



THE NETHERLANDS 2021

Main developments in migration
and international protection,
including latest statistics

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

August 2022



OVERARCHING CHANGES

Following parliamentary elections on 17 March 2021, the [coalition agreement](#) between the political parties forming the next government was presented on 15 December 2021. The coalition agreement laid the foundations for the next government (2022-2025). Its integration policies seek to ensure that a person's future is not determined by their background, while its migration policies seek structured migration, with strengthened support for migrants in Dutch society. The formation of a new government took much of the year, thus there were few significant policy developments.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

From 2019, Asian restaurants could employ specialist cooks without an annual quota or without first having to make recruitment efforts. It was announced that the [regulation](#) would end as of 1 January 2022, in light of potential misuse suggesting possible human trafficking and/or human smuggling.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

[Changes to the asylum procedure](#) entered into force on 25 June 2021:

KEY POINTS



The coalition agreement between the political parties of the next government was presented in December 2021, covering integration, migration and asylum policy for 2022-2025.



A high influx of asylum seekers and limited movement of beneficiaries of international protection to regular housing necessitated the urgent creation of additional reception capacity for asylum seekers.



The evacuation framework for people from Afghanistan was adopted in August 2021 and most evacuations took place during that month. The Netherlands pledged to admit 3 159 Afghan nationals in 2021-2022.

- Before June 2021, the registration interview asked asylum seekers about their identity, nationality and travel route. These questions were repeated in the initial personal interview in the general asylum procedure (AA). **From 25 June 2021, there was no longer a separate initial personal interview.**
- Asylum seekers have six days to rest from their travel and prepare for the asylum procedure (**rest and preparation period - RVT**). The possibility of cancelling the RVT was adjusted and expanded (e.g. in case of causing nuisance at a reception facility).
- The AA previously lasted eight days. The detailed interview was moved from the AA to the RVT, with the

AA now lasting six days. **The AA can be extended by three days (AA+) in complex cases** (e.g. needing a further hearing). A decision on AA+ must be made before starting the AA.

- Asylum applications in channel 2 (**persons coming from a safe country of origin or asylum protection in another Member State**) were expanded, with several new categories added, including for applications with little chance of success that are expected to rarely occur (e.g. an asylum application by an EU citizen). The method of dealing with these applications was formalised, with the applicant being informed by their legal assistance provider, and one day for submission of views.

SHORTAGE OF RECEPTION CAPACITY

The high influx of asylum seekers and limited movement of beneficiaries of international protection to regular housing created a shortage in reception places and an urgent need for increased capacity. In August 2021, the Dutch House of Representatives appealed to regional and local governments to support the search for (**emergency reception locations**) for asylum seekers. In October 2021, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers - COA) **reported** that a number of extra emergency reception locations had opened temporarily. However, the lack of regular reception capacity and capacity for unaccompanied minors continued. In October 2021, the national government appealed to regional governments to provide **100 reception places** for asylum seekers within 48 hours, for a duration of three-four weeks. Although several provinces responded, in December, the Minister for Migration **designated locations** in specific municipalities for the reception of asylum seekers. In January 2022, these were judged to have **no legal basis** and thus no municipal obligation applied. The former Minister for Migration indicated in January 2022 that it was, rather, an 'urgent administrative request'.

RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT¹

The evacuation framework for persons from Afghanistan was adopted in August 2021, with most evacuations taking place that month. The Netherlands pledged humanitarian admission of 3 159 Afghan nationals in 2021-2022. Around 2 200 Afghan nationals were evacuated during August 2021, all of whom had received a positive decision on their asylum application by 14 December 2021. Around 150 Afghan nationals were evacuated from September 2021 onwards, with some asylum procedures still pending in December 2021. The Dutch government aimed to evacuate Dutch nationals and Afghans who had worked for the Netherlands or contributed to international missions, such as staff of Dutch development projects and journalists.



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Following a **policy amendment** for family reunification for (unaccompanied) minors, minor third-country nationals with a residence permit became eligible for family reunification under the Family Reunification Directive, even if they were living with an adult family member in the Netherlands.



INTEGRATION

NATIONAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY

The **amended Civic Integration Law** (Wet Inburgering 2021) came into force on 1 January 2022. The new law aims to ensure that those obliged to integrate are able to learn Dutch and participate in Dutch society better and more quickly. Municipalities will be closely involved and were granted €30 million of additional **funding** for implementation of the law.

FIGHTING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

The Dutch government committed to **strengthening the awareness** of the effects of discrimination and discriminatory behaviour in governmental organisations, including through training on diversity and inclusion. This was in light of the Dutch childcare benefits affair (kinderopvangtoeslagaffaire) – a political scandal related to false allegations of fraud by the Tax and Customs Administration when attempting to regulate the distribution of childcare benefits. The procedures used to select and investigate suspicious cases resulted in non-Dutch parents being more likely to be checked by the Tax and Customs Administration.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

The **policy** was amended for the 8 000 RANOV (Regulation on Settlement of the Legacy of the Old Aliens Act) permit holders yet to acquire Dutch citizenship. Those who wished to naturalise were exempted from the documentation requirement and were no longer obliged to renounce their original nationality. The change aimed to overcome the most significant challenge (the document requirement) for RANOV permit holders in the naturalisation procedure.

