

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

THE NETHERLANDS 2023



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

On 5 April 2023, the Netherlands **joined** the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). On that date, the national law enabling Dutch membership entered into force. The ICMPD supports its members to develop and implement innovative, integrated and sustainable migration policies.

On 29 November 2023, the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State (*Afdeling Bestuursrechtspraak van de Raad van State, ABrVS*) **ruled** against the 24-week limit to labour market access for

applicants for international protection. This means that the Employees Insurance Agency (*Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemers-verzekeringen, UWV*) can no longer limit applicants' access to the Dutch labour market to 24 weeks in a period of 52 weeks. According to the Council of State, the 24-week limit impeded applicants' access to the Dutch labour market, conflicting with the EU Reception Conditions Directive (2013/13/EU).



LEGAL MIGRATION

No significant developments to report in 2023.

KEY POINTS

On 7 July 2023, following a failure to reach agreement on changes to the national asylum policy, the Dutch coalition government resigned, putting some of the planned migration policy changes on hold.

On 6 June 2023, the Senate **passed** the new Statelessness Determination Procedure Act.

On 29 November 2023, the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State (ABrVS) **ruled** that international protection applicants may work more than 24 weeks per year.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

On 1 May 2023, a project was launched to speed up the processing of asylum applications (*Bespoediging afdoening asiel* - BAA). Within the BAA, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (*Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst* - IND) will focus on efficiently handling asylum applications from Syrians and Yemenis likely to be granted asylum through a targeted approach to accelerate the process.

As of 1 January 2023, the nine-month extension to the legal decision period for asylum applications **will** be applied to asylum applications submitted from 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2024. This means that the IND must decide on an asylum application within a maximum of 15 months.

On 8 February 2023, the Minister for Migration **announced** the abolition of the temporary measure postponing the issuance of D-visas in cases of family reunification with beneficiaries of international protection. The measure had come into effect on 26 August 2022 to relieve the pressure on asylum reception facilities. The measure had stated that a D-visa would only be issued if the beneficiary of international protection had sufficient accommodation in the Netherlands for all family members, which the AbRvS ruled violated Dutch and European law.

On 10 February 2023, the Minister for Migration **announced** that the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (*Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers* - COA) had initiated a package of measures to create 19 000 additional reception places by 1 July 2023. Measures include retaining reception places, opening new reception places, expanding hotel accommodation, using flexible accommodation at asylum seekers' centres and atypical reception places.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND OTHER MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

On 2 September 2023, the Minister for Migration halted the effects of the termination of temporary protection for non-Ukrainian third-country nationals with a temporary Ukrainian residence permit. This meant that this group temporarily **continued** to use their rights under the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EU) after 4 September 2023 until further judicial decision. Under strict conditions, they can receive support and a financial contribution upon voluntary re-migration.

On 14 November 2023, the Senate (*Eerste Kamer der Staten Generaal*) **voted** in favour of an amendment to the Rent Benefit Act, creating the right to rent benefits for Ukrainians for the duration of their temporary protection in the Netherlands.

On 3 October 2023, the Senate voted in favour of an Emergency Act on Temporary Education Facilities for recently arrived third-country national minors (*Wet tijdelijke nieuwkomersvoorzieningen in het onderwijs*), **enabling** school boards to provide sufficient teaching places even in the event of a large influx of minor asylum seekers and beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP) from Ukraine. This ensures that they are swiftly accommodated within the education system.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

No significant developments to report in 2023.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

On 9 March 2023, the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment **presented** the new Action plan to provide beneficiaries of international protection with paid work (*Plan van aanpak Statushouders aan het werk*). It reinforces regular integration and civic integration projects within the available legal framework. The four action guidelines are: 1) early participation; 2) targeted support and cooperation with employers; 3) regional cooperation via municipalities and labour market regions (*arbeidsmarktregio*); and 4) finding jobs at beneficiaries' skill levels.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

On 6 June 2023, the Senate **adopted** the new Statelessness Determination Procedure Act. It introduces a clear new procedure that enables persons who are not sufficiently documented to have their statelessness established. Statelessness can now be established by a civil judge or, in the case of 'evident statelessness', by the IND or the municipality. Previously, only municipalities **were** able to administratively register the statelessness of a person (but not officially determine statelessness). Persons staying irregularly in the Netherlands can also have their statelessness formally established.

On 6 June 2023, the Senate passed an amendment to the Netherlands Nationality Act (*Rijkswet op het Nederlanderschap - RWN*) and Passport Act (*Paspoortwet*), allowing irregularly staying minors born stateless in the Netherlands to opt for Dutch citizenship via the so-called 'Optie' procedure, after five years of stable residence, with the understanding that no other nationality can reasonably be obtained. The amendment applies to minors younger than 21 years, who are born stateless in the Netherlands and who do not have lawful residence.

BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

On 29 March 2023, the Implementation Act on EU border and security regulations was [announced](#). It provides legal rules for the implementation of the Entry/Exit System (EES) Regulation (2017/2226/EU), European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) Regulation (2018/1240/EU), the Schengen Information System (SIS) Regulation (2022/1190/EU) on border controls, police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and return, the Interoperability Regulation (2019/818/EU) on borders and visa, police and judicial cooperation, and asylum and migration, and the amendment to the Visa Information System (VIS) Regulation (767/2008/EU).

On 20 February 2023, the Minister for Migration [instructed](#) the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (*Koninklijke Marechaussee* – KMar) to adapt its work methods for border controls to adhere to a ruling by the courts. On 14 February 2023, the court in The Hague ruled that the KMar cannot select people for checks during border controls because of their ethnicity, as this is a form of racial discrimination.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

No significant developments to report in 2023.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The national human smuggling policy framework 2023-2026 was [established](#) on 19 October 2023. It follows the EU-wide ambition to prevent human smuggling and presents an overview of Dutch priorities in the fight against human smuggling. The main objectives are to combat criminal networks, take an integrated approach,

strengthen investigation and prosecution, and improve prevention, international cooperation and data collection.

On 18 October 2023, the Dutch government [shared](#) its renewed programme 'Together against trafficking in human beings' (*Samen tegen Mensenhandel*) with the Dutch House of Representatives (*Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal*). Main actions from the programme include: 1) increasing societal awareness; 2) increasing willingness to report (*meldingsbereidheid*); 3) improving care for victims; 4) enhancing cooperation; 5) improving data-sharing between the organisations involved (e.g. municipalities, police, the Public Prosecution Service (*Openbaar Ministerie* - OM), caretakers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and different ministries.

RETURN AND READMISSION

Since 1 July 2023, migrants from Algeria, Belarus, Egypt, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, Turkey and Tunisia can [apply](#) for voluntary return and reintegration assistance. The Dutch government has given its approval to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Netherlands to extend voluntary return and reintegration support to migrants from these countries, who were temporarily excluded from the programme.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

On 30 May 2023, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation [presented](#) the Dutch-Africa Strategy 2023-2032 in the House of Representatives. A key goal is to reduce irregular migration. The Netherlands remains committed to investing in its bilateral relationship with key African countries of origin and transit.

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 regard third-country nationals, which means persons who are not EU citizens, including stateless persons. The data cover the period 2020-2023. Since 2023 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the

period 2020-2022 is covered. Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2024. **The data were extracted during April–May 2024. The manuscript was completed in May 2024.** The Eurostat website is constantly updated. Therefore, it is likely that more recent data will have become available since. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the latest data on [Eurostat's website](#).

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.

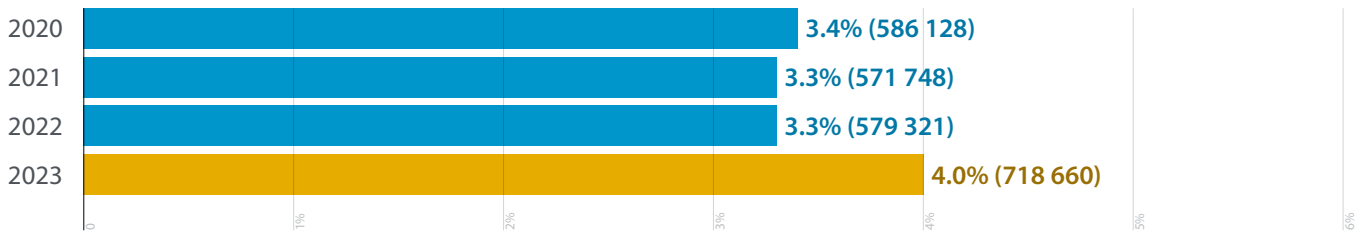
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2020–2023

