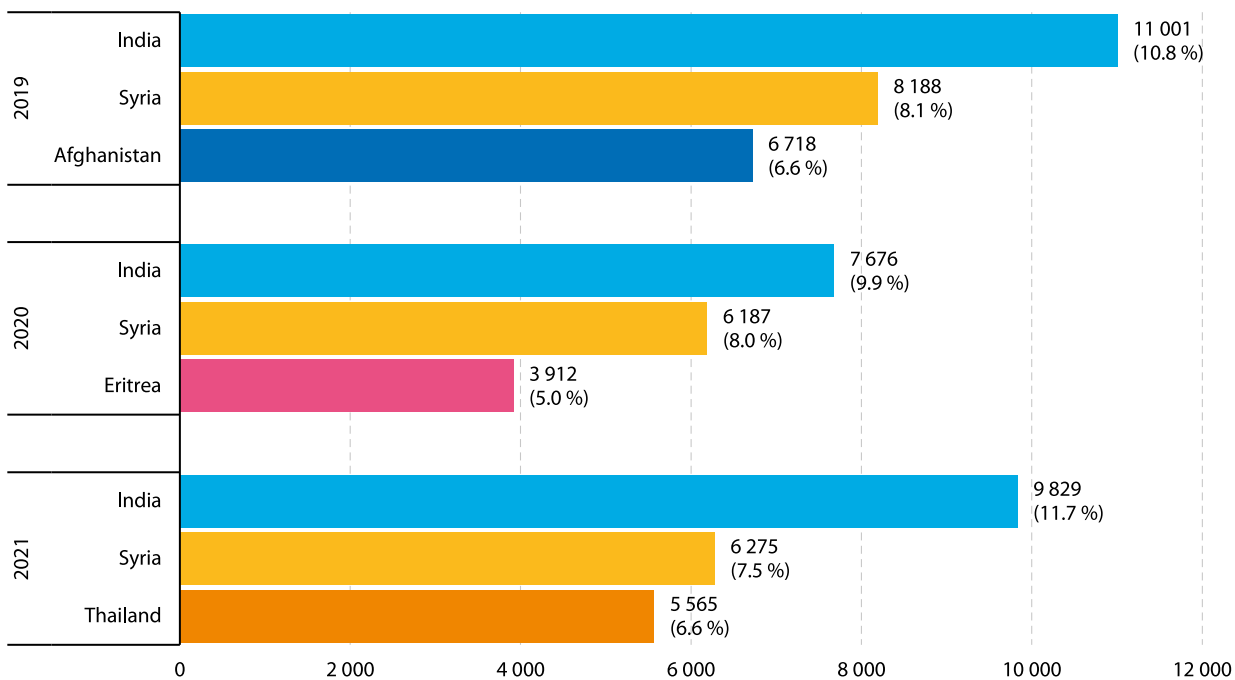
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



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)

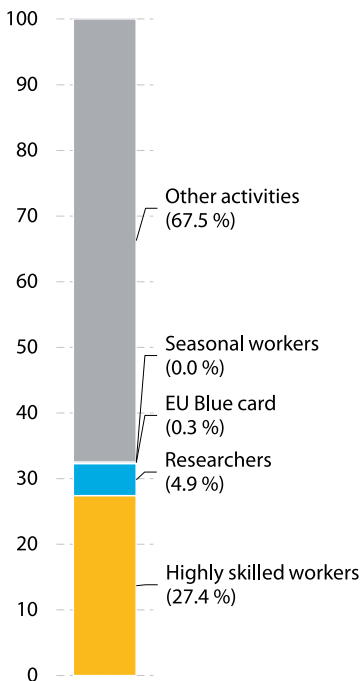


Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

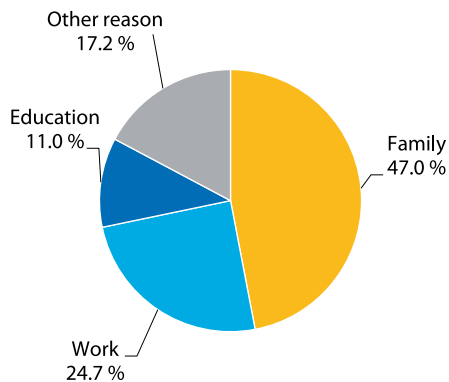
First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2021

%

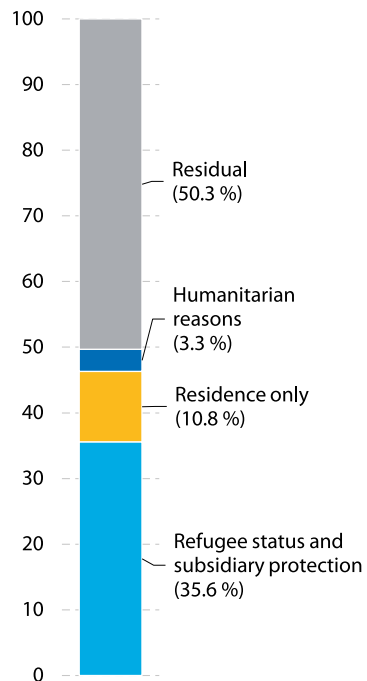
Work reason, by type



All permits, by reason



Other reason, by detailed reason

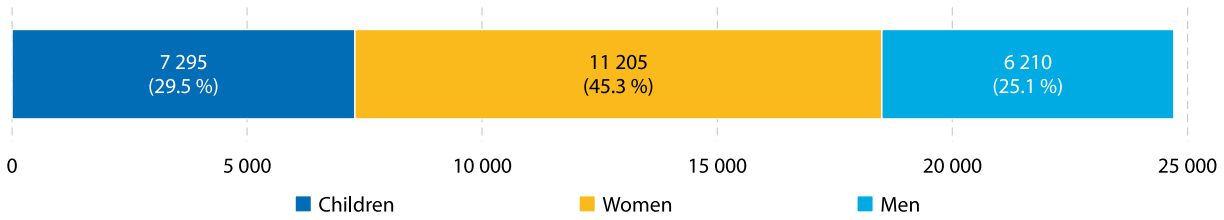


Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resoccc and migr_resoth)