STATELESSNESS

In 2020, a **bill** was proposed to initiate a procedure to determine statelessness in relation to the ratification of the international convention on statelessness. That bill was discussed in parliament in 2021, with clarifications requested on the duration of the process and the extent of the problem of statelessness. The coalition agreement

¹ Includes Humanitarian Admission Programmes

of 15 December 2021 stated that processing of the bill would continue in 2022.

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

No significant developments in 2021.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

PREVENTING AND TACKLING IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

On 15 November 2021, the conditions for residence permits for [au pairs](#) were refined. According to the new rules, an au pair must be unmarried, must not have any (foster) children, and cannot be older than 25 years. The new policy was set to take effect as of July 2022.

PREVENTING FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION ('SMUGGLING') AND PREVENTING IRREGULAR STAY

'Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships for Sustainable Solutions' (COMPASS) was launched, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (see Return and Readmission).

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

NATIONAL STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

A [common framework \(Kader\)](#) for policy development on the municipal level was established in the context of the interdepartmental government programme 'Together against Human Trafficking' (Samen tegen Mensenhandel). The refined approach strengthened the role of municipalities in preventing, detecting, and combating human trafficking. It introduced a digital tool to aid effective policy development, established a governance network for human trafficking, and initiated three pilot programmes.

IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

'COMPASS' was launched, in cooperation with the IOM (see Return and Readmission).

RETURN AND READMISSION

COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

At the beginning of 2021, the IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched COMPASS ([Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships for Sustainable Solutions Initiative](#)), a global initiative in cooperation with 12 countries (Afghanistan, Chad (DTM), Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, and Tunisia). The project was designed to adopt a whole-of-society approach to combating human trafficking and facilitating voluntary returns in a sustainable manner.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

'COMPASS' was launched, in cooperation with the IOM (see Return and Readmission).

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by ICF, the European Migration Network Service Provider, with statistics provided by Eurostat. It provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Netherlands on aspects of migration and international protection (2018-2021), including legal residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics were not available at the time of publication, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

STATISTICAL ANNEX

! GENERAL NOTES

This statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in up to nine thematic sections – depending on data availability. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators. Whenever data are not available, the relative chart is indicated with 'N/A'. Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period. For some indicators, data are rounded in the source. The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data. For this edition, figures for Third Country Nationals refer to 'non-EU27 nor reporting country' across all indicators and years. The How to Read Guide is available [here](#).

COLOUR LEGEND

Whenever not specified, the following colour legend is adopted. Colours for multiple nationalities are randomly chosen.