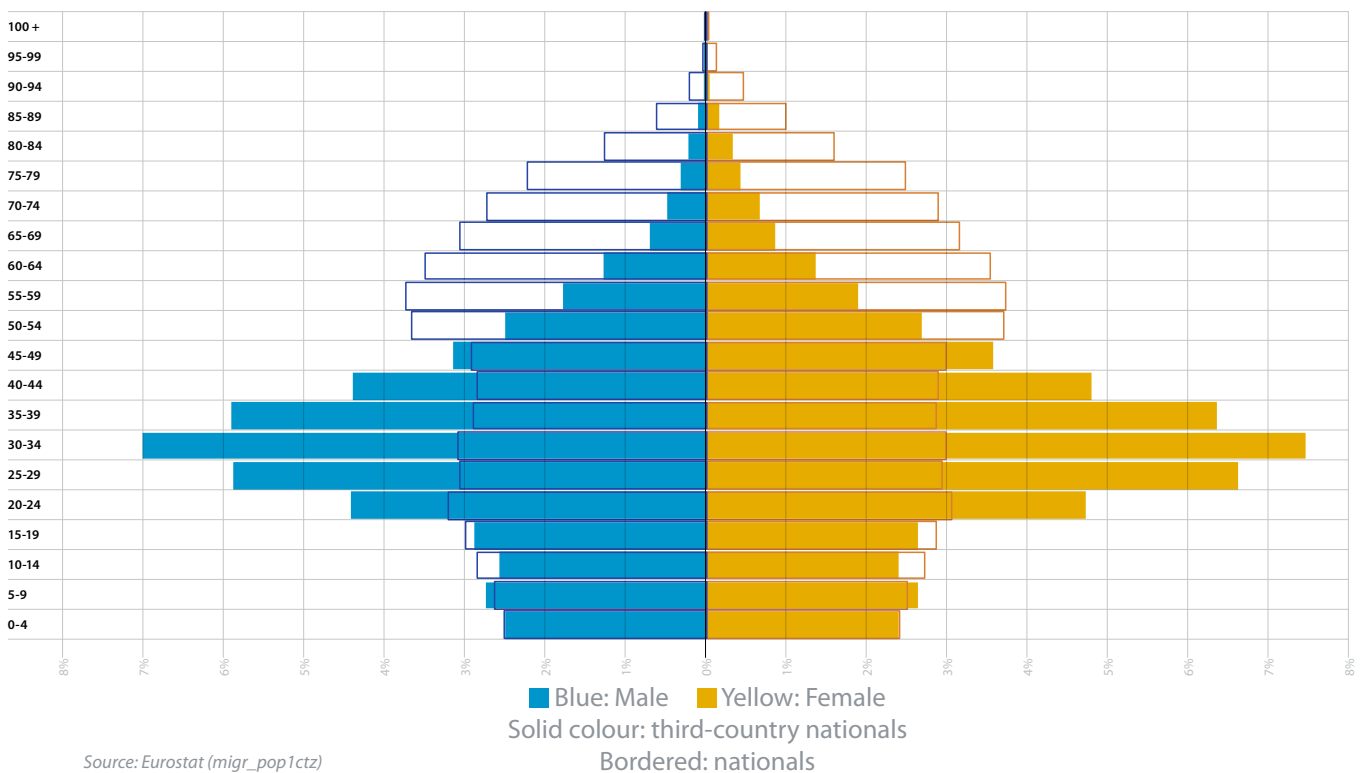
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2023

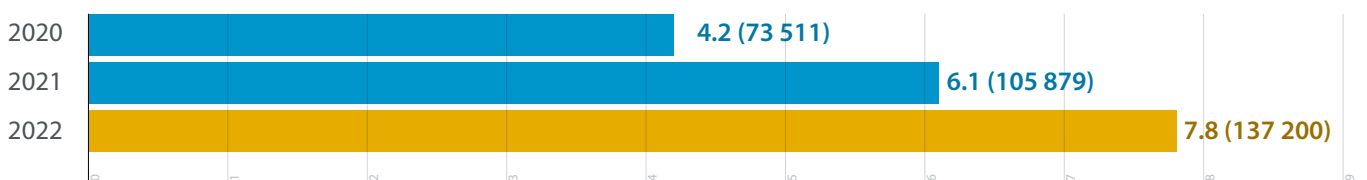
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2020–2022

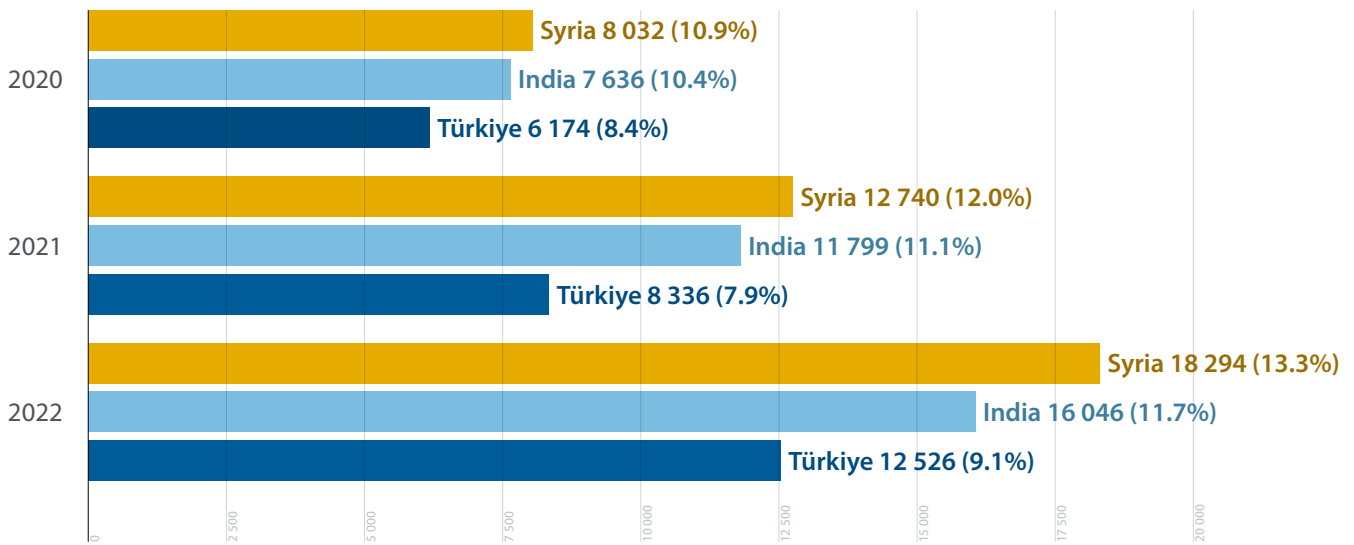
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz and migr_resp)

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2020–2022

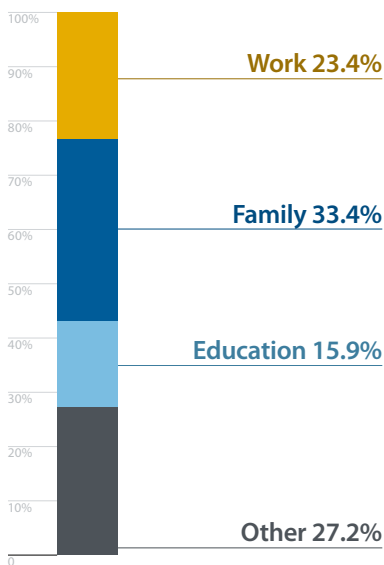
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



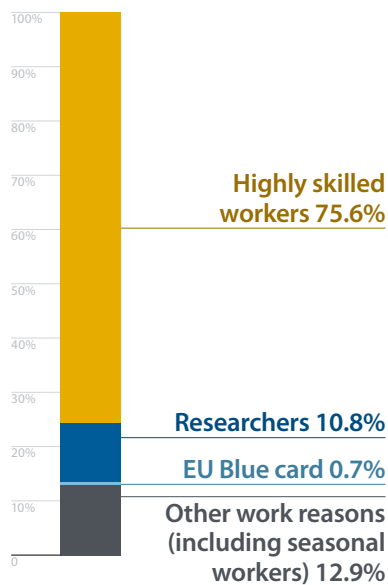
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2022