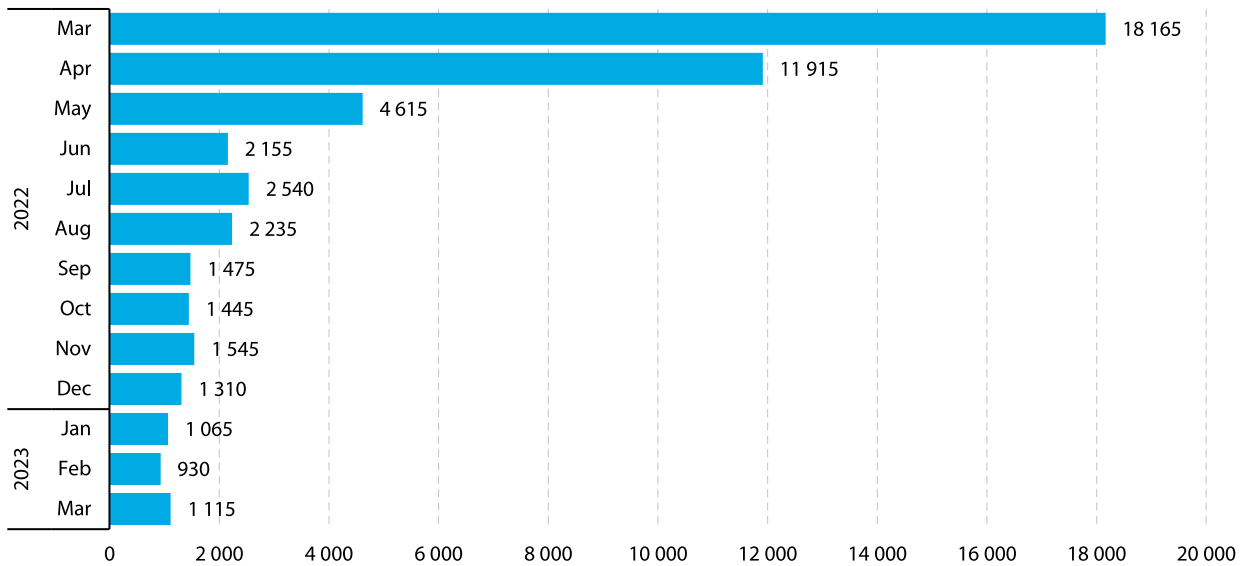
TEMPORARY PROTECTION

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)



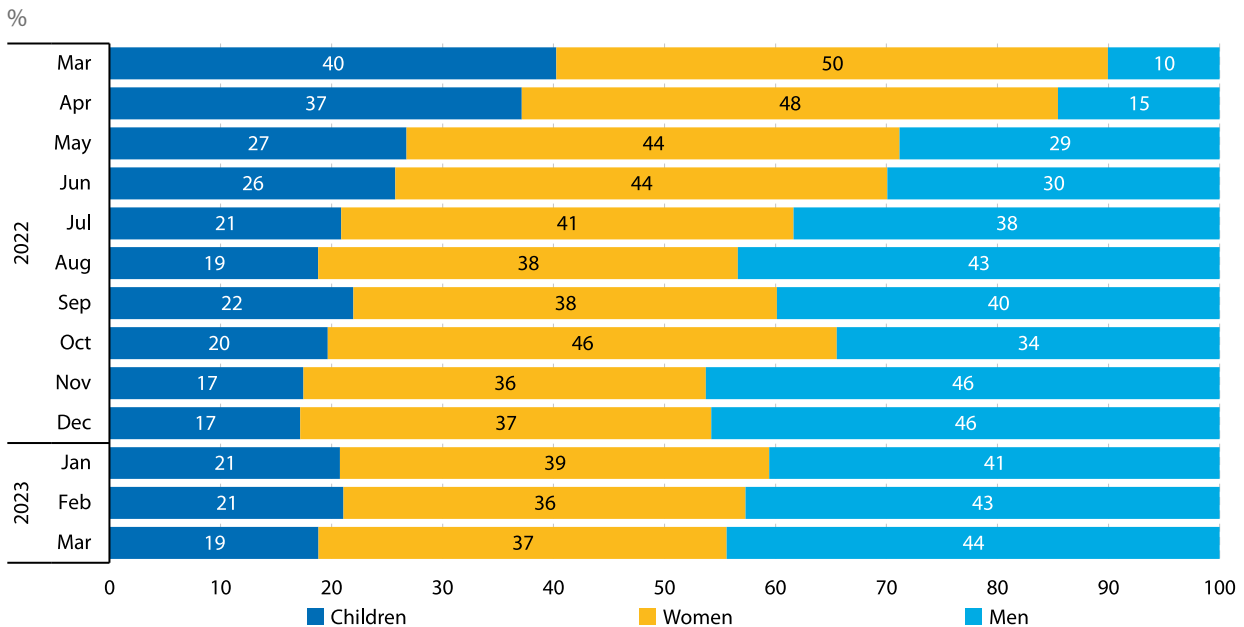
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