Data relative to The Netherlands

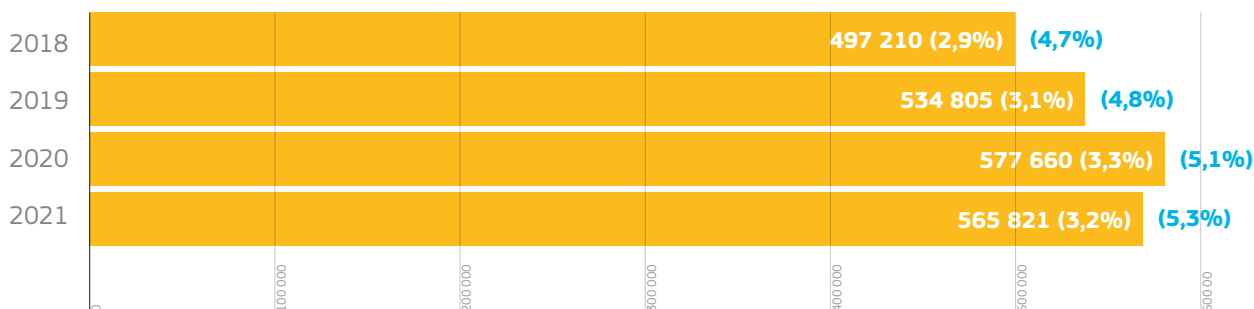
Data relative to EU



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

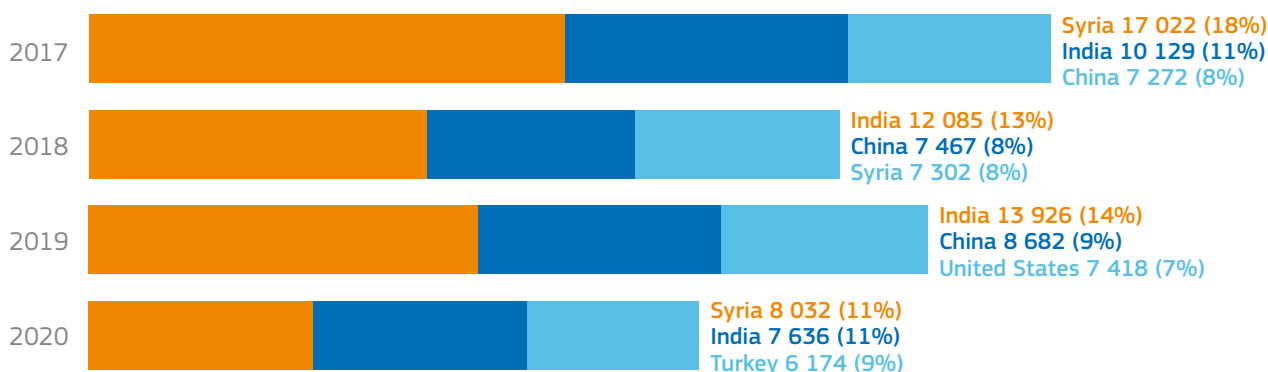
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population in the country (and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



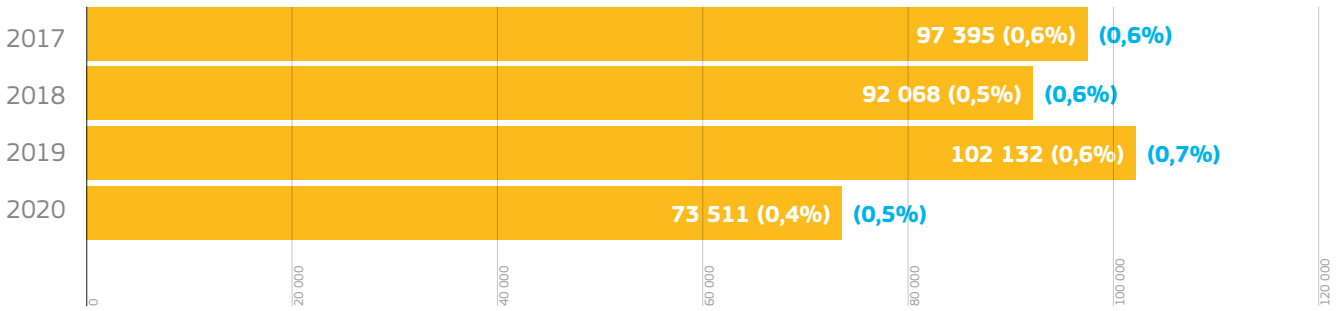
Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



First residence permits annually issued: total number and % of total population in the country (and in the EU)

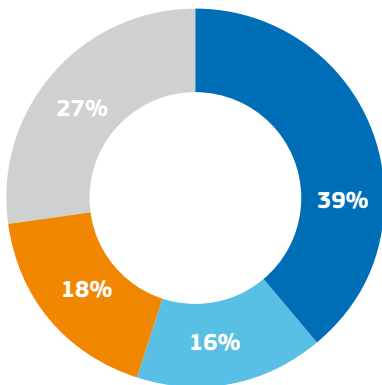
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz)



First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

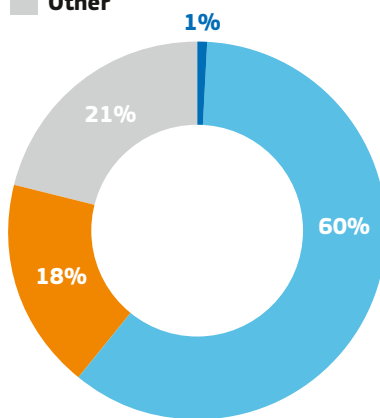
- Family
- Education
- Work
- Other



First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

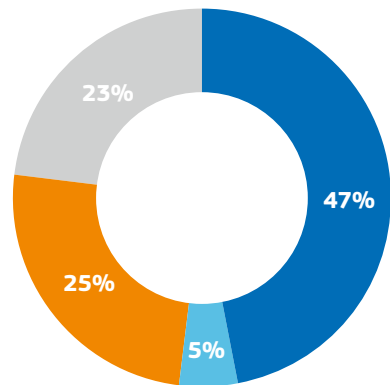
- EU Blue Card
- Highly skilled
- Researchers
- Seasonal workers
- Other



First residence permits annually issued for 'other reasons' in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

