

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | DECEMBER 2025

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

CROATIA 2024

KEY POINTS

- In March 2024, the Croatian Parliament adopted the [2033 Demographic Revitalisation Strategy](#). Measures of the Strategy in the area of population mobility include the development of a National Plan for Migration, development of better integration measures for foreigners into Croatian society, and establishment of a Migration Office which will monitor and facilitate development of migration policies.
- On 1 August 2024, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the [Integrated Border Management Strategy of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2024 – 2028](#). The Integrated Border Management Strategy follows the concept of the Integrated Border Management of the European Union.
- [The National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking for the period until 2030](#) and the accompanying Action Plan for its implementation for the period 2024 to 2026 were adopted at the session of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on 31 October 2024.



OVERARCHING AND CROSS- CUTTING CHANGES

In March 2024, the Croatian Parliament adopted the [2033 Demographic Revitalisation Strategy](#). It is the first strategic document addressing demography since the adoption of the National Population Policy in 2006.

Measures of the Strategy in the area of population mobility include the development of a National Plan for Migration, development of better integration measures for foreigners into Croatian society, and the establishment of a Migration Office which will monitor and facilitate development of migration policies.



LEGAL MIGRATION

Amendments to the Aliens Act were discussed extensively and submitted to parliamentary procedure in 2024, aiming to harmonise with the [Directive \(EU\) 2021/1883 of 20 October 2021 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment of highly qualified workers](#). Amendments to the Aliens Act passed the first reading in the Croatian Parliament in October 2024. The changes were proposed, among other things, to reduce the administrative burden on employers, foreign workers, and state administration bodies to respond to labour force needs in sectors of the economy where there are not enough domestic workers - the aim is to provide for a more efficient and flexible system of employment of foreign workers.¹



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

During 2024, a draft proposal for the Act on Amendments to the Act on International and Temporary Protection was being prepared, related to, among other things, the adoption of a national strategy in accordance with the new Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management.²



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

On 29 February 2024 the Government of the Republic of Croatia extended the duration of temporary protection in the Republic of Croatia for displaced persons from Ukraine until 4 March 2025.

The Croatian Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family, and Social Policy developed a new programme to offer Croatian language education for persons under temporary protection. This initiative features short educational courses specifically tailored to key economic sectors, including construction and architecture, tourism and hospitality, trade and services, and processing and food industries. The language programme is incorporated into the existing voucher system for education, as part of the National Operational Programme for Human Resources, and which already offered Croatian language education to certain categories of third-country nationals with stay and work permits as well as Croatian diaspora returnees.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Ministry of Science, Education and Youth has adopted Decisions enabling primary and secondary school students displaced from Ukraine to co-finance the following: i) out-of-classroom classes; ii) accommodation and meals in student dormitories; iii) programmes for providing additional support; and iv) parental share in the price of the extended stay programme and meals in extended stay for pupils displaced from Ukraine.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

The Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities has started implementing a new project co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), entitled SINERGY – Ensuring a Synergistic Approach to the Integration of Third-Country Nationals. The purpose of the project is to strengthen multi-level cooperation in the application of international and national integration standards for third-country nationals in the Republic of Croatia, with a focus on persons granted international protection.

The City of Zagreb, in cooperation with the United National High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Croatia and with the support of civil society organisations, officially opened a One-Stop-Shop - Welcome Centre. The Centre is a central information point for applicants for international protection, persons under international or temporary protection, and foreign workers with a permit to stay and work in the Republic of Croatia.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No developments to report in 2024



SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN BORDER MANAGEMENT AND VISA POLICIES

On 1 August 2024, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the [Integrated Border Management Strategy of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2024 to 2028](#). The Integrated Border Management Strategy follows the concept of the Integrated Border Management of the European Union, which is based on a four-pillar control model: state border surveillance, detection and suppression of cross-border crime in

¹ [Croatian Parliament adopted the Amendments Act on the 21 February 2025](#)

² [Croatian Parliament adopted the Amendments Act on the 24 January 2025](#)

coordination with all competent law enforcement authorities, inter-agency cooperation for border management (police, customs, security services and other relevant authorities), and international cooperation and coordination and harmonisation of the actions of Member States and institutions and other bodies of the European Union.

In the Republic of Croatia, a Schengen evaluation was carried out in the area of external border management from 29 January to 3 February 2024, and in the area of return from 19 – 23 February 2024.

To train police officers for the application of the Entry/Exit System (EES), the Ministry of the Interior created and put into operation Schengen training, which includes situational tests. In January 2024, the online training started targeting police officers for border control and illegal migration (2 267 in total), as well as managers at regional and local level. A six-week EES training course was also carried out for trainers of border police at the Border Police Accommodation and Training Centre in Spačva. The training was completed by a total of 109 police officers, of which 20 are national and 89 regional educators who provided further training at a local level.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

No developments to report in 2024.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

[The National Plan for Combating Human Trafficking for the period until 2030](#) and the accompanying [Action Plan for the period from 2024 to 2026](#) (which elaborates in more detail the measures and activities planned in this period) were adopted at the session of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on 31 October 2024. [The National Plan is divided into two goals](#) - prevention of trafficking in human beings and improving the system of identification, assistance, and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings. The most important of the planned activities are the planned legislative changes regarding the impunity of victims and the improvement of the compensation system for victims of human trafficking. Also, for the first time, cooperation with the private sector is planned with the aim of combating labour exploitation.