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



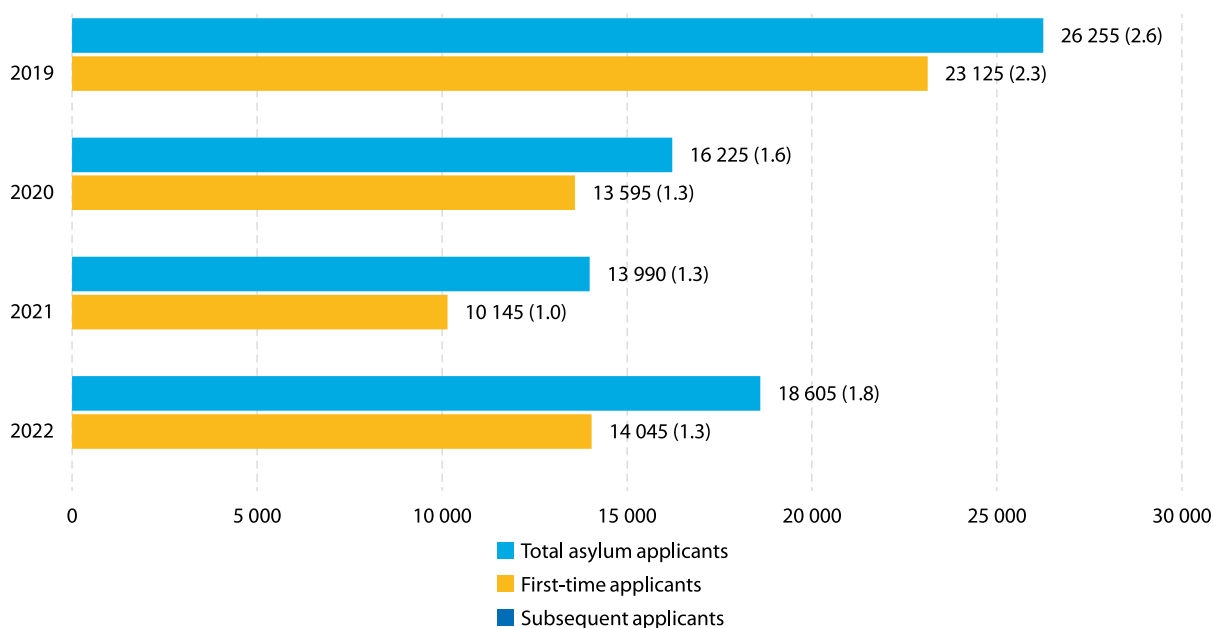
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

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

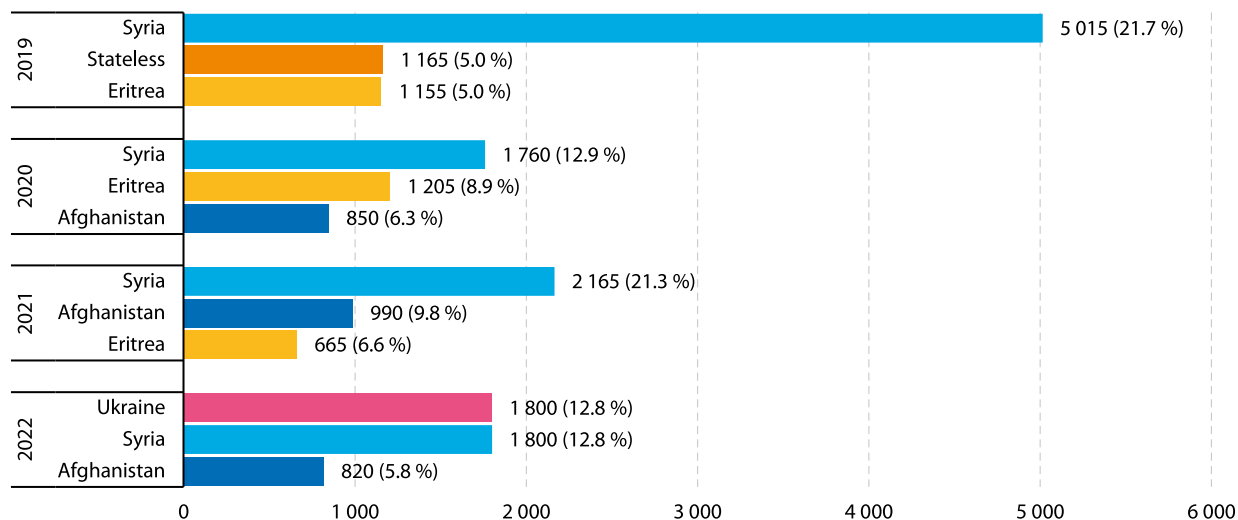
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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

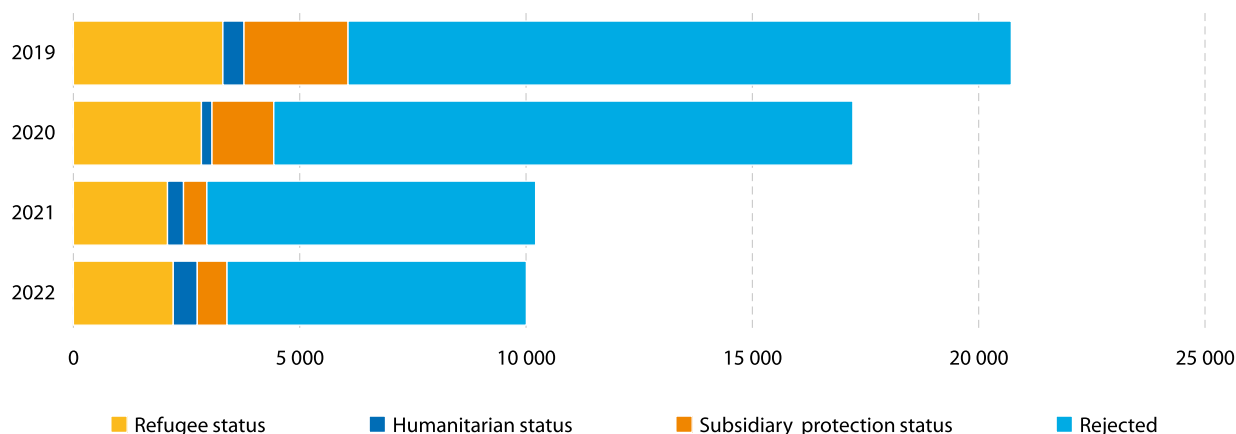
Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2019–2022