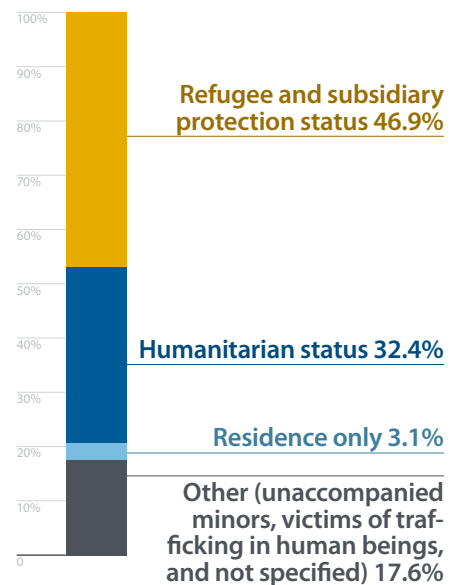
All permits, by reason, %



Work reason, by type, %



Other reason, by detailed reason, %



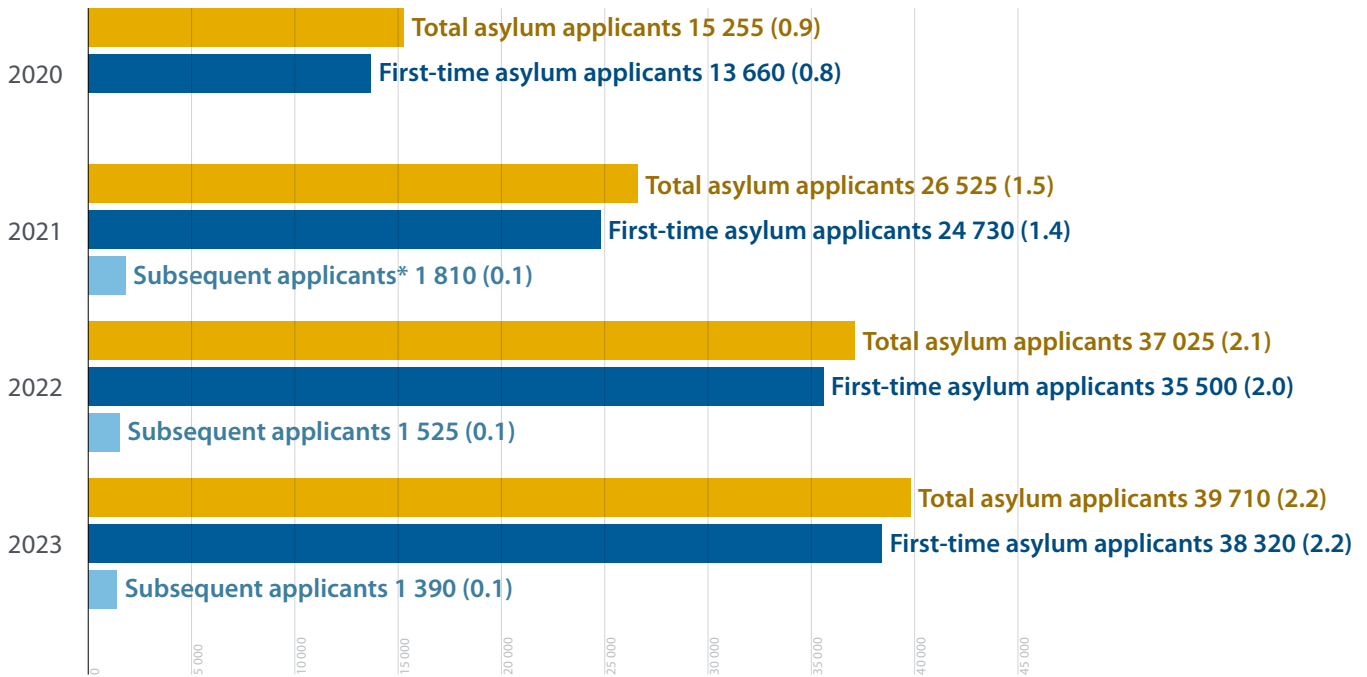
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resfpc, migr_resocc and migr_resoth)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

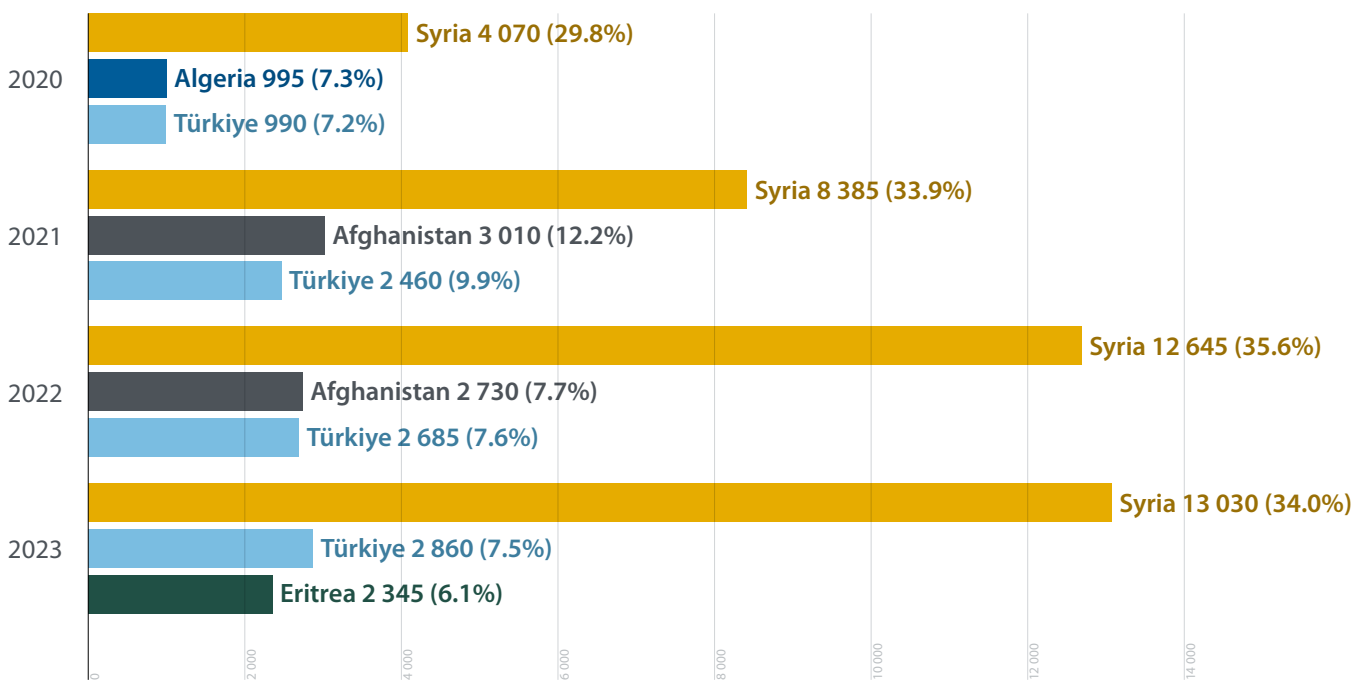


* Data collection from 2021.

Source: Eurostat (*migr_asyappctza*, *migr_pop1ctz* and *migr_asyapp1mp*)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2020–2023

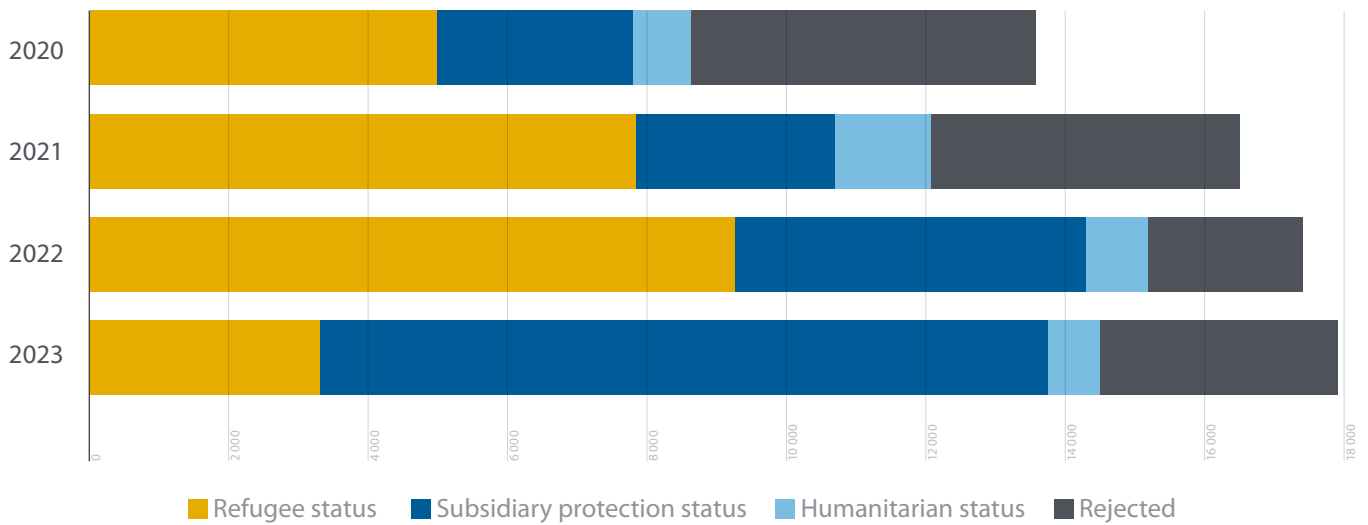
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (*migr_asyappctza*)

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

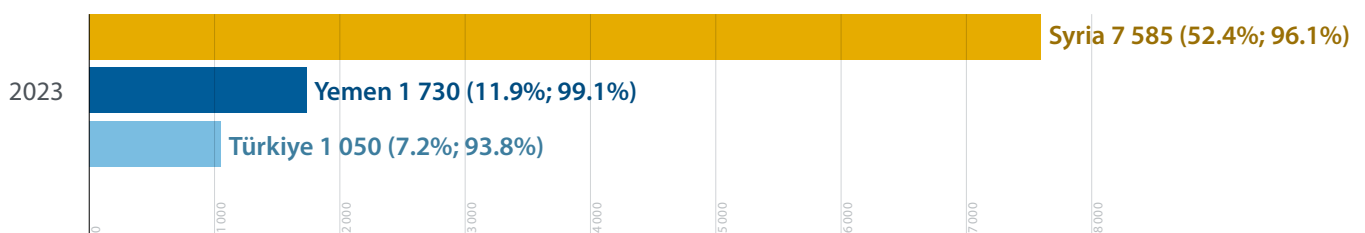


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	4 975 (36.6%)	2 820 (20.8%)	820 (6.0%)	4 965 (36.5%)
2021	7 825 (47.4%)	2 865 (17.4%)	1 375 (8.3%)	4 435 (26.9%)
2022	9 245 (53.1%)	5 045 (29.0%)	890 (5.1%)	2 220 (12.7%)
2023	3 290 (18.4%)	10 460 (58.4%)	735 (4.1%)	3 425 (19.1%)

