

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | DECEMBER 2025

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

AUSTRIA 2024

KEY POINTS

- In regular migration, the focus was on recruiting skilled workers and accelerating the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad. Austria facilitated displaced persons from Ukraine already active in the labour market to transition to the settlement scheme, creating prospects for long-term residence.
- In integration, there was an increased focus on the promotion of values, while the engagement of asylum seekers in charitable work was expanded and more actively required.
- As a result of the political changes in the Syrian Arab Republic at the end of 2024, ongoing asylum and family reunification procedures were suspended and return procedures were initiated for Syrians who had been granted asylum.



OVERARCHING AND CROSS- CUTTING CHANGES

No significant developments in 2024.



LEGAL MIGRATION

Similar to 2023, the political focus in regular migration was on the shortage of labour and skilled workers. Austria concluded several non-binding bilateral agreements

with third countries. A non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with [Indonesia](#) aimed to promote the positive effects of labour migration for Austria and the partner country, as well as facilitating the recruitment of foreign workers. Agreements were also reached with Ecuador, [Ghana](#), [Kenya](#) and Kuwait, which included provisions for legal migration and agreements on return cooperation.

The Austrian Court of Audit published two reports in April 2024 [examining the shortage of skilled workers](#) and the corresponding [labour migration policy instruments of](#)

[the Red-White-Red Card system](#). The reports identified the need to simplify and adapt the existing card system to better meet the increasing demand for skilled workers through migration from third countries. In 2024, the government set up a database to validate the qualifications of healthcare and nursing staff from third countries, as well as a competence centre to expedite the recognition of professional qualifications acquired abroad. The Austrian Integration Fund increased the funding available for qualified skilled workers to help with the costs of professional recognition.

Measures were taken to enhance Austria's competitiveness in attracting global talent, including the launch of the Austrian Business Agency's [Work in Austria Talent Hub](#) connecting Austrian companies with international skilled workers. [The Skills Mobility Partnerships Dialogue Forum](#) was held for the second time in 2024 by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Country Office for Austria, the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and the Federation of Austrian Industries. At the end of 2024, the Federal Chancellery received funding approval from the European Commission for a project with Egypt on skilled worker mobility. In cooperation with the IOM, the Federal Chancellery developed a pilot project to provide upskilling for metalworkers, along with language and values modules, to activate the Skills Mobility Partnerships (EAGLE project).

Austria raised the issue of [asymmetric mobility](#) at a meeting of European Ministers for Education in 2024, highlighting the negative impact of the emigration of university graduates in critical areas such as medicine.

Finally, the Act to Combat Wage and Social Dumping was [amended](#) in 2024 to align with European Union (EU) law. The amendment also addressed problems with the enforcement of penalties abroad.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In July 2024, an [amendment to the Federal Act Establishing the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services company with limited liability and the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act](#) came into force, in accordance with a ruling by the Constitutional Court in 2023. The amendment legally guaranteed the independence of legal advice provided to asylum seekers by the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services. This was achieved through measures such as the introduction of extended protection against termination and dismissal for legal counsellors.

In July 2024, a [pilot project](#) was launched in Upper Austria to introduce a benefits card system enabling asylum seekers in basic care to receive benefits-in-kind instead of cash.

In family reunification, [stricter checks were introduced in May 2024](#) for document verification, and DNA testing

was mandated. As a result of the political changes in the Syrian Arab Republic in early December 2024, ongoing asylum procedures and family reunification procedures were suspended and cases where asylum had been granted were reviewed.



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

In July 2024, compulsory education and training until age 18 was extended to displaced young Ukrainians as beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP) to help them to integrate into the labour market. The exemption from tuition fees for Ukrainian students, in place since 2023, was extended to the summer semester 2024 and the winter semester 2024/2025.

In June 2024, the right of residence in Austria for displaced persons from Ukraine as BoTP was finally [extended until 4 March 2026](#). This was in line with the EU-wide decision, which was based on Directive 2001/55/EC (Temporary Protection Directive).

A [new legislative package](#) came into force in October 2024, allowing displaced persons from Ukraine as BoTP who are already active in the labour market to move to the regular settlement scheme and gain access to the Red-White-Red Card Plus.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2024, the Austrian parliament passed an adjustment to the maximum cost rates as part of an [agreement](#) between the Federal State and the provinces under Article 15(a) of the Federal Constitutional Act. This amended the [Amendment to the Agreement between the Federal State and the Provinces on Basic Care](#), including affecting the cost rates for unaccompanied foreign minors.

The [National Strategy for Protection against Violence](#) was published in 2024. It targeted women from a migration background – considered a vulnerable target group – with a series of initiatives, including multilingual information campaigns on the supports available. The 2024 [report of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence \(GREVIO\)](#) praised several of Austria's measures in respect of migrant women, but highlighted the increased vulnerability of women asylum seekers who experienced domestic violence.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

One focus for integration in 2024 was teaching the values and norms of communal life. The Austrian Integration Fund and the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services developed basic rules courses for asylum seekers, which were held in federal reception centres from June 2024. These courses provided an initial introduction to Austria and covered key topics relevant to asylum seekers' stays in reception centres.

The orientation and civic values courses offered by the Austrian Integration Fund provided persons granted asylum and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status with information on the values and rules of community life in Austria. In autumn 2024, the expansion from a three-day to a five-day course format was piloted.

The Austrian Integration Fund's digital learning platform, 'My Integration in Austria', was launched in 2024 to increase knowledge about the values and rules of society. This platform was used for interactive orientation and sharing values knowledge for integration exams. It was supplemented by live sessions on the platform and exam questions.

A regulation issued by the Federal Minister of the Interior in July 2024 required asylum seekers to engage in charitable work to increase their participation in society. Failure to perform this work resulted in a reduction of their monthly allowance.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

In November 2024, the Austrian Constitutional Court overturned a provision of the Citizenship Act 1985 that denied citizenship to anyone legally convicted of an administrative offence for which they had been punished with a fine of at least € 1 000 or a prison sentence.



SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN BORDER MANAGEMENT AND VISA POLICIES

In 2024, Austria carried out border controls at its internal land borders with the Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary and Slovenia. It also strengthened cross-border cooperation with Hungary as part of Operation FOX and deployed additional police officers to support border security in the Western Balkan countries. Since 2022, Austria succeeded in reducing irregular migration through a series of measures in partnership with Romania and Bulgaria. At the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 13 December 2024, EU Member States decided to

abolish border controls at the internal land borders to and between Bulgaria and Romania from 1 January 2025.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

In 2024, Austria continued to strengthen cooperation with other EU Member States and third countries to reduce irregular migration. Particular focus was placed on the external dimension of migration, as well as innovative solutions to sustainably strengthen reception and protection capacities along all migration routes, and establish an orderly, fair, and humane protection system. A [joint letter](#) signed by 15 EU Ministers of the Interior (including Austria) was sent to the European Commission in May 2024. It called for the Commission to promote innovative solutions to establish a more humane asylum system (including safe third-country concepts, return centres) and form new comprehensive migration partnerships with third countries.

In January 2024, for example, an [agreement](#) with Bahrain sought to strengthen cooperation on security and migration, while in September 2024, two non-binding MoUs were signed with [Ghana](#) and [Kenya](#) on migration and readmission. In addition, Austria and Turkmenistan signed a [cooperation agreement](#) in March 2024 focusing on irregular migration. In the first half of 2024, Austria chaired the Salzburg Forum, a security partnership for Central and South-Eastern Europe, and organised various meetings to develop border protection measures and combat the smuggling of migrants. At strategic level, Austria supported the Western Balkan countries, through the Joint Coordination Platform, to optimise migration management by providing expertise and sharing best practice, with the overarching goal of minimising irregular migration along the Western Balkan route.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In March 2024, the Austrian Federal Government adopted the seventh [National Action Plan \(NAP\) on Combating Human Trafficking for 2024–2027](#). The plan included 103 measures on prevention, victim protection, law enforcement and international cooperation. In June 2024, Austria led an international operation against trafficking in human beings, coordinated by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).



RETURN AND READMISSION

In December 2024, the Federal Minister of the Interior requested the development of an [Orderly Forced Return and Removal Programme](#) for Syrians following the fall of the Syrian Assad regime. It should include support

for voluntary return, as well as preparations for non-voluntary return, starting with criminal offenders. Initial measures to support voluntary return were implemented as of December.

In two rulings issued in [June](#) and [October 2024](#), the Constitutional Court found that return decisions issued against an Afghan and a Syrian national were in line with the Austrian Constitution. In response, the Federal Minister of the Interior ordered a review of removal options for Afghan and Syrian nationals and agreed to strengthen cooperation with Germany in this regard. Austria also intensified its efforts to cooperate with third countries on returns. In May 2024, a [bilateral implementing protocol](#) entered into force, related to the EU readmission agreement with Armenia in place since 2014.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

One of the key measures for Austria's implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is providing assistance on the ground and combating the causes of displacement. Based on its humanitarian aid strategy, Austria is increasingly committed to ensuring the protection and adequate care of refugees and internally displaced persons. Accordingly, in November 2024, Austria provided funds from the Foreign Disaster Relief Fund for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. In December 2024, following the fall of the Assad regime and in light of the ongoing humanitarian crisis, additional funds were made available for the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Austria 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 mostly cover the period from 2021 to 2024. Since 2024 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the period 2021-2023 is covered.

Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2025. The data were extracted between 6 to 10 June 2025. The manuscript was completed in June 2025. The Eurostat website is constantly being updated. Therefore, it is likely that fresher data will have become available since the data was extracted for the production of this publication. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the most recent 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.