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



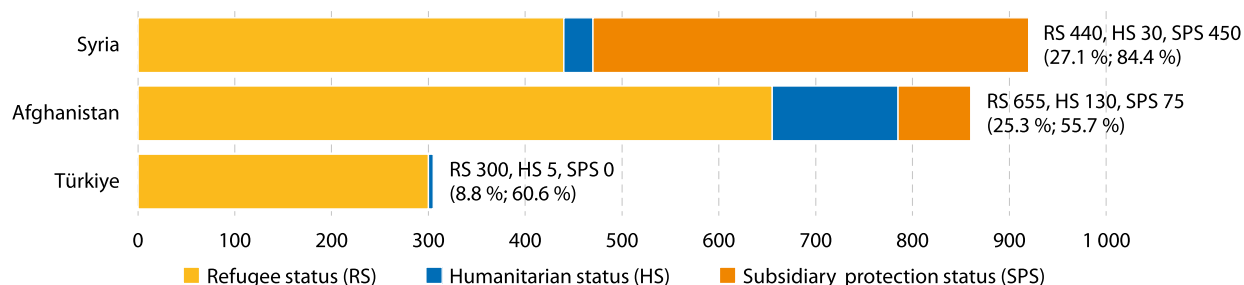
	Refugee status		Humanitarian status		Subsidiary protection status		Rejected	
	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)
2019	3 300	15.9	465	2.2	2 300	11.1	14 655	70.7
2020	2 830	16.4	230	1.3	1 365	7.9	12 790	74.3
2021	2 075	20.3	355	3.5	520	5.1	7 260	71.1
2022	2 205	22.0	530	5.3	655	6.5	6 615	66.1

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

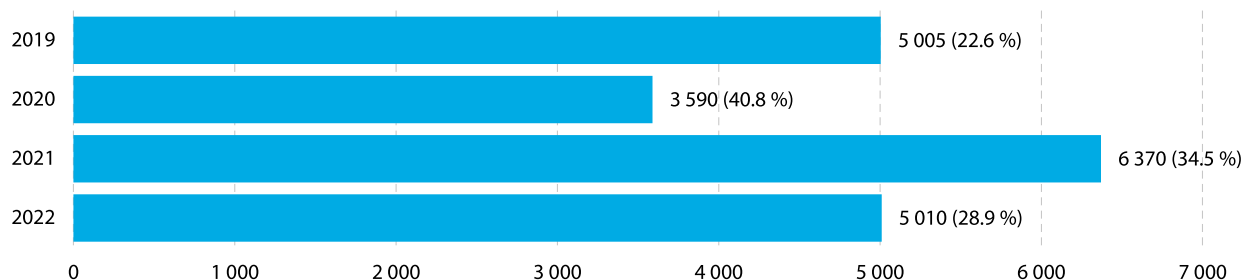
Absolute number (and share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfsta](#))

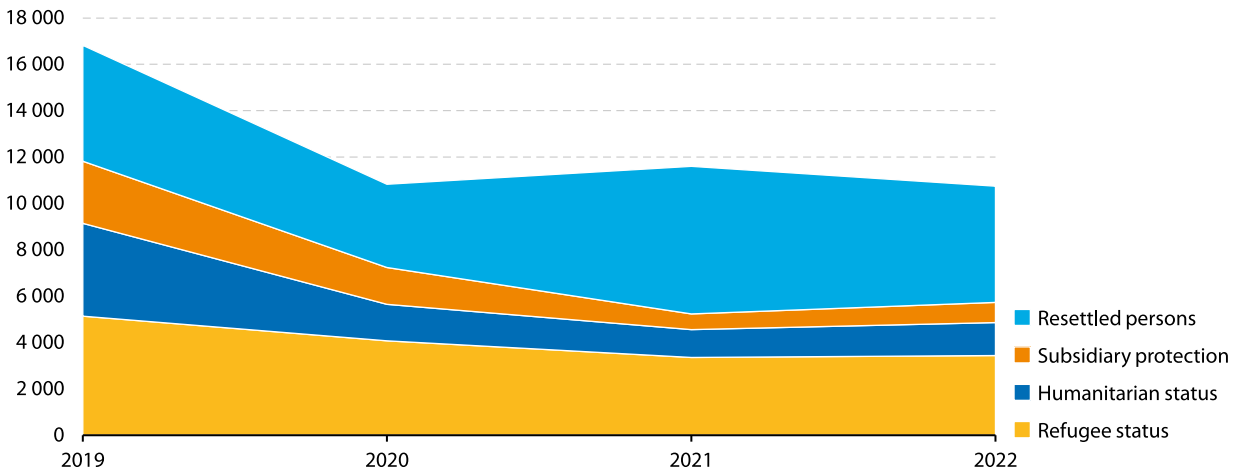
Resettled third-country nationals, 2019–2022

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



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyresra](#))