Source: Eurostat (*migr_asydcfsta* and *migr_asydec1pc*)

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, 2023

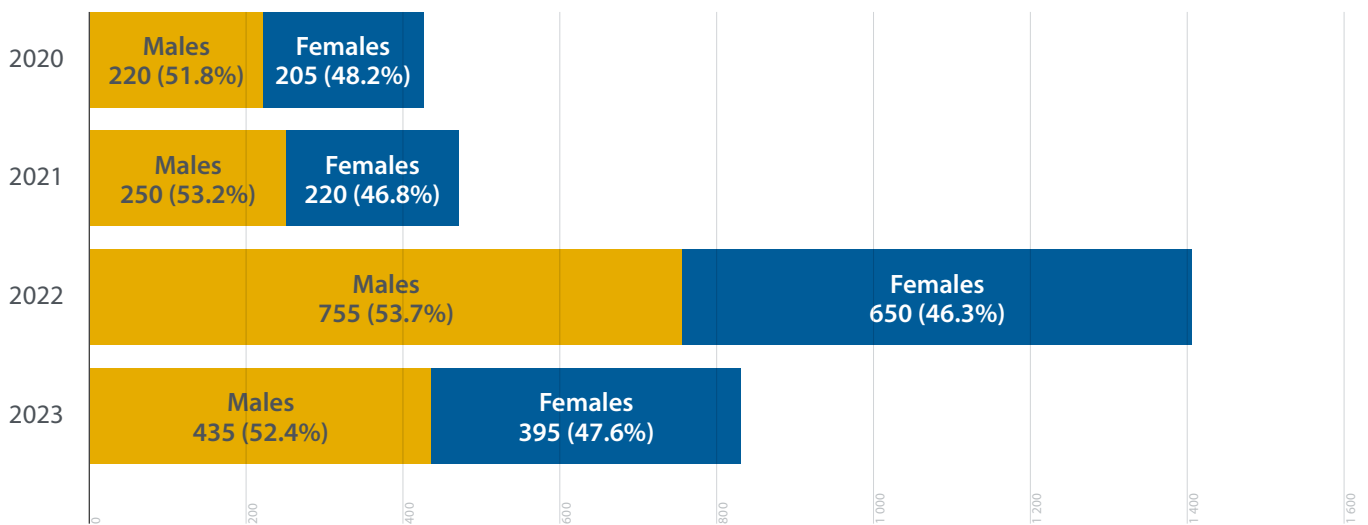
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat (*migr_asydcfsta*)

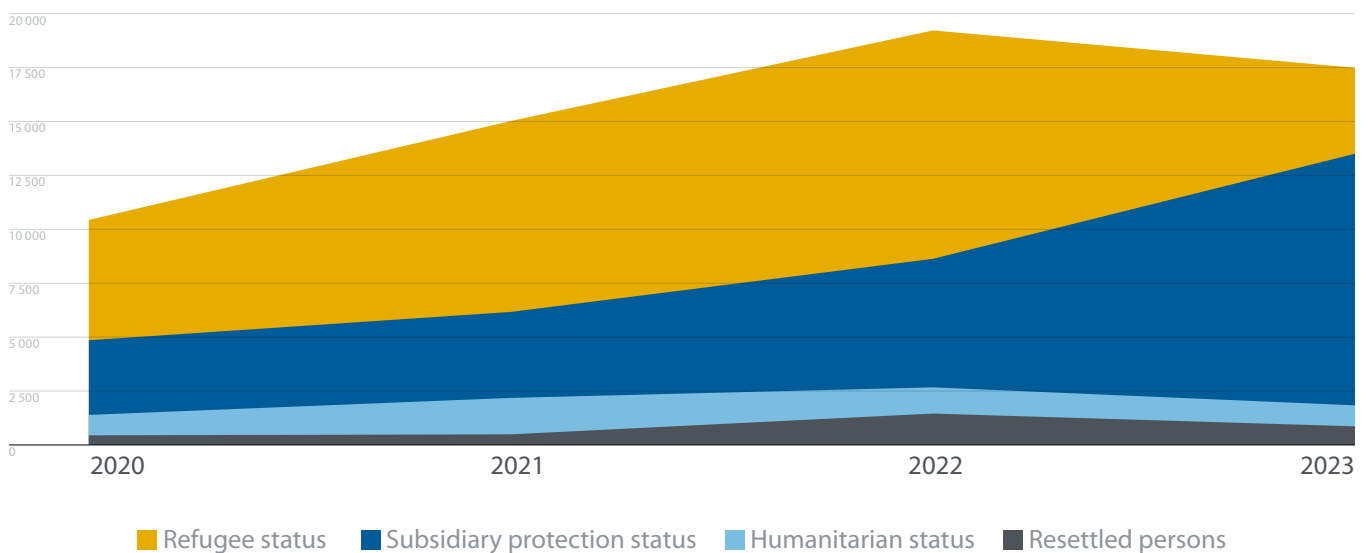
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

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



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2020–2023



Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2020	5 415	3 360	920	425
2021	8 595	3 870	1 640	470
2022	10 280	5 785	1 180	1 405
2023	3 870	11 325	945	830

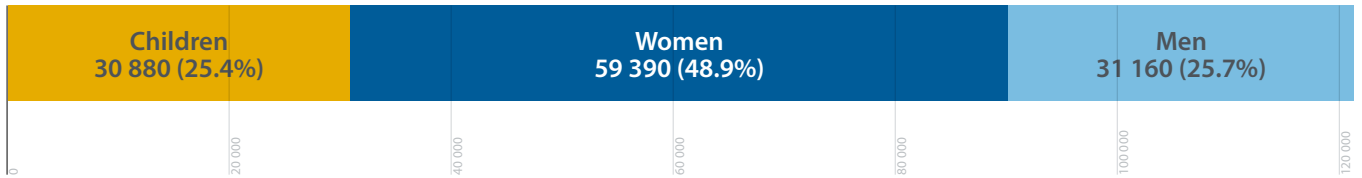
Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

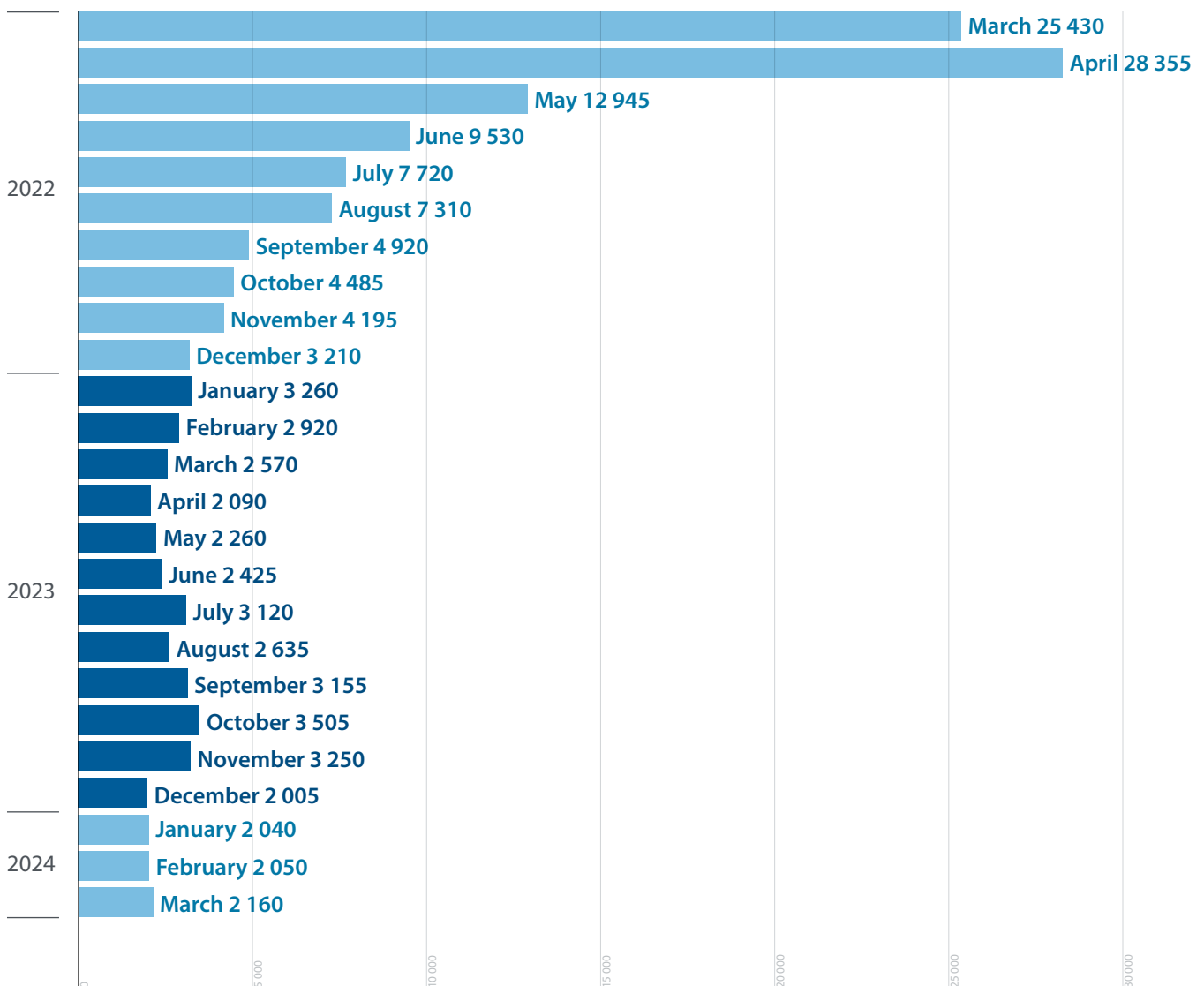
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



