

## COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments  
in migration and  
international  
protection, including  
latest statistics

# AUSTRIA 2023



### OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

On 1 December 2023, the Austrian Federal Government decided on a cross-government [strategic action plan](#) to tackle the shortage of skilled workers. It covered (1) skilled immigration, (2) labour market integration of migrants, persons granted asylum and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status already living in Austria, and (3) labour market integration of displaced persons from Ukraine, including their prospects for long-term residence.



### LEGAL MIGRATION

In response to the shortage of skilled workers across all sectors, several developments were designed to encourage labour migration. The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber worked with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy and the Austrian Business Agency to implement the [International Skilled Workers Initiative](#) in six focus countries. The [list of shortage occupations](#) was extended and reached an all-time high in 2023, with 98 shortage occupations nationwide and 56 regionally. An [amendment to the Act Governing the Employment](#)



### KEY POINTS

In 2023, Austria adopted a cross-government strategic action plan to tackle the shortage of skilled workers, together with other developments to encourage immigration and labour market access of skilled workers and to promote labour market integration.

For displaced persons from Ukraine, Austria adapted the right of residence, labour market access and support services.

Austria strengthened its whole-of-government approach and engaged in greater bilateral cooperation in skilled immigration, irregular migration, and return and reintegration.

of [Foreign Nationals](#) made it possible for Red-White-Red Card applicants to be awarded points not just for German and English proficiency, but for Spanish, French, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian language skills. In addition, digitalisation measures sped up processing times for Red-White-Red Card applications. An [amendment to the Healthcare and Nursing Act](#) made it easier for foreign care assistants to access the labour market. The temporary residence permit for school pupils was extended to include pupils at schools for social care professions by means of an [amendment to the Settlement and Residence Act](#). The level of German proficiency required for a Red-White-Red Card for a regular worker in tourism, agriculture and forestry was [reduced from A2 level to A1 level](#). The [Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement](#) between Austria and India came into force on 1 September 2023 to promote the mobility of skilled workers. The first joint working group meeting between India and Austria on the implementation of the agreement was held in December 2023. Austria and the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the recruitment of skilled workers in October 2023.



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

There were two relevant developments in housing costs in basic care. Firstly, due to increased building, energy, and personnel costs in winter 2022/23, it was decided that from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023, the federal state would reimburse the provinces for the financial costs incurred from granting temporary [cost-of-living compensation](#) to accommodation providers. Secondly, the Federal Ministry of the Interior worked with the City of Vienna to develop a [Transparent Real Cost Model](#) to replace flat-rate cost claims and ensure greater transparency, less bureaucracy, and more equitable distribution of costs. The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that the independence of legal advice provided to asylum-seekers by the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services is not adequately safeguarded by law, and law makers were given until 1 July 2025 to create a new regulation. However, the provision of legal advice by the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services was confirmed to be constitutional.



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

On the basis of an [amendment to the Regulation on Displaced Persons](#) and a [Council Implementing Decision](#) at EU level, the temporary right of residence for displaced persons from Ukraine was extended until 4 March 2025. The Constitutional Court [ruled](#) that Ukrainian nationals

who had left Ukraine not long before 24 February 2022 were still resident in Ukraine on this cut-off date and were thus entitled to temporary protection in Austria. Developments were designed to promote the labour market integration of displaced persons. In January 2023, the Provincial Government Coordination Board increased the exemption threshold for displaced persons in basic care. In April 2023, an [amendment to the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals](#) gave displaced persons unrestricted access (no permit required) to the labour market. Based on a [decision](#) of the Supreme Court, displaced persons became entitled to a long-term care allowance, provided they met the other requirements. In December 2023, the inclusion of displaced persons in the Austrian [health insurance system](#) and their [entitlement to family benefits](#) were extended until 4 March 2025.



## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The [temporary cost-of-living compensation](#) provided the provinces with financial resources that could be used to house unaccompanied minors in organised accommodation. Cost claims based on the [Transparent Real Cost Model](#) were introduced for unaccompanied minors and persons with special care needs in Vienna, with retrospective effect from 1 January 2023. In May 2023, the Federal Administrative Court published an [updated version](#) of the guidelines on the best interests of the child in asylum and aliens' law. A working aid for judges, the guidelines outline the key criteria for assessing the best interests of the child based on the latest case-law. In August 2023, the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services published a [child protection concept](#) that includes safeguards for cases where the best interests of the child are at particular risk, such as when unaccompanied minors go missing.



## INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

In accordance with the implementation of the government programme, the Austrian Integration Fund set up the new [Integration Service for Professionals](#), offering support, advice and information to professionals and their families. [Additional funds](#) were made available to promote the labour market integration of foreign care workers, while a new free [online specialist language course](#) was launched on the Language Portal (an online learning platform provided by the Austrian Integration Fund). The Austrian Integration Fund digitalised various processes, with digital certificates issued for integration and language tests from January 2023. The Austrian Integration Fund also introduced a [new digital assessment process](#): in a single appointment, advice could be provided, learning level assessed and a course

booked. [German courses were awarded](#) to training providers via an award procedure for the first time in 2023, replacing the previous project funding system.

## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments to report in 2023.

## BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

The Austrian representation authorities supported those affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria in February 2023 by [processing their visa applications as quickly as possible](#). The temporary internal border controls at the borders with [Slovenia and Hungary](#) were maintained in 2023. Temporary controls were reintroduced at the borders with [Slovakia](#) and the [Czech Republic](#) to ensure public peace, order and security, as well as combating smugglers' organisations. A [training centre for Tunisian border guards](#) opened in November 2023, as an Austrian initiative, in cooperation with Denmark and Tunisia.

## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

In 2023, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs remained committed to preventing irregular migration and reducing the number of applications for asylum in Austria. [Measures](#) included border controls and measures against smugglers' networks, including bilateral and multilateral police cooperation. In April 2023, Austria and Romania agreed a [bilateral action plan](#) to tackle the smuggling of migrants, and it was arranged that Romanian liaison officers would be regularly deployed to the Joint Coordination Platform (JCP). The JCP strengthened its cooperation with Western Balkan partners on migration management, including return and border management. In June 2023, Austria and Bulgaria agreed the [Austrian-Bulgarian Action Plan on preventing illegal migration](#). Austria also strengthened its cooperation with third countries on irregular migration. In February, Austria and Morocco signed a [Joint Declaration](#) that covers migration-related issues. The [Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement](#) between Austria and India was signed in May 2023 and came into force on 1 September 2023. An [implementing protocol to the EU Readmission Agreement](#) on the readmission of persons staying irregularly was signed with Armenia in July 2023. An [MoU](#) was signed with Iraq in July 2023, covering intensified cooperation on irregular migration. In addition, non-binding agreements were signed with other states, including an [MoU](#) between Austria, Hungary and Serbia.

## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In June 2023, the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum updated its internal guidelines for employees responsible for decision-making under the Dublin III Regulation (604/2013/EU) and added a chapter on trafficking in human beings. In October 2023, under the aegis of the Task Force on Combating Human Trafficking, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs organised the Vienna Conference on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, focusing on cross-border aspects. In December 2023, the first training course on child trafficking was held for employees at the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum. At the end of the year, a draft of the seventh National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking (2024–2027) was negotiated within the Task Force.

## RETURN AND READMISSION

The Federal Ministry of the Interior focused on further establishing foundations and deepening cooperation with countries of origin, as well as [increasing the number of returns](#) in 2023. Voluntary return continued to be prioritised and Austria offered [reintegration programmes for voluntary returnees](#) in 40 countries of origin. For example, in the second half of the year, a package of holistic measures was implemented to promote voluntary return to Iraq: Iraqi nationals who applied for voluntary return between October and December 2023 and who fulfilled all requirements received [€ 1 000](#) in addition to return assistance and support. Important steps were taken in cooperation with relevant countries of origin. Return cooperation was a key component of the [Joint Declaration](#) between Austria and Morocco in February. In March, Austria took part in a [Joint Outward Mission](#) to Pakistan for the first time. An MoU on readmission cooperation was concluded with Iraq in July, followed by an [MoU](#) on security in September. The [Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement](#) between Austria and India entered into force on 1 September 2023 and contained provisions on the forced return of nationals obliged to leave the country. The new partnership agreement between the EU and its Member States and the members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) ([Samoa Agreement](#)), signed in November 2023, covers a wide range of areas, including return, readmission and reintegration.

## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

There was greater emphasis on migration in Austrian development cooperation. To alleviate humanitarian disasters and create prospects in the regions affected, the Federal Government decided to increase the [Foreign Disaster Relief Fund](#) to € 77.5 million. It also made one of the largest [individual payouts](#) from the fund for the work of Austrian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in

humanitarian crisis areas. In October 2023, the Federal Government [adopted a new humanitarian aid strategy](#) that focused on innovation, quality and the linking of humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace-building. The strategy stipulates that Austria will support refugees, internally displaced persons, and host societies by providing humanitarian aid at a local level, and tackle the causes of displacement.