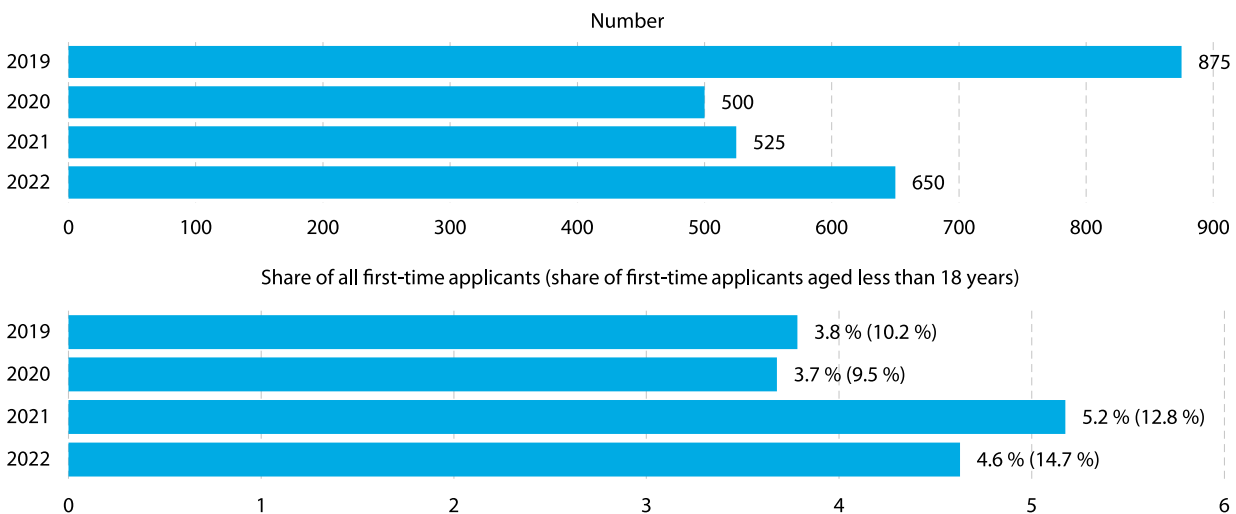
Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

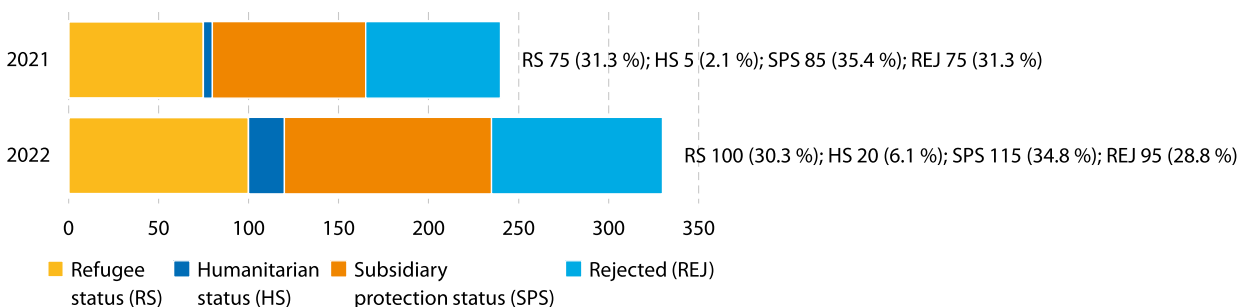
Unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals) applying for asylum, 2019–2022



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)



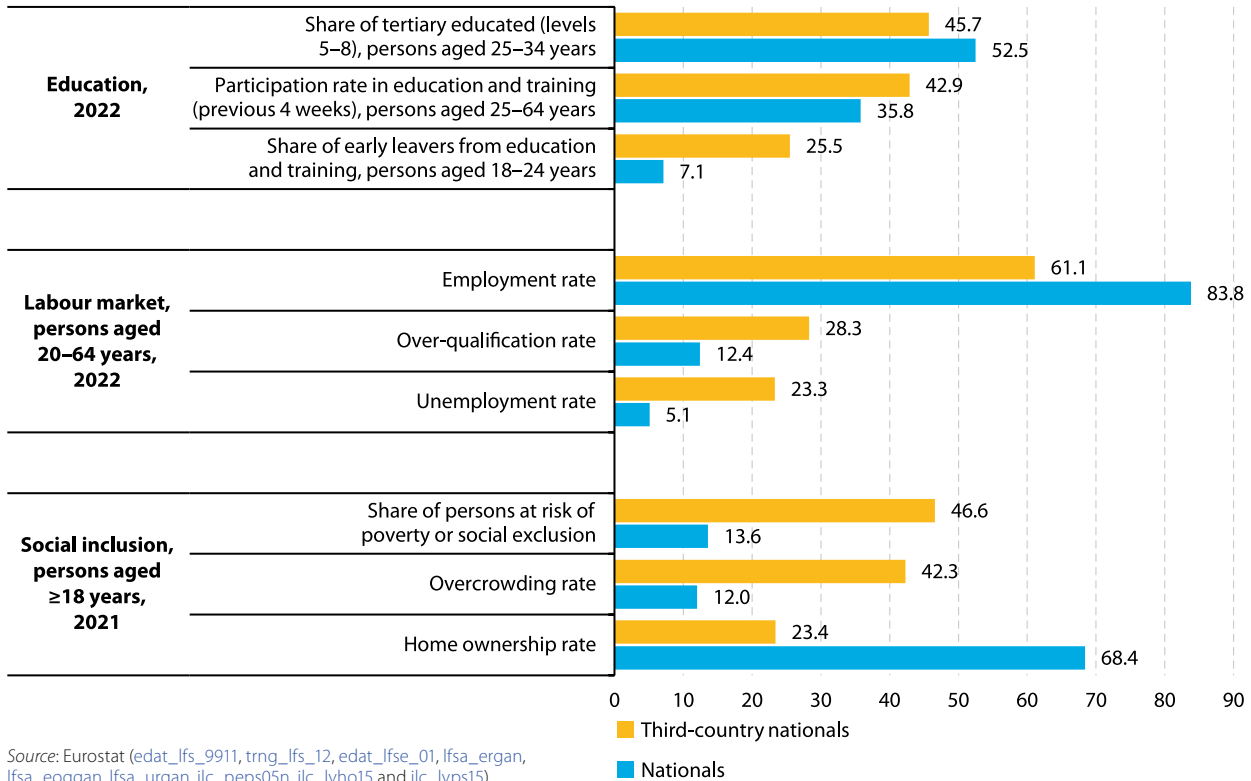
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdcfq)



INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2021 or 2022

%



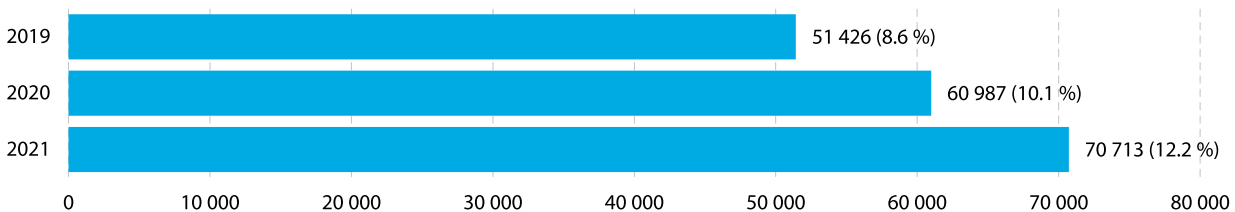
Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9911, trng_lfs_12, edat_lfse_01, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_eoqgan, lfsa_urgan, ilc_peps05n, ilc_lvho15 and ilc_lvps15)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2019–2021

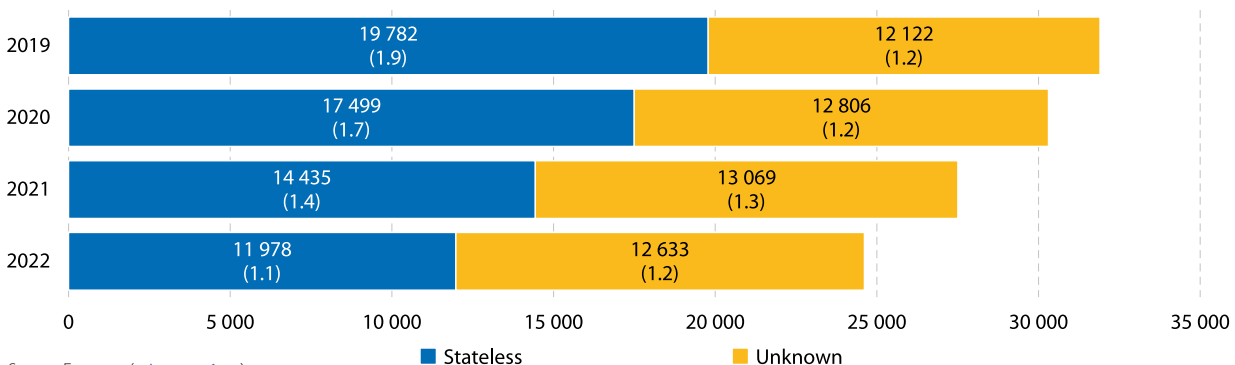
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

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

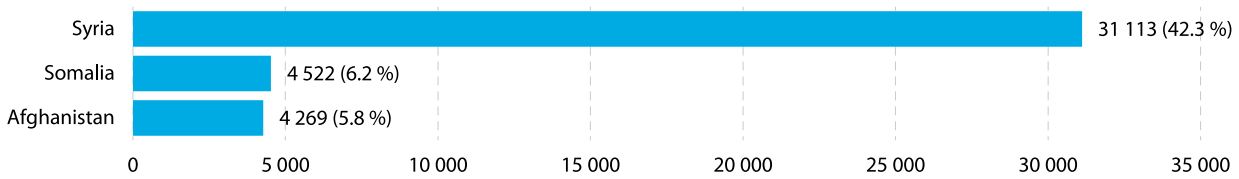
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)



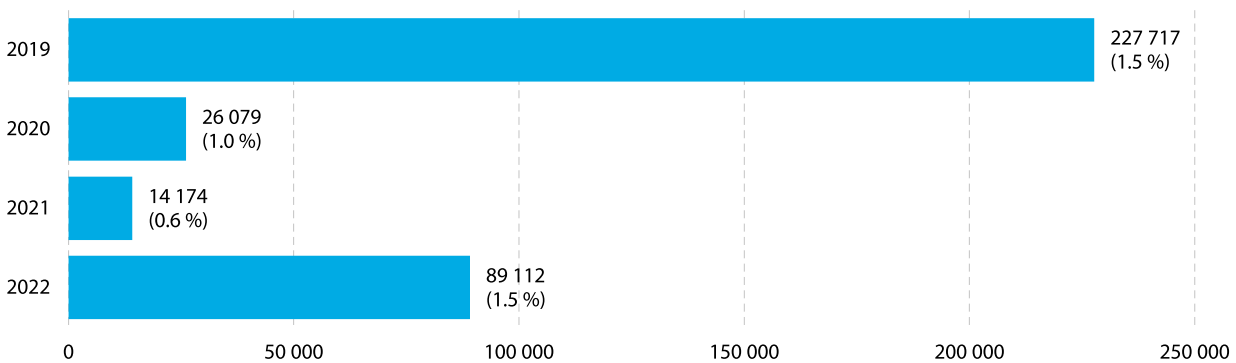
Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)



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)