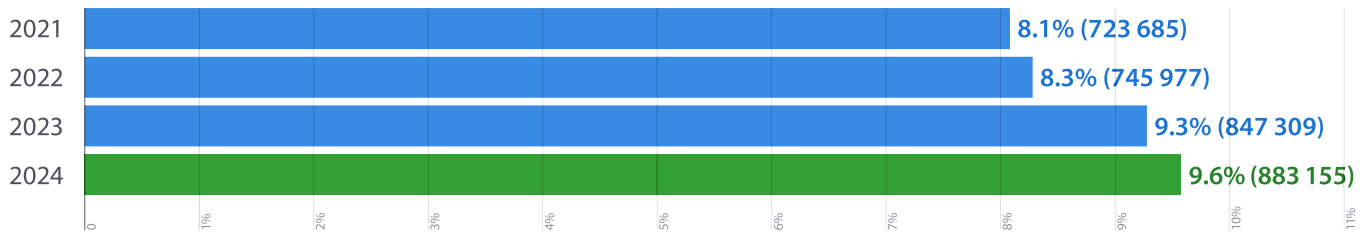
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

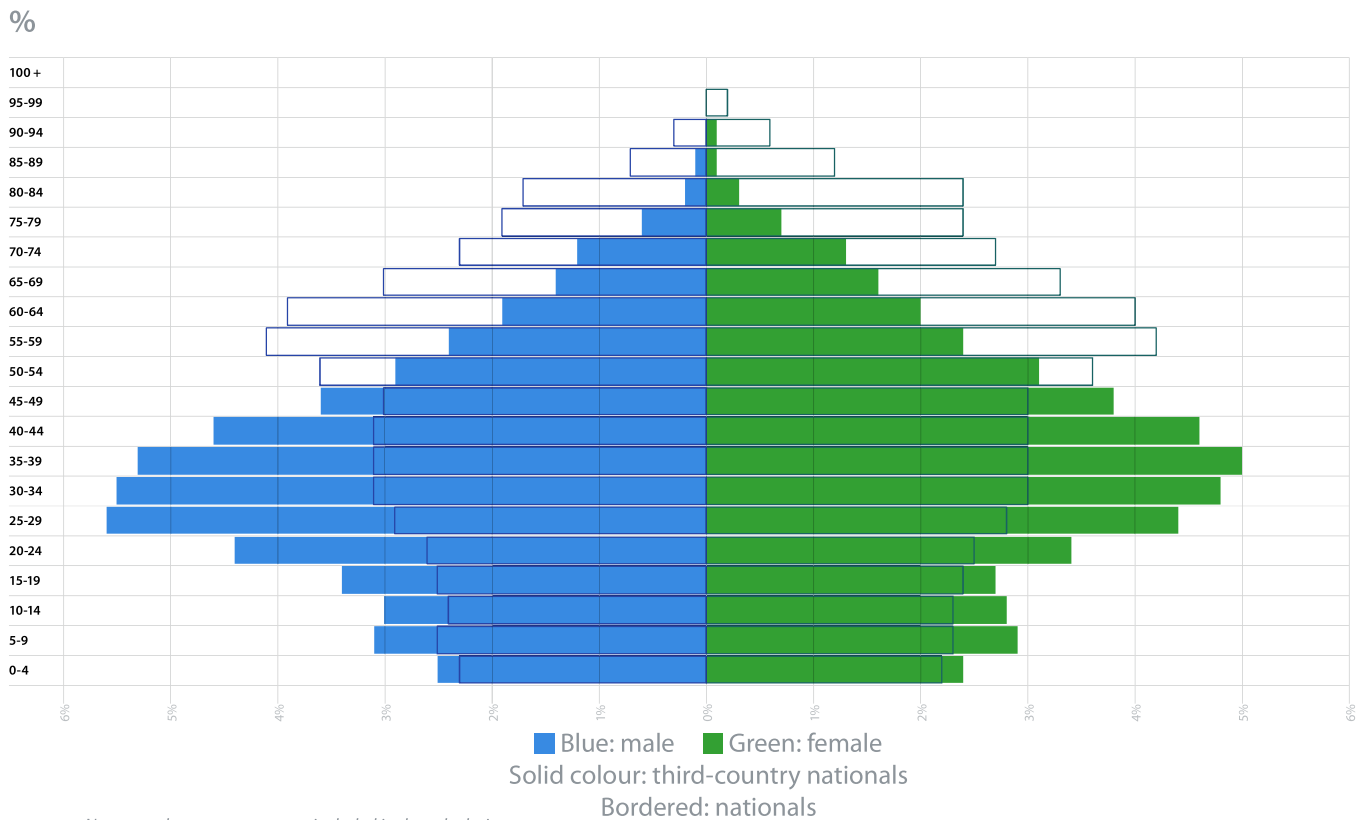
Third-country nationals, 1 January 2021–2024

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



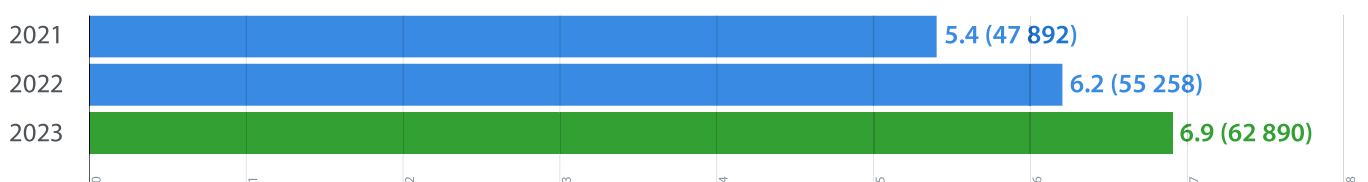
Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2024



First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2021–2023

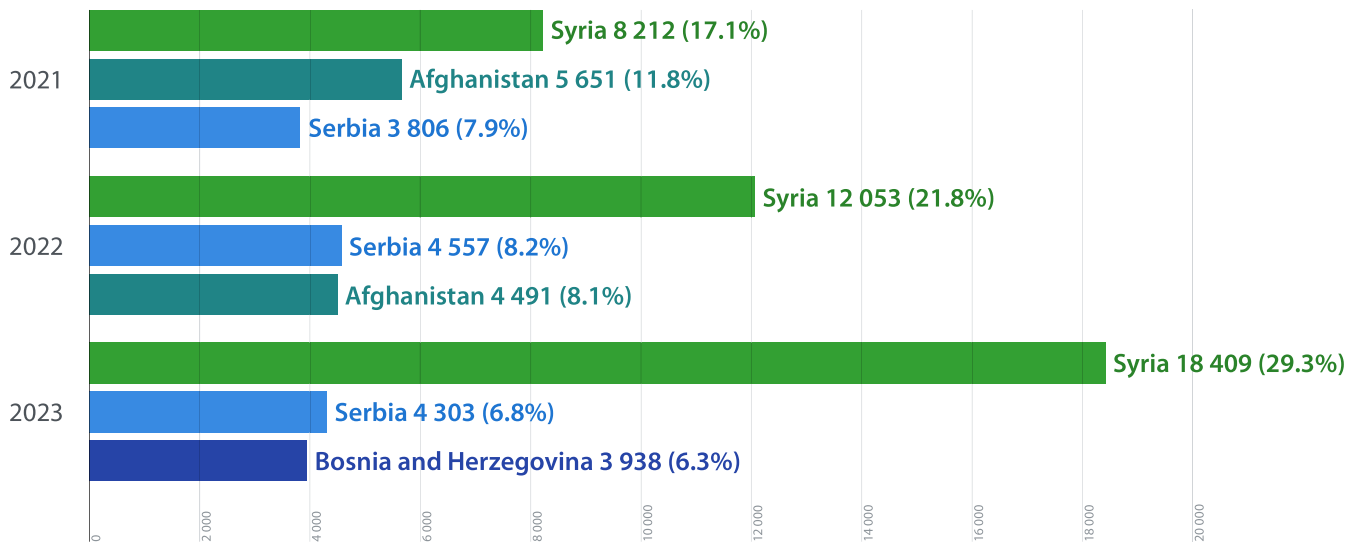
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [demo_gind](#) and [migr_respap](#))

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2021–2023

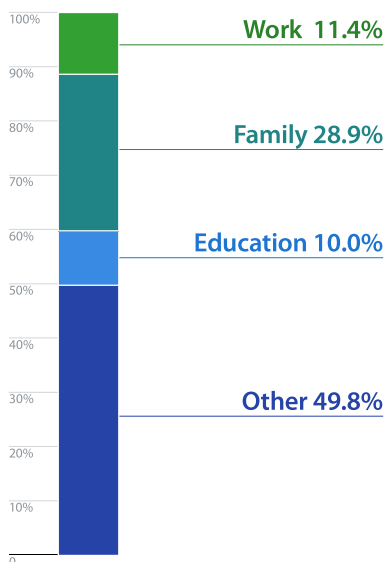
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



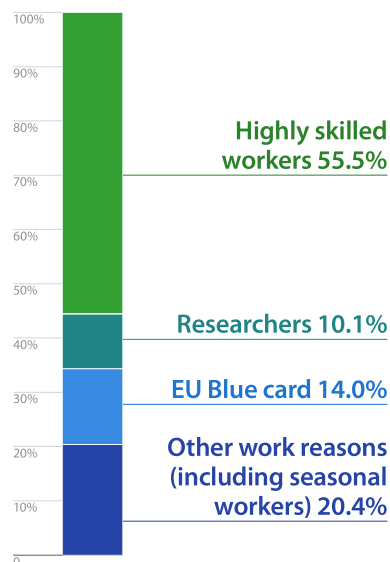
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#))

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2023

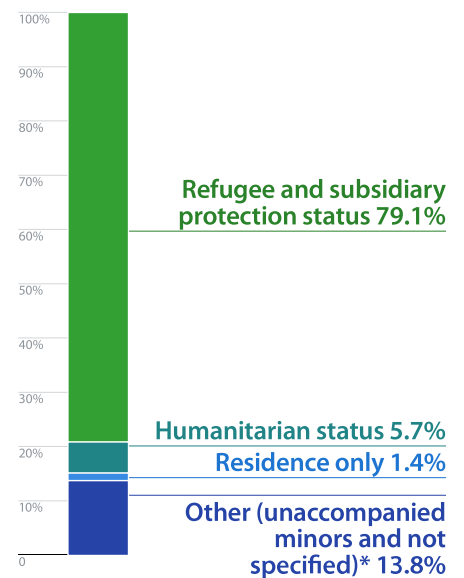
All permits,
by reason



Work reason,
by type



Other reason,
by detailed reason



* The list of categories covered may differ from country to country.