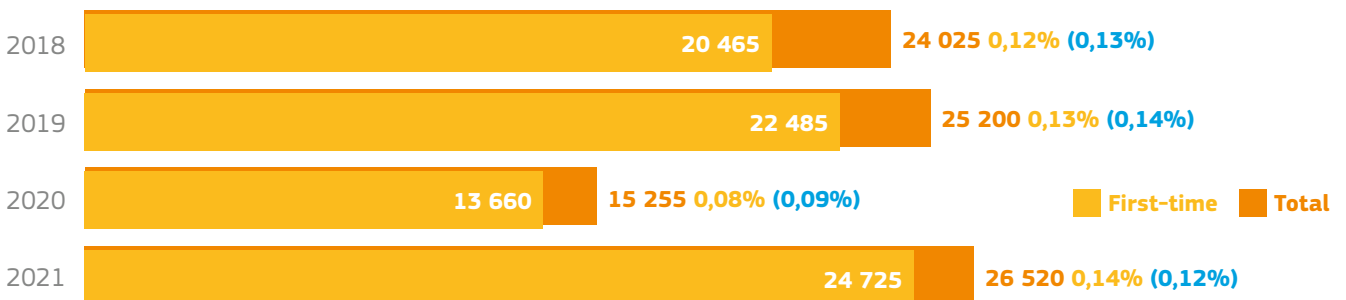
- Refugee/sub prot.
- Residence only
- Humanitarian
- Not specified



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

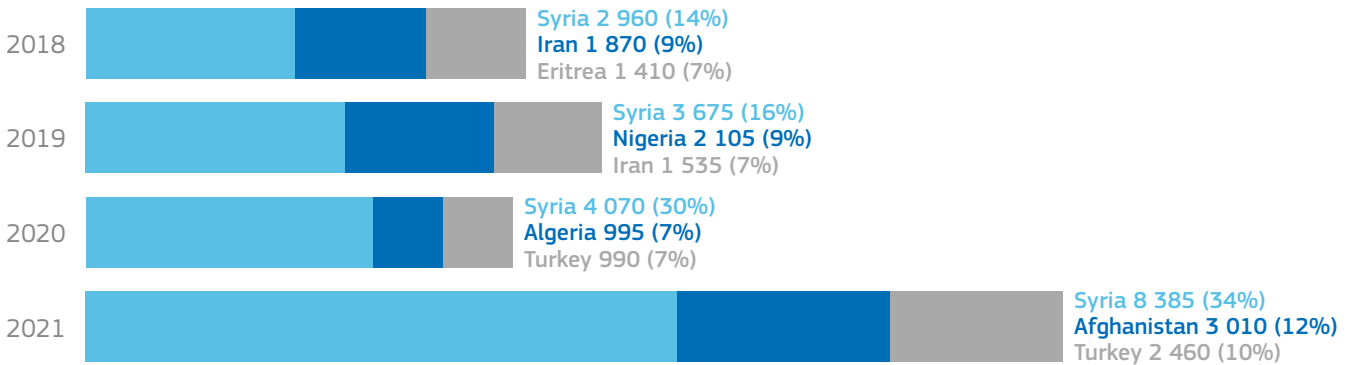
Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asylum applications as % of population in the country (and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)



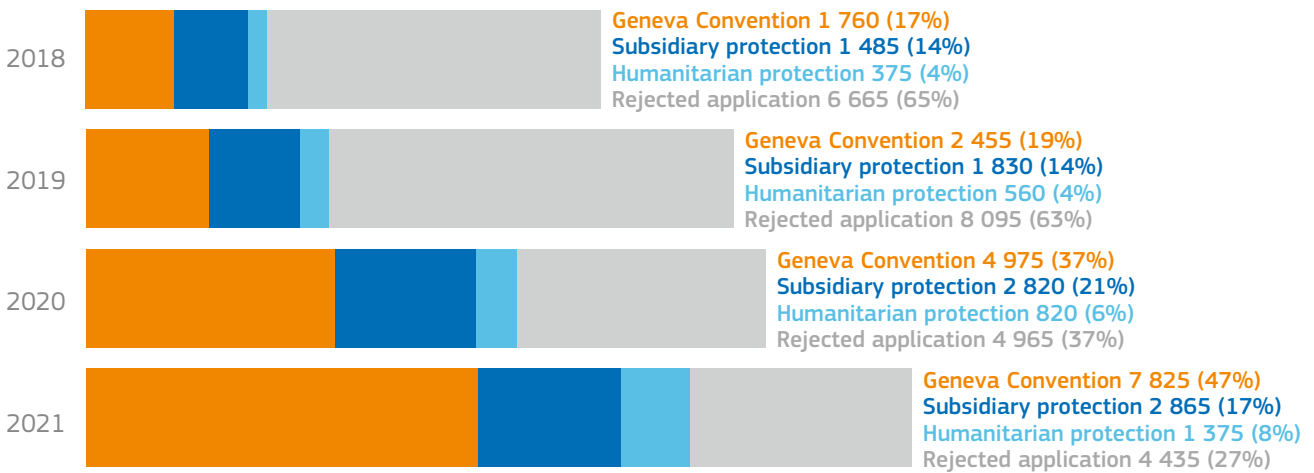
Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



