



Migration and International Protection Statistics 2008

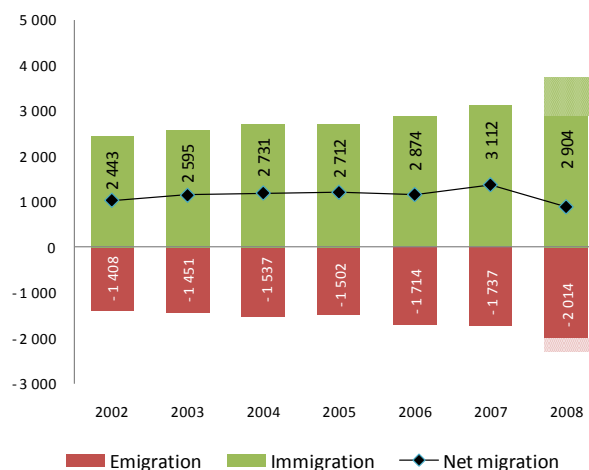
This EMN Inform presents a summary of the main findings of the analysis of migration and international protection statistics for the year 2008 from 23 Member States.¹ It continues a series of Annual Reports from 2001. A significant development on this occasion is that, for the first time, the analysis was based on statistics produced in accordance with the Migratory Statistics Regulation 862/2007.

1. Legal immigration and emigration

For the period 2002-2008, the available statistics show an upward immigration trend at EU level, with a decrease in 2008 (15% compared with 2007).

Regarding international migration flows, in 2008, 3.7 million people migrated to EU Member States and 2.3 million people emigrated from a Member State, either to another Member State or at third country. Emigration numbers also showed an upward trend, with a notable increase in 2008 (45 %). There were no significant developments in the overall EU net-migration (immigration minus emigration), which remained positive.

Figure 1: Overall Migration – EU level* (in 1 000)



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables and Eurostat data.

* The figure presents statistics for the 22 Member States which have available data for all the years. Bulgaria, **France**, **Greece**, **Italy** and **Malta** are not included because of incomplete statistics, except for 2008, when their data are presented separately in a lighter colour.

On immigration, compared to 2007, the highest increases in absolute terms of immigrants in 2008 were registered by **Poland** (33 000), **Netherlands** (27 000) and **Hungary** (13 000). The same three Member States, together with **Malta**, also recorded the largest increase in relative terms. Compared to 2007, the biggest increase in emigration was recorded in **Germany** (101 000), **United Kingdom** (91 000) and **Poland** and **Spain** (both 39 000). The largest relative increase was recorded in **Poland** (39 000 representing an increase of +110%) and the largest decrease was seen in the **Czech Republic** (-70%, 14 500).

At the end of 2008 there were 19 532 000 citizens of non EU-27 countries who had their usual residence in the EU. The largest number of third-country nationals lived in **Germany** (4 655 000). **Luxembourg** hosted the largest share of non-nationals relative to the size of the population (44%). Approximately 661 000 persons acquired citizenship in a Member State in 2008. Most acquisitions of citizenship were recorded in the largest Member States: **France** (137 320), **United Kingdom** (129 255) and **Germany** (94 470).

¹ The Synthesis Report and the 23 National Reports (from **Austria**, **Belgium**, **Czech Republic**, **Estonia**, **Finland**, **France**, **Germany**, **Greece**, **Hungary**, **Italy**, **Ireland**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania**, **Luxembourg**, **Malta**, **Netherlands**, **Poland**, **Portugal**, **Slovak Republic**, **Slovenia**, **Spain**, **Sweden** and **United Kingdom**) plus Tables of Data are available from <http://www.emn.europa.eu> under "Migration and International Protection Statistics."