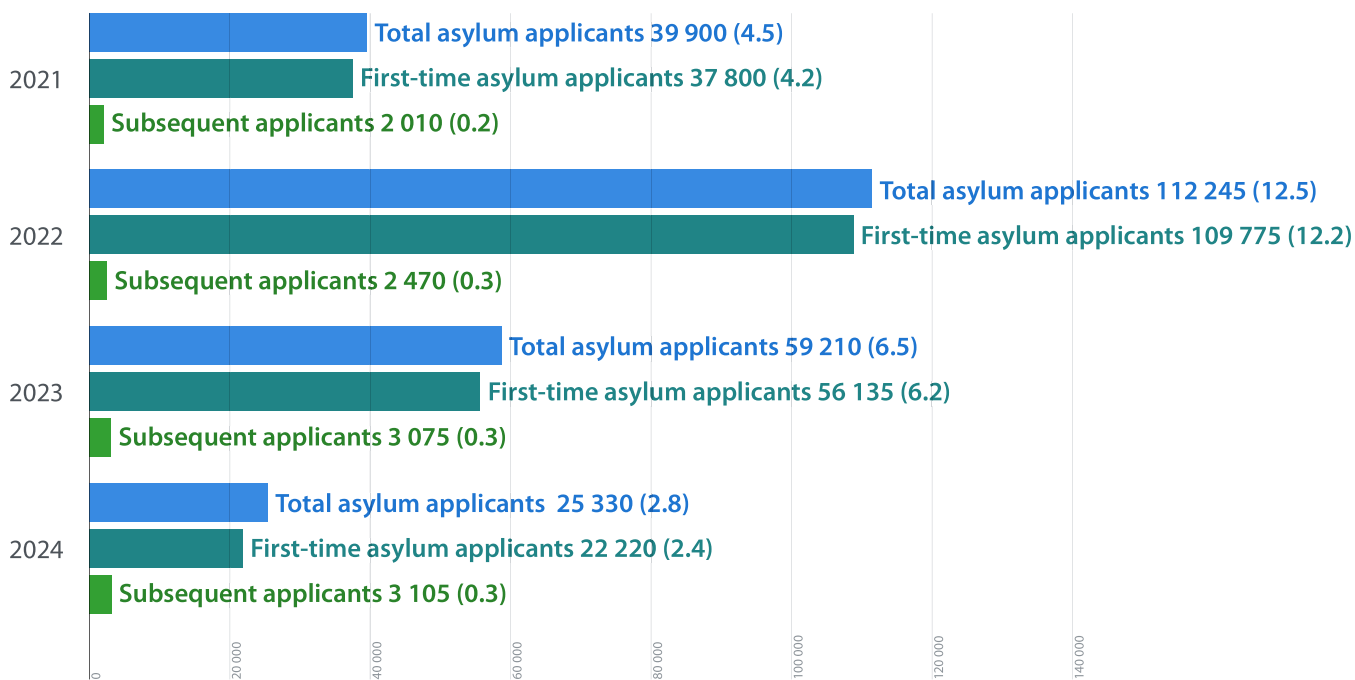
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [migr_resfpc](#), [migr_resocc](#) and [migr_resoth](#))



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2021–2024

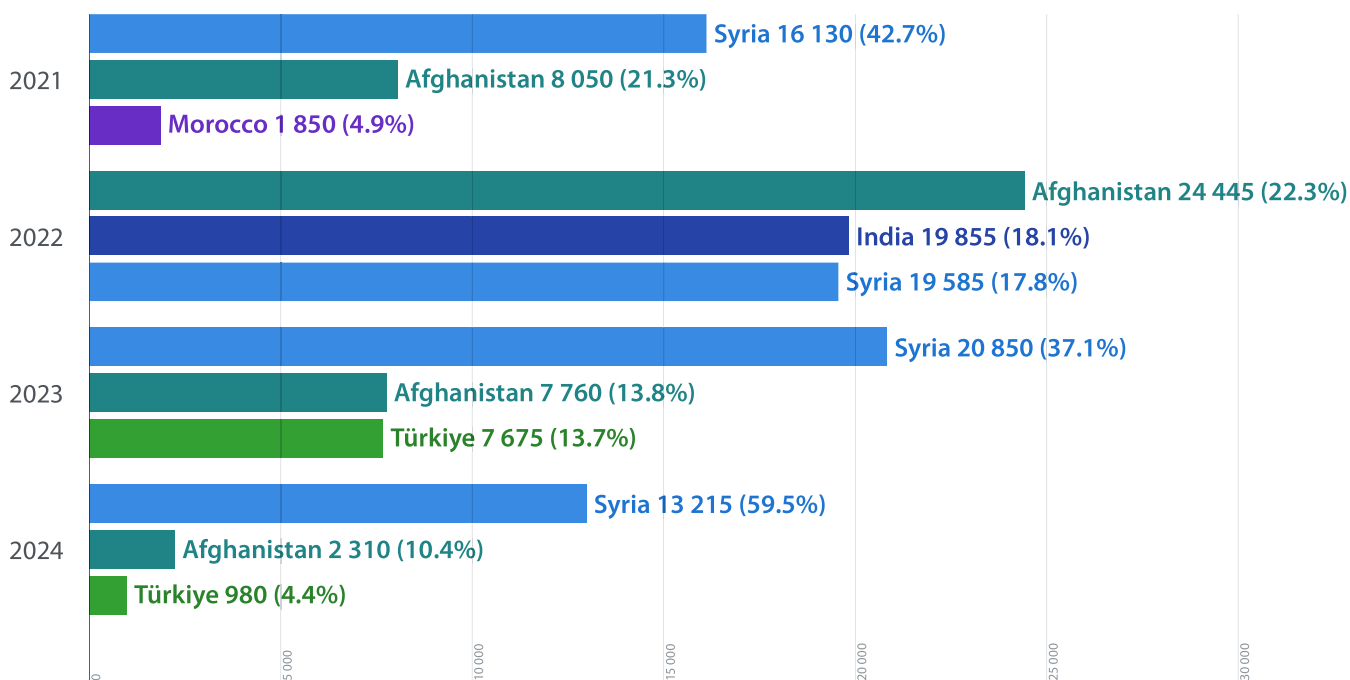
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#), [demo_gind](#) and [migr_asyapp1mp](#))

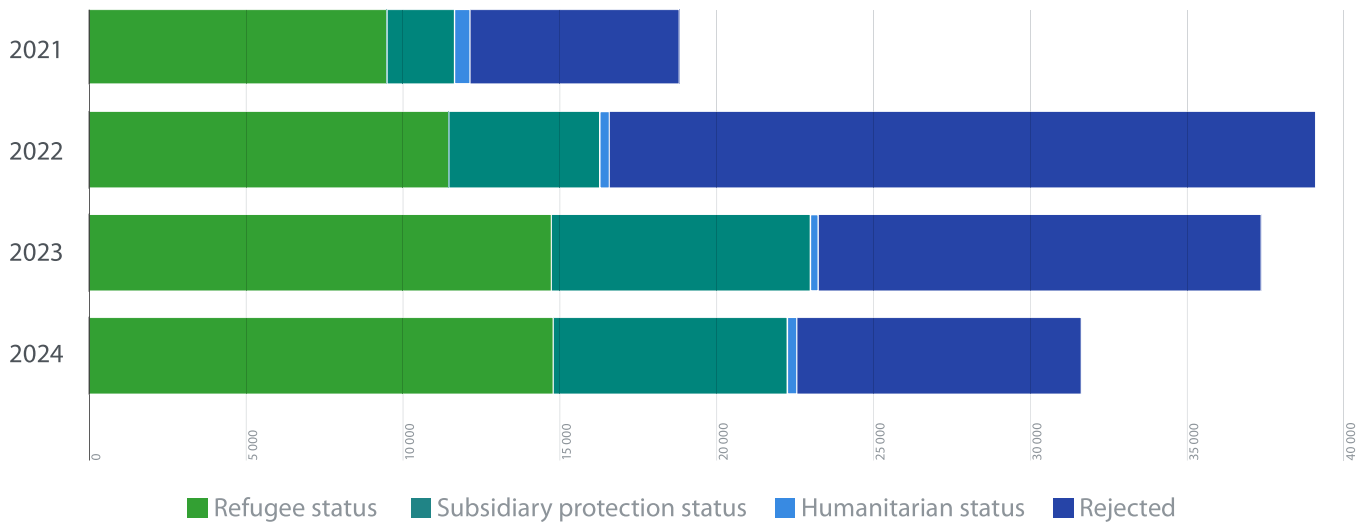
Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2021–2024

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



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#))

