



AUSTRIA 2021

Main developments in migration
and international protection,
including latest statistics

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

August 2022



OVERARCHING CHANGES

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic saw [special provisions](#) in implementing the Aliens Law extended to 30 June 2022, primarily to reduce social contact. From 1 January 2021, the newly established [Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services company with limited liability](#) became responsible for legal advice and legal representation, return counselling and return assistance, human rights monitoring and interpretation and translation services.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

The entry into force of the Withdrawal Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and the EU resulted in [changes](#) for Austrian employers, British employees, students and their family members from 1 January 2021.

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

Labour migration measures aimed to increase Austria's attractiveness as a business location so as to meet the demand for skilled workers. A [legislative amendment](#) meant that foreign employees of (quasi-)international organisations and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) with privileges and immunities became generally exempt from the scope of the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals. The [Regulation for Skilled Workers](#) and the Quota Regulation on the [Temporary Employment of Foreign Nationals in Tourism and in Agriculture and Forestry](#) were enacted for 2022. Finally,

KEY POINTS



The COVID-19 pandemic saw temporary measures introduced to the Aliens Law, social and educational support, labour market integration, health information, border controls, removals from the country, and on-site assistance.



From 1 January 2021, the newly established Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services company with limited liability took on responsibility for legal advice and legal representation, return counselling and return assistance, human rights monitoring, and interpreting and translation services.



Various amendments to labour migration legislation aimed to meet the demand for skilled workers, increase Austria's attractiveness as a business location, and prevent social dumping and labour exploitation.

amendments to the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals and the Settlement and Residence Act resulted in the adoption of a new [Registered Seasonal Worker Regulation](#), simplifying the process to obtain work permits for seasonal workers under certain conditions. The maximum number of seasonal workers and harvest workers was omitted from the [Settlement Regulation 2022](#). The Posting of Workers Directive was transposed [into national law](#), creating new protection standards for

foreign workers to prevent social dumping and labour exploitation.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

From 1 January 2021, the [Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services company with limited liability](#) became responsible for providing legal advice at the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum and before the Federal Administrative Court as well as for the provision of human rights observers, interpreters and translators. The Constitutional Court revoked two decrees which had [restricted the employment of asylum seekers](#), as they were not properly promulgated and were thus deemed unlawful.



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Between February and June 2021, a [Commission on the Best Interests of the Child](#) examined the legal framework and its practical implementation for children in asylum and right-to-remain procedures. It then made [recommendations on procedural guarantees for minors](#). Parliament called on the Federal Government to [improve the protection and legal status of children](#) in respect of safeguarding quick guardianship for unaccompanied minor refugees and centring the child's best interests in asylum procedures.



INTEGRATION

NATIONAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY

There was a focus on measures to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Integration priorities](#) also included the labour market, transmission of values and German-language skills, promoting women's equality, interaction and volunteer work, and [preventing parallel societies and extremism](#).

INVOLVEMENT OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

In order to implement the integration objectives, cooperation with various stakeholders was strengthened in 2021. First, volunteer-based integration initiatives that help to [strengthen integration in municipalities and regions](#) were funded by the Austrian Integration Fund. Second, support was provided for cooperation against extremism and segregation, such as the work undertaken by the *Vienna Forum*.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF ADULTS/ LABOUR MARKET AND SKILLS

All [German courses](#) are organized in a standardized way and assigned centrally by the Austrian Integration Fund, as of 2021. The range was expanded to include specialised language courses for the [restaurant and catering](#), [hotel](#), [tourism](#), and [grocery](#) sectors. Compulsory [orientation and values courses](#) were extended to three days (from 2022).

FIGHTING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

From 1 November 2020, prejudicial motives are comprehensively recorded in the [prosecution of hate crimes](#). Training courses and events targeted improved police recording of hate crimes.

BASIC SERVICES

[COVID-19 vaccination](#) is available free of charge to everyone living in Austria. [Specific services](#) were initiated for people granted asylum, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status and migrants, including interpreters attending vaccination consultations. Multilingual information on COVID-19 was also increased. Funding was provided for projects to [mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic](#) on those at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and to [prevent/protect against violence](#).



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

From 28 July 2021, individuals legally sentenced for terrorism could be [deprived of their Austrian citizenship](#), provided they retained other citizenship.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

BORDER MANAGEMENT

EU Border Management Regulations were [implemented in national law](#) with the aim of improving interoperability. This involved the implementation of the common electronic Entry/Exit System (EES) and the expansion of the Schengen Information System (SIS).

SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

[Border controls](#) continued at Austria's borders with Slovenia and Hungary. Temporary border controls with [Slovak Republic and Czech Republic](#) were introduced in spring 2021 due to the pandemic.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

PREVENTING AND TACKLING IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

The [Passport Act Amendment](#) came into force on 2 August 2021, reflecting new international standards and simplifying the verification of documents. In accordance with the [EU Directive](#), it applied to identity cards and residence documents of EU citizens and their family members.

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

Austria expanded its [use of drones](#) to [organise personnel deployment](#) more efficiently in border areas. The Federal Ministry of the Interior launched an [online campaign](#) on the risks and dangers of irregular migration, which was rolled out in a number of countries of origin/transit. Other preventive measures included information campaigns in Pakistan and countries in the Western Balkan region, and [multilingual safety information](#) for lorry drivers. On 1 January 2021, the [Joint Coordination Platform](#) in Vienna became operational. It seeks to [improve operational cooperation](#) with the Western Balkan region in border management, expulsions, and combating migrant smuggling.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

NATIONAL STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The [National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking 2021-2023](#) was published in June 2021. Key elements are: (1) strengthening (inter)national cooperation, (2) prevention through information and awareness-raising, (3) victim protection and prosecution of perpetrators, and (4) monitoring and research measures. Given the pandemic, there was also a focus on [labour exploitation](#) and the increased vulnerability of certain occupational groups.

IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Austria focused on [preventing](#) trafficking in human beings by providing information and raising awareness among (potential) trafficked persons and certain occupational groups.



RETURN AND READMISSION

MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services company with limited liability became responsible for [return counselling and return assistance](#) from 1 January 2021. Its tasks include: (1) clarification of the individual's prospects, i.e. the option of voluntary return and relevant support services; and (2) in the event of a decision to return voluntarily, return assistance, i.e. measures and organisational steps for voluntary return. As of 1 January 2021, [compulsory return counselling](#) sessions are only provided once the return decision against a asylum seeker or lawfully resident third-country national is final or enforceable/practicable. [Exceptions](#) apply to unlawfully resident third-country nationals and accelerated procedures. The possibility of receiving voluntary return counselling at any stage of the procedure has been retained. In September 2021, the Constitutional Court recognised the [issuing of a return decision and removal to Afghanistan](#) following the Taliban takeover of the country as a violation of constitutionally guaranteed rights (Articles 2 and 3 European Convention on Human Rights).



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL ACTIONS

Austria continued to support the local population, refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities in countries of origin/transit with [bilateral humanitarian aid](#) from the Foreign Disaster Fund. Parliament called on the Austrian Federal Government to fund projects promoting [women's rights and the prevention of violence](#). The Federal Government was also asked to step-up local assistance, international coordination, and other efforts in [Afghanistan](#).



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 Austria 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 Austria

Data relative to EU



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

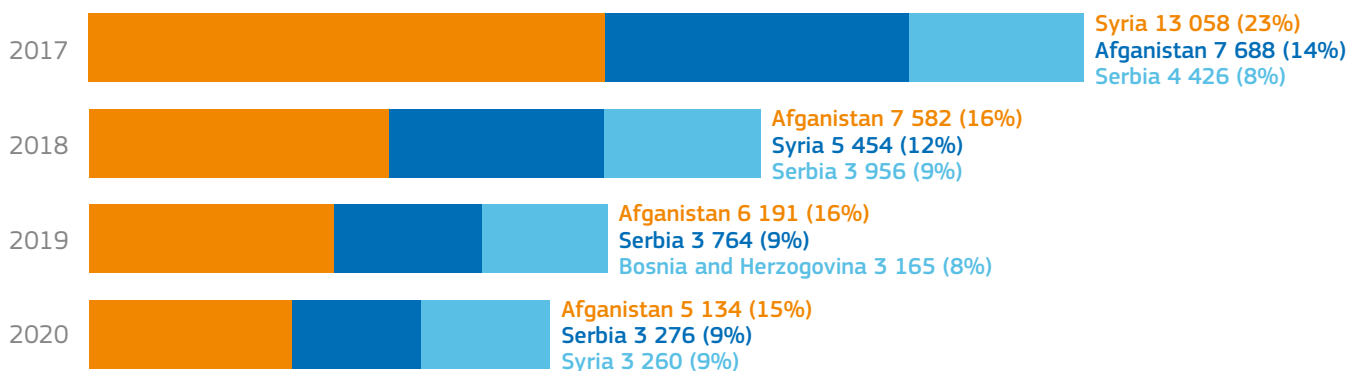
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population in the country (and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