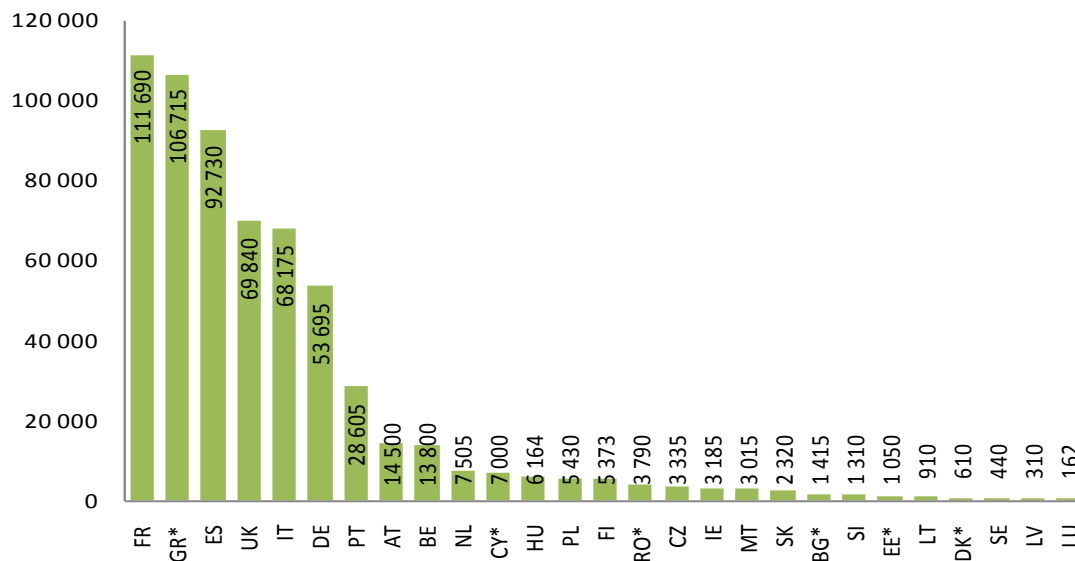
Remunerated activities constituted the primary reason for granting first residence permits in eight of the ten Member States which acceded to the EU in 2004 (Cyprus 61%, **Czech Republic** 71%, **Hungary** 50%, **Lithuania** 79%, **Poland** 46%, Romania 47%, **Slovak Republic** 50%, and **Slovenia** 85%), against an overall EU share of 29.6 % of all residence permits. These Member States tended to attract workers from neighbouring third countries. In the majority of all the Member States, most first residence permits were granted for family reasons (30.2% of all residence permits).

2. Illegal immigration and return

For the 22 Member States with statistics comparable with previous years, an overall increase in the number of apprehensions was recorded (18%).

A total of 611 840 third-country nationals illegally staying in the Member States were apprehended in 2008, the largest numbers in **France** (111 690), **Greece** (106 715) and **Spain** (92 730). Different reasons for developments regarding illegal stay and the number of apprehensions of third-country nationals staying illegally were observed. These were *inter alia* related to changes in irregular migration routes and entry points of third-country nationals; the enlargement of the Schengen Area; increased surveillance and focus on countering irregular migration of several Member States, including cooperation with third countries; and developments with regard to international protection (e.g. apprehended third-country nationals may apply for international protection, and some of the persons apprehended may be rejected asylum applicants).

Figure 2: Third-country nationals apprehended/found to be illegally staying, by Member State, 2008