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2021-2024

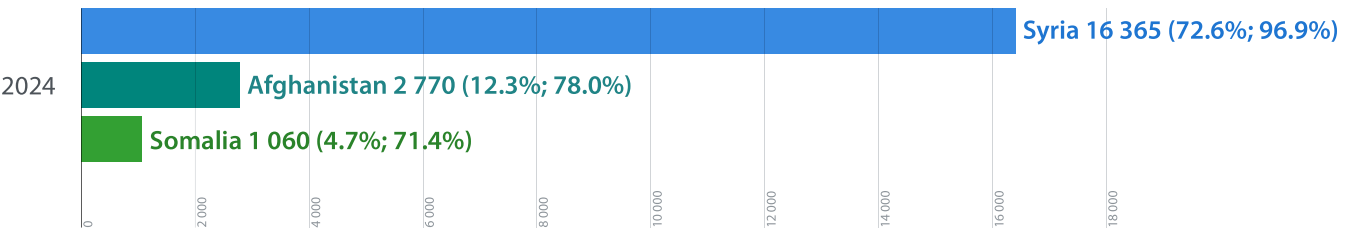


| Year | Refugee status number (share of total) | Subsidiary protection status number (share of total) | Humanitarian status number (share of total) | Rejected number (share of total) |
|------|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2021 | 9 500 (50.6%) | 2 145 (11.4%) | 460 (2.5%) | 6 655 (35.5%) |
| 2022 | 11 455 (29.4%) | 4 815 (12.3%) | 290 (0.7%) | 22 440 (57.5%) |
| 2023 | 14 705 (39.4%) | 8 240 (22.1%) | 245 (0.7%) | 14 095 (37.8%) |
| 2024 | 14 790 (46.9%) | 7 460 (23.6%) | 305 (1.0%) | 8 995 (28.5%) |

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#) and [migr_asydec1pc](#))

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance by outcome, 2024

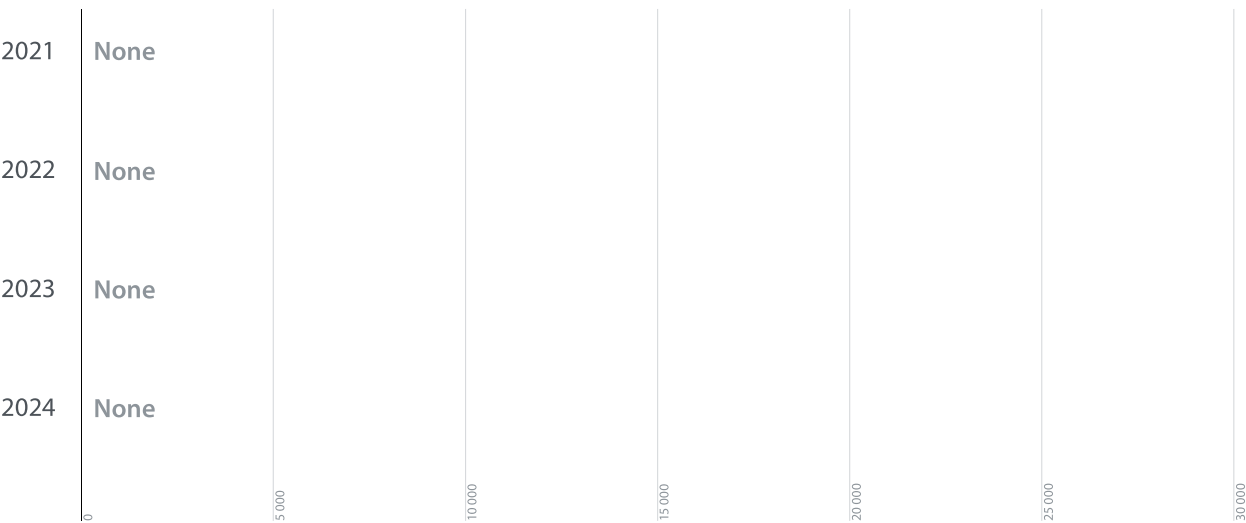
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#))

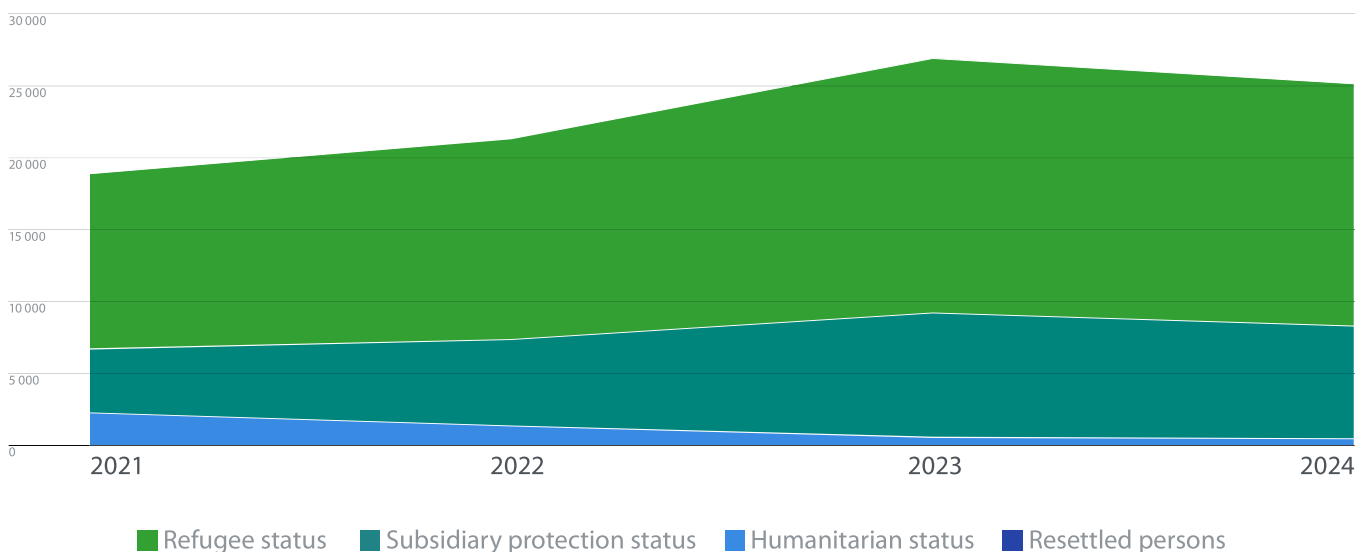
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyresa](#))

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2021–2024



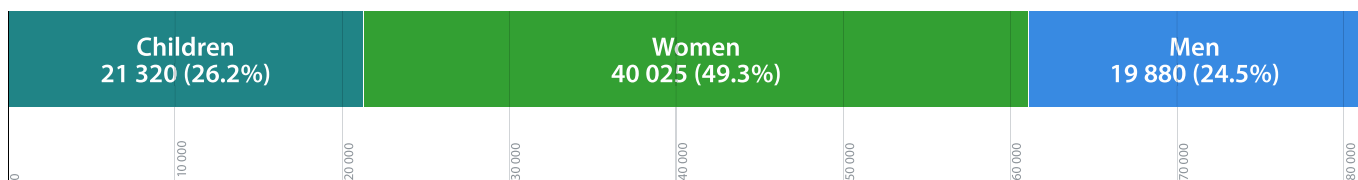
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfna](#) and [migr_asyresa](#))



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

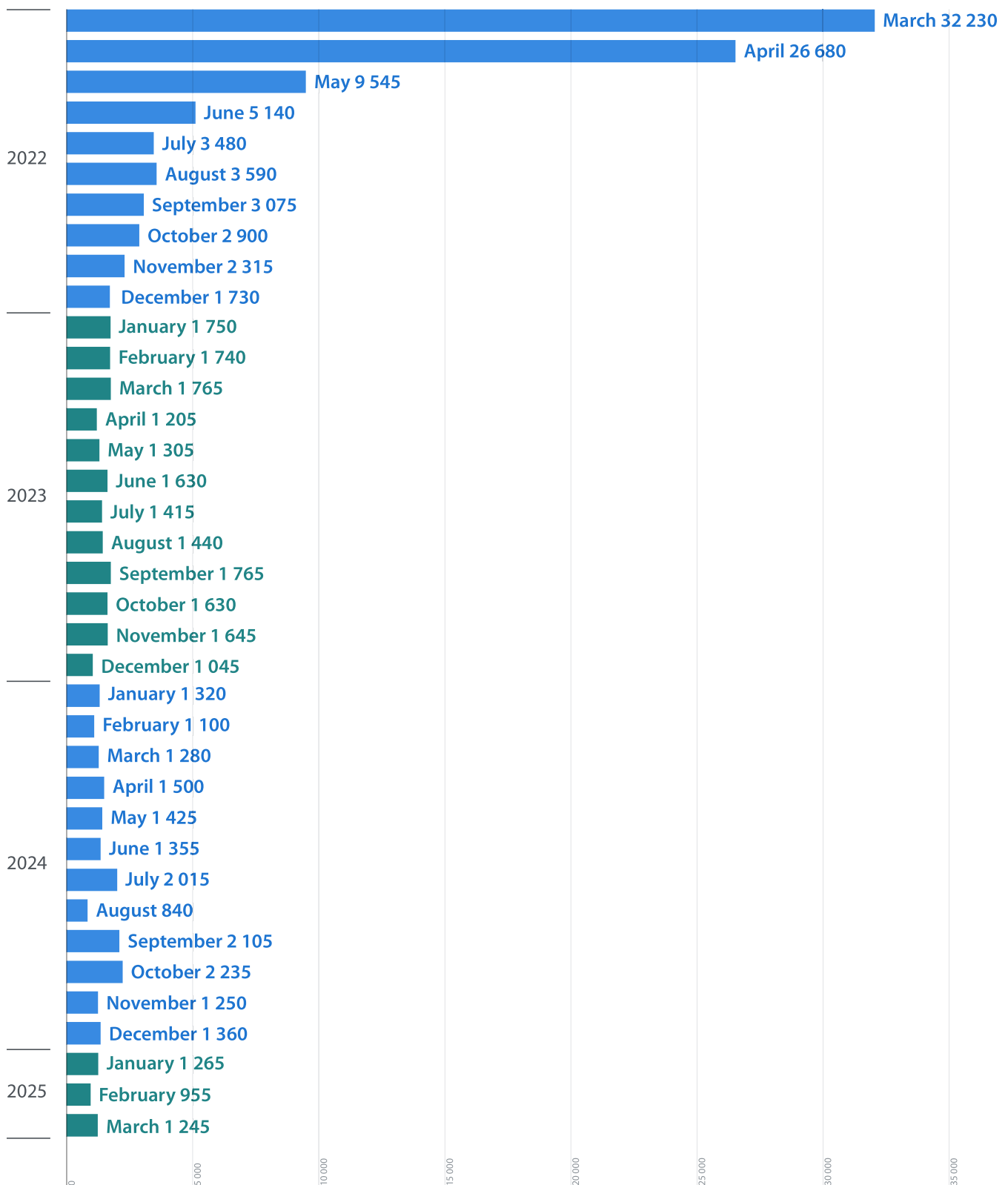
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2025