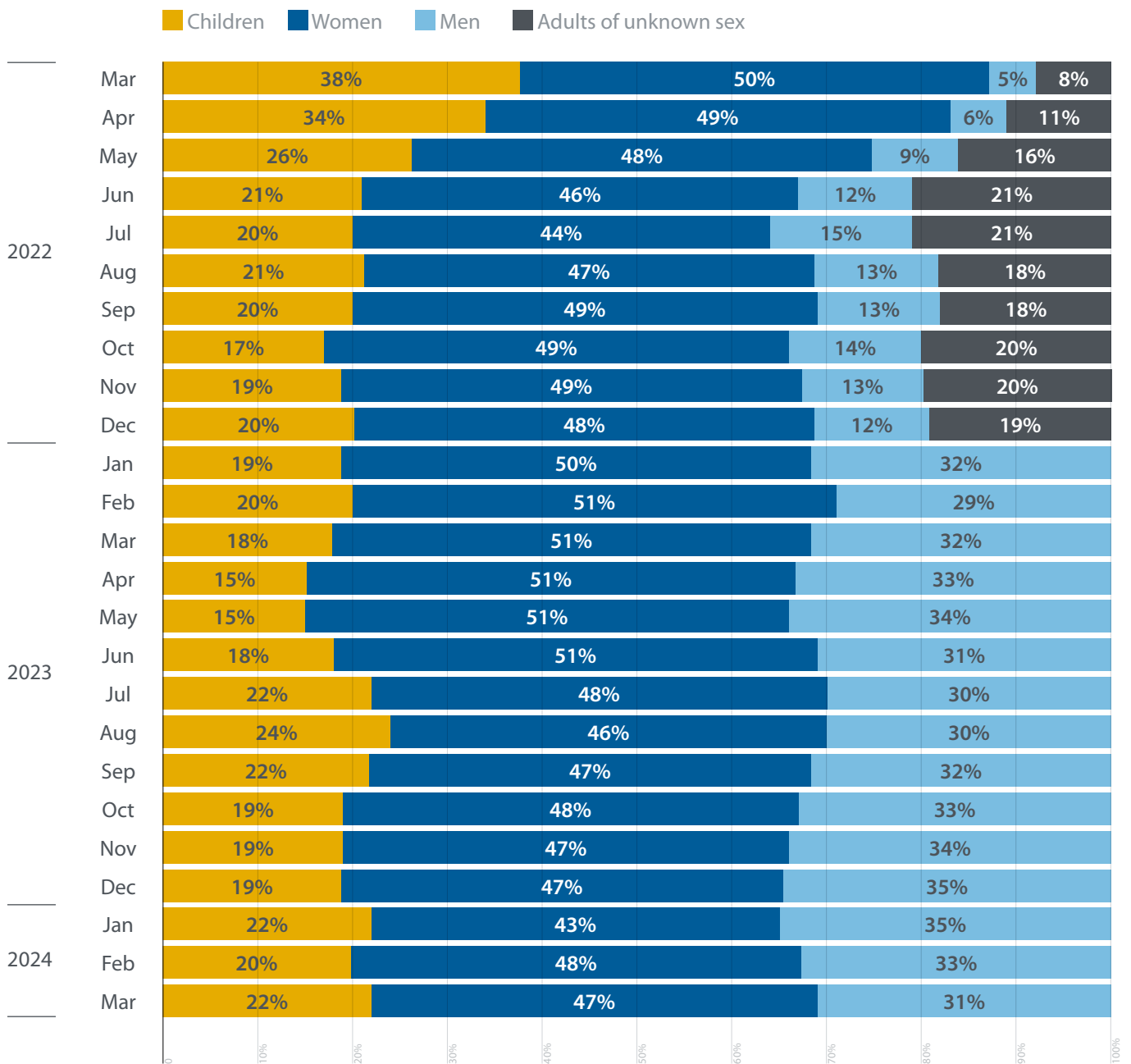
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytspm)

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



Source: Eurostat (migr_asytprm)

Distribution by age and sex of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



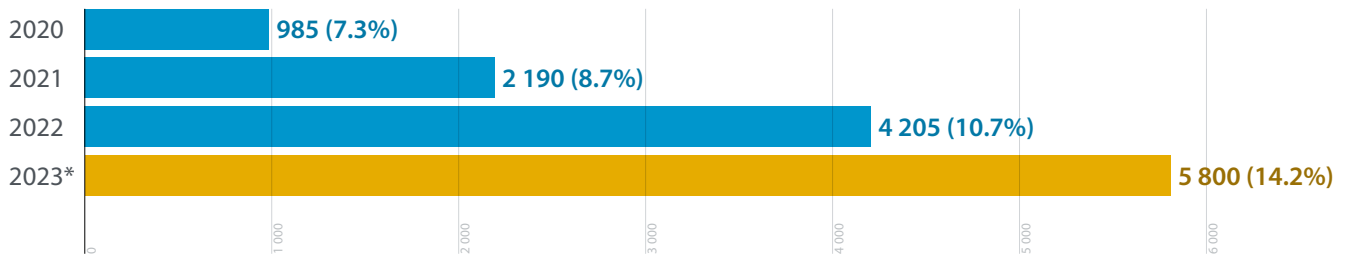
Source: Eurostat (migr_asypfm)



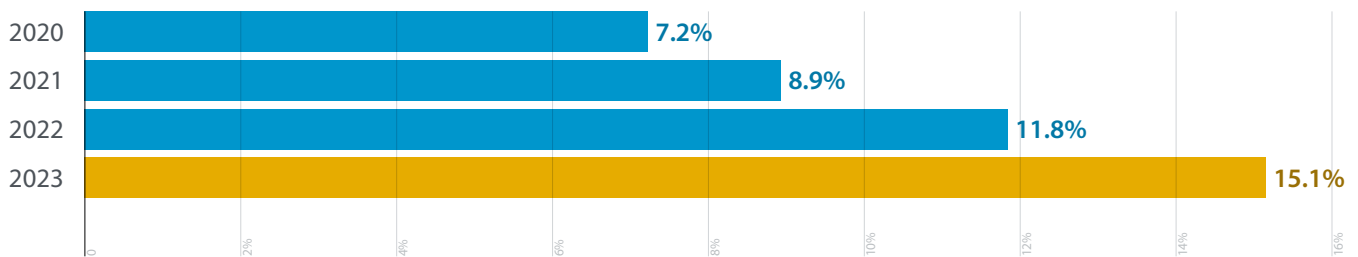
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

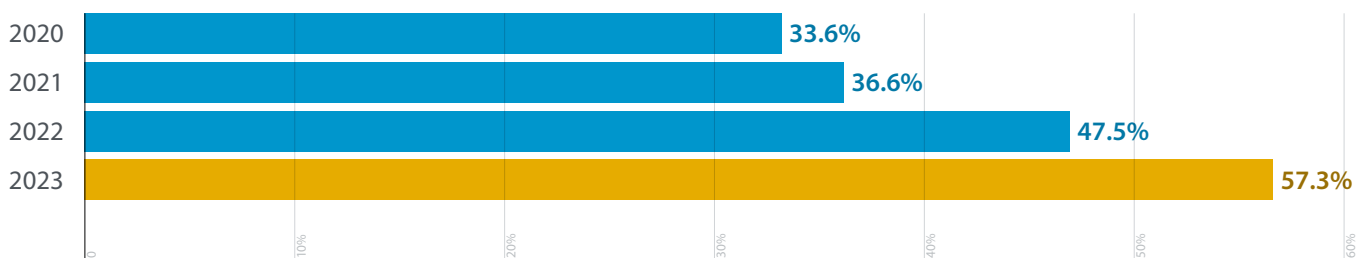
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