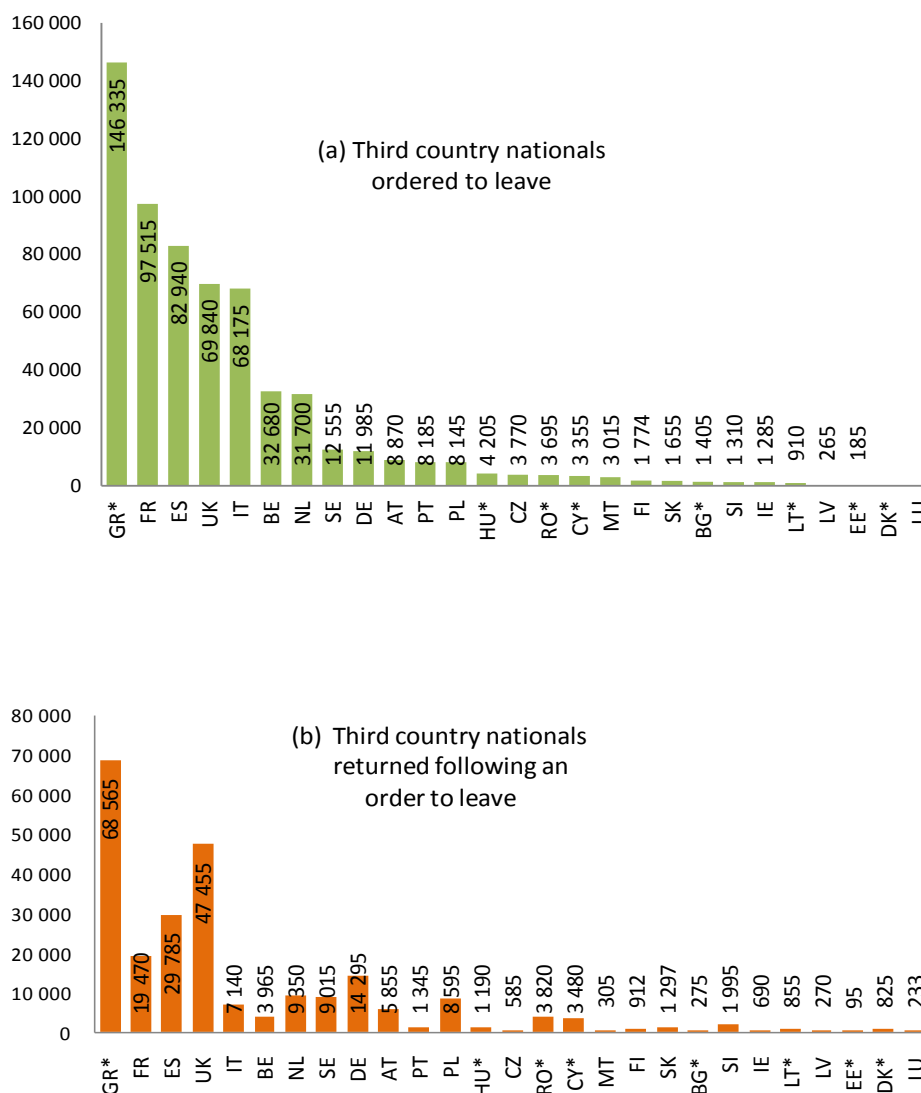
Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables. * Eurostat data (NB Eurostat data on irregular immigration and return, border control and international protection are rounded to the nearest 5).

The most frequent countries of citizenship of apprehended illegally staying third-country nationals were: Albania (72 735), Afghanistan (49 860), Morocco (39 775), Iraq (37 440) and Brazil (32 940).

The most frequent countries of citizenship of those returned were: Albania (69 300), Morocco (16 000), Ukraine (9 920), Brazil (9 740) and Turkey (8 415). **In 2008, 605 754 third-country nationals were ordered to leave the EU**, with **Greece, France and Spain** being the Member States issuing most orders (respectively 146 335, 97 515 and 82 940). In total, **241 662 were returned to a third country from a Member State following an order to leave**. Both the numbers of orders to leave and the number of returns were generally highest amongst the EU-15, with **Greece** returning most persons (68 565), followed by **United Kingdom** (47 455) and **Spain** (29 785). At EU-level, nationals of Albania by far constituted the largest group (69 300) of third-country nationals returned following an order to leave in 2008. As in previous years, the bulk of apprehensions and returns of third-country nationals relate primarily to citizens of third countries

neighbouring, or within the geographical proximity of, the relevant Member State, or citizens of third-countries with historical, cultural or linguistic ties to the Member State.

Figure 3: Third-country nationals (a) ordered to leave and (b) returned following an order to leave, by Member State, 2008.² Ordered by number of nationals.