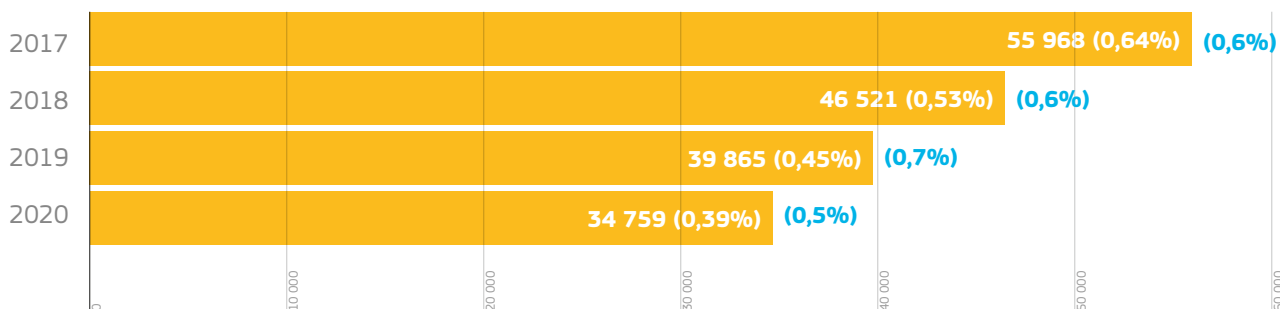
Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



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

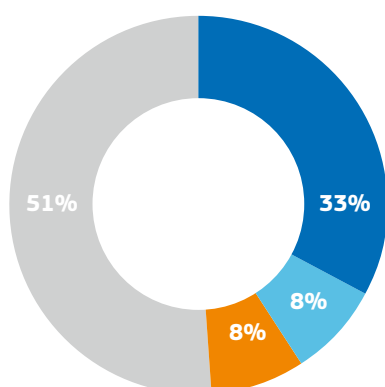
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz)



First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

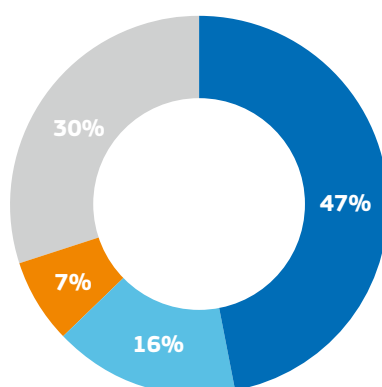
- Family
- Education
- Work
- Other



First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

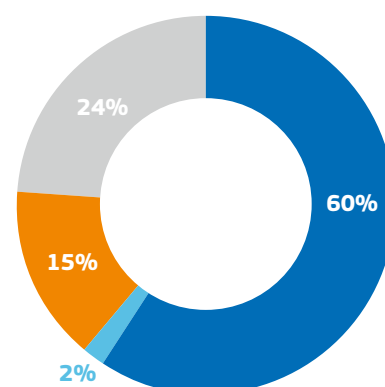
- Highly skilled
- Researchers
- EU Blue Card
- Other



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

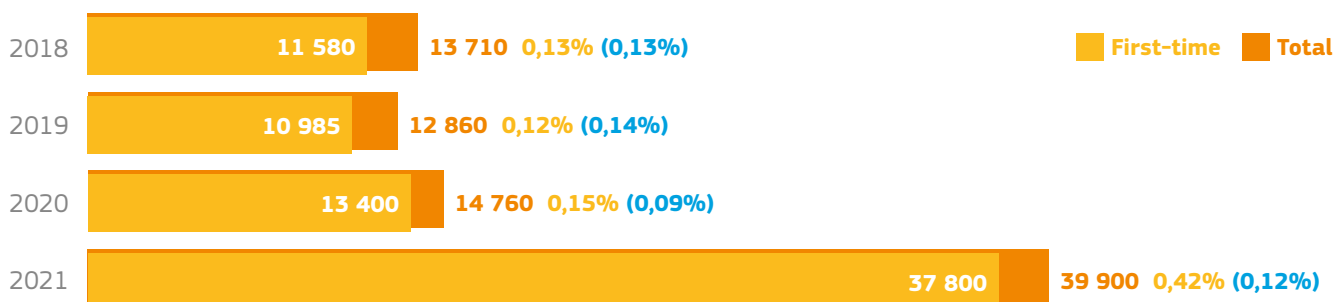
- Refugee/sub prot.
- Residence only
- Humanitarian
- Not specified