RETURN AND READMISSION

No developments to report in 2024.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No developments to report in 2024.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Croatia 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.

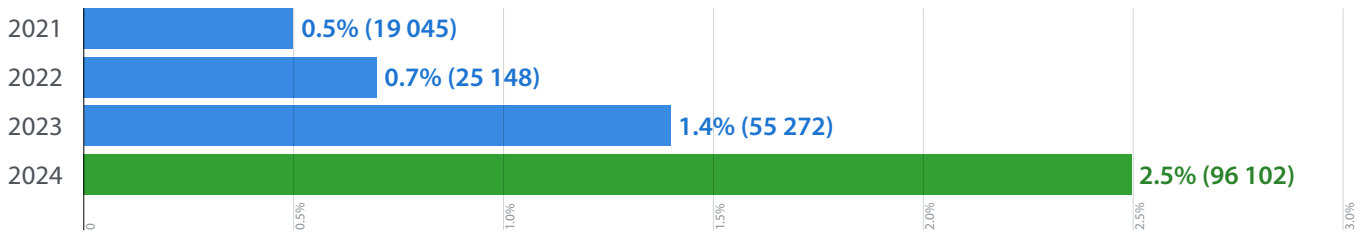
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2021–2024

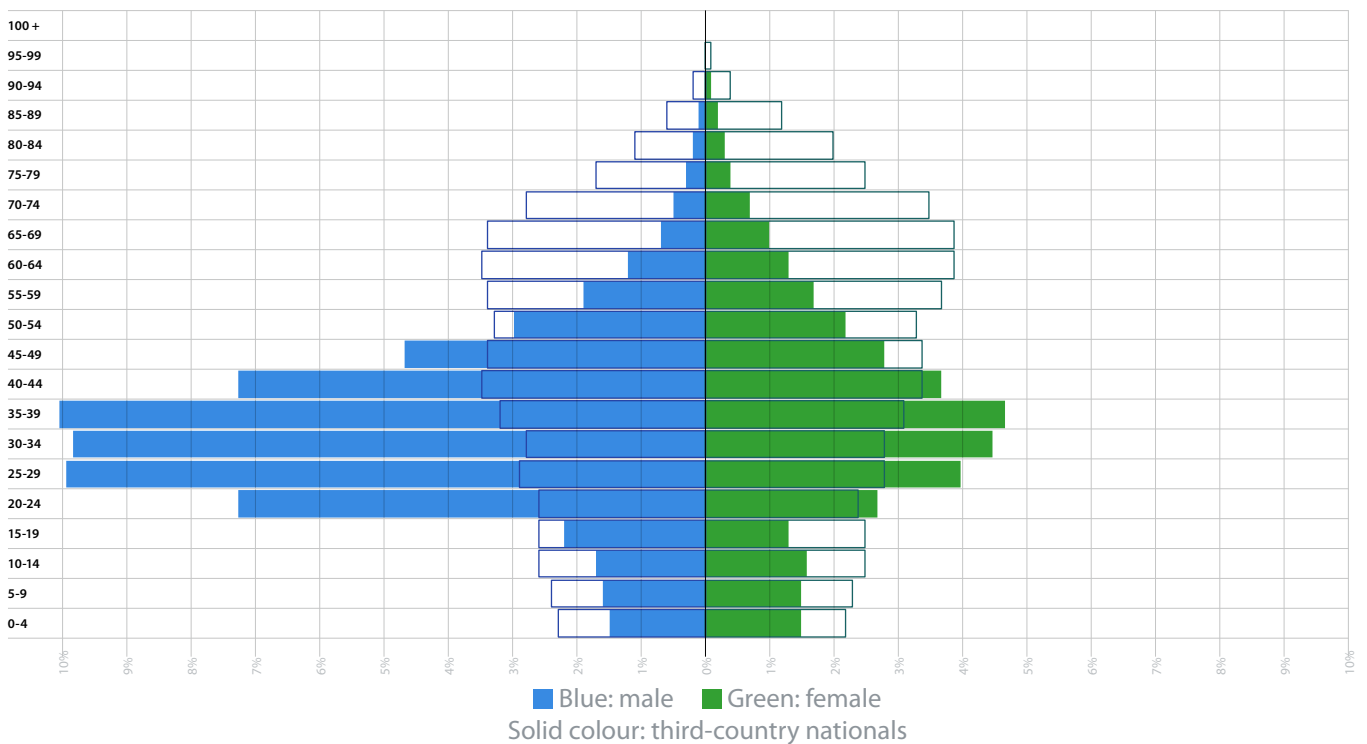
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