## 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 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](#).

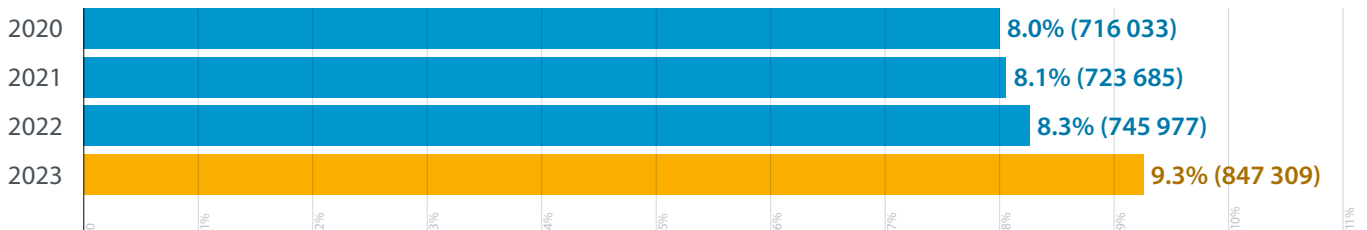
For some indicators, data are rounded at the source. Due to this, in some cases, the sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value.

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

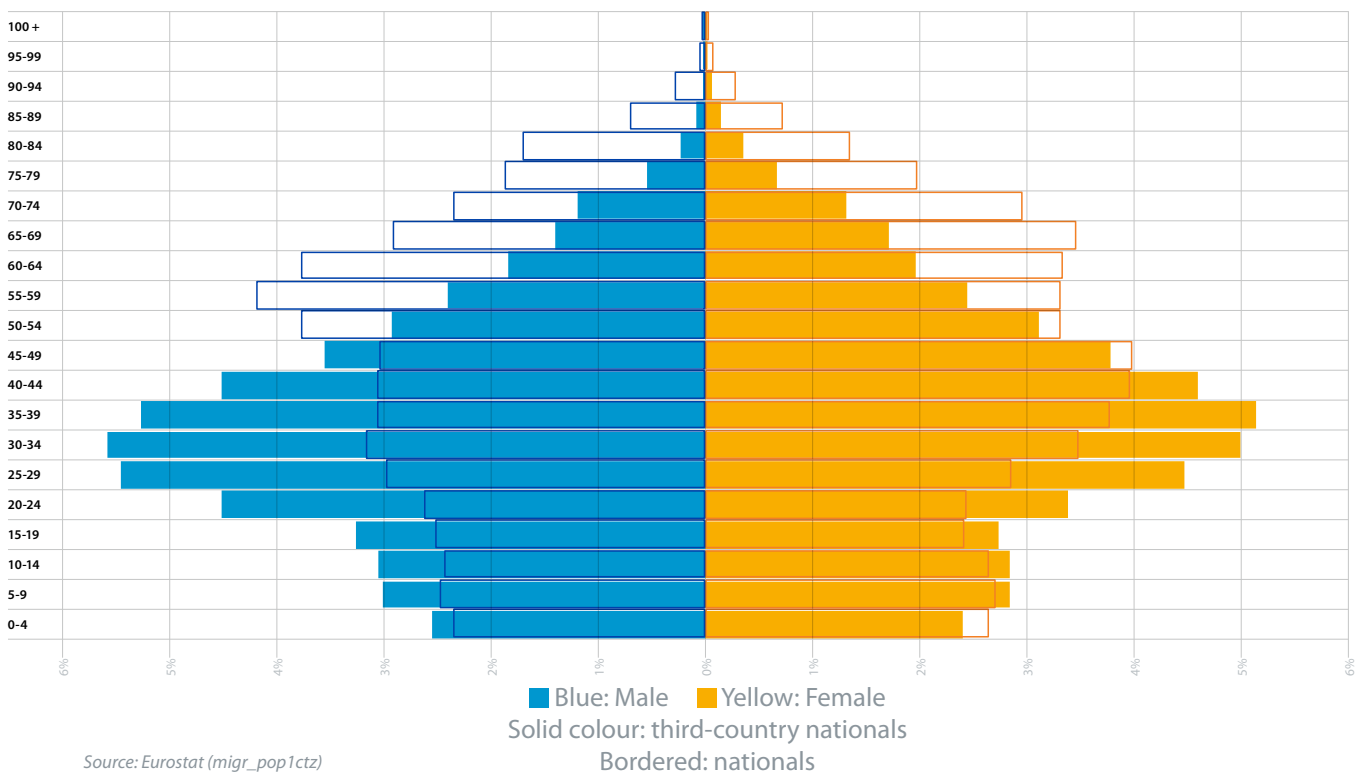
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



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

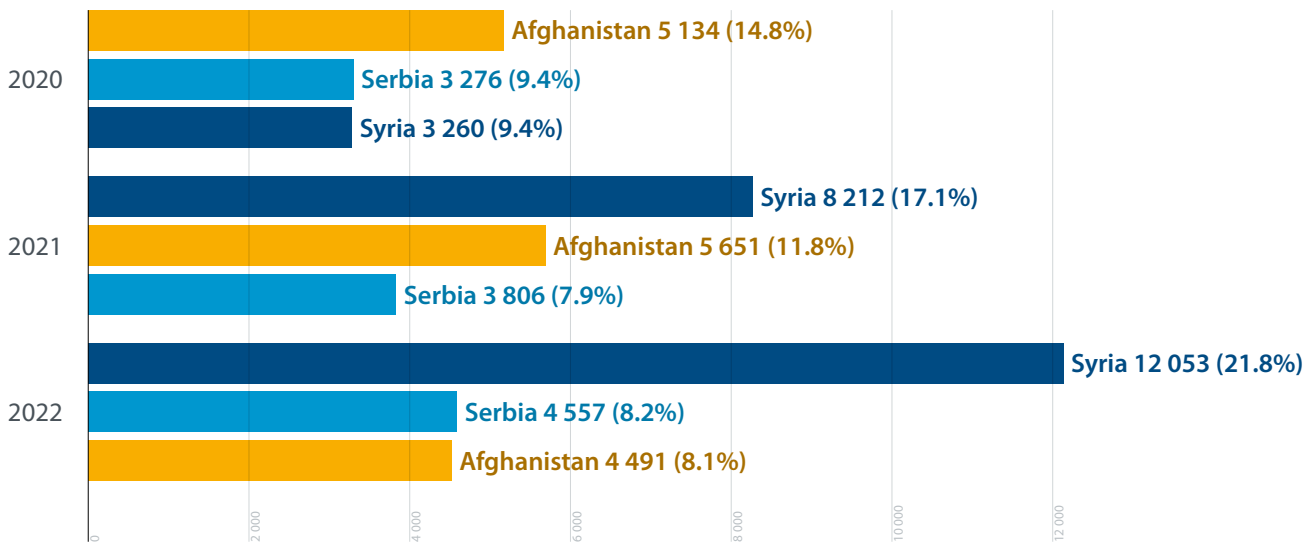
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst, migr\_pop1ctz and migr\_respop)

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

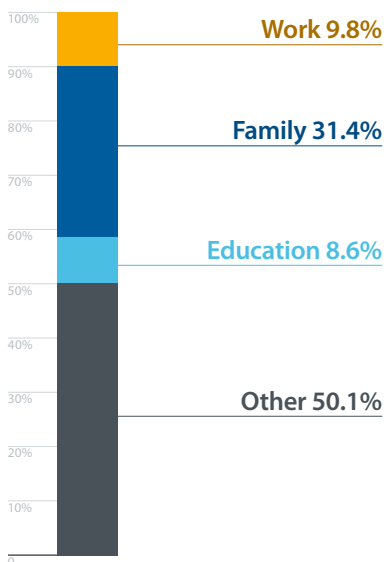
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



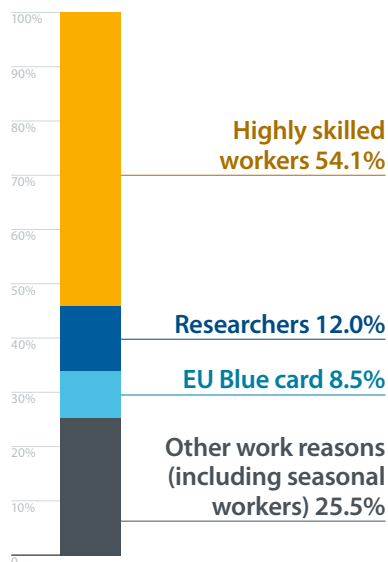
Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)