3. Border Control

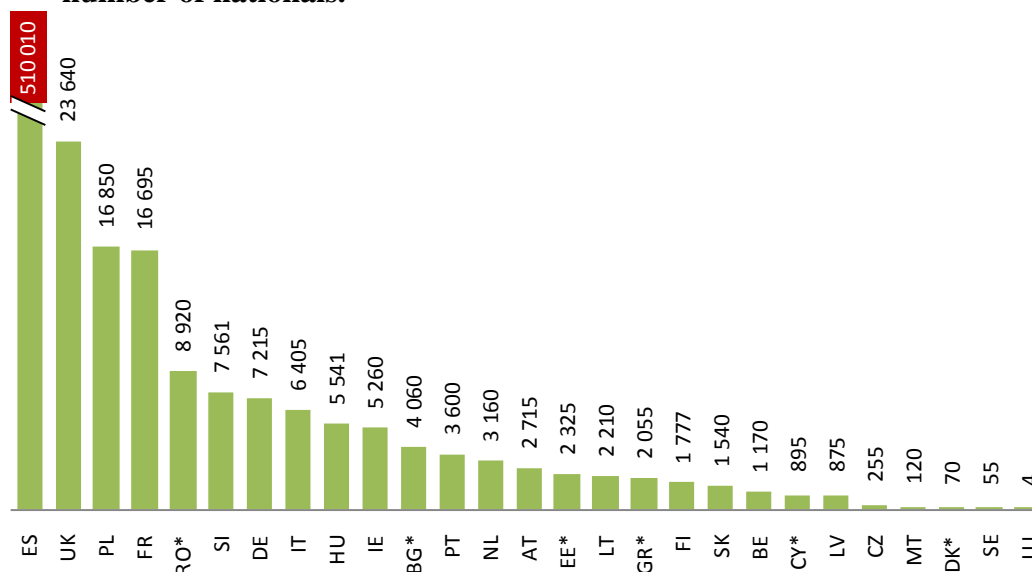
The overall picture for the EU as a whole points to a tendency of fewer refusals at the external borders, which corresponds to the overall trend of a decrease in immigration compared to 2007.

The entry of **Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia** into the Schengen Agreement (21st December 2007) led to changes to cross-border movements and control, especially in those Member States which joined the Schengen Area, and in those Member States which formerly constituted the external borders of the EU. A total of 634 975 third-country nationals were refused entry into a Member State in 2008. The refusals of entry were distributed very unevenly among the Member States. **Spain** stood out with 510 010 refusals, amounting to 80.3% of the total number of refusals in 2008. The other Member States with the most refusals were the **United Kingdom** (23 640) and **Poland** (16 850). At the other end of the scale was **Luxembourg** (4) and **Sweden** (55). Regarding type of border, refusals of entry into the Member States with external borders to the Schengen Area (especially eastern borders) mostly

² The two sets of figures are not directly comparable since some of the third country nationals returned in 2008 may have been ordered to leave in 2007.

occur at land borders (87% of the total number), whereas refusals of entry into other Member States are more likely to take place at air borders.

Figure 4 Third-country nationals refused entry, by Member State, 2008. Ordered by number of nationals.



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables. * Eurostat data.

The most frequently used ground for refusal of entry, throughout the Member States, was related to the lack of a valid visa or residence permit (37% of the total number of refusals). Other frequently reported reasons were unjustified purpose and conditions of stay (20%), insufficient means of subsistence (13%) and lack of valid travel documents (12%). By decreasing order, Morocco, Ukraine, Brazil, the Russian Federation, China, Moldova, Turkey, Serbia, Croatia and Belarus were the most frequent countries of citizenship of persons being refused entry.

When looking at the possible links between apprehensions, refusals and returns, there seems to be convergence of nationalities between the third-country nationals who were apprehended and third-country nationals who were returned. At the same time, the nationalities of the third-country nationals who were refused are less frequently the same as the nationalities of the apprehended and returned persons.