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

%

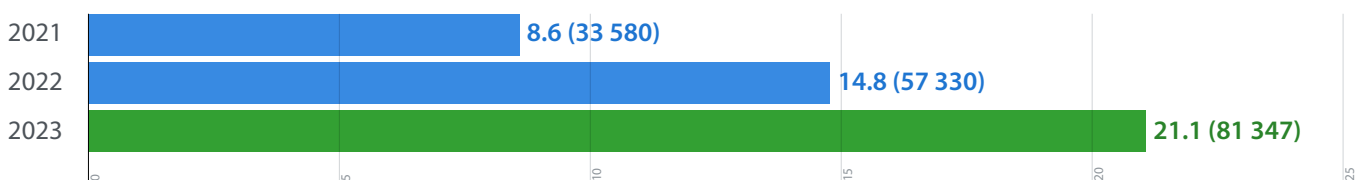


Note: stateless persons are not included in the calculations.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_poppctz](#))

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

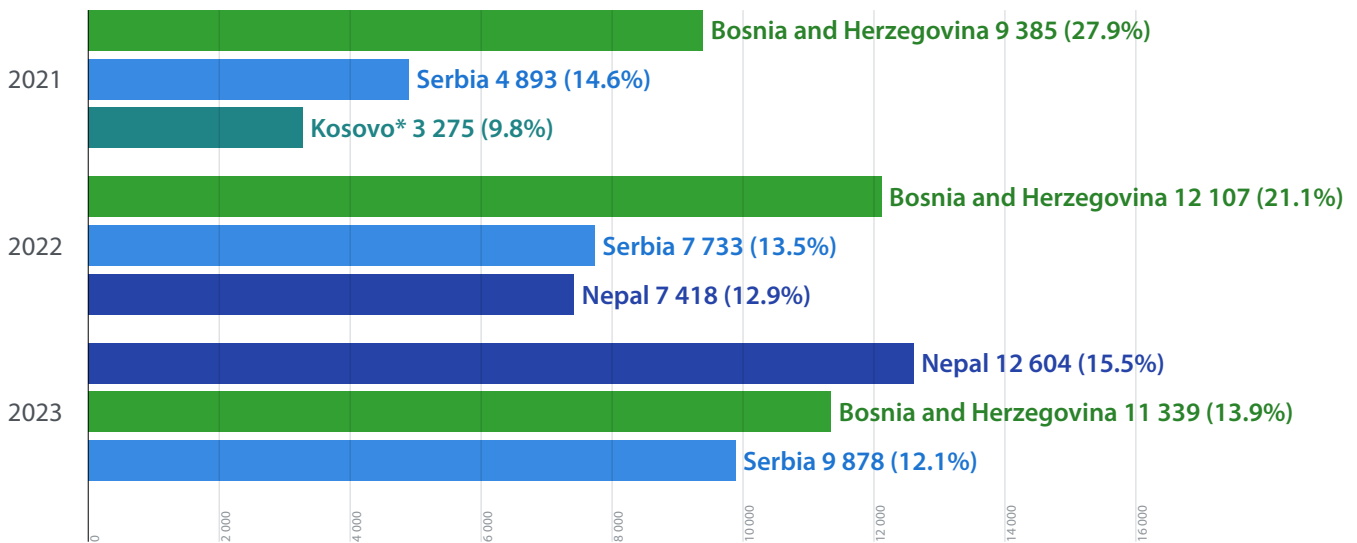
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



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

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

Absolute number (and the share in total number)

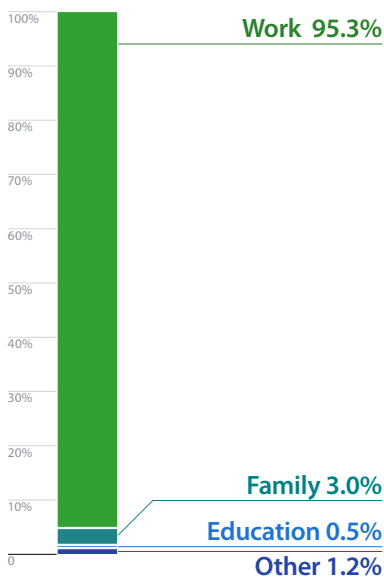


* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#))