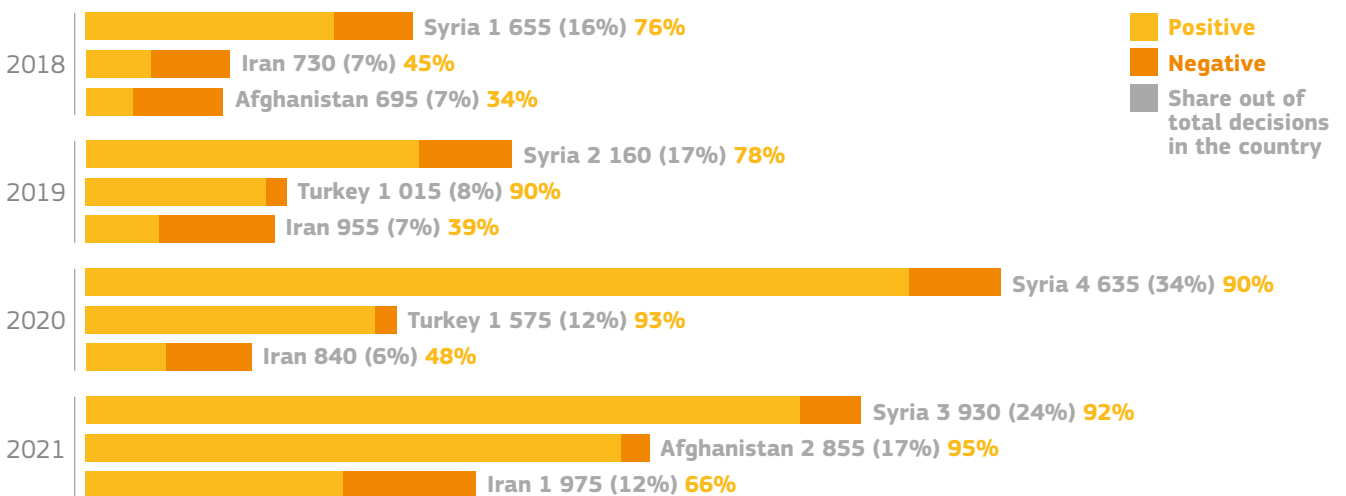
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



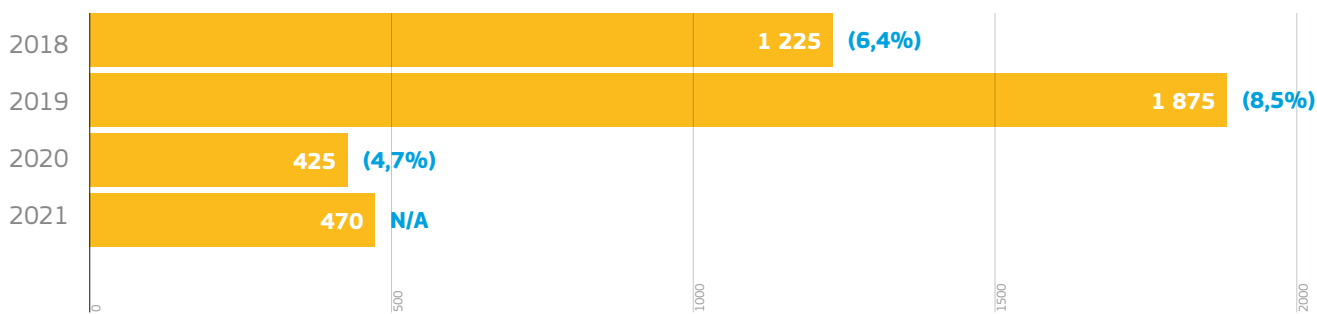
Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcomes

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



Third-Country Nationals resettled: absolute number and as % of total resettled in the EU

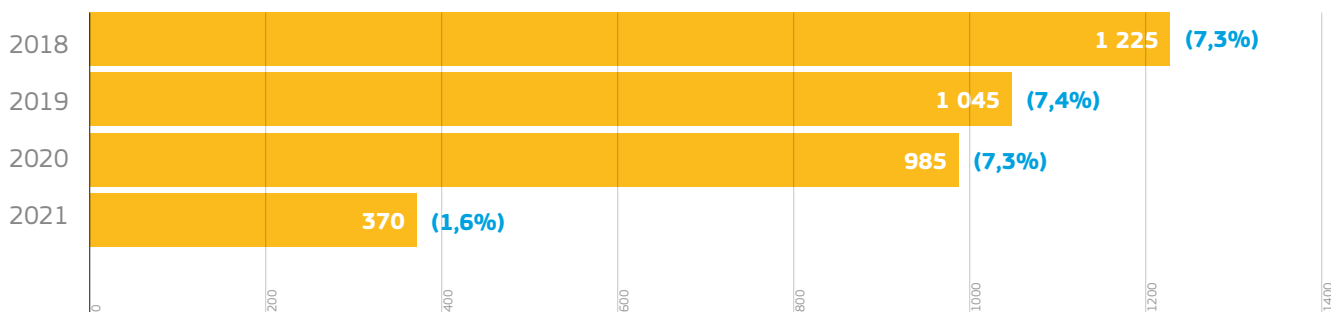
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