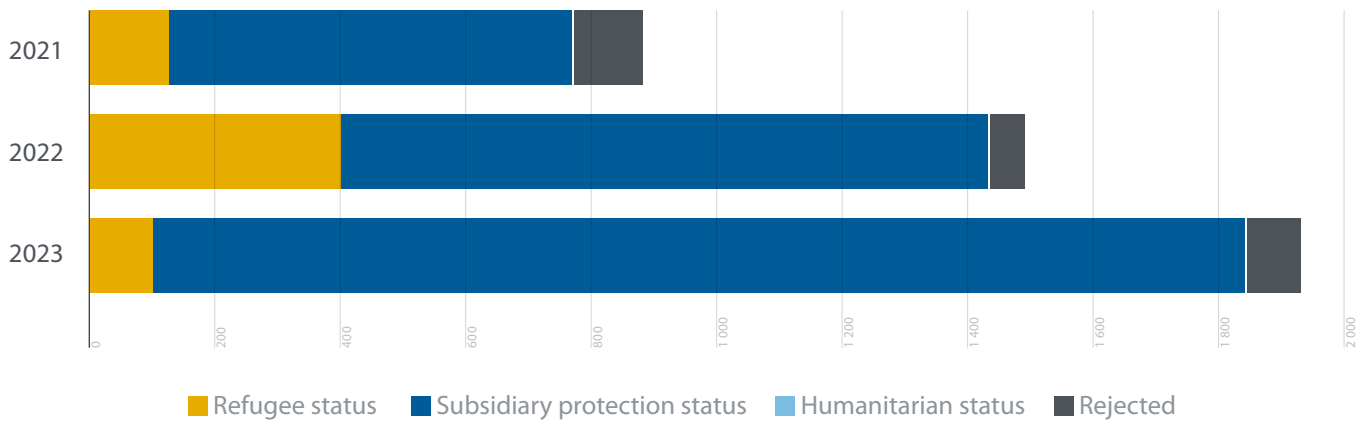
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



* The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes 2022 data for Cyprus.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa and migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



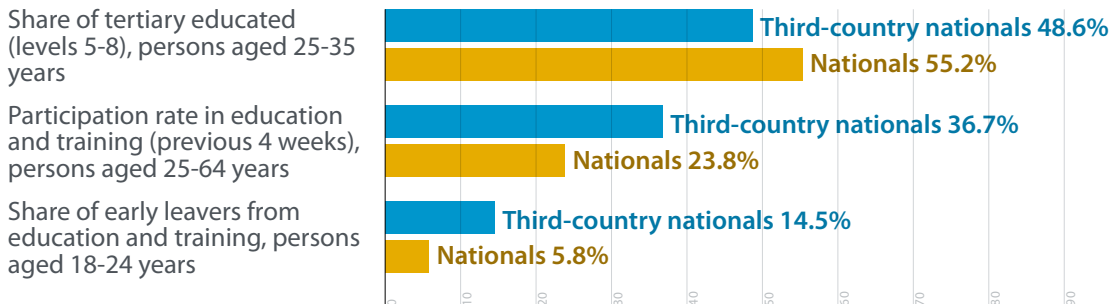
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	125 (14.1%)	645 (72.9%)	0 (0.0%)	110 (12.4%)
2022	400 (26.8%)	1 035 (69.2%)	0 (0.0%)	55 (3.7%)
2023	100 (5.2%)	1 745 (90.2%)	0 (0.0%)	85 (4.4%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdca)

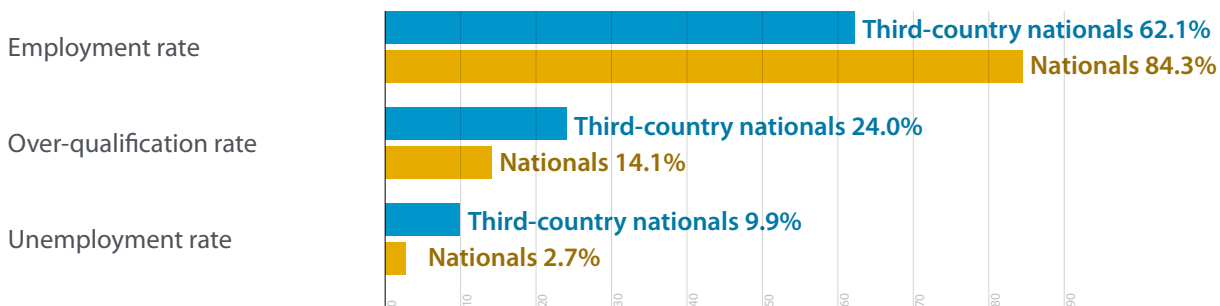
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

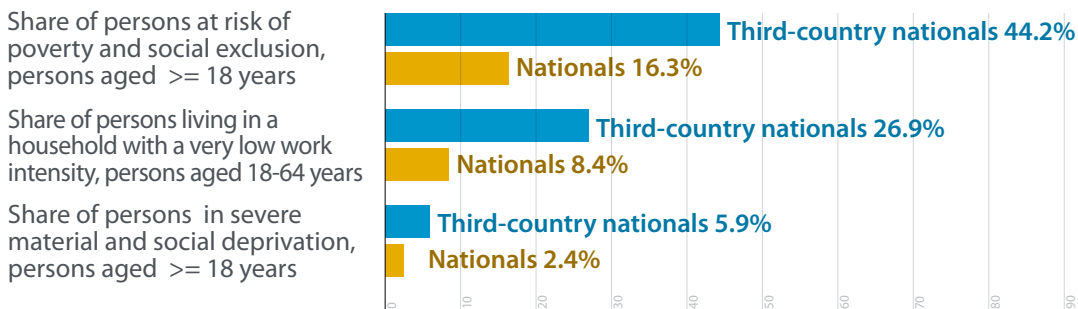
Education, 2023



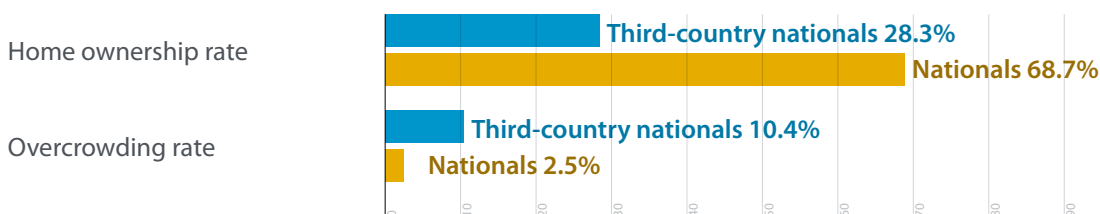
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



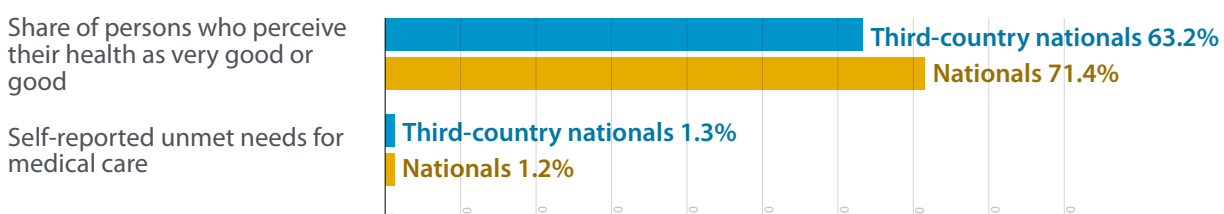
Social inclusion, 2022



Housing, persons aged >= 18 years, 2022



Health, persons aged >= 16 years, 2022

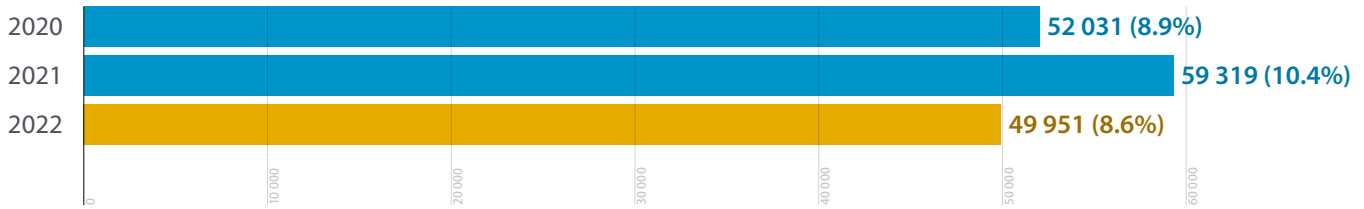




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2020–2022

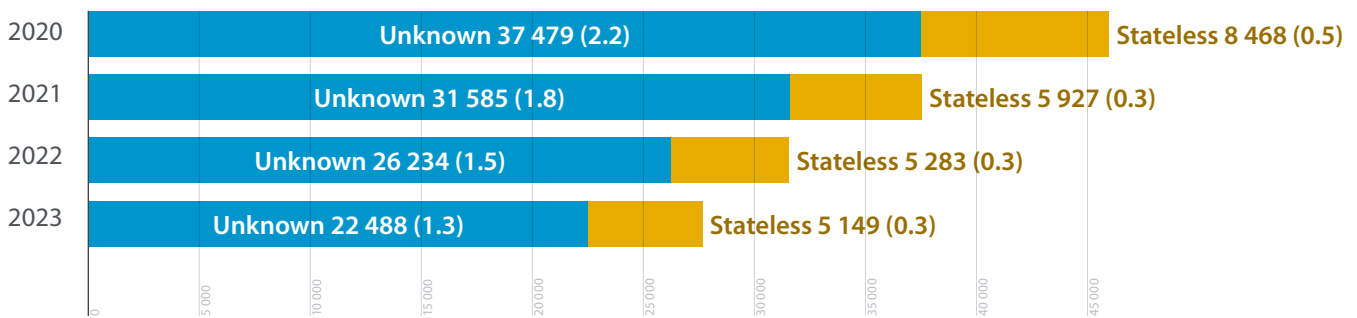
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2020–2023