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

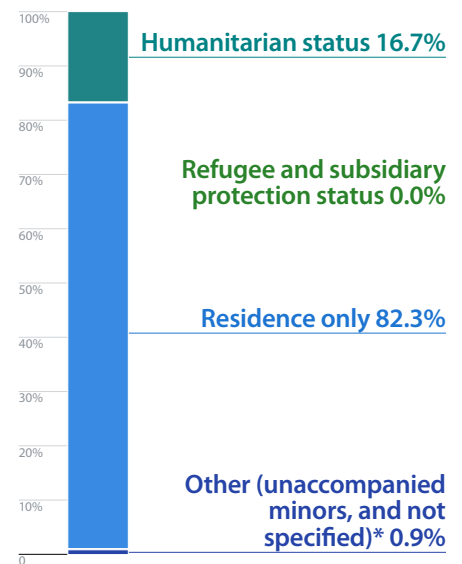
All permits, by reason



Work reason, by type



Other reason, by detailed reason



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

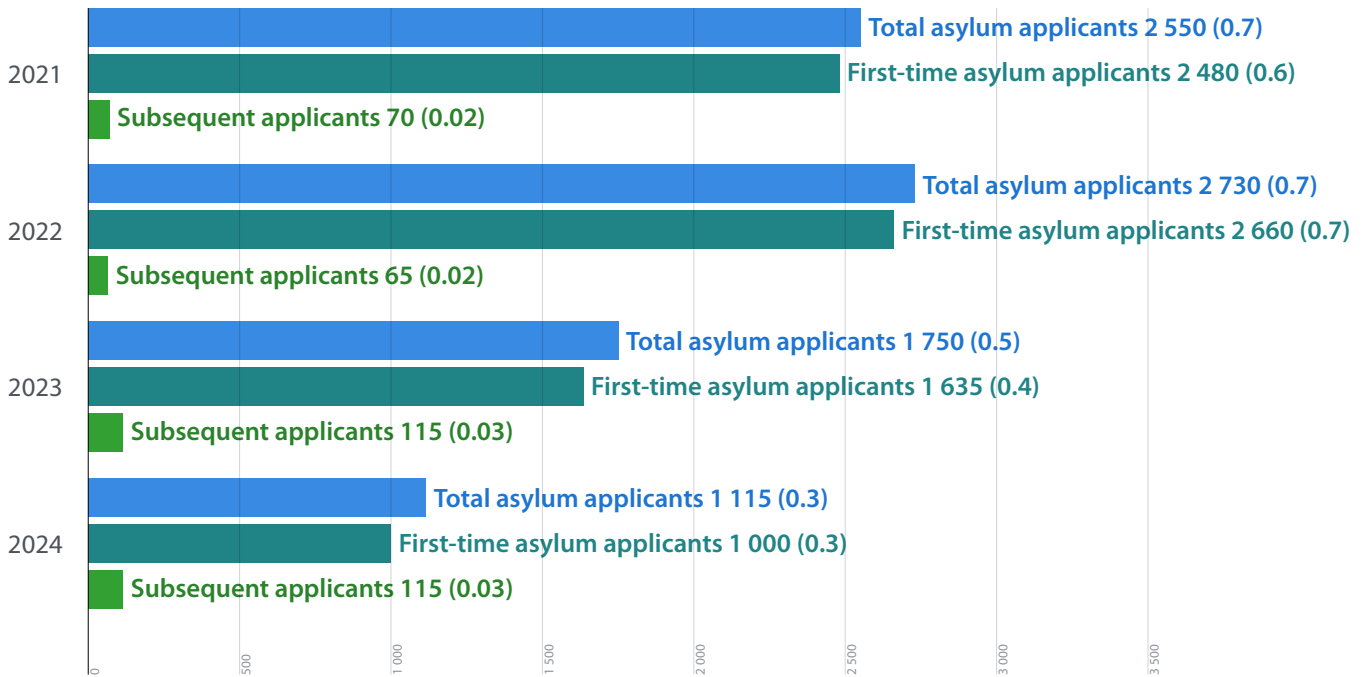
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [migr_resfpc](#), [migr_resocc](#) and [migr_resoth](#))



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2021–2024

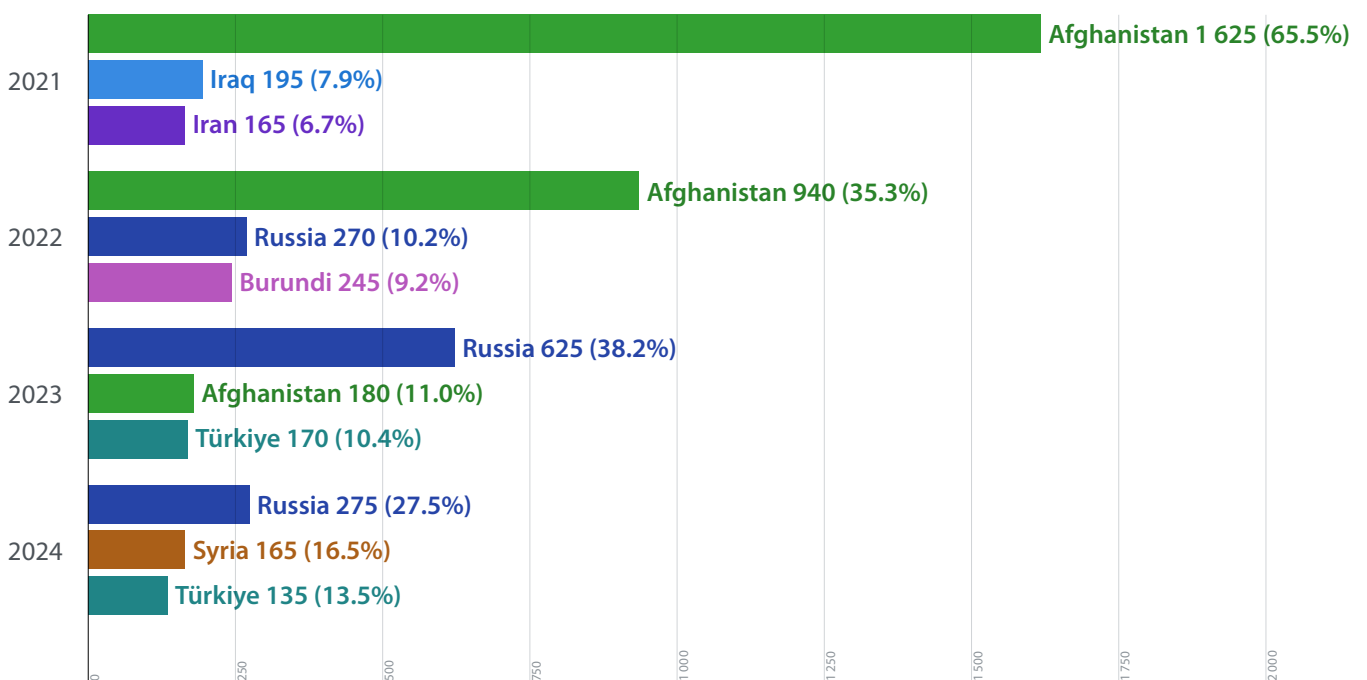
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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