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

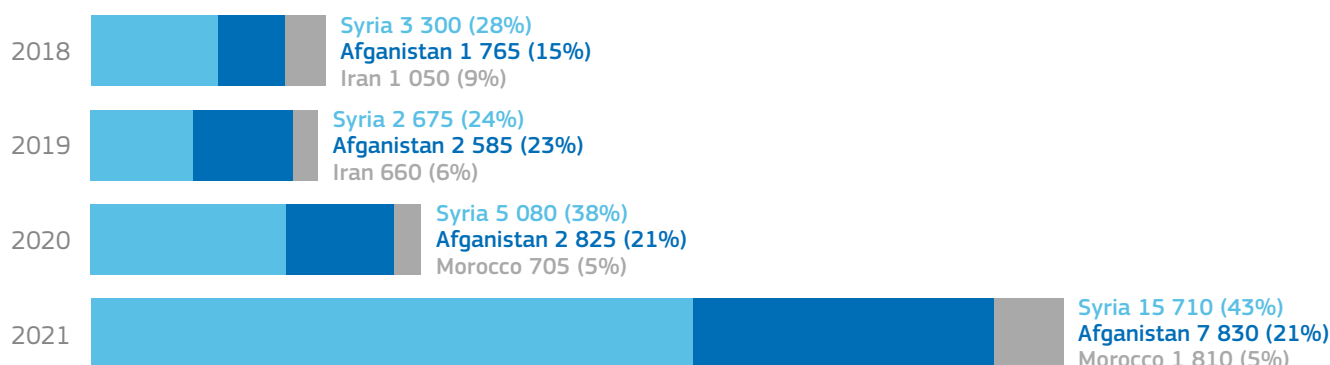
Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asylum applications as % of population in the country (and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)



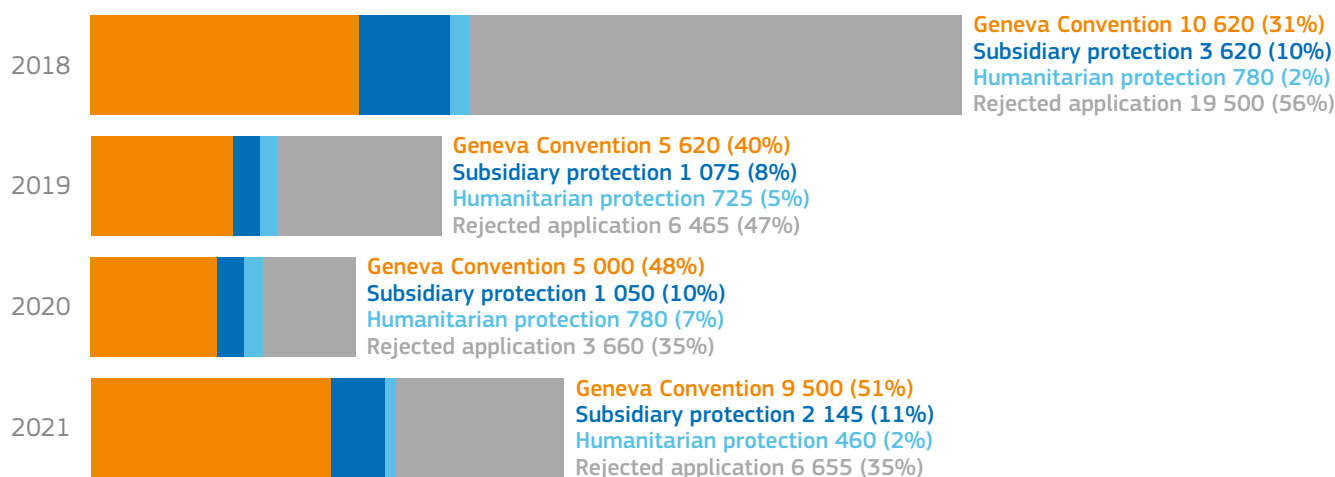
Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