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

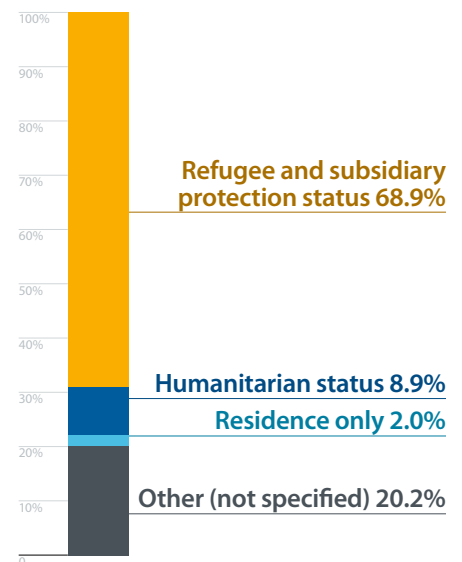
All permits,  
by reason, %



Work reason,  
by type, %



Other reason,  
by detailed reason, %



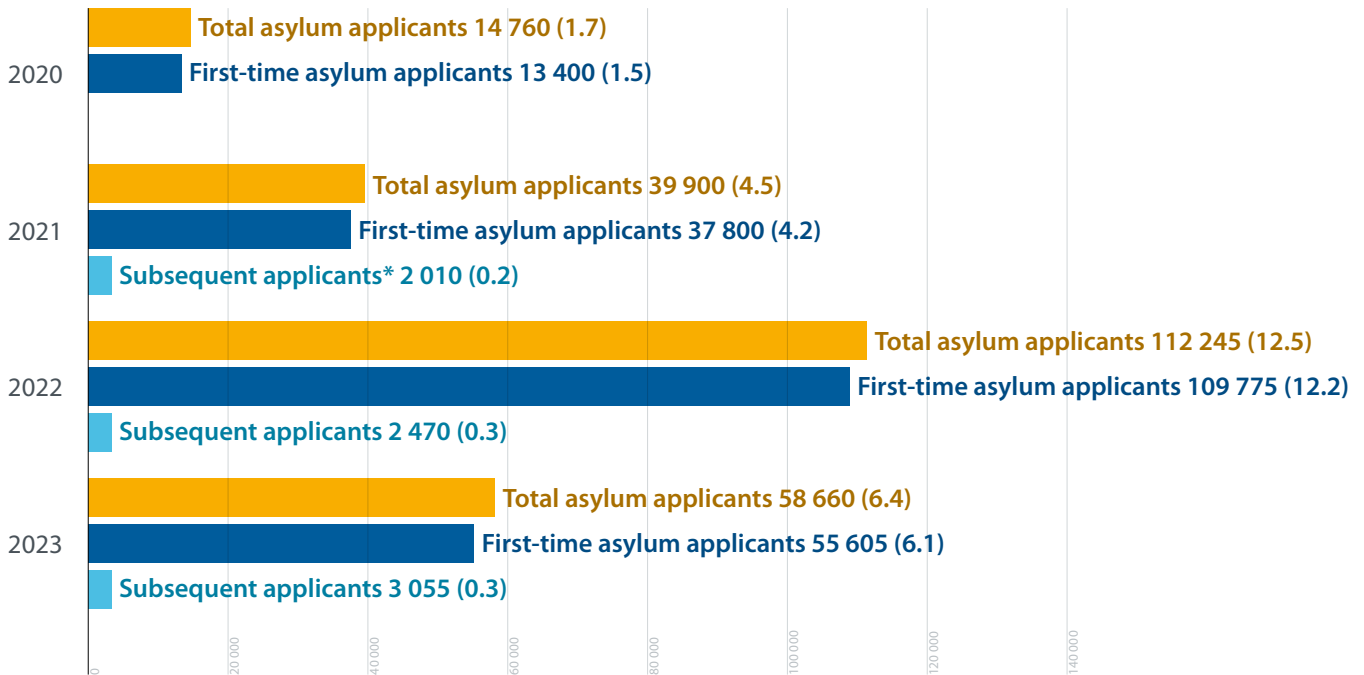
Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst, migr\_resfpc, migr\_resocc and migr\_resoth)



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

### Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

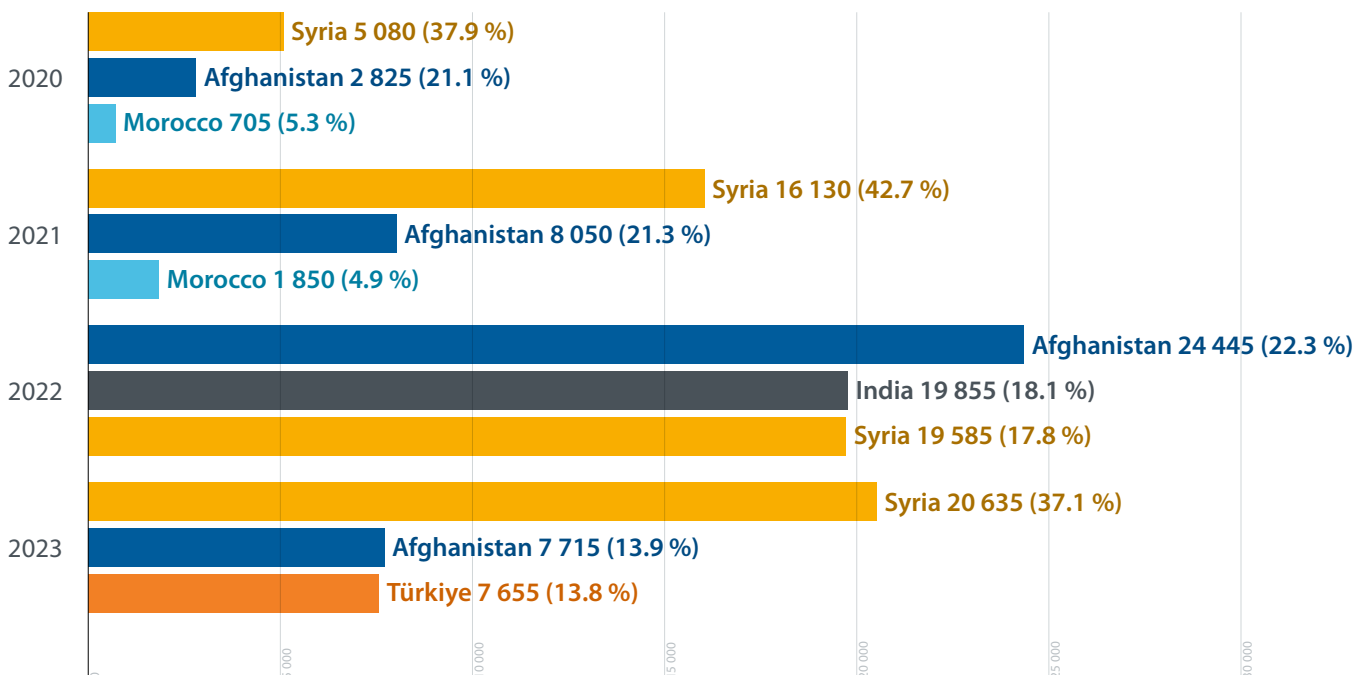


\* Data collection from 2021.

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)

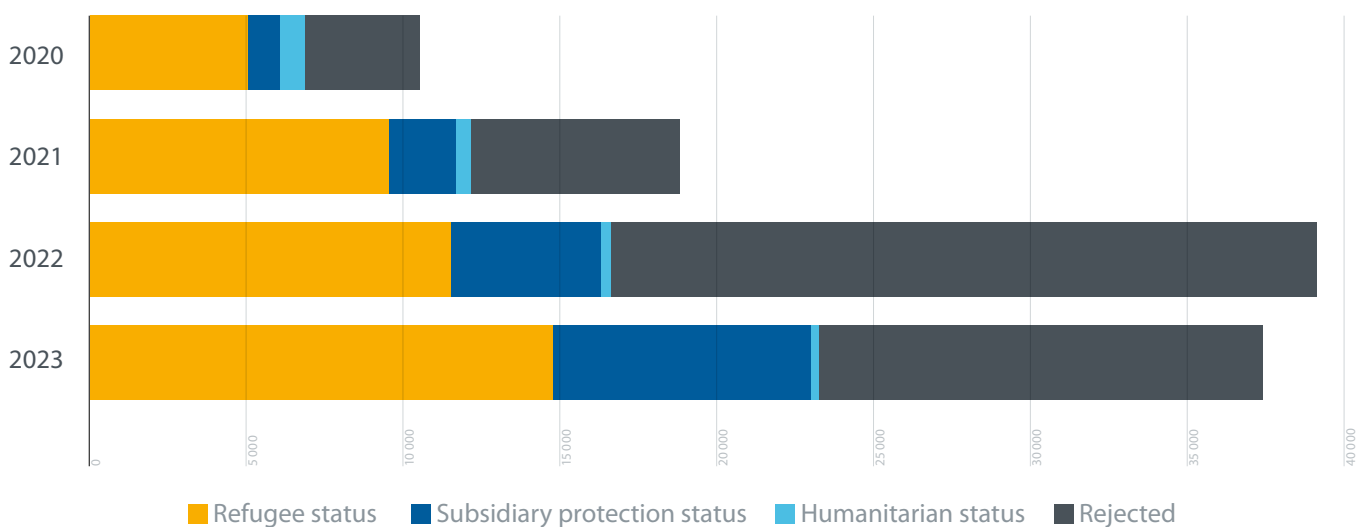


Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza)



## First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

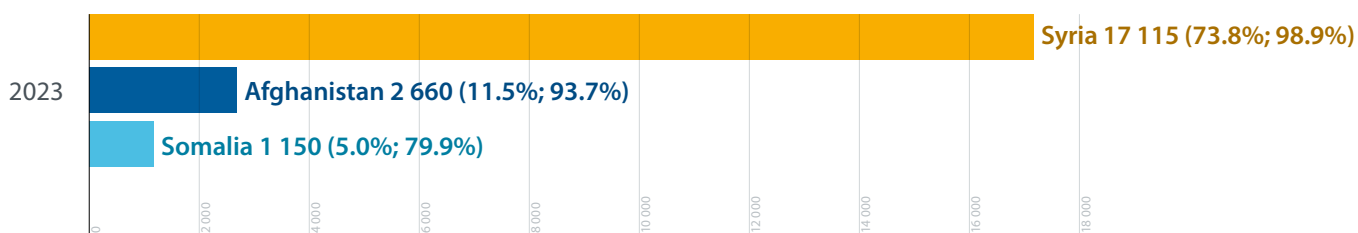


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	5 000 (47.6%)	1 050 (10.0%)	780 (7.4%)	3 660 (34.9%)
2021	9 500 (50.6%)	2 145 (11.4%)	460 (2.5%)	6 655 (35.5%)
2022	11 455 (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%)