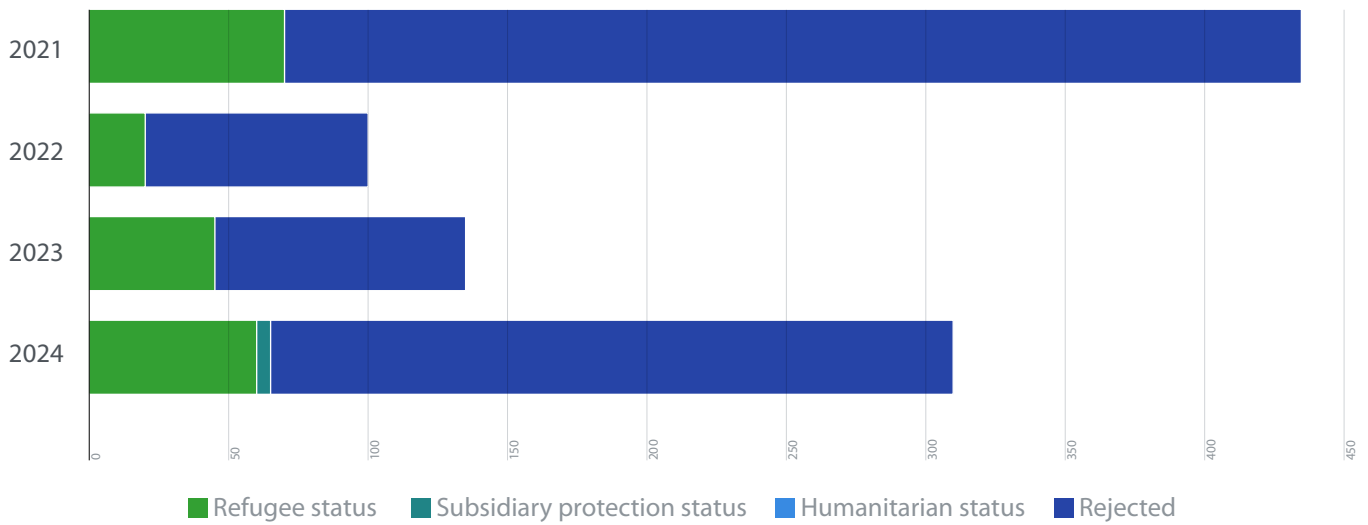
Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2021–2024

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



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#))

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2021-2024



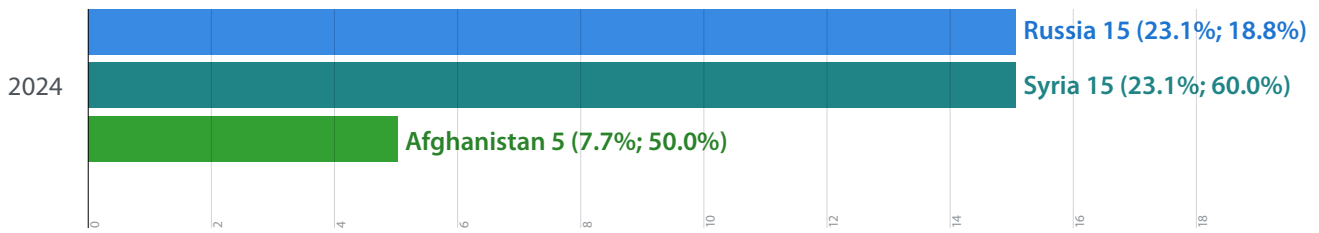
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	70 (15.6%)	0 (0.0%)	-	365 (84.4%)
2022	20 (20.8%)	0 (0.0%)	-	80 (79.2%)
2023	45 (31.9%)	0 (1.4%)	-	90 (66.7%)
2024	60 (19.5%)	5 (1.3%)	-	245 (79.2%)

Note: The shares are calculated using unrounded figures.