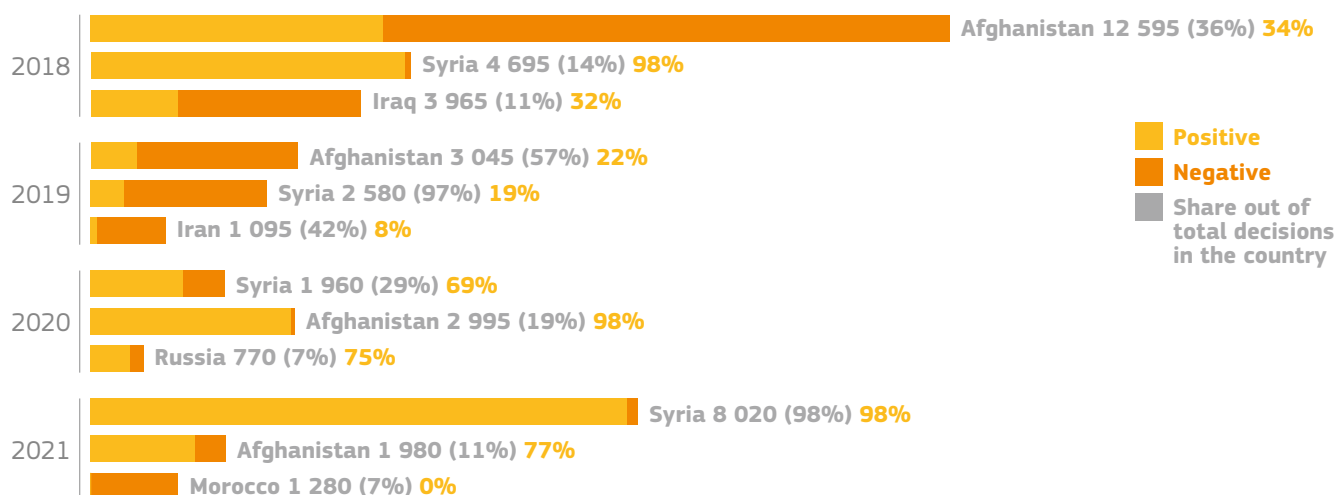
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstz)



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_asydcfstz)



■ Positive
■ Negative
■ Share out of total decisions in the country

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

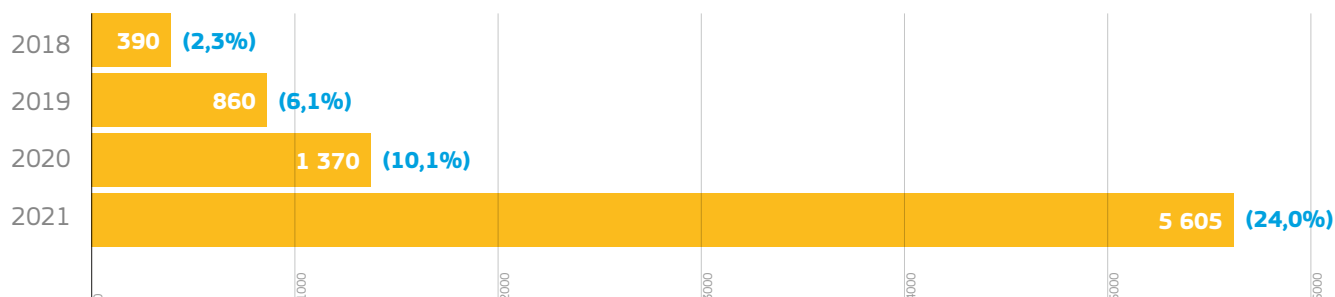
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

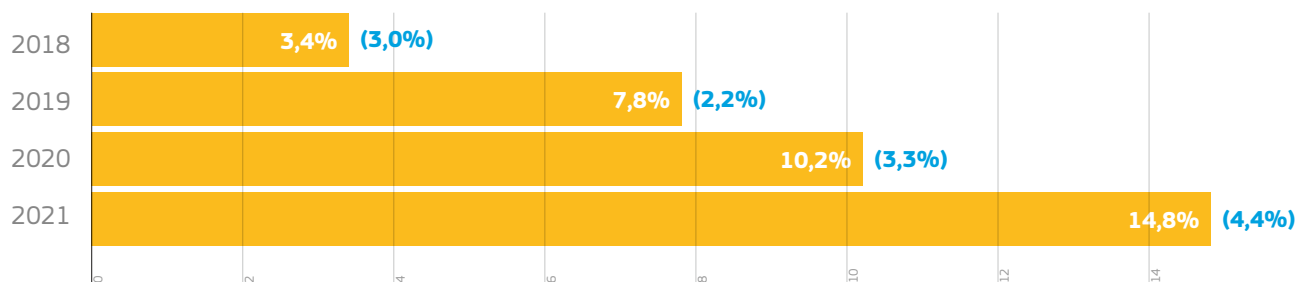
Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from unaccompanied minors in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa, migr_asyappctza)