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)

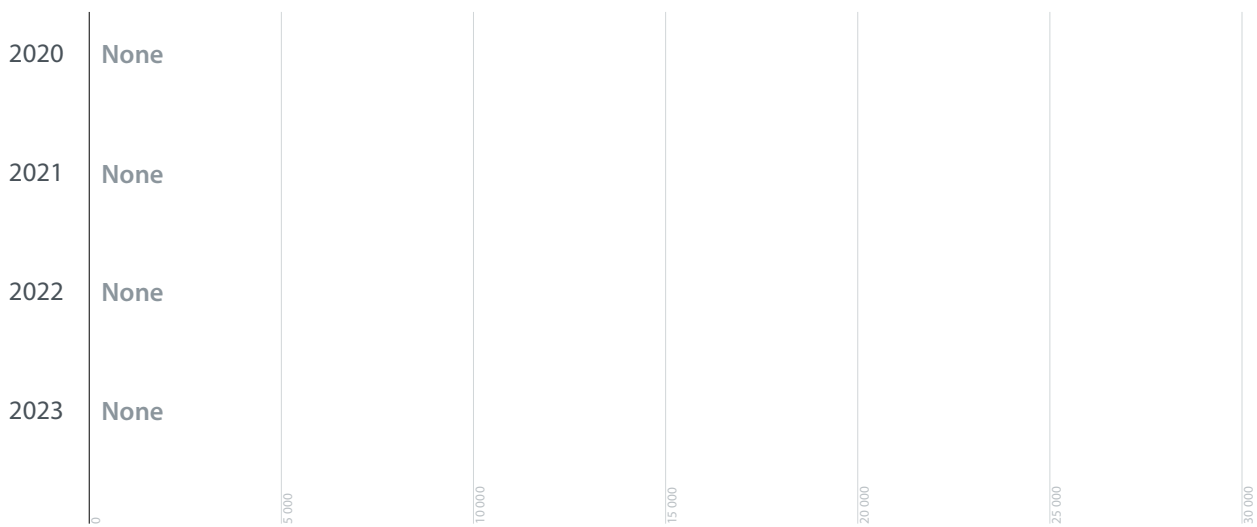


Source: Eurostat (*migr\_asydcfsta*)



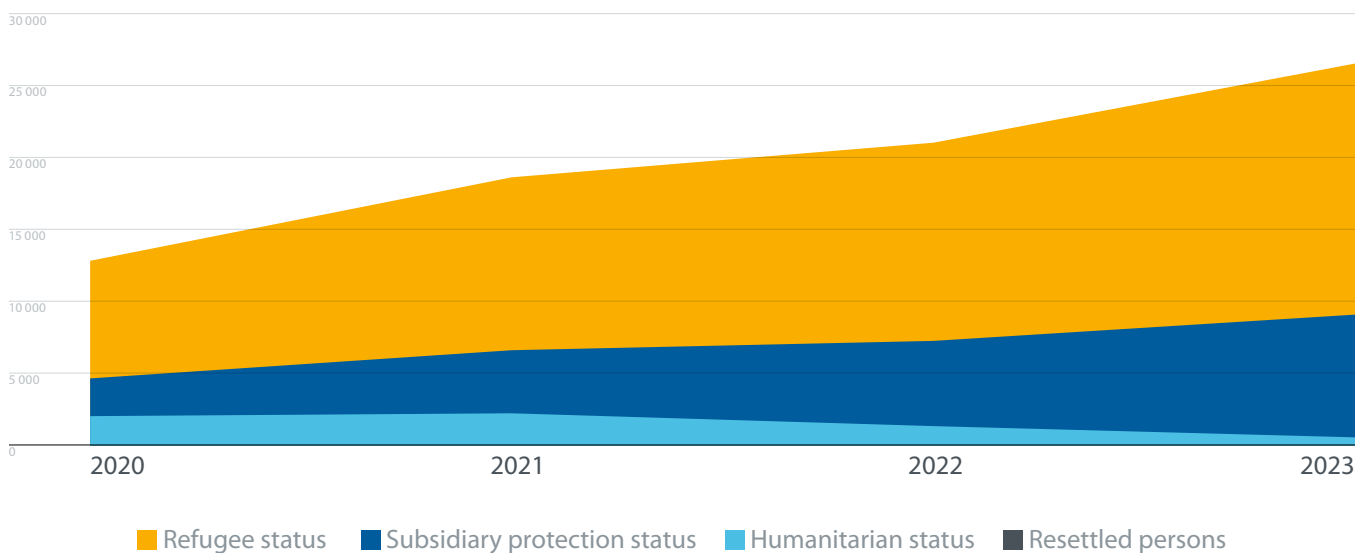
## Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

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

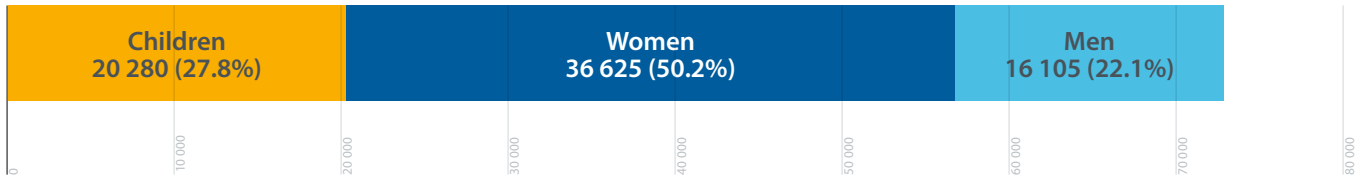


Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2020	8 260	2 650	2 070	0
2021	12 145	4 430	2 270	0
2022	13 920	5 985	1 370	0
2023	17 635	8 620	580	0

Source: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta, migr\_asydcfina and migr\_asyresa)

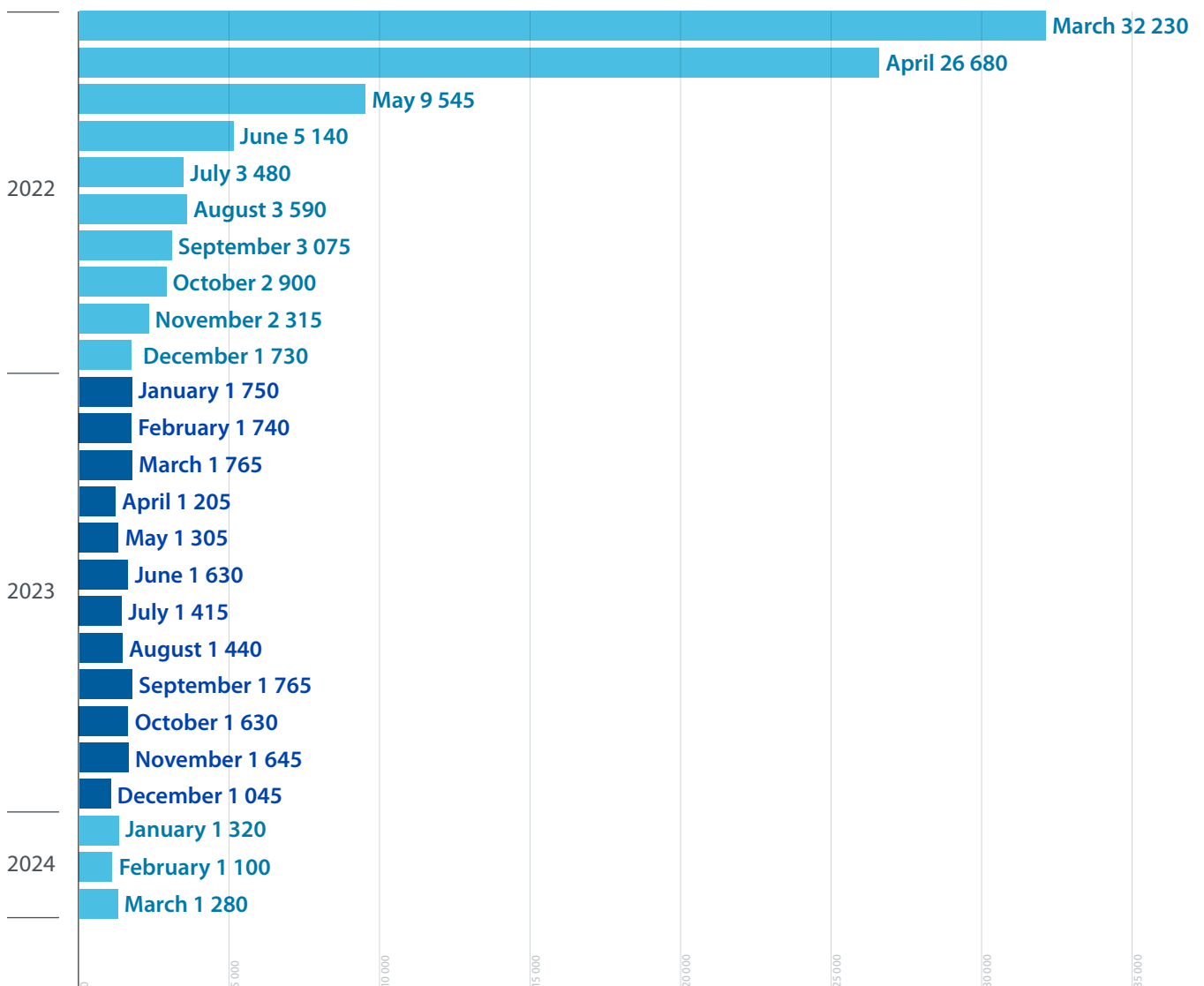
## TEMPORARY PROTECTION

### Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2024 Absolute number (and the share of the total)