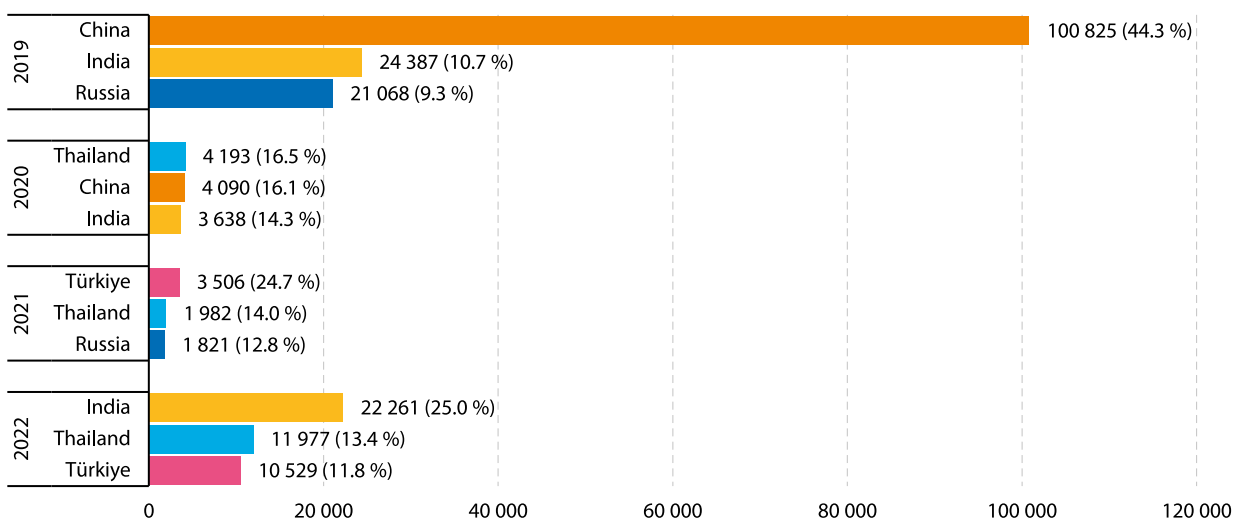


Note: Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania were not part of the Schengen Area. Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple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

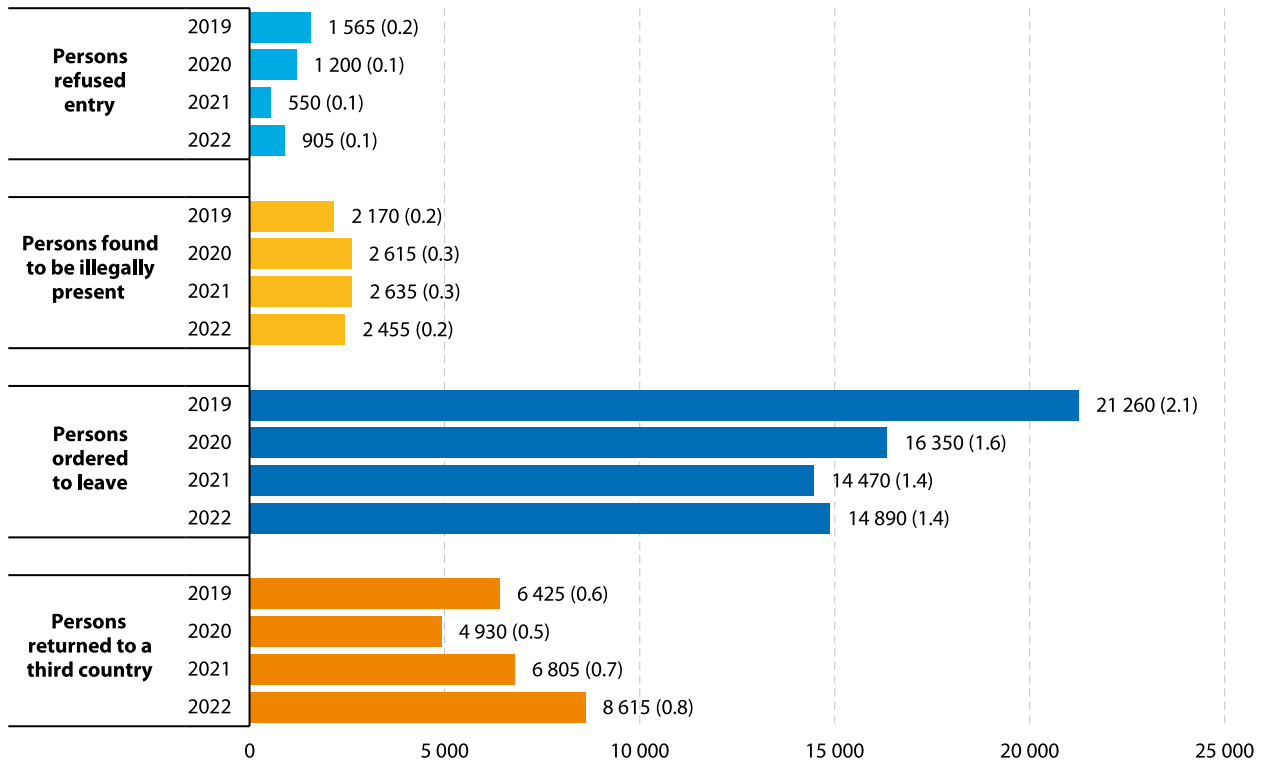
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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