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

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

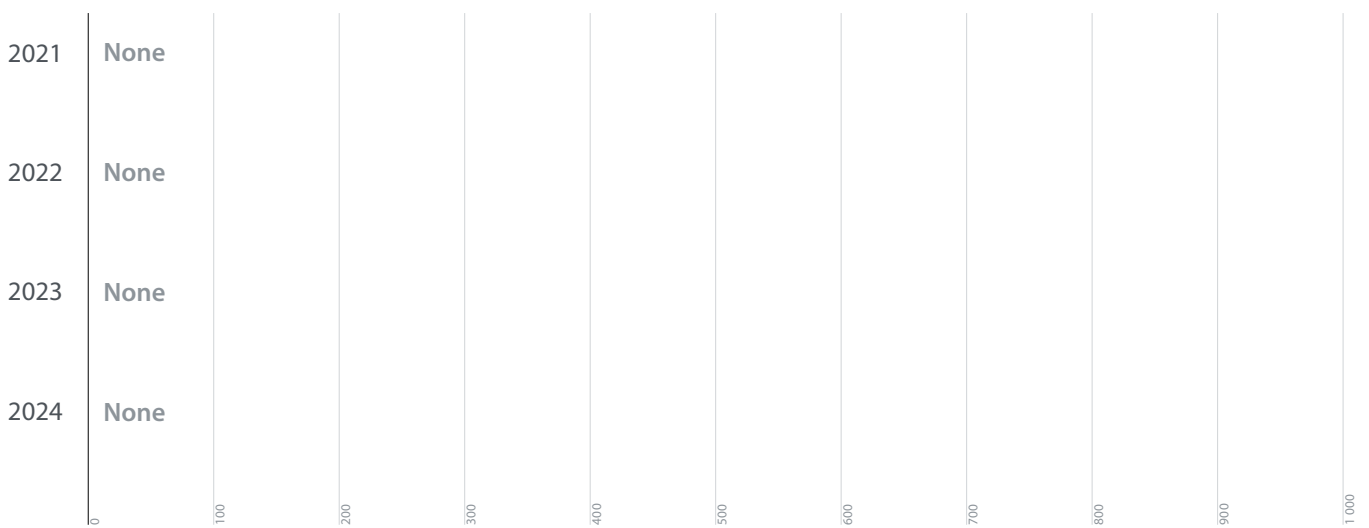
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asycfstst](#))

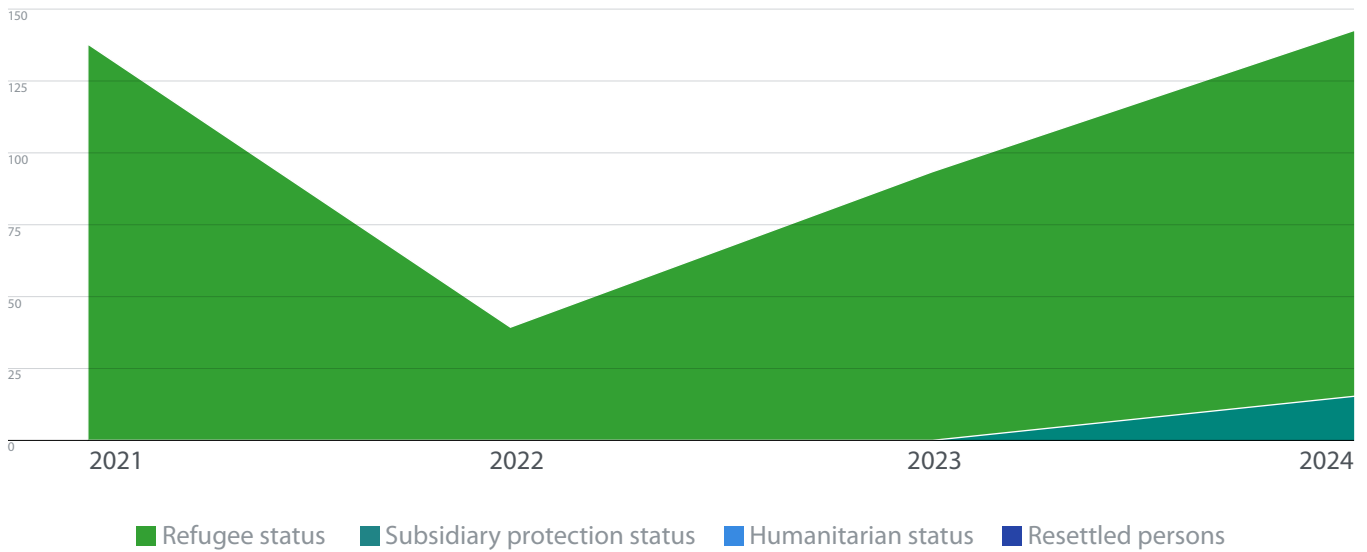
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyresa](#))