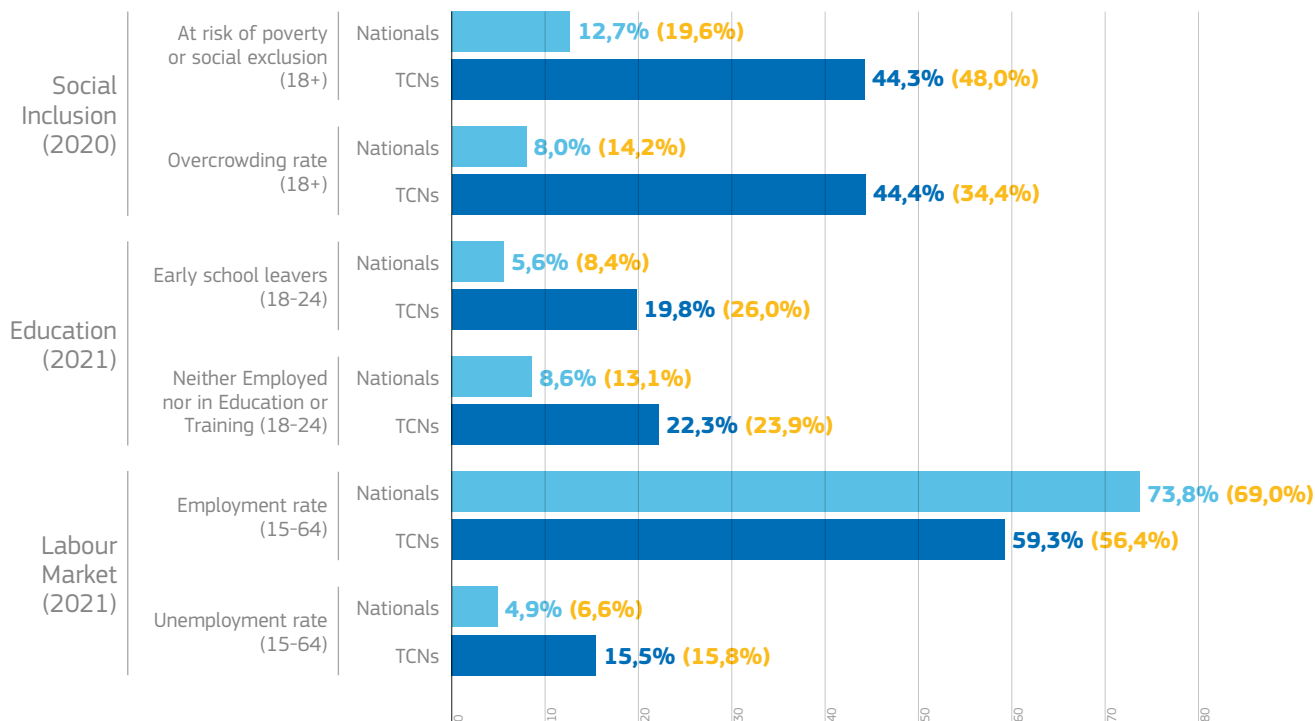




INTEGRATION

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.

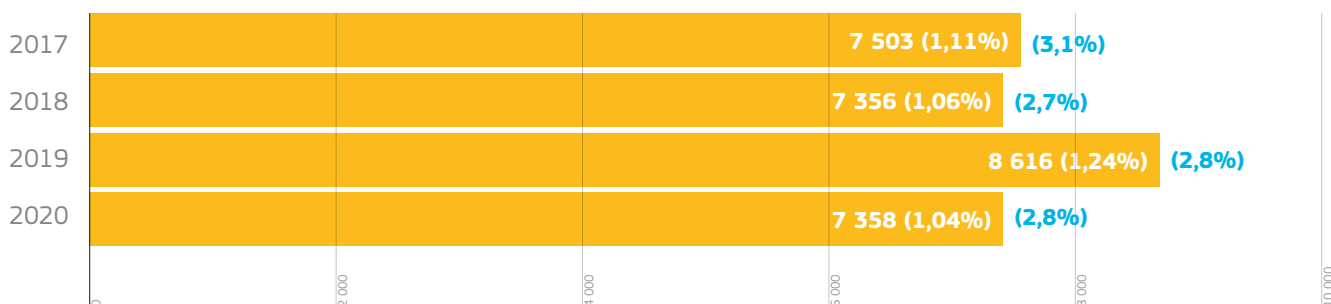
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lwho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