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



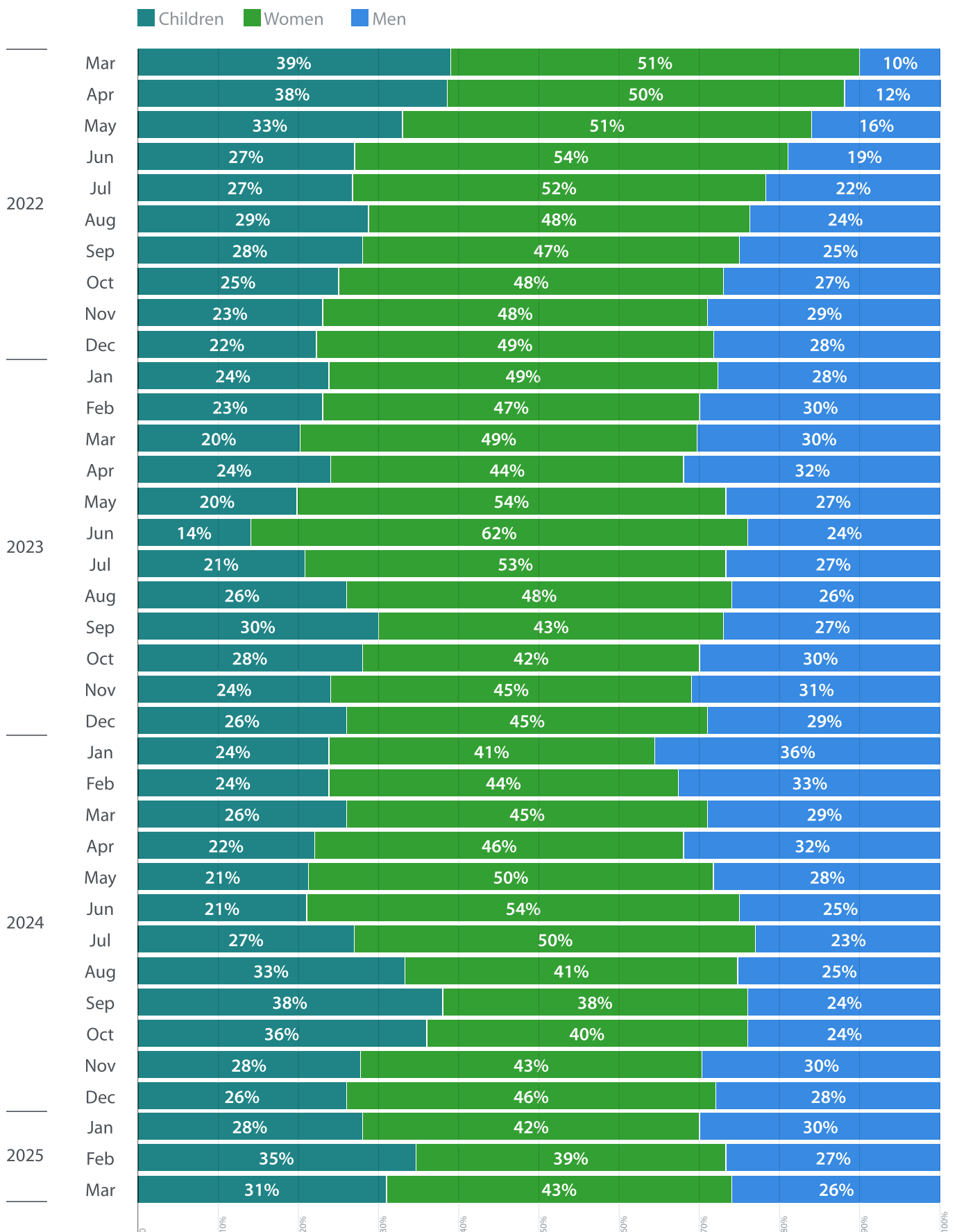
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asytpsm](#))

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2025



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asypfm](#))

Decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion by main population groups, March 2022-March 2025

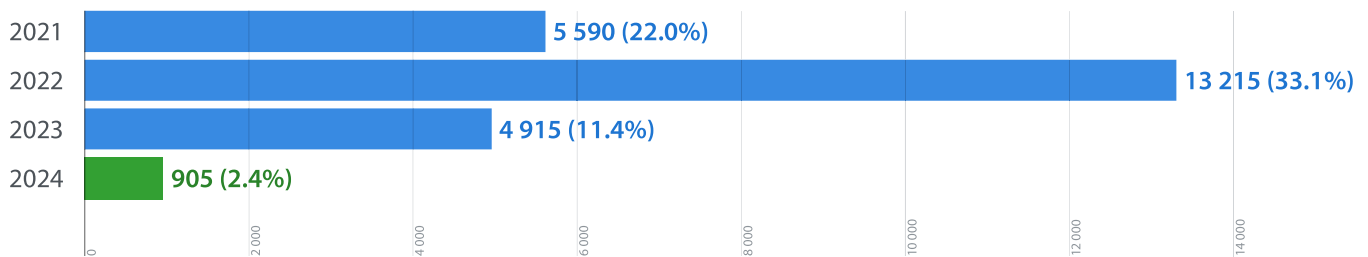




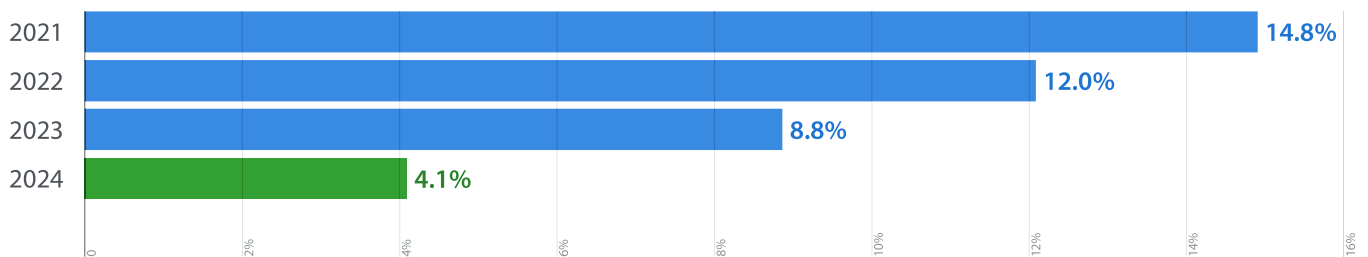
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2021–2024

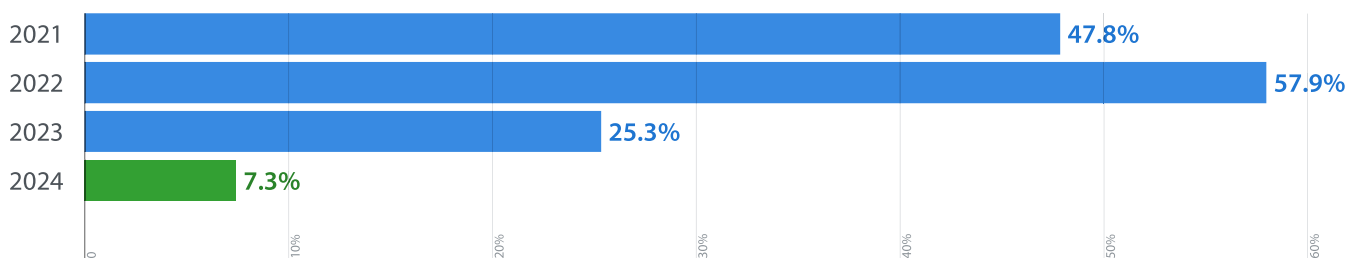
Number of first-time asylum applicants (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



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

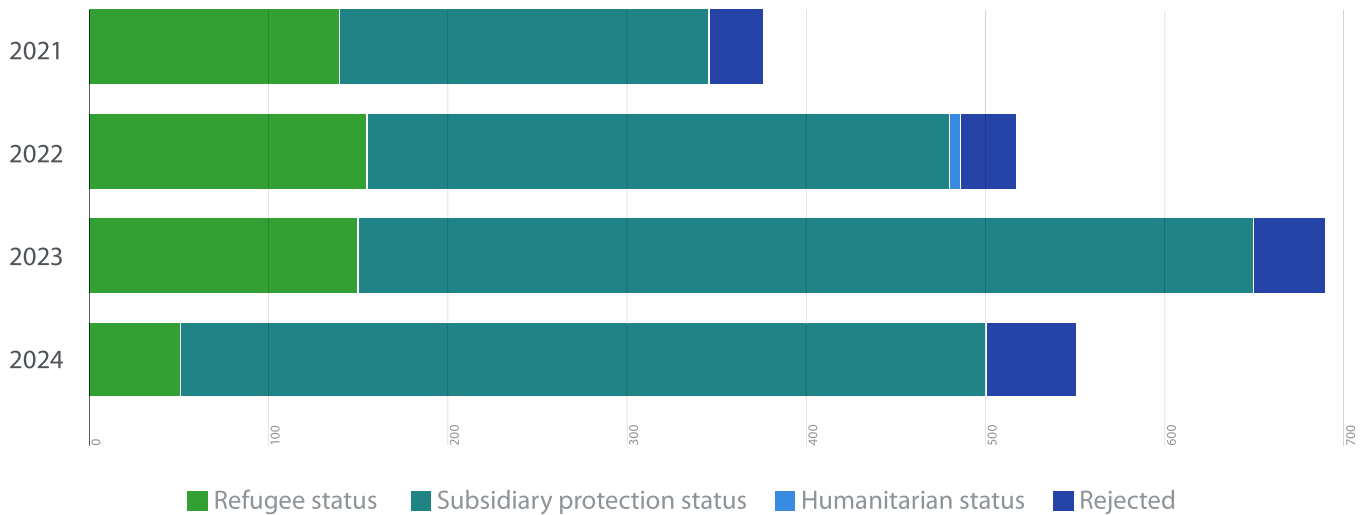


Note: The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes estimated 2024 data for Poland.