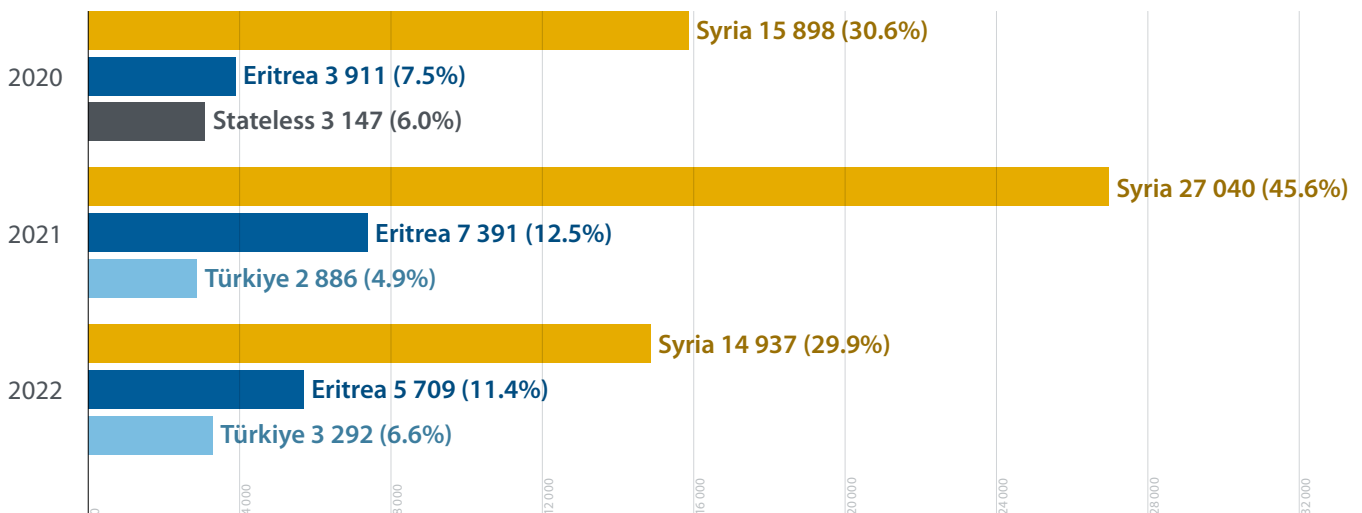
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2020–2022

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

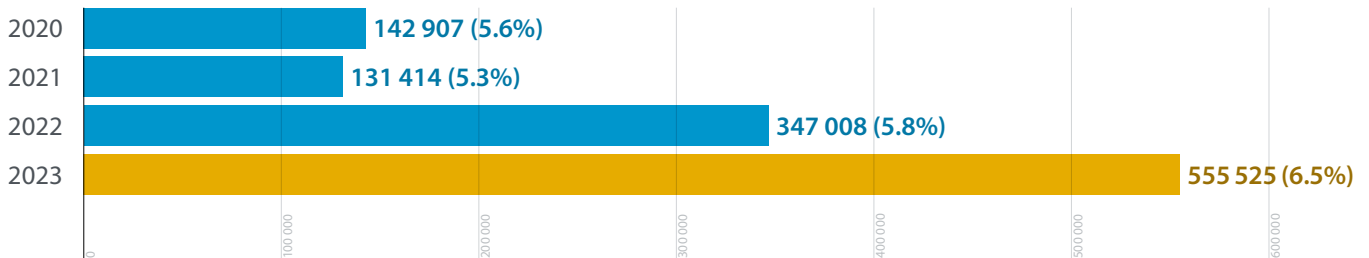


Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2020–2023

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

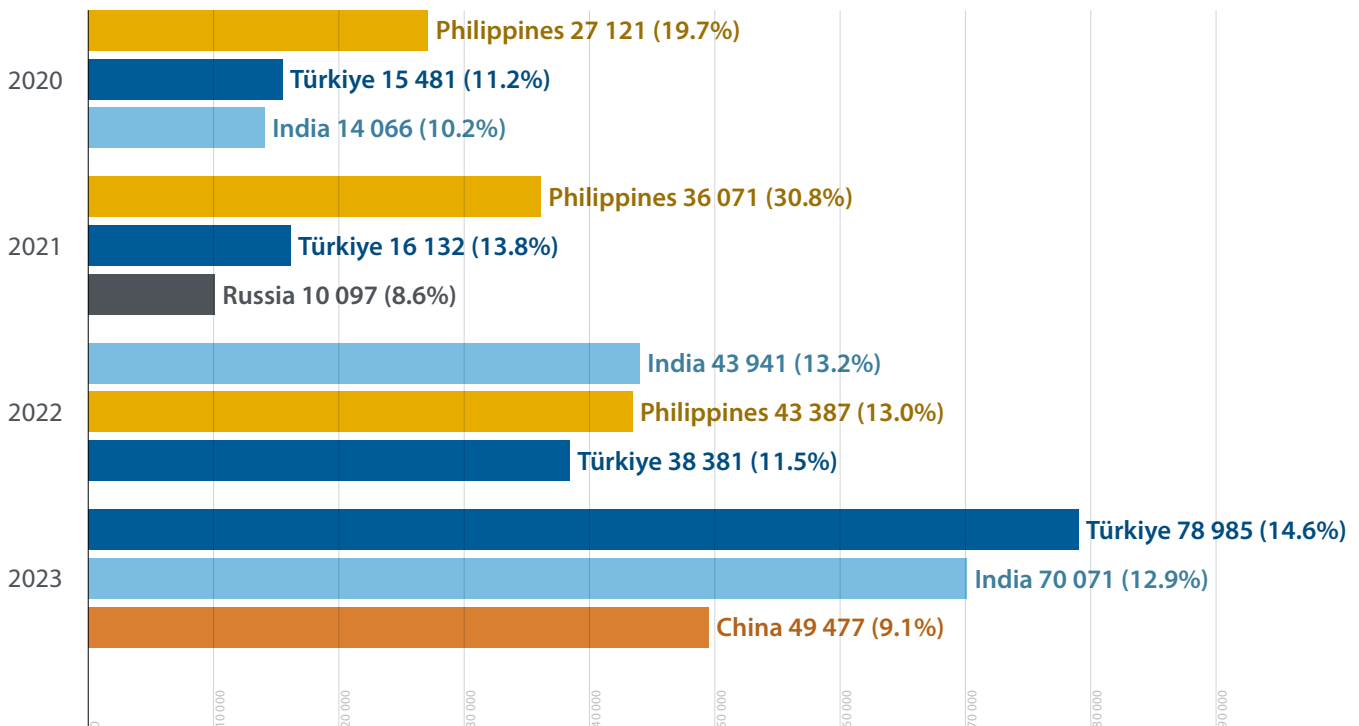


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Three consulate countries in which the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2020–2023

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.

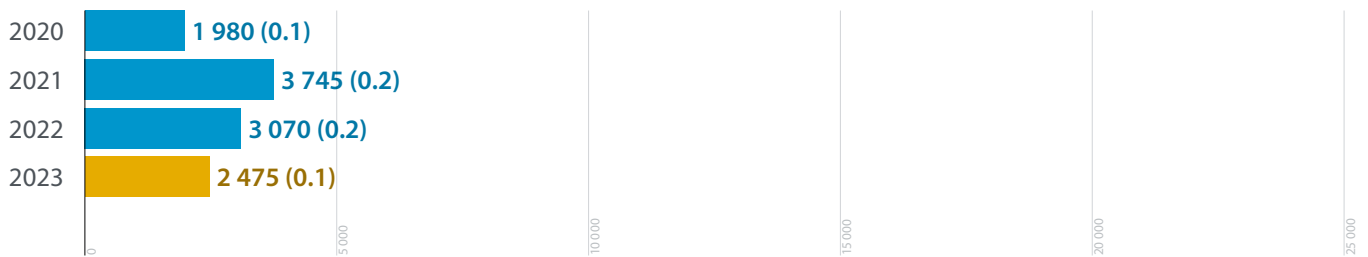
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

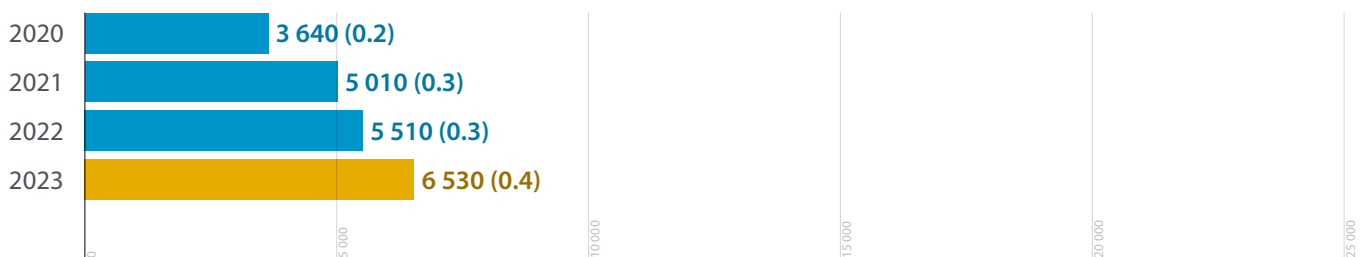
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