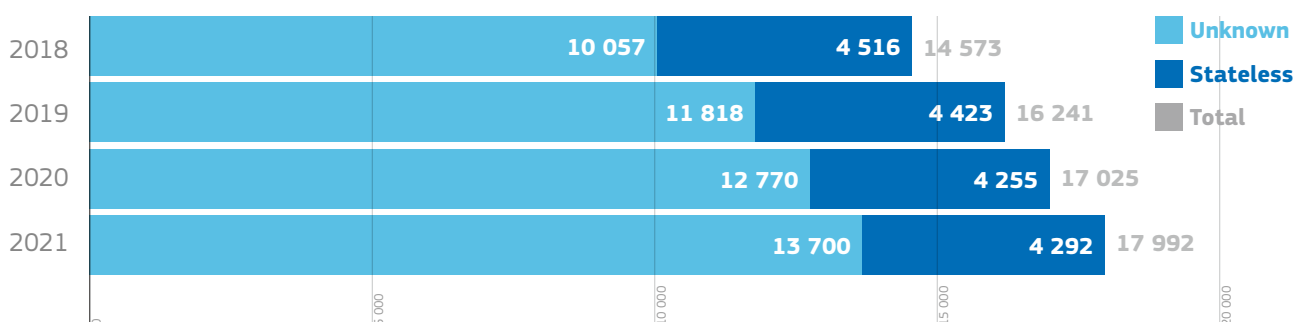
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

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

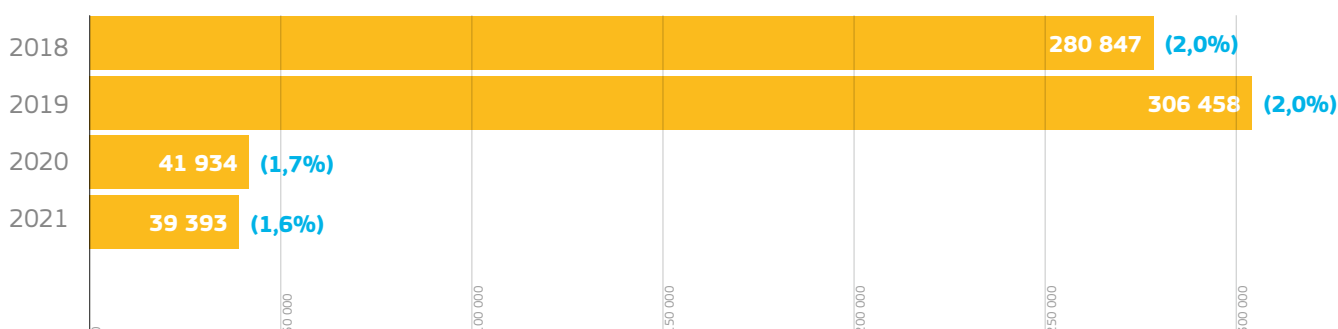
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

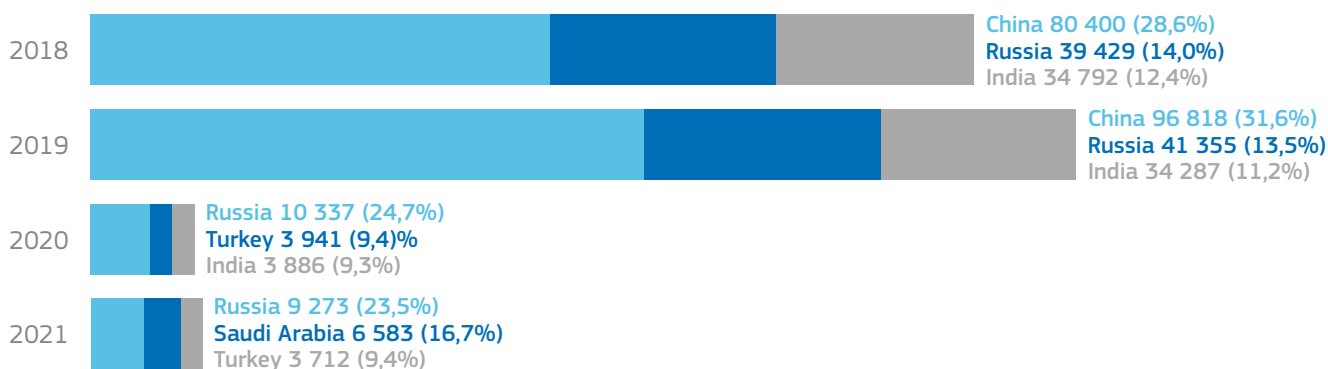
Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