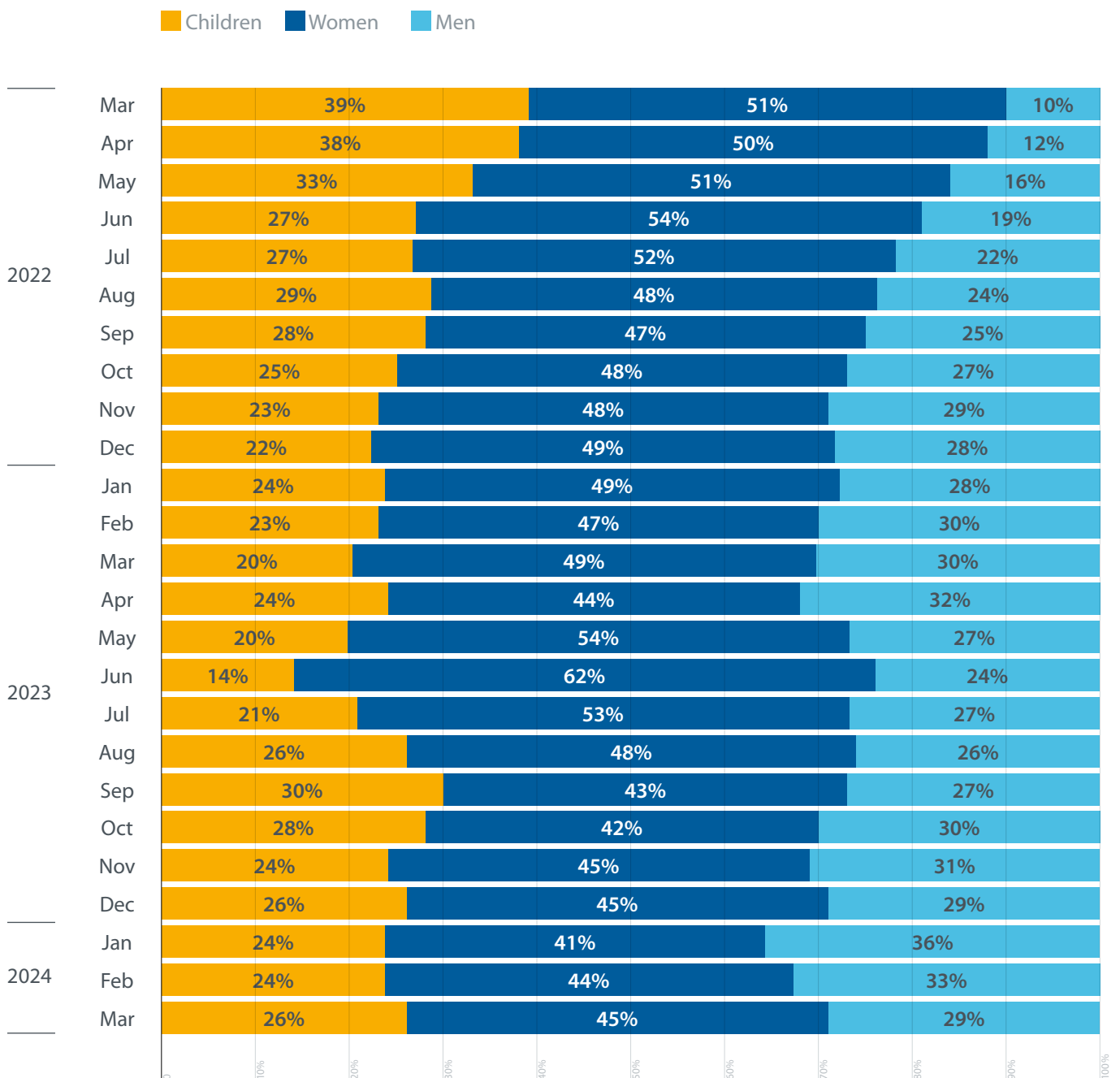
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpsm)

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



Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpfm)

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



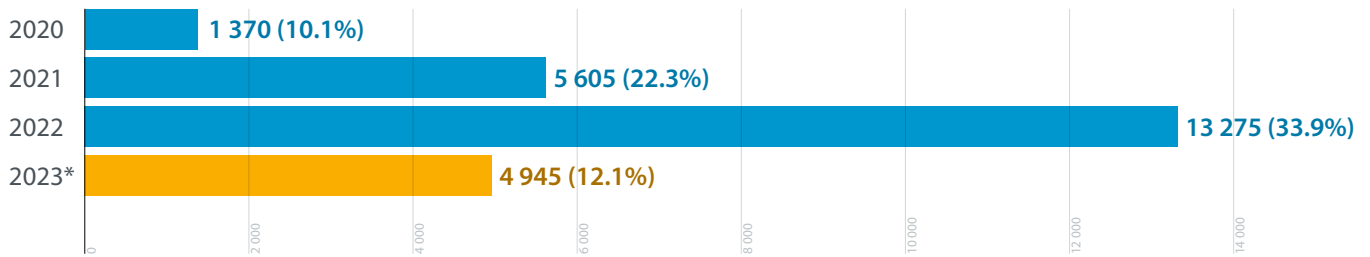
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpfm)



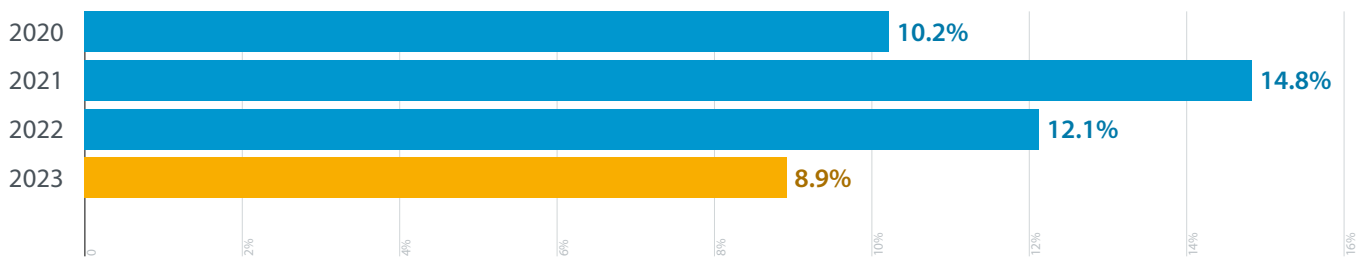
## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

### Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

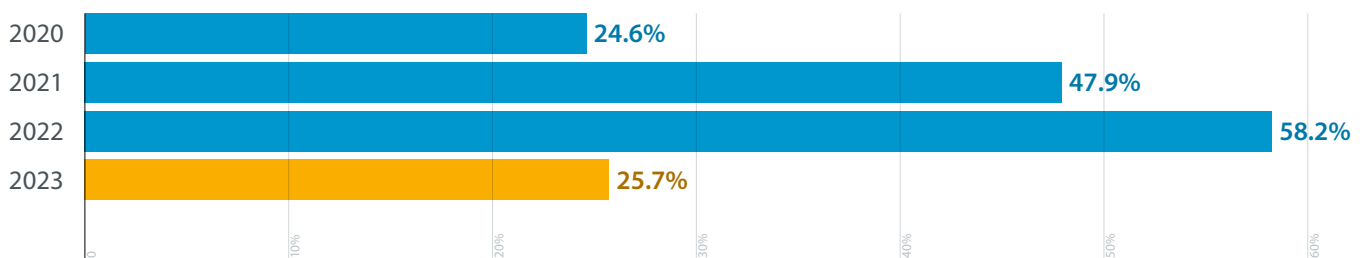
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



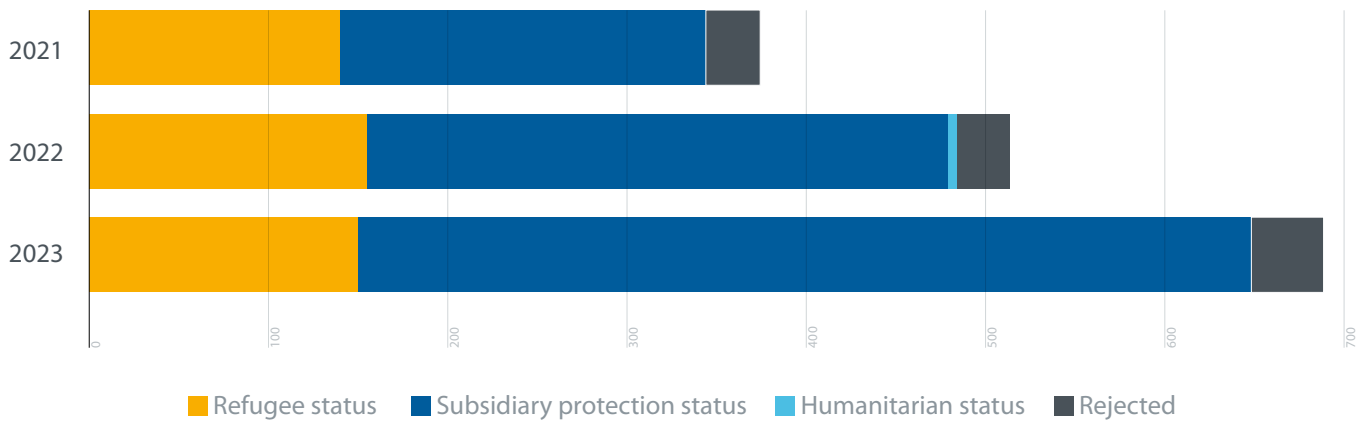
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