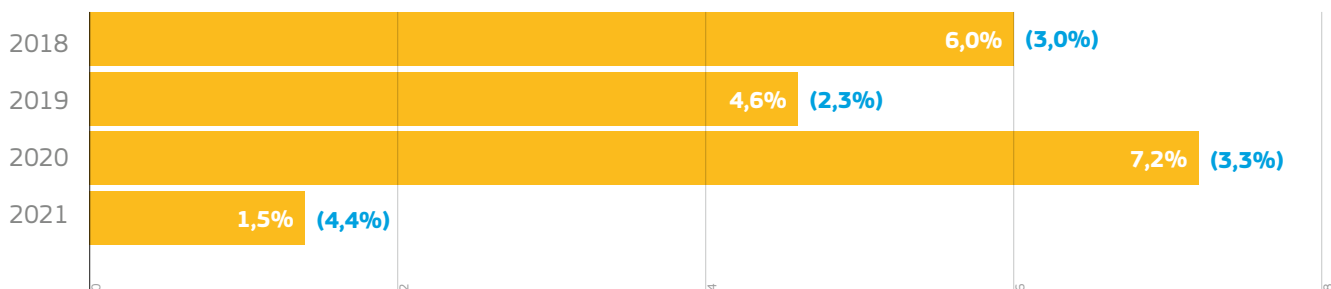
Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from unaccompanied minors in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



Unaccompanied minors as % of first asylum applications in the country (and in the EU)

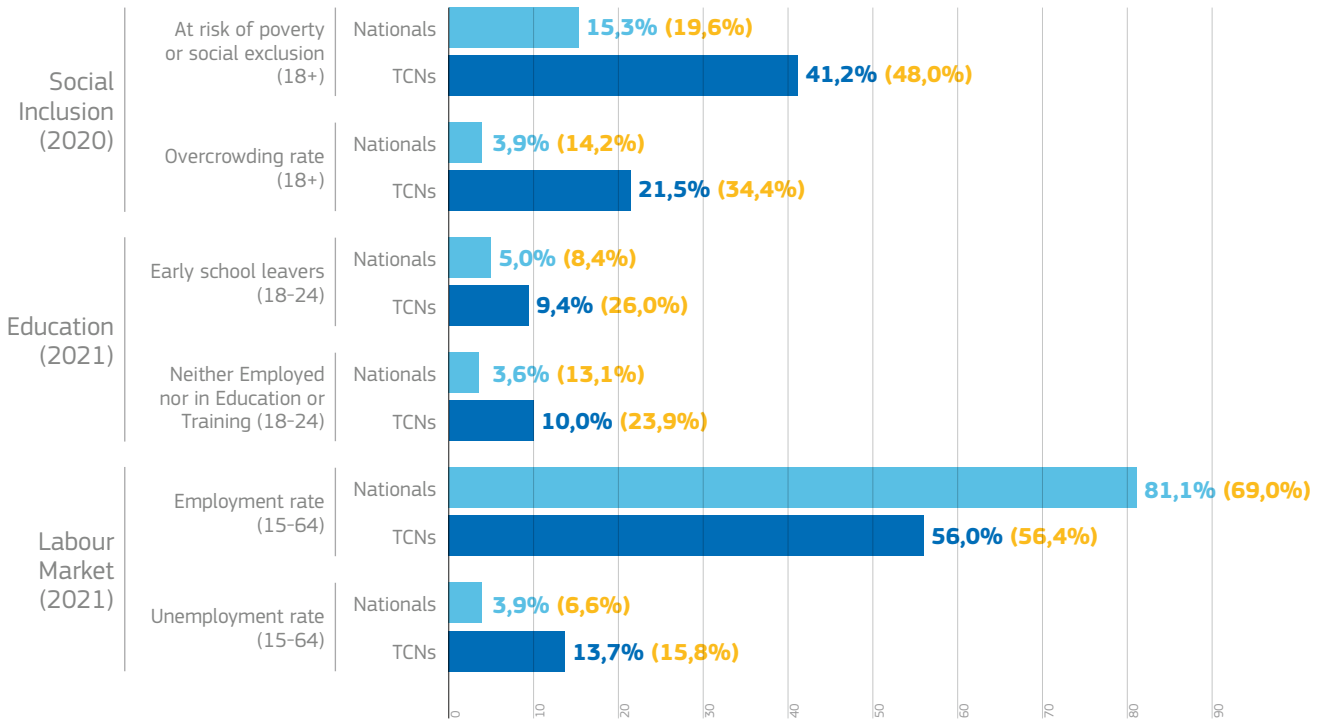
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa, migr_asyappctza)



INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals (light blue) and Third-Country Nationals (dark blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for the EU.