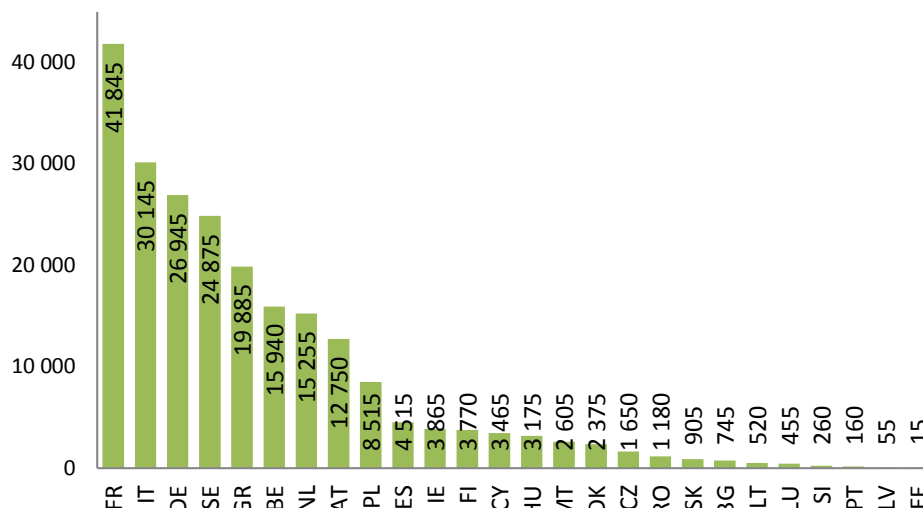
4. International protection, including asylum

After a downward trend in the number of applications for international protection in the period 2004-2006, a slight increase was seen in 2008, although the number was still below the level of 2004.

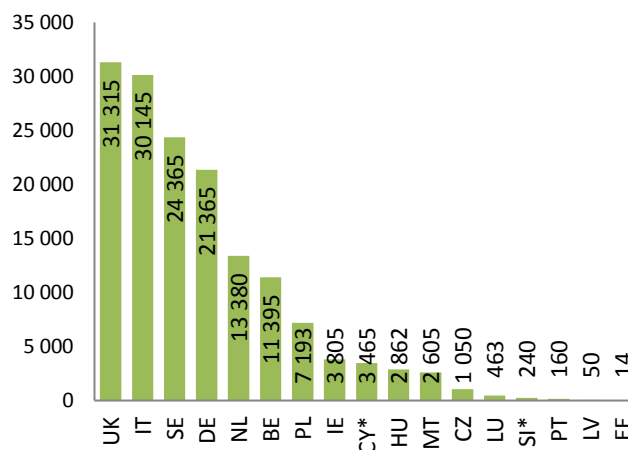
According to Eurostat, the total number of asylum applicants in 2008 for the EU was 225 870 with most total applications (including repeated applications) received by **France** (41 845), **Italy** (30 145) and **Germany** (26 945).

For the seventeen Member States providing disaggregated statistics on new asylum applications, these increased from 138 096 in 2007 to 153 872 in 2008. **Malta**, **Cyprus** and **Sweden** were the Member States receiving most new applicants per capita (1 490, 870 and 690 per million inhabitants, respectively), whereas **Estonia** (5), **Portugal** (5) and **Latvia** (15) received the lowest number of new applicants.³

³ At the time of extracting the data (January 2011), data on new applications from **Italy** and **United Kingdom** were not included in the Eurostat data.

Figure 5: Total asylum applications by Member State, ordered by number of applications, 2008

The largest groups of new asylum applicants in 2008 were, in decreasing order, nationals of Iraq, Somalia, the Russian Federation, Nigeria and Afghanistan. Compared to 2007, new applications from nationals of Serbia and Pakistan decreased notably, as these were among the five most frequent nationalities in 2007. Few Member States provide statistics on the persecution grounds of the asylum applications received, but clearly the armed conflict and/or political unrest in Iraq, Somalia, Nigeria and Afghanistan in 2007/2008 influenced the number of persons from those countries seeking international protection.