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

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



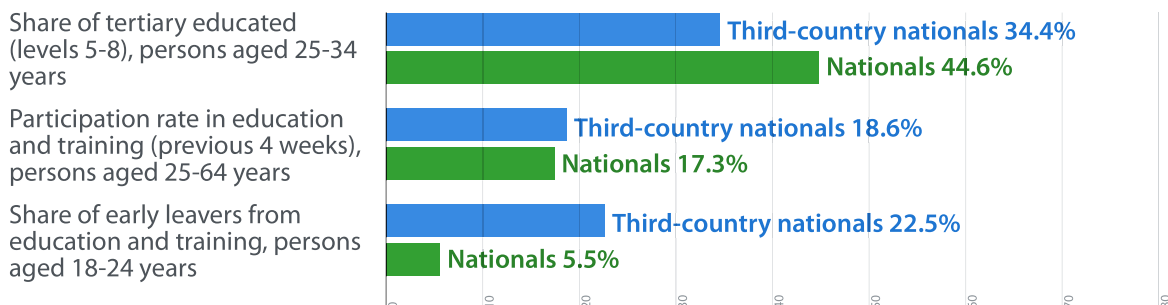
| Year | Refugee status number (share of total) | Subsidiary protection status number (share of total) | Humanitarian status number (share of total) | Rejected number (share of total) |
|------|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2021 | 140 (36.8%) | 205 (53.9%) | 0 (0.0%) | 30 (7.9%) |
| 2022 | 155 (30.1%) | 325 (63.1%) | 5 (1.0%) | 30 (5.8%) |
| 2023 | 150 (21.7%) | 500 (72.5%) | 0 (0.0%) | 40 (5.8%) |
| 2024 | 50 (9.1%) | 450 (81.8%) | 0 (0.0%) | 50 (9.1%) |

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyumdcfa](#))

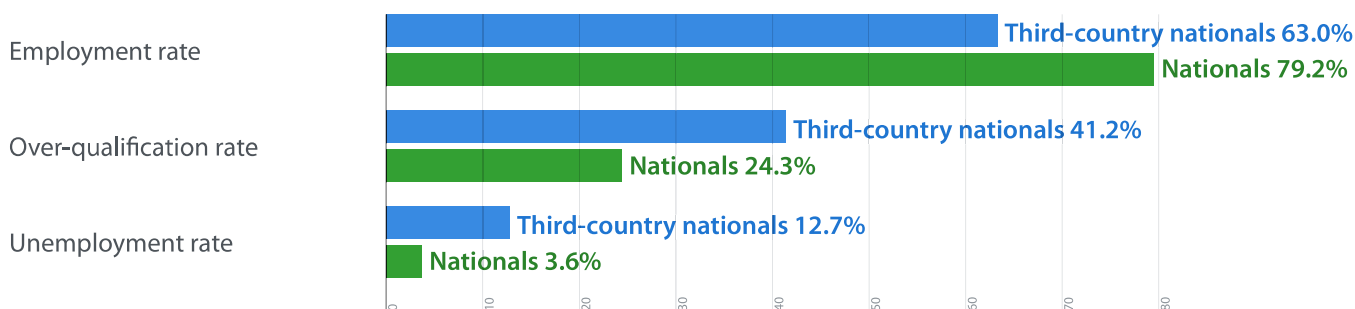
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2024

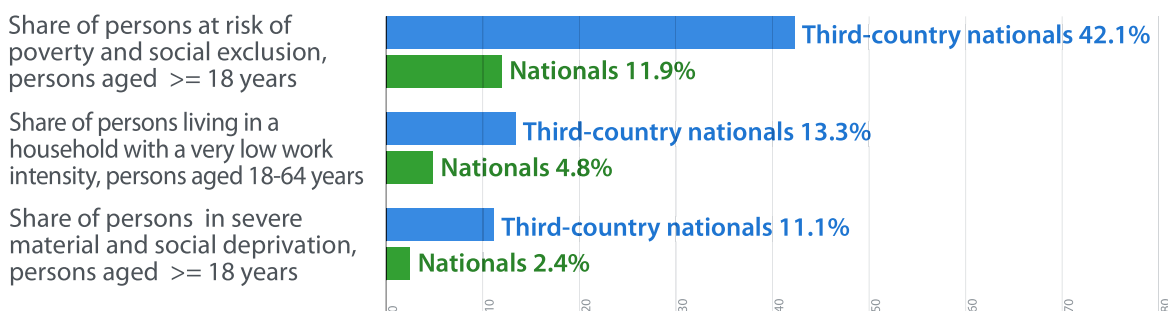
Education



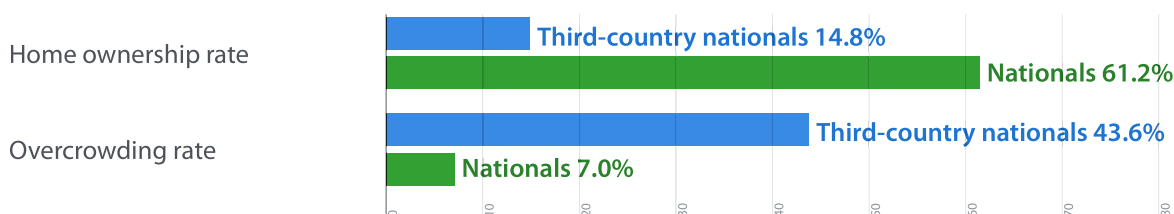
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years



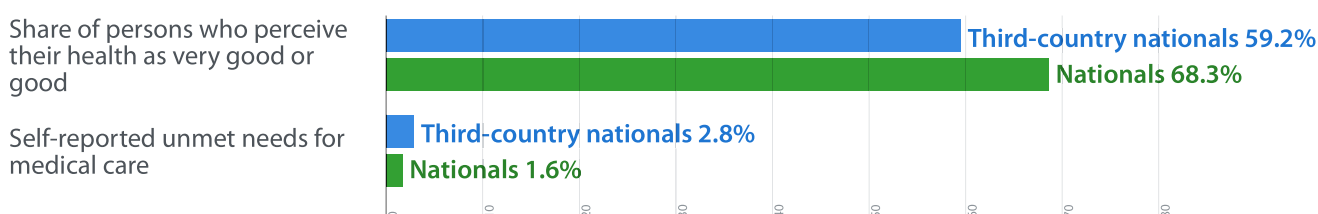
Social inclusion



Housing, persons aged ≥ 18 years



Health, persons aged ≥ 16 years

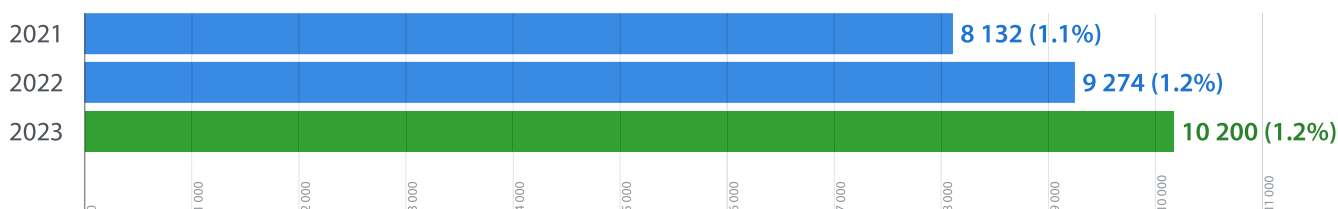




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2021–2023

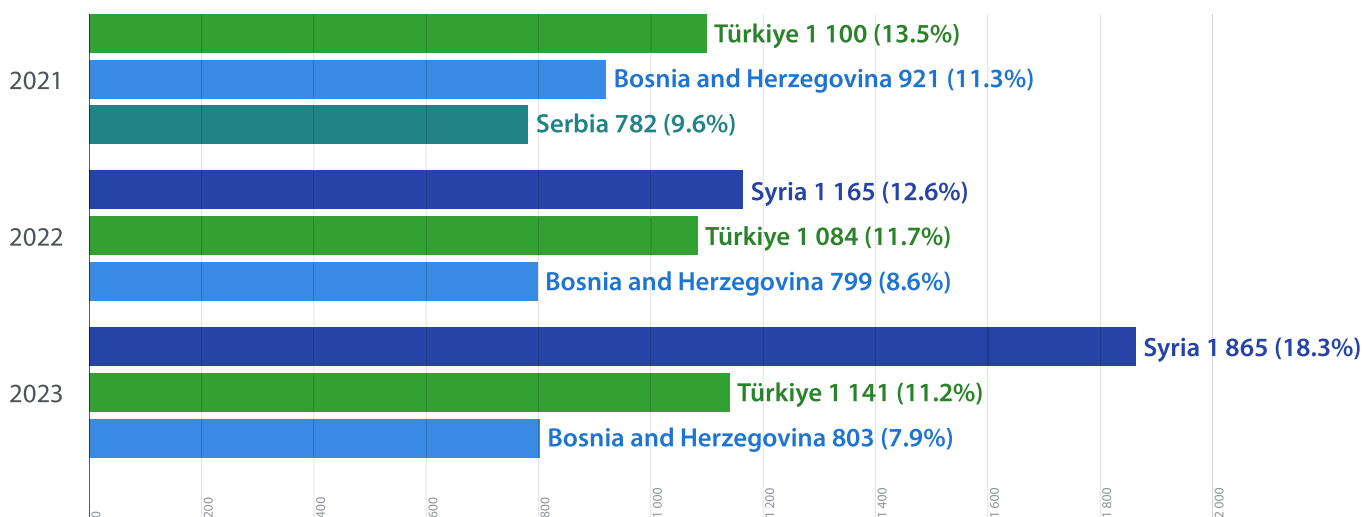
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