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

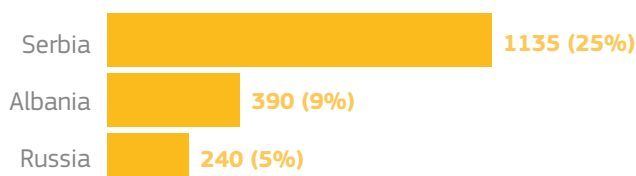
Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eiord)



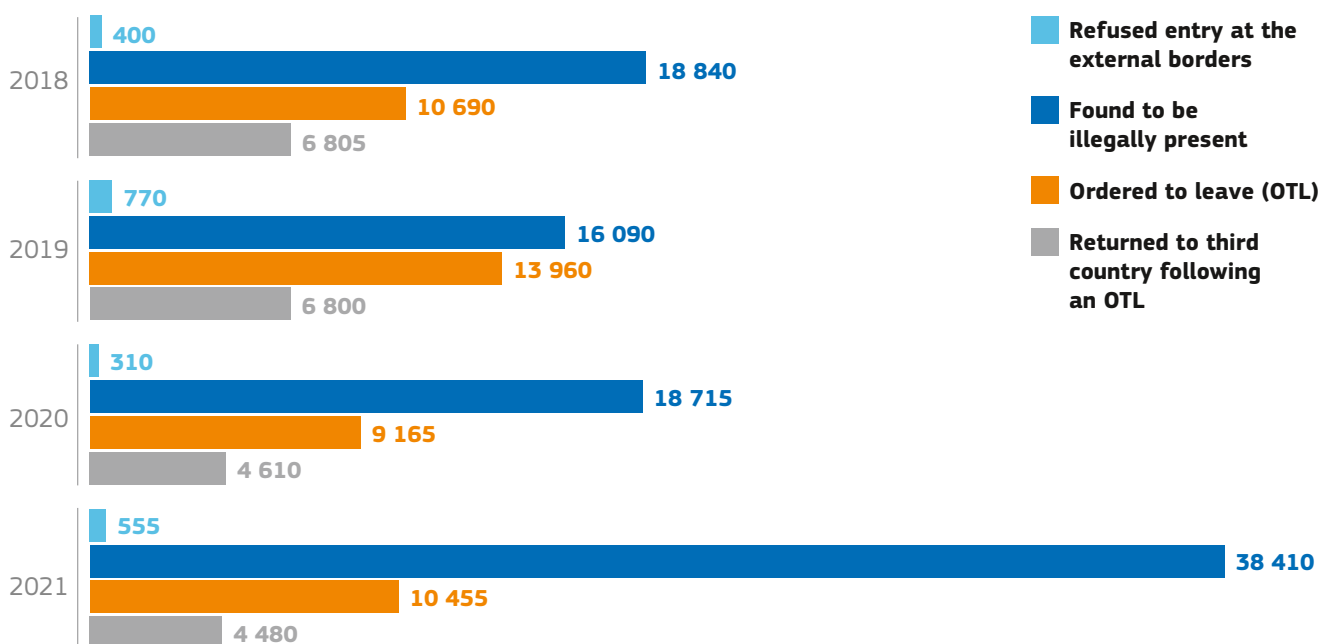
Top 3 nationalities returned to third country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirtn)



General statistics on irregular migration

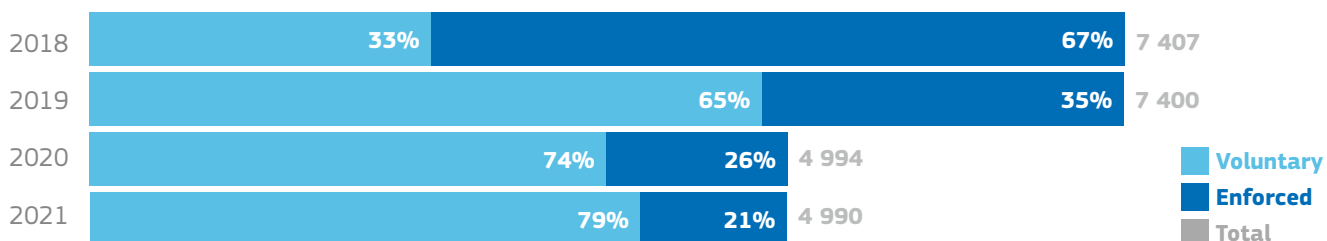
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn)



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)



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings.¹

SOURCE: Eurostat(migr_resoth)



¹ Austria issues residence permits to victims of trafficking in human beings based on national regulations, rather than based on the EU Directive 2004/81/EC, as presented by Eurostat..