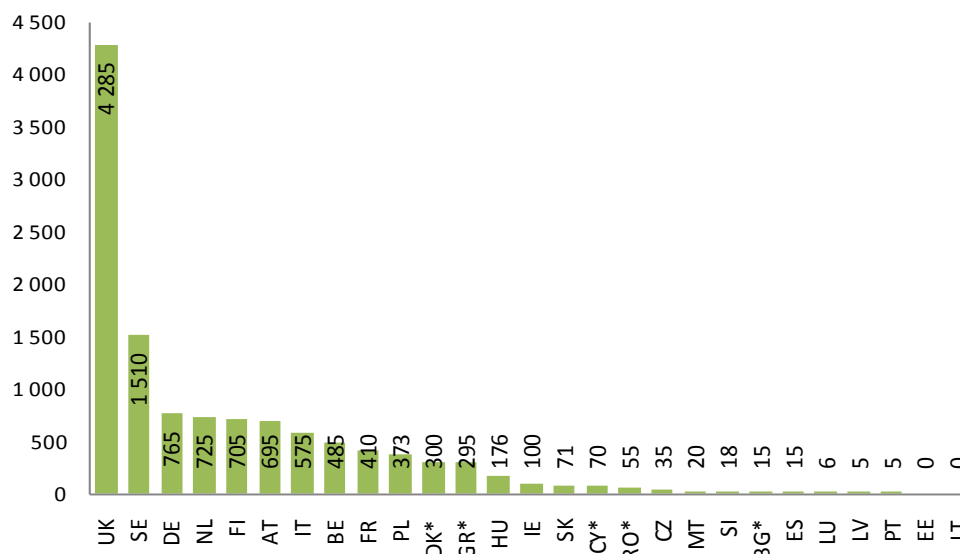
Figure 6: Number of new asylum applications by Member State, ordered by number of applications, 2008

Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables. * Eurostat data.

Applications received by the Member States depended on various factors, in addition to the situation in the countries of origin. These included “accessible” migration routes; existing migration chains, social networks and diaspora, as well as the perception of the living conditions and possibility to remain in the Member State. The focus on apprehending illegally staying third-country nationals by authorities in some Member States may also influence the number of applications as some third-country nationals, when apprehended, apply for asylum.

A total of 11 696 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied minors in 2008 - of which more than one third (4 285) were received by **United Kingdom.**

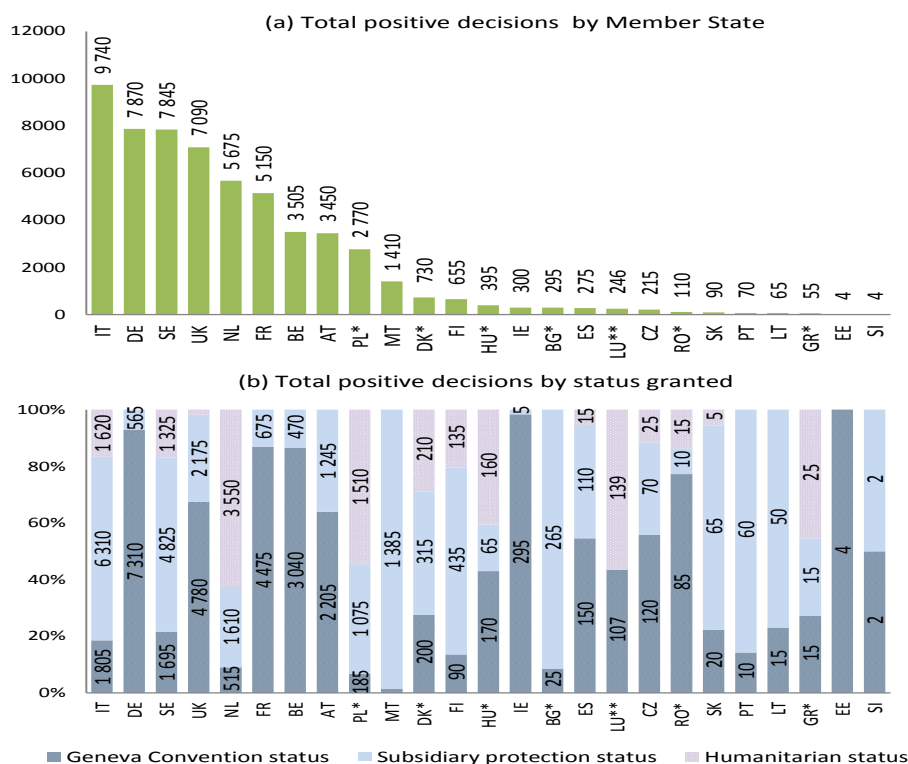
Figure 7 Asylum applicants claiming or considered to be unaccompanied minors, by Member State, 2008