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



Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2021	140	0	-	0
2022	40	0	-	0
2023	95	0	-	0
2024	130	15	-	0

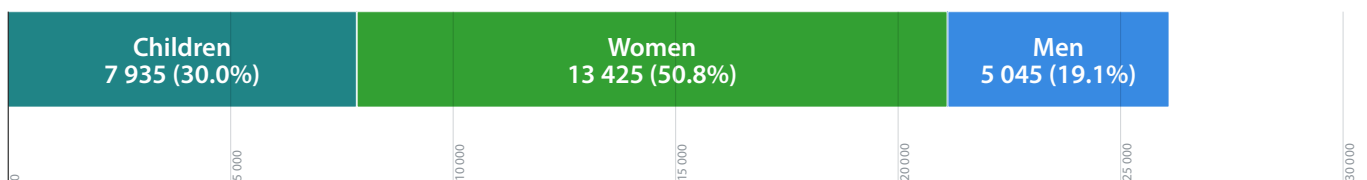
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfina](#) and [migr_asyresa](#))



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

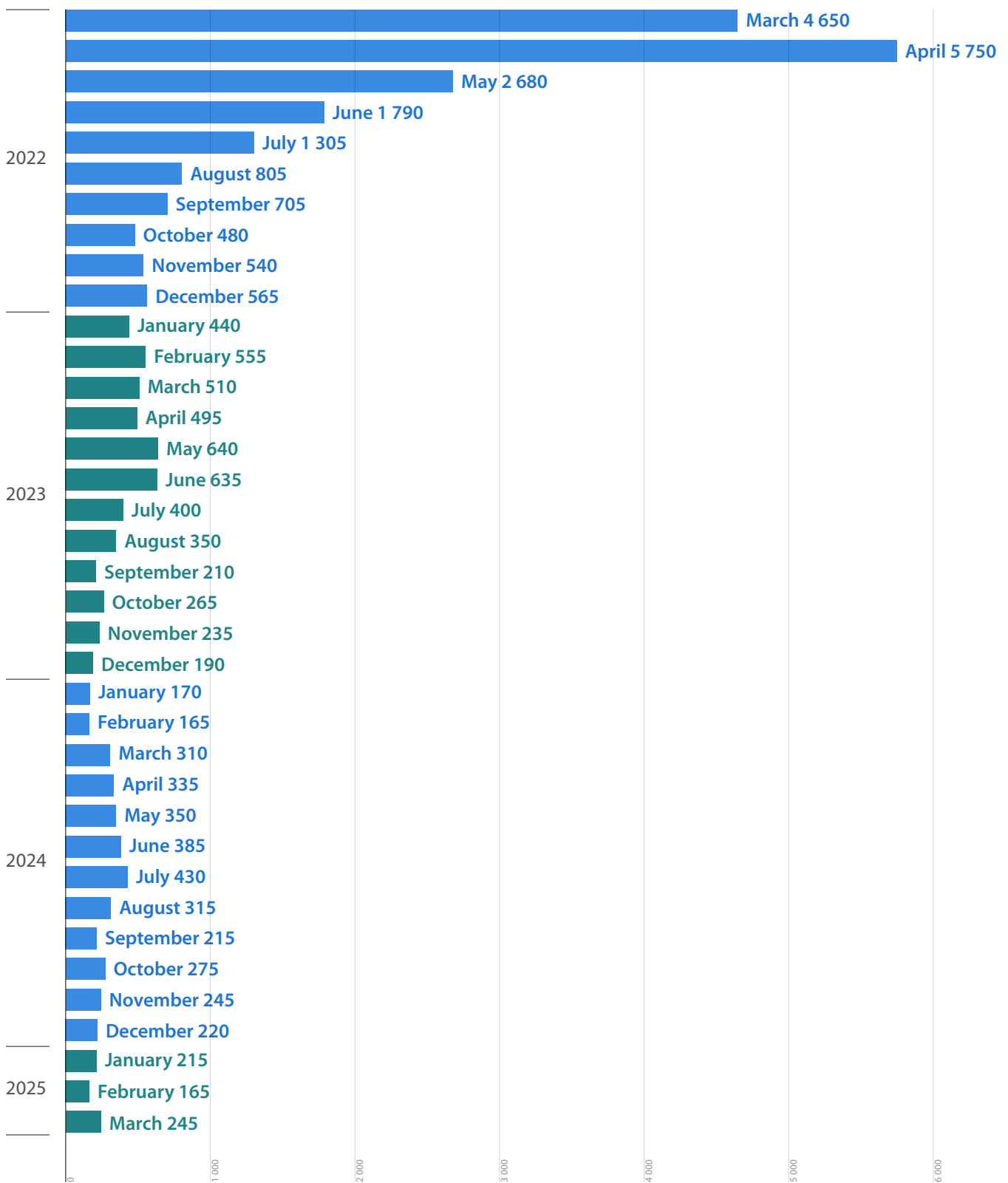
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2025