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

Top 3 countries of non-EU citizens acquiring citizenship, 2021–2023

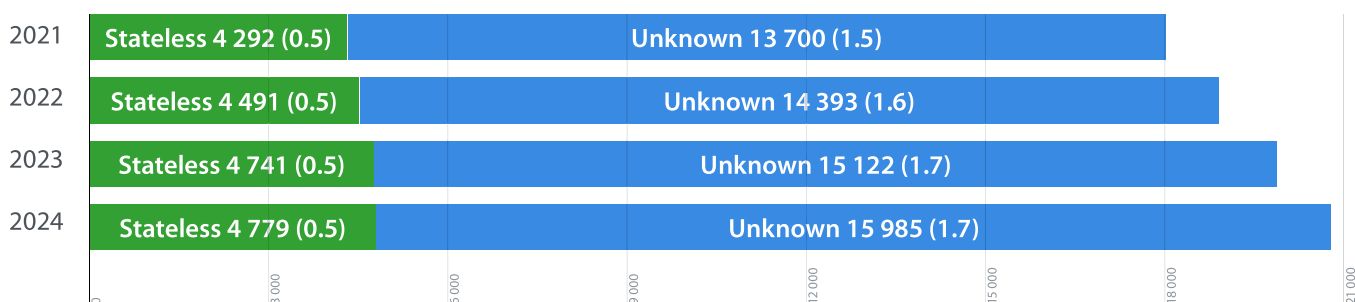
Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

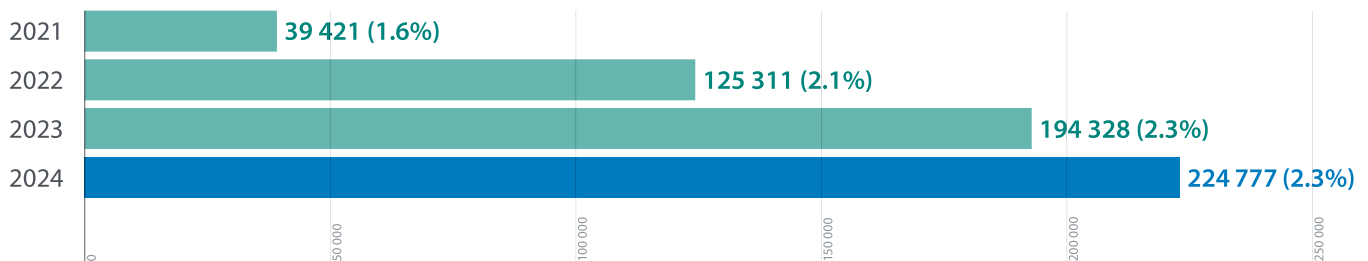


Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2021–2024

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

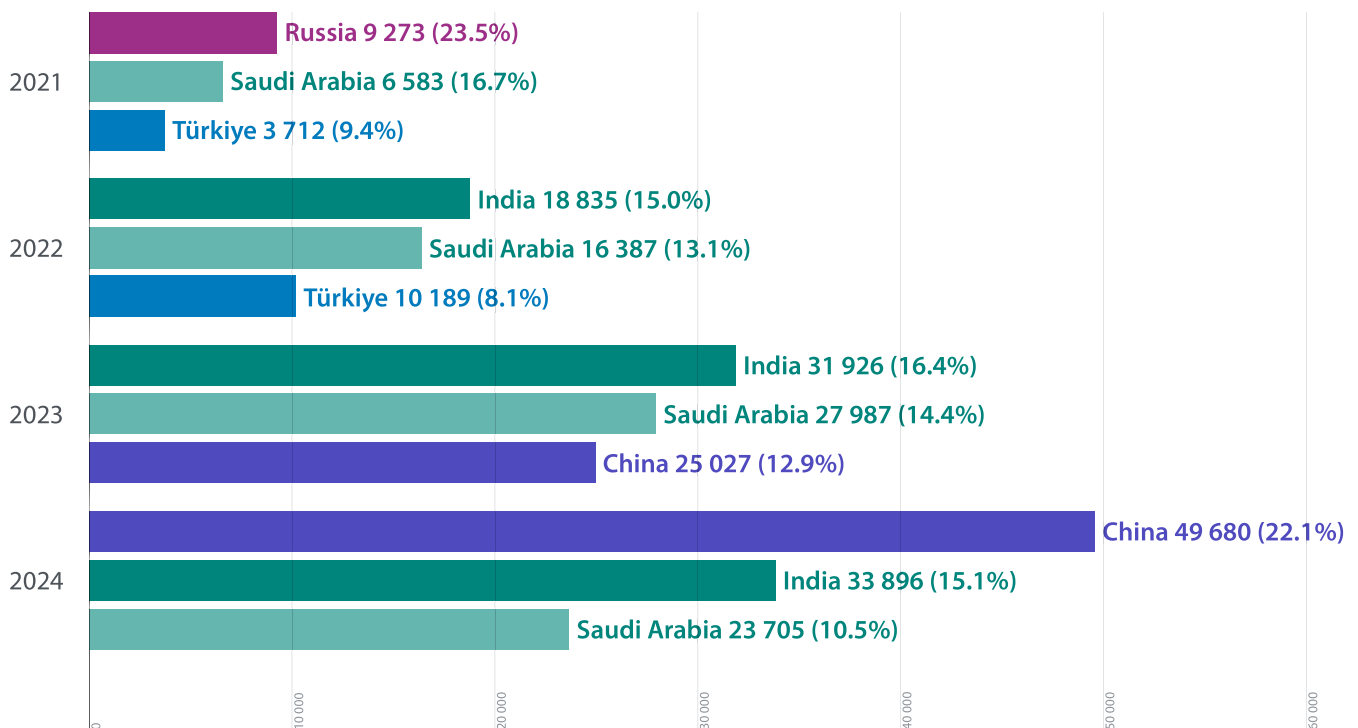


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: [Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs](#)

Top 3 consulate countries where the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2021–2024

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](#)

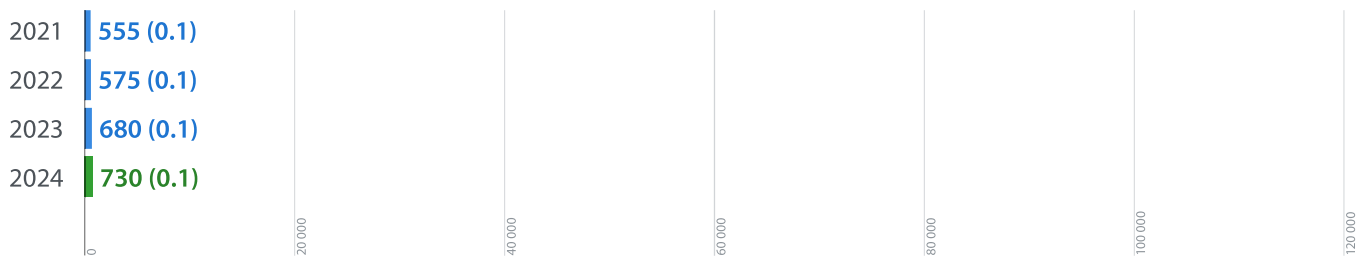


IRREGULAR MIGRATION

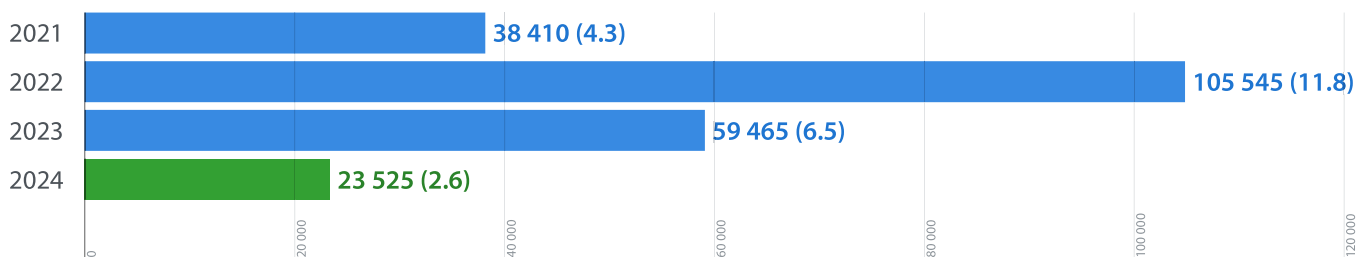
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