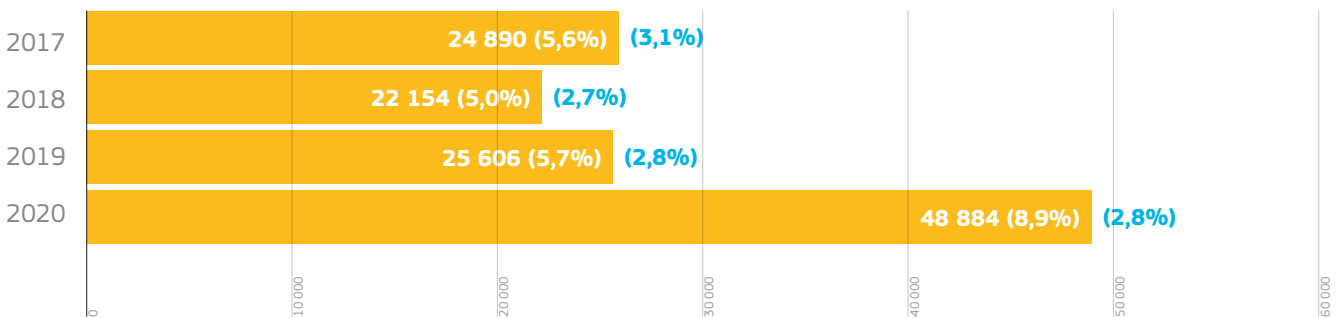
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lwho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

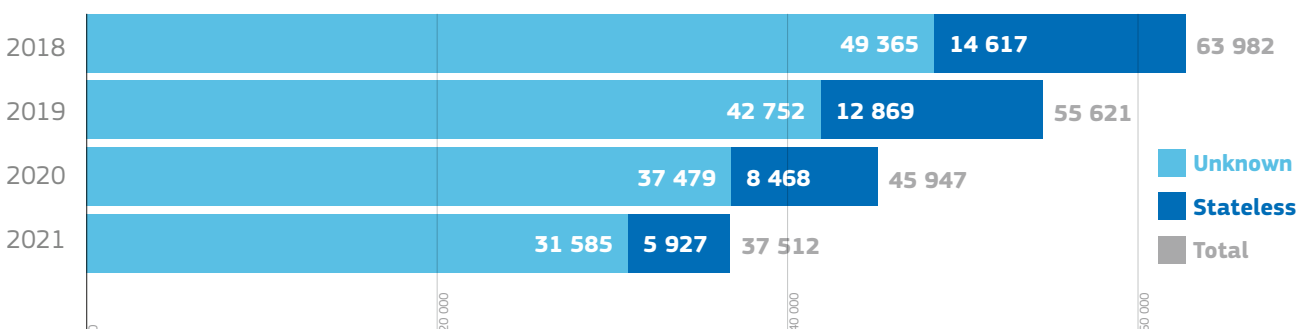
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



Stateless, unknown citizens and recognised non-citizens (RNC) - where present

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



Top 3 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2020: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

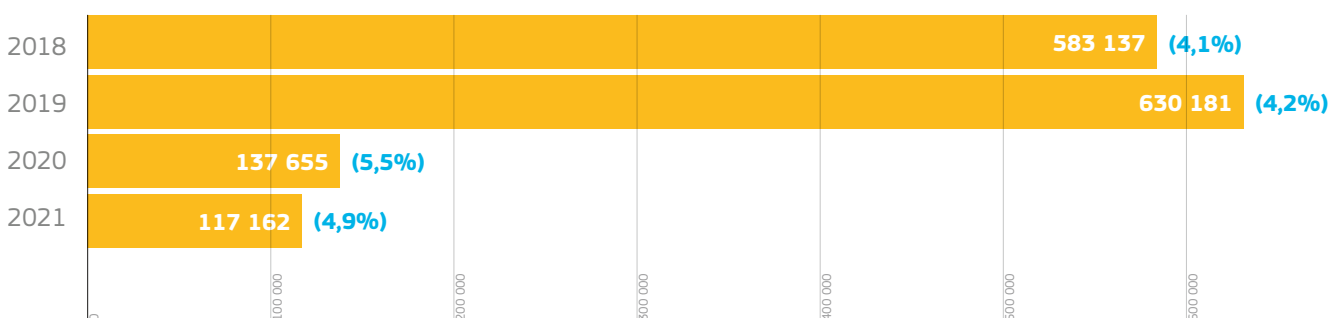
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