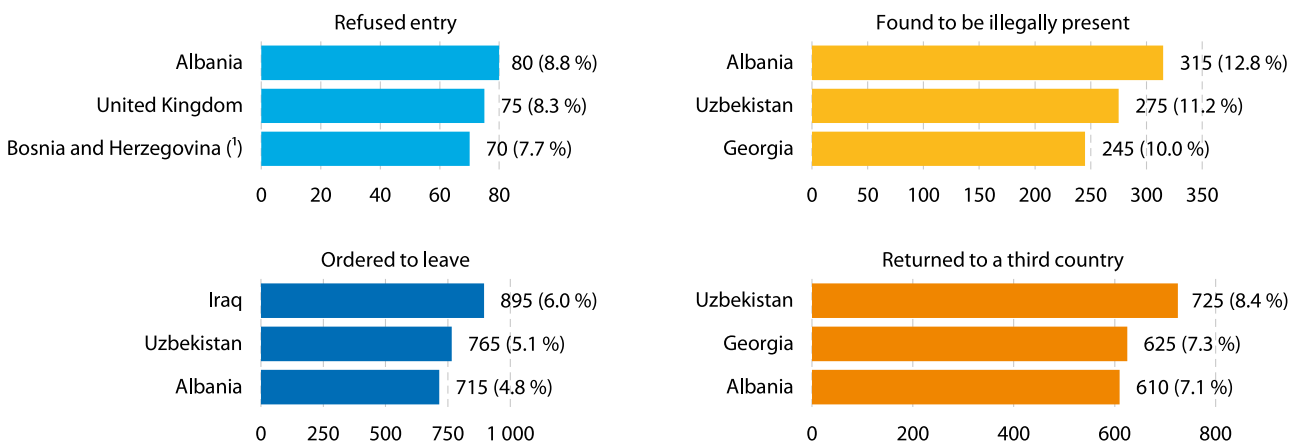
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)



(*) Serbia: same number.

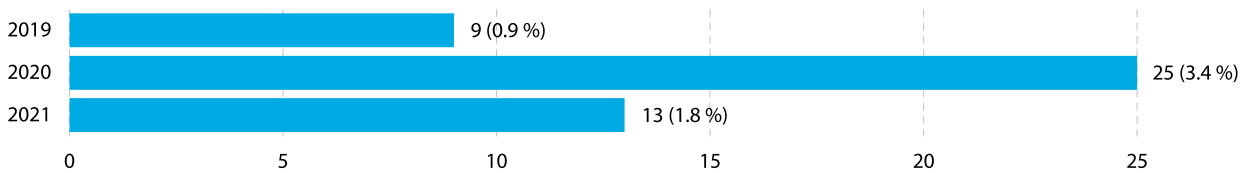
Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



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)



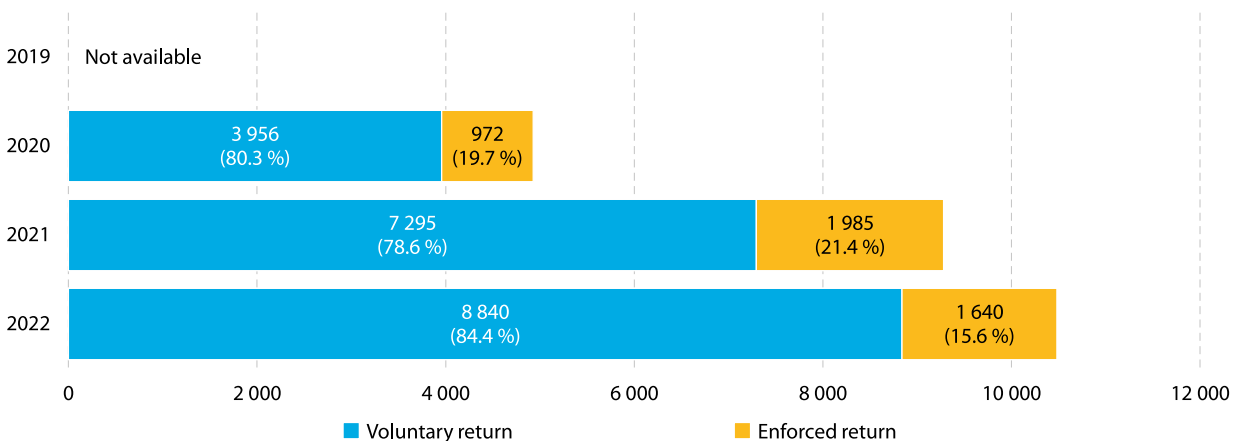
Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



RETURN AND READMISSION

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

Absolute number (and the share within the total)

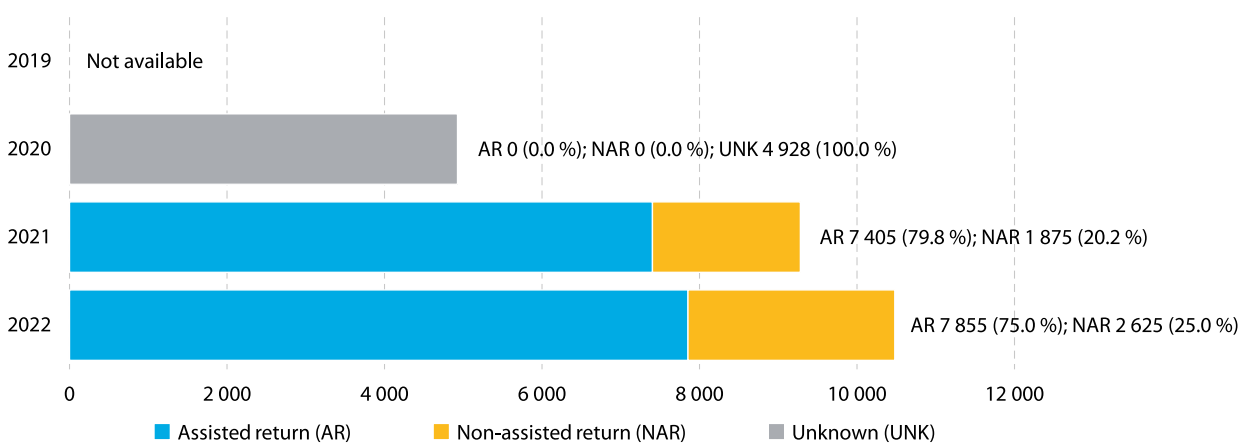


Note: data for 2019 and 2020 are from migr_eirt_vol. Data for 2021 and 2022 are from migr_eirtn1.

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)

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

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

- 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-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

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/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

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>