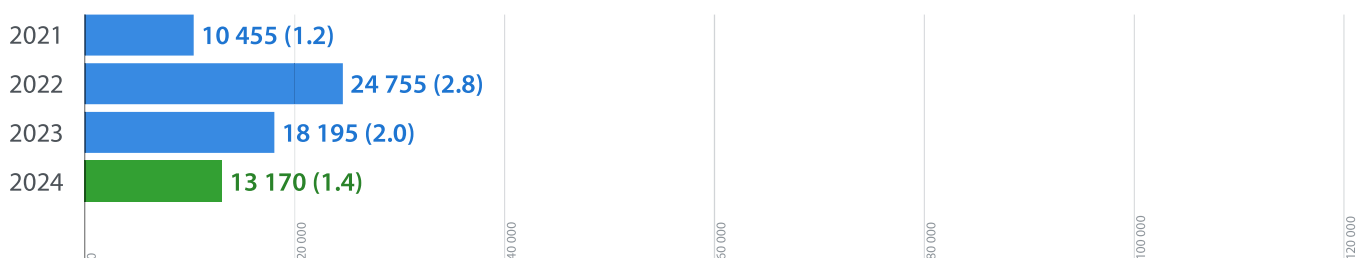
Persons refused entry



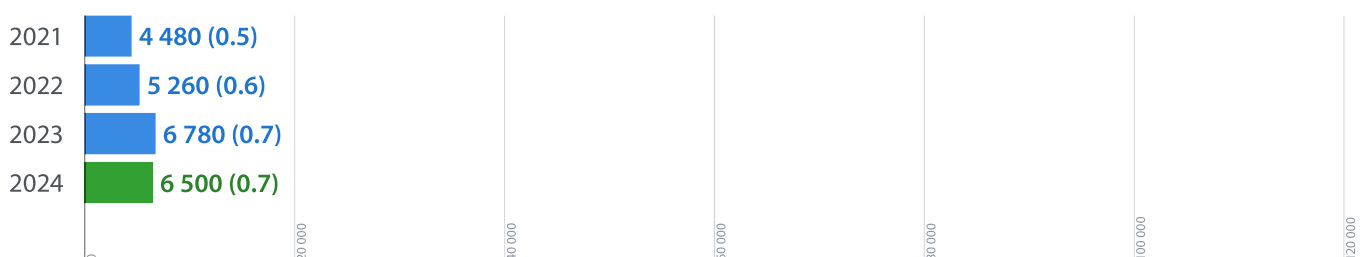
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country



Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#), [migr_eirtn](#), [migr_eilpop](#) and [demo_gind](#))

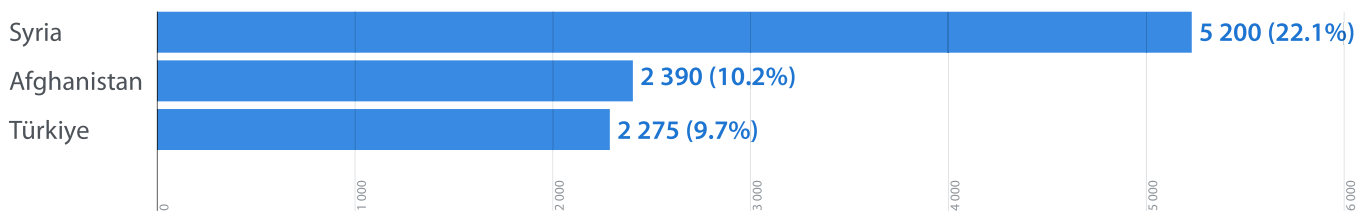
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2024

Absolute number (and the share in the respective total)

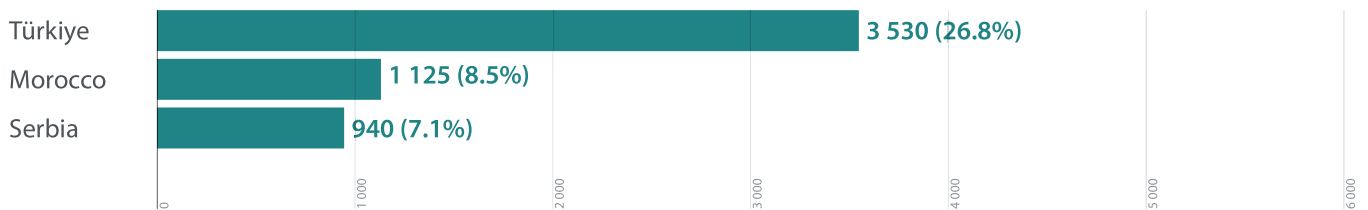
Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

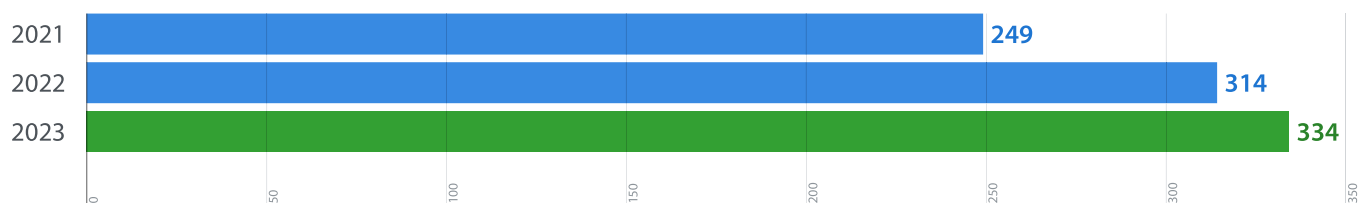


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#) and [migr_eirtn](#))



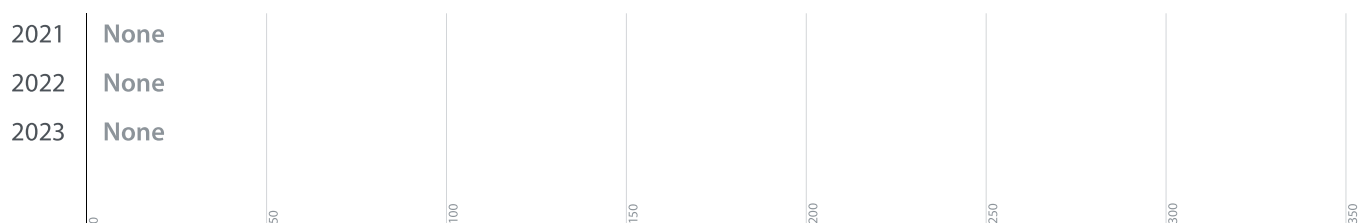
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2021-2023



Source: Eurostat ([crim_thb_vctz](#))

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2021–2023



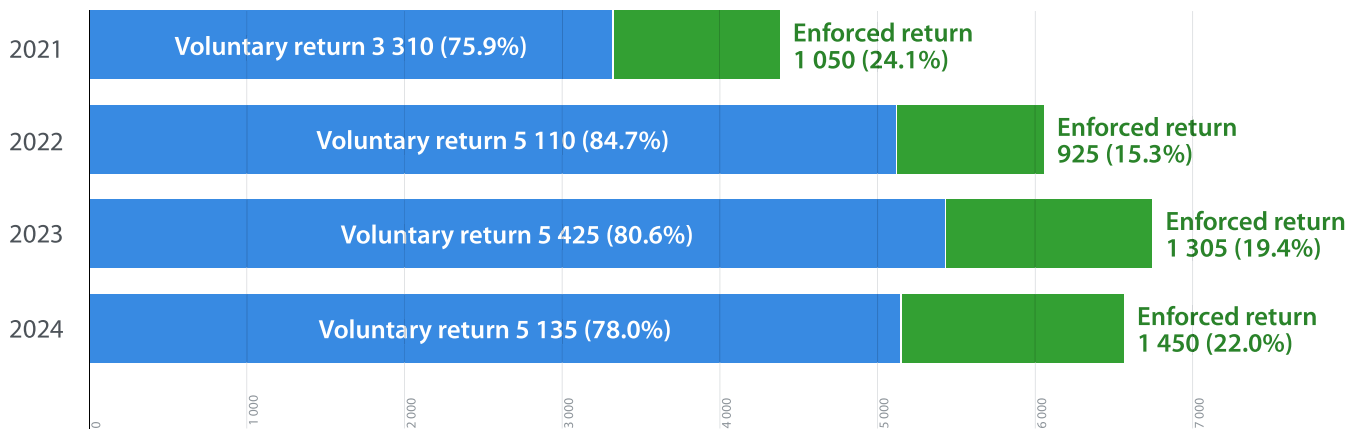
Note: Austria issues residence permits to victims of trafficking in human beings based on national regulations, rather than based on EU Directive 2004/81/EC, as presented by Eurostat.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_resoth](#))

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2024

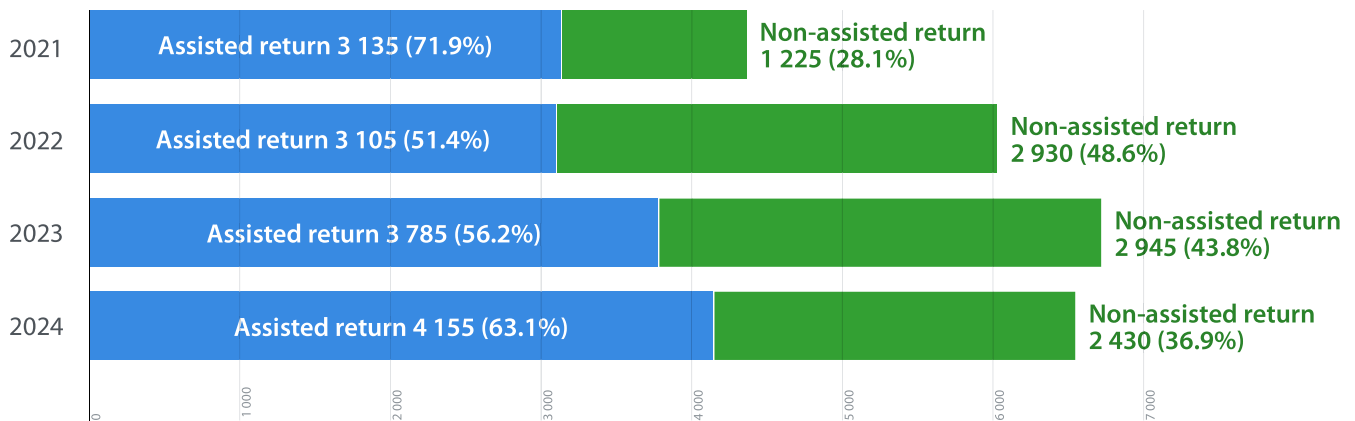
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirtn1](#))

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirtn1](#))