\* 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)



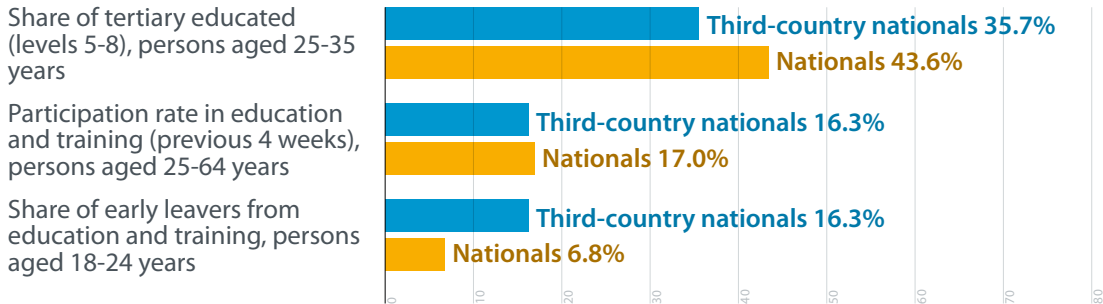
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	140 (36.8%)	205 (53.9%)	0 (0.0%)	30 (7.9%)
2022	155 (30.1%)	325 (63.1%)	5 (1.0%)	30 (5.8%)
2023	150 (21.7%)	500 (72.5%)	0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

Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyumdca)

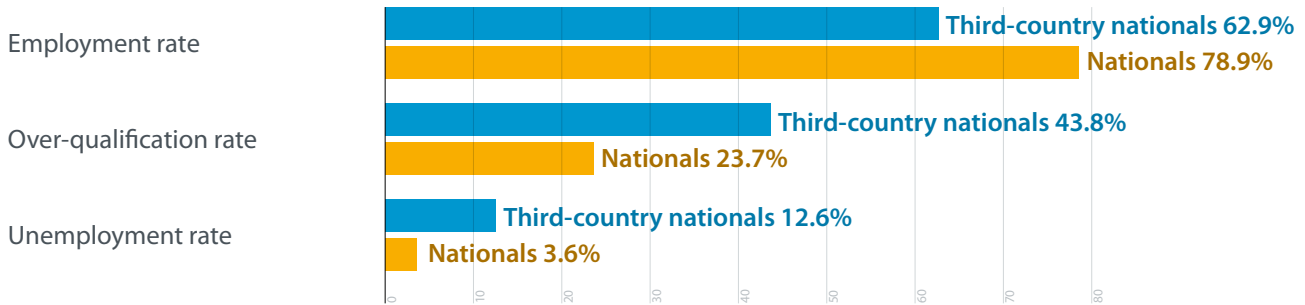
## INTEGRATION

### Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

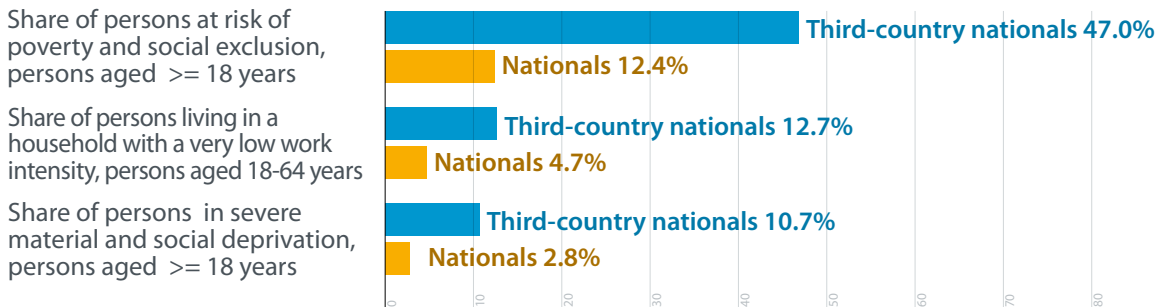
#### Education, 2023



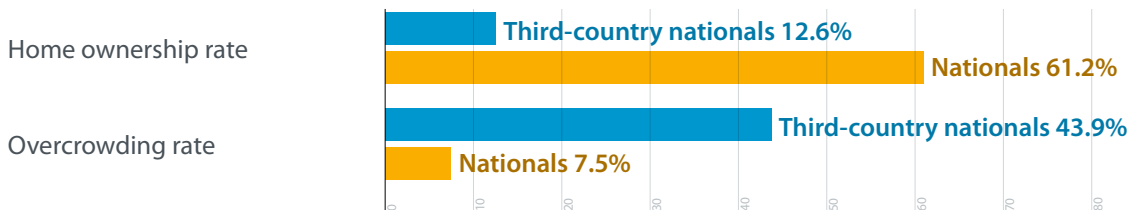
#### Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



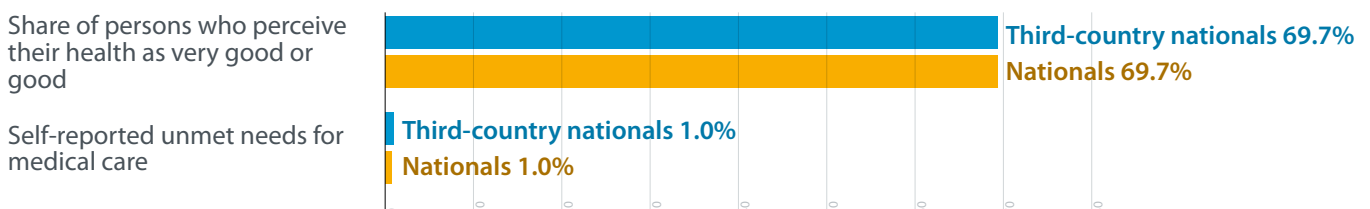
#### Social inclusion, 2023



#### Housing, persons aged $\geq 18$ years, 2023



#### Health, persons aged $\geq 16$ years, 2022

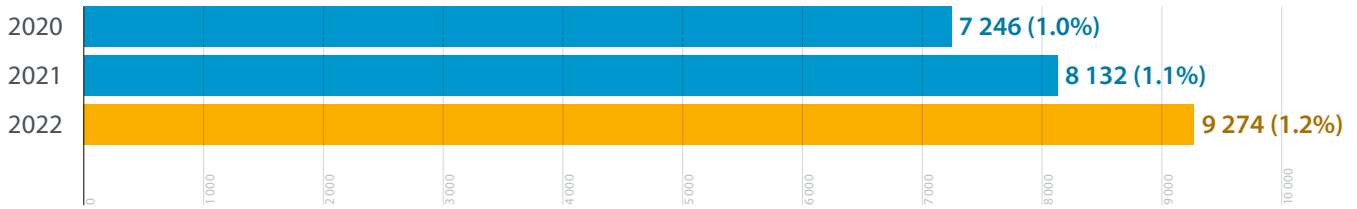




## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2020–2022

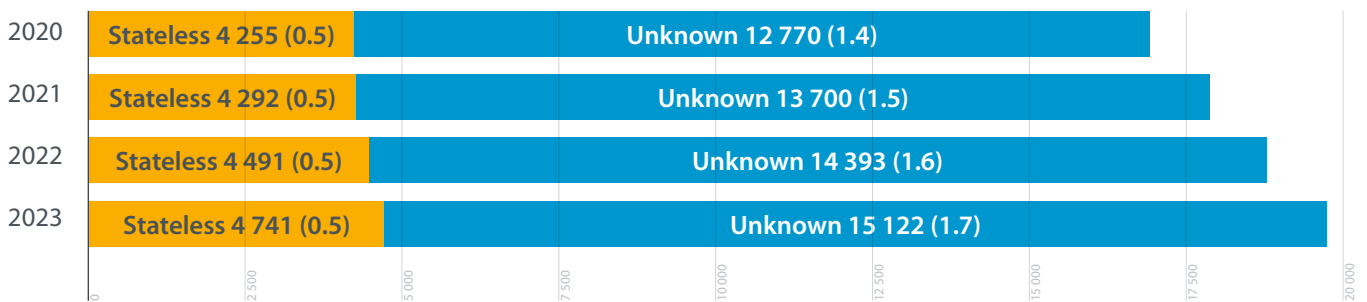
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr\_acq and migr\_pop1ctz)

### Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2020–2023

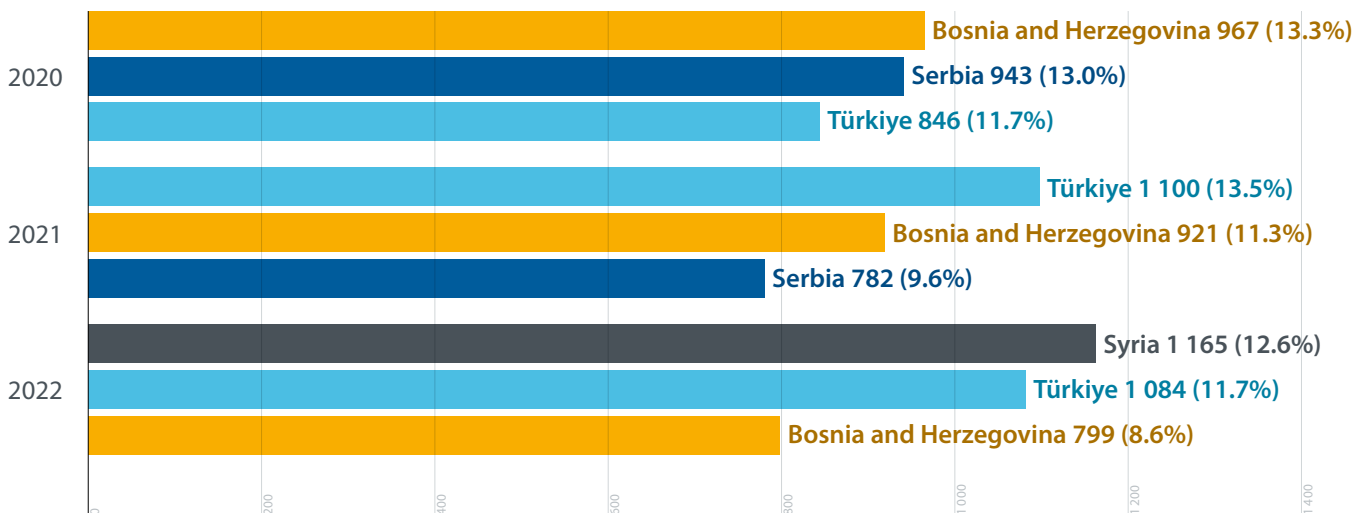
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)



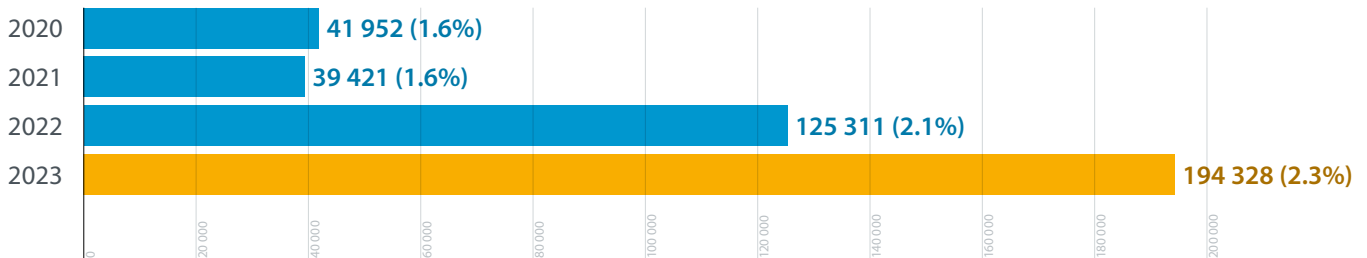
Source: Eurostat (migr\_acq)



## 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)

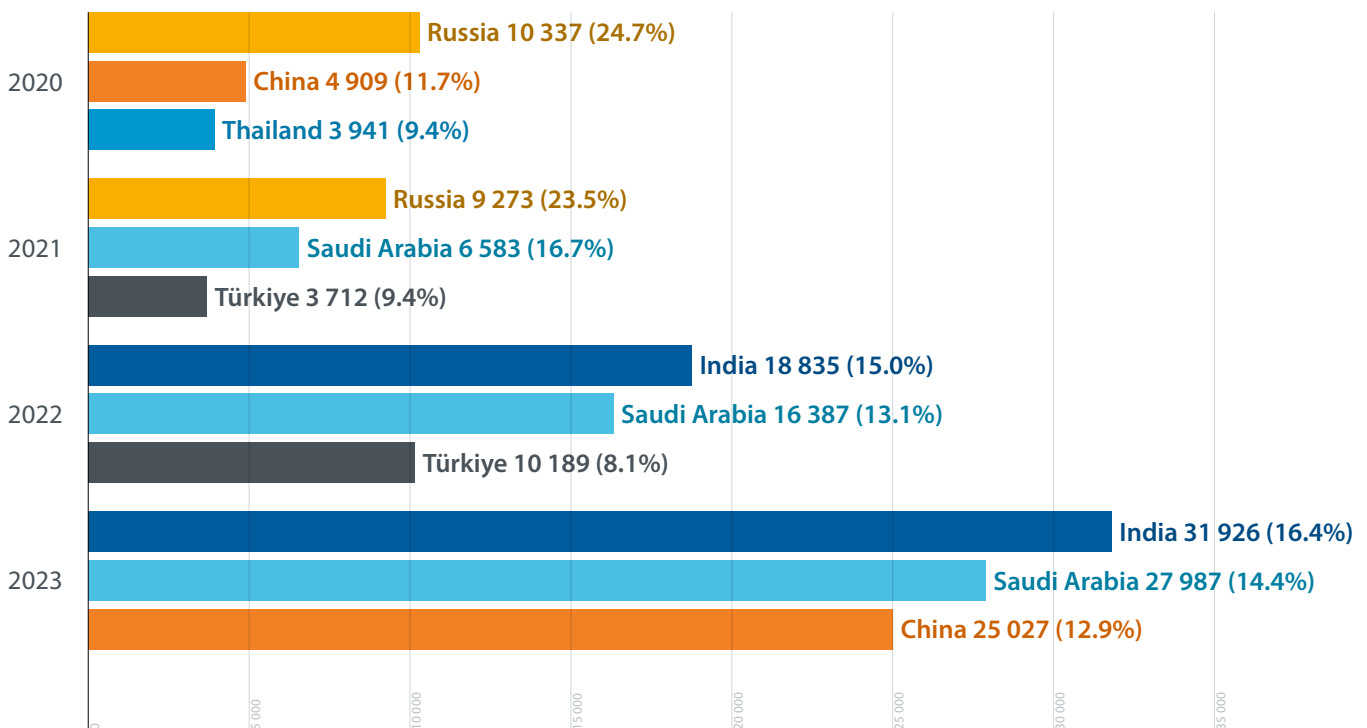


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

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.

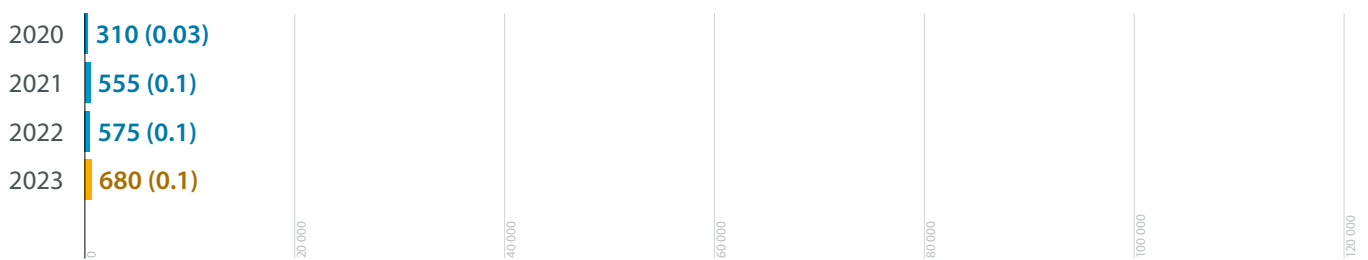
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

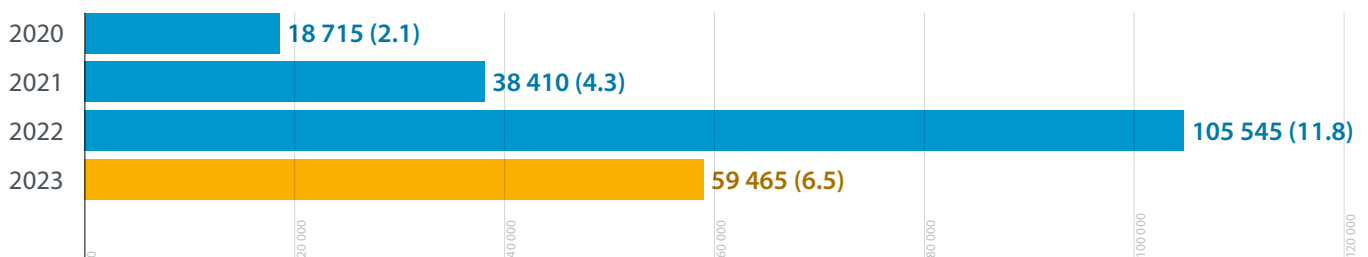
### Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