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables. * Eurostat data.

In 47% of the positive first instance decisions on applications for international protection, Geneva Convention refugee status was granted; subsidiary protection was granted in 38% of positive decisions; and humanitarian status in 15%. A total of 83 069 final decisions, i.e. including decisions made on appeals of cases rejected in the first instance, were made in the Member States. Of these, 21% were positive. Regarding the proportion of positive/negative first instance decisions, the lowest proportion of positive decisions were made in **Greece** (0.002%) followed by **Slovenia** (3%) and **Spain** (5%). At the other end of the scale were **Poland** (65%), **Lithuania** (65%), **Portugal** (64%) and **Malta** (53%). Most positive decisions on applications for international protection were granted to citizens of Iraq, Somalia, the Russian Federation, Afghanistan and Eritrea.

Figure 8: Positive First Instance Decisions on Asylum Applications: (a) Number by Member State, and (b) distribution by status granted. Ordered by number of decisions, 2008



Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables. * Eurostat data. **Eurostat data for Cyprus not available.

5. Dublin Transfers

Member States made a total of 26 711 Dublin transfer requests to other Member States, either to take back or to take charge of an asylum applicant in accordance with Council Regulation 343/2003 (the Dublin Regulation). Of these, 69% (18 522) were requests to take back an applicant and 31% (8 189) to take charge. Statistics on Dublin transfers were not collected by Eurostat before 2008, hence it is not (yet) possible to analyse developments over time.

Table 1: Dublin Transfers: Incoming and outgoing requests by type and by Member State, 2008

	Incoming requests			Outgoing requests		
	Total number of taking back requests	Total number of taking charge requests	Total number of pending requests at the end of reference period	Total number of taking back requests	Total number of taking charge requests	Total number of pending requests at the end of reference period
BE	:	1 250	:	:	:	:
BG*	101	40	11	28	28	5
CZ	391	180	31	86	54	0
DK*	:	:	70	:	:	19
DE	2 458	604	10	4 461	1 396	75
EE*	1	13	1	1	1	0
IE*	128	32	11	294	181	13
GR	:	:	:	26	21	14
ES*	155	184	3	34	86	1
FR	1 630	580	0	3 210	835	205
IT	2 561	1 886	977	972	442	101
CY*	32	39	34	5	0	1
LV*	6	46	18	1	0	0
LT*	36	101	10	27	8	0
LU	100	9	1	73	61	2
HU*	686	259	31	164	57	2
MT	565	122	0	1	1	0
NL	618	167	77	1 858	1 020	151
AT	1 578	177	37	3 073	1 204	171
PL	2 861	740	0	44	37	0
PT	23	45	0	26	2	0
RO*	203	156	6	26	20	0
SI*	143	89	8	49	6	0
SK	570	111	24	136	22	2
FI	145	65	0	653	375	0
SE	1 450	115	:	1 851	1 432	:
UK	1 065	196	42	1 423	900	155

Source: EMN NCP National Statistical Tables. * Eurostat statistics in italics

Reading note: Data includes requests with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland as partner countries. ":" means "Not Available."

6. Further Information

Should you have specific questions or require further details, please contact the EMN via Stephen.Davies@ec.europa.eu.

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