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



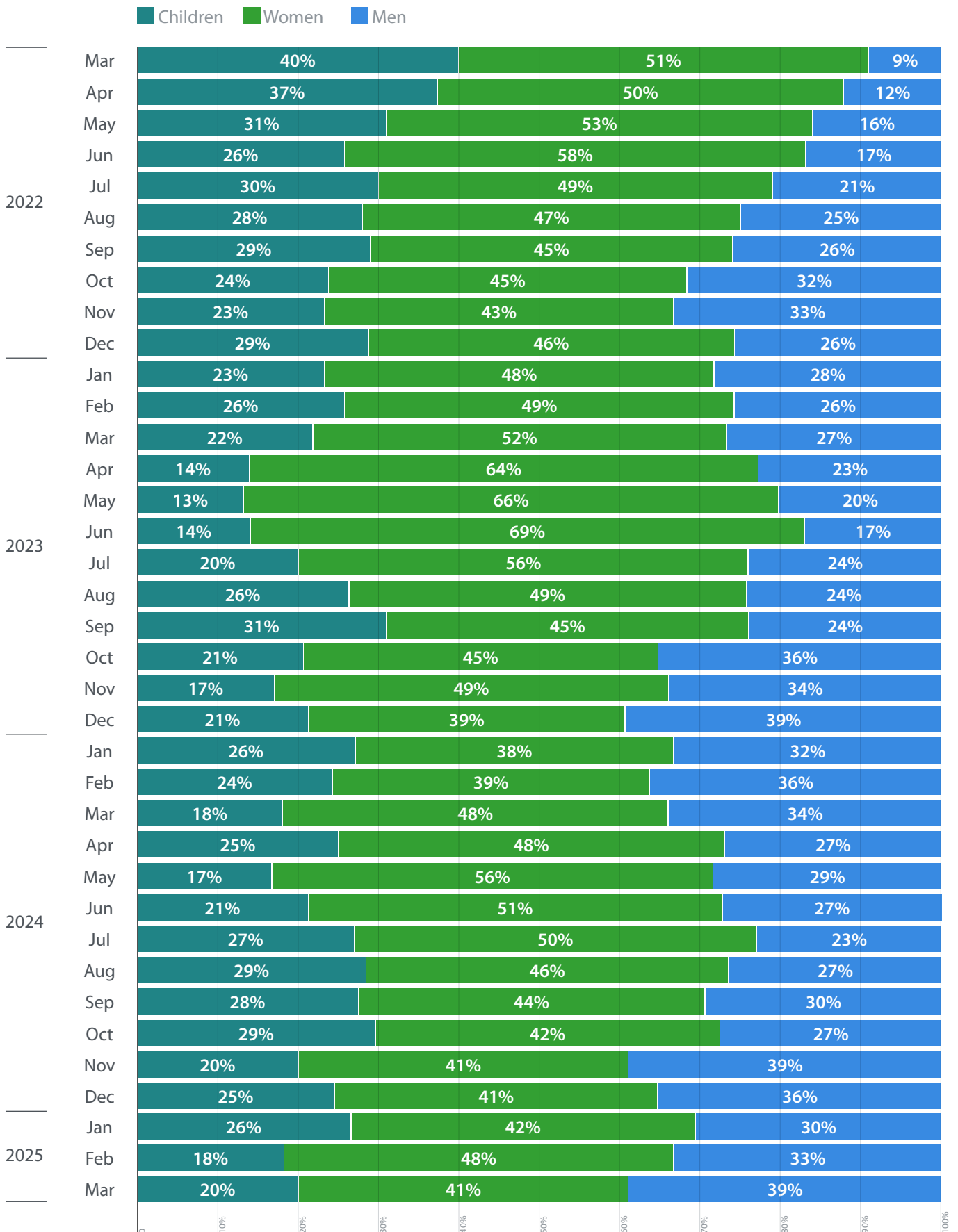
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asytpsm](#))

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

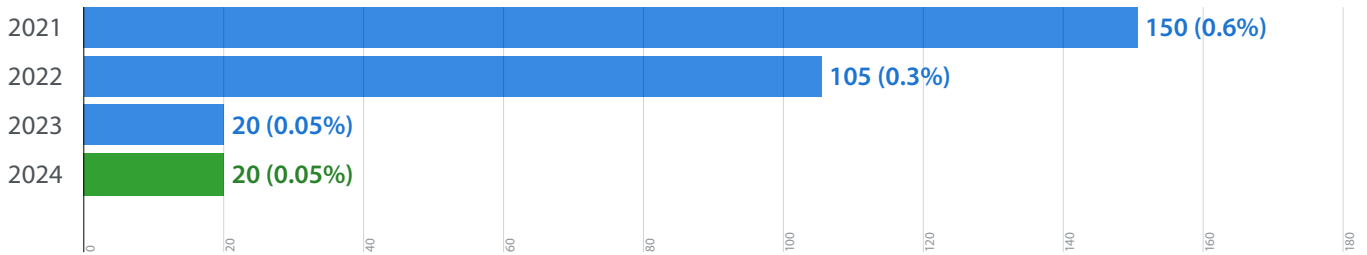