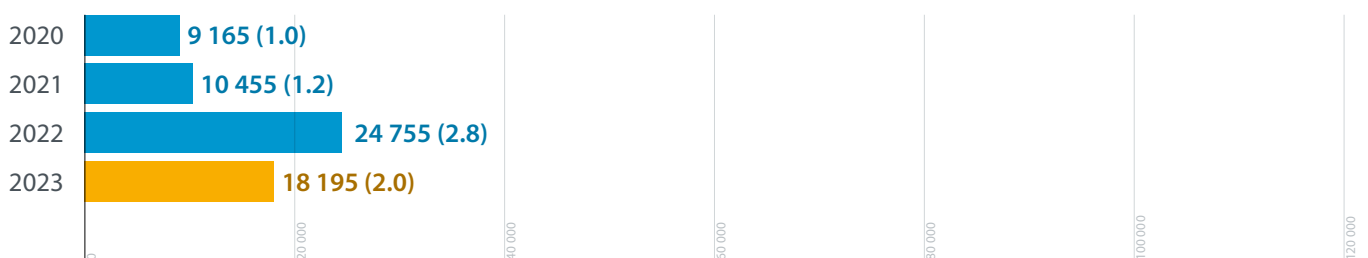
#### Persons refused entry



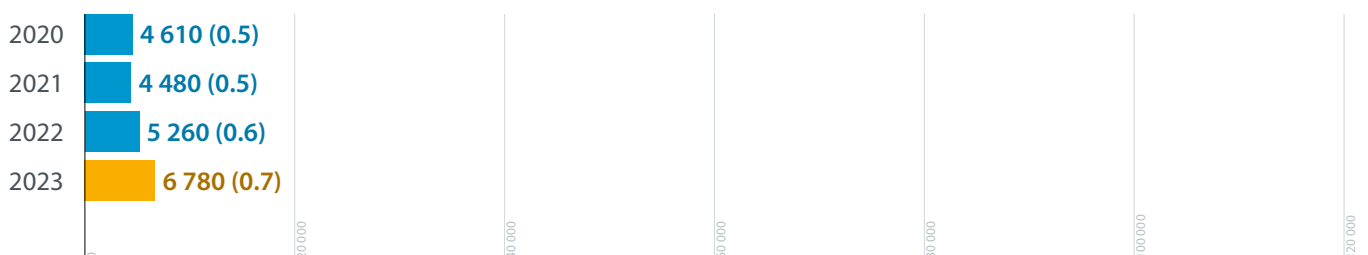
#### Persons found to be illegally present



#### 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)

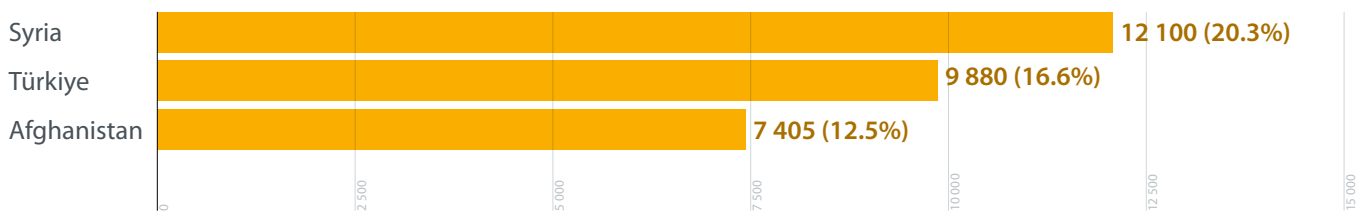
## Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

### Persons refused entry



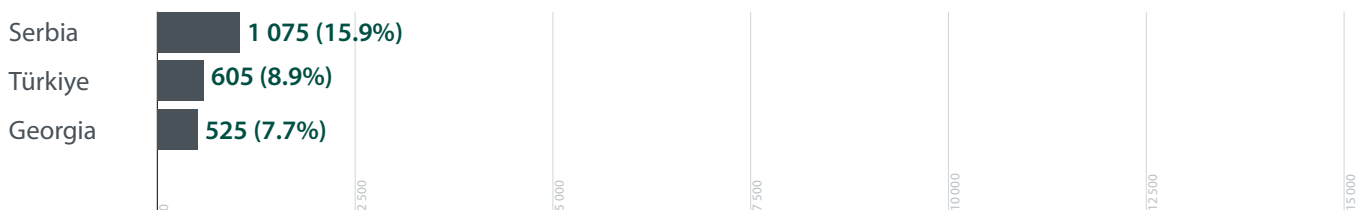
### Persons found to be illegally present



### Persons ordered to leave



### Persons returned to a third country

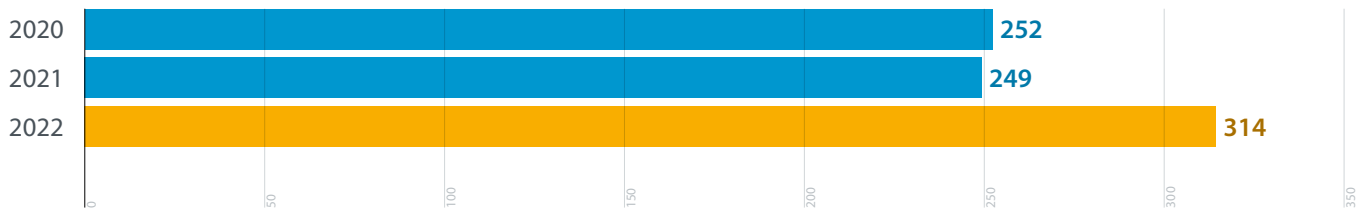


Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord and migr\_eirtn)



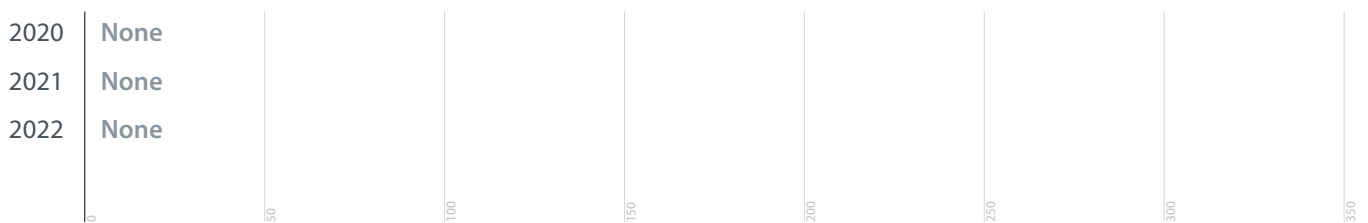
## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### 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



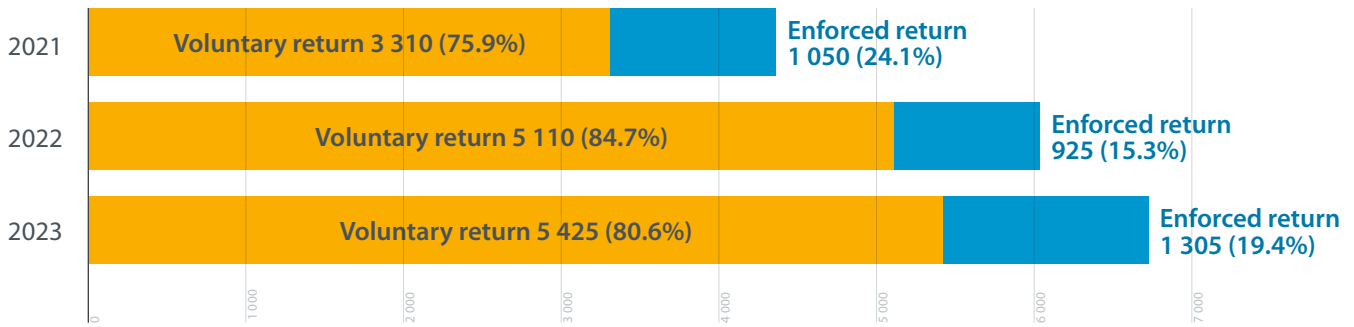
Note: Austria issues residence permits to victims of trafficking in human beings based on national regulations, rather than based on EU Directive 2004/81/EC, as presented by Eurostat.

Source: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

## RETURN AND READMISSION

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

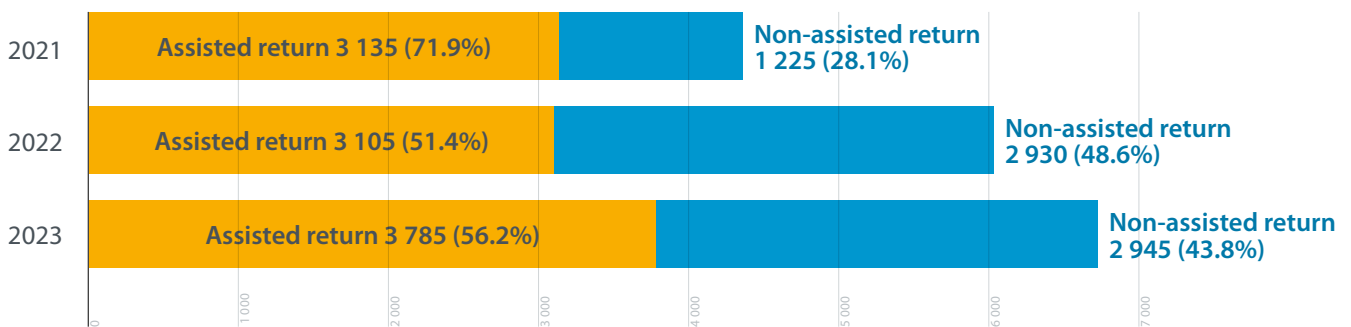
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



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)