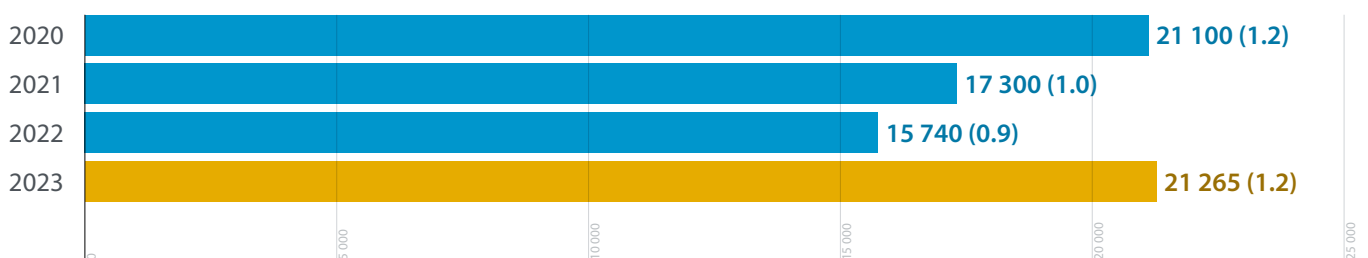
Persons refused entry



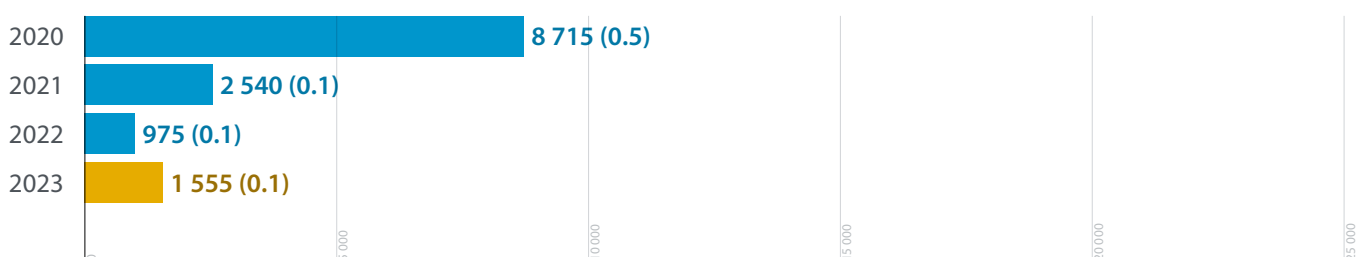
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country



Source: Eurostat (*migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn, demo_gind and migr_eilpop*)

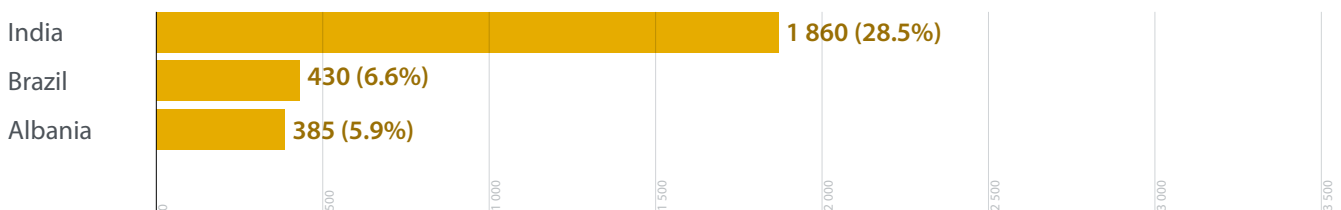
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

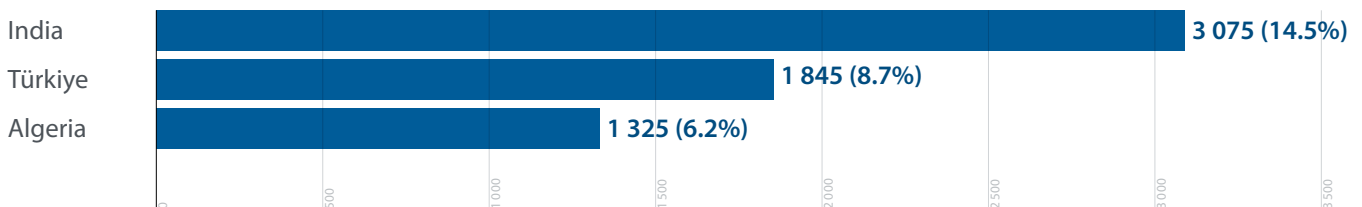
Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

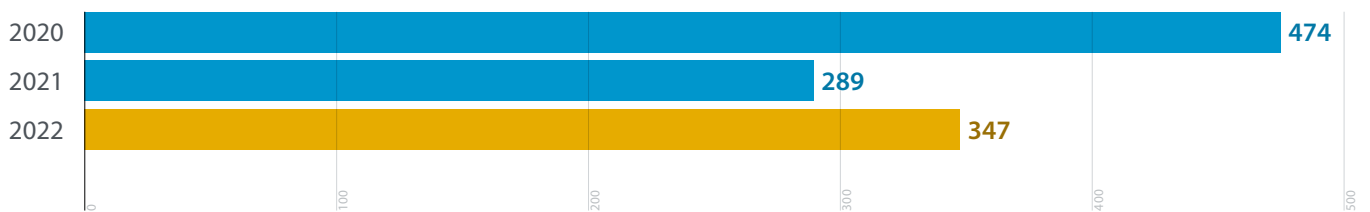


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



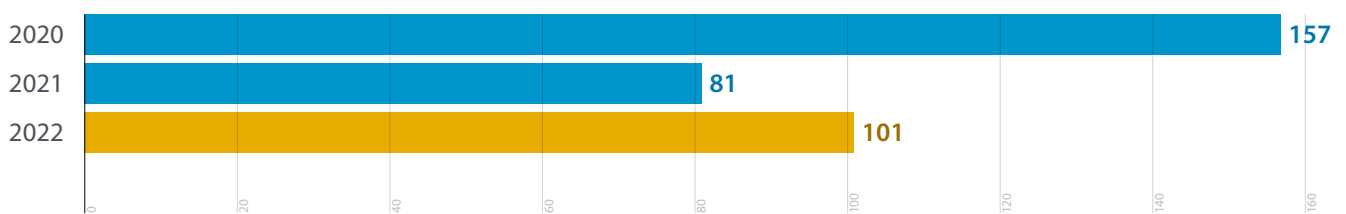
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022



Source: Eurostat (crim_thb_vctz)

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022

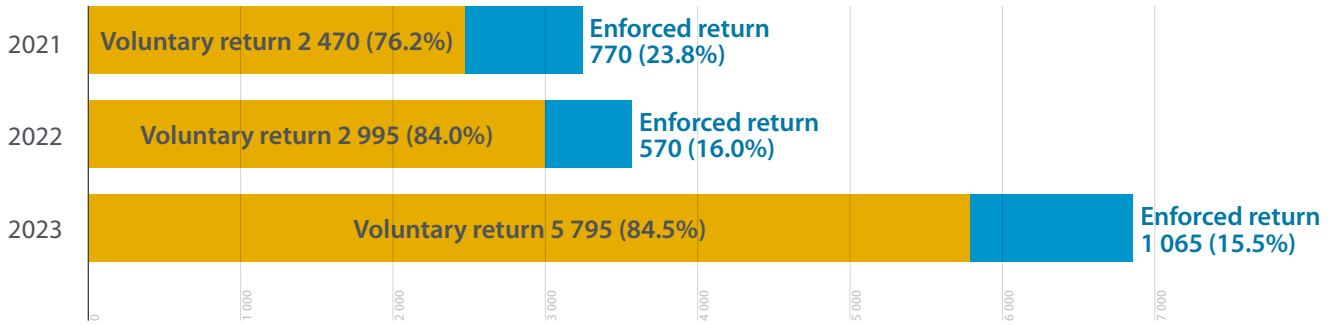


Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2023

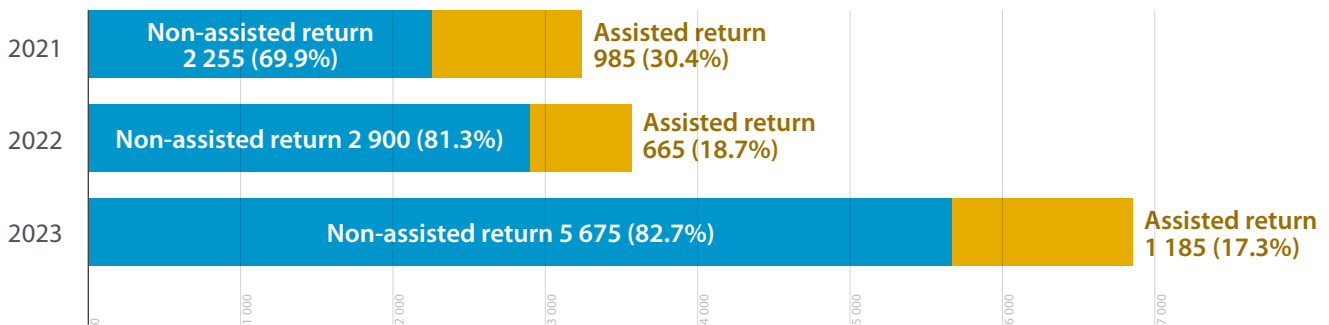
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)