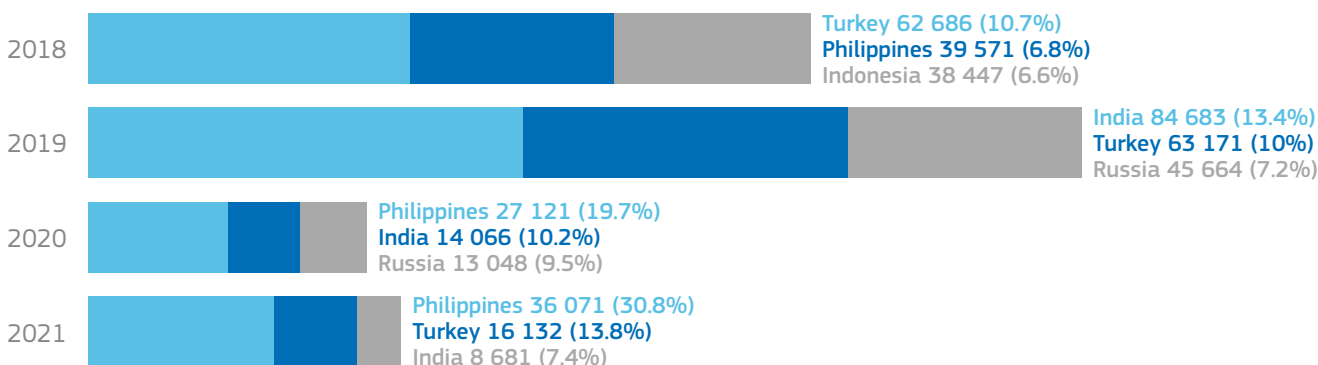
Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



Short-term visa issued in top 3 consulate countries (and % of total issued)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

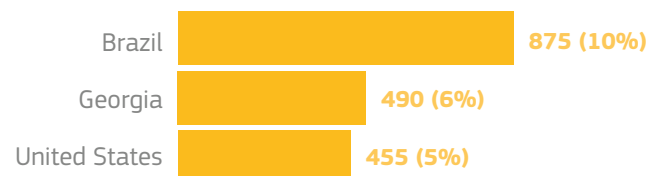
Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eiord)



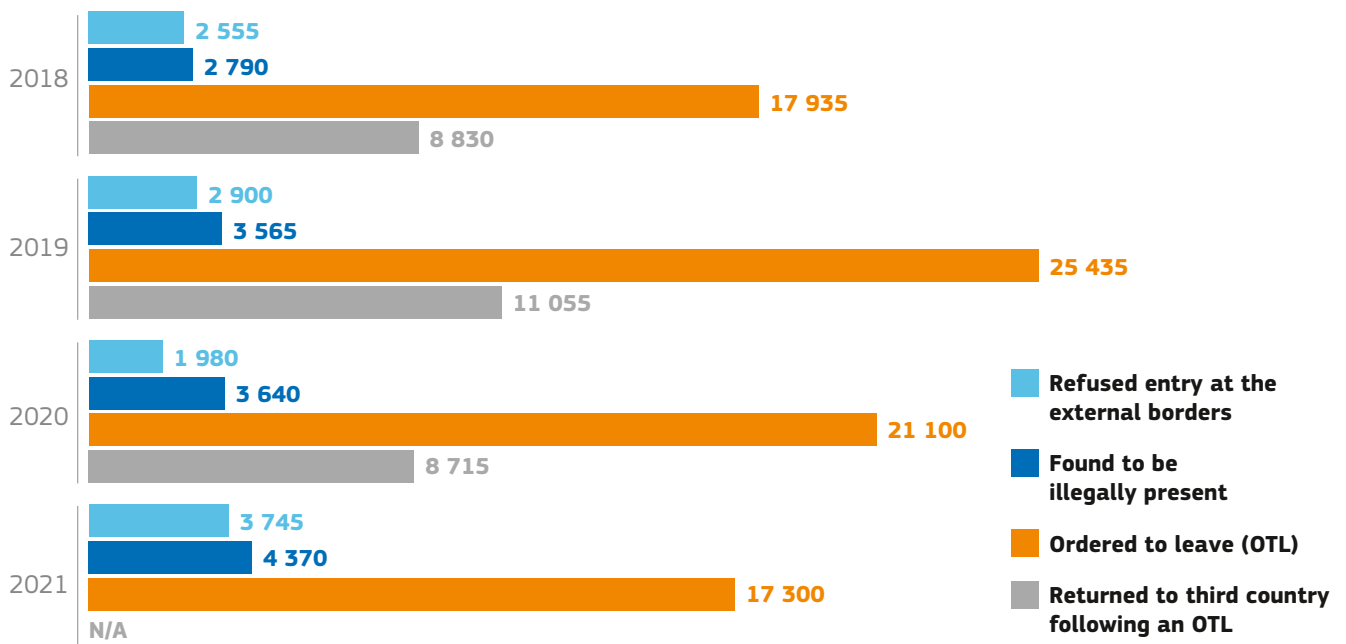
Top 3 nationalities returned to third country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirtn)



General statistics on irregular migration

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn)



RETURN AND READMISSION

Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return (in %) and total returns

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol)

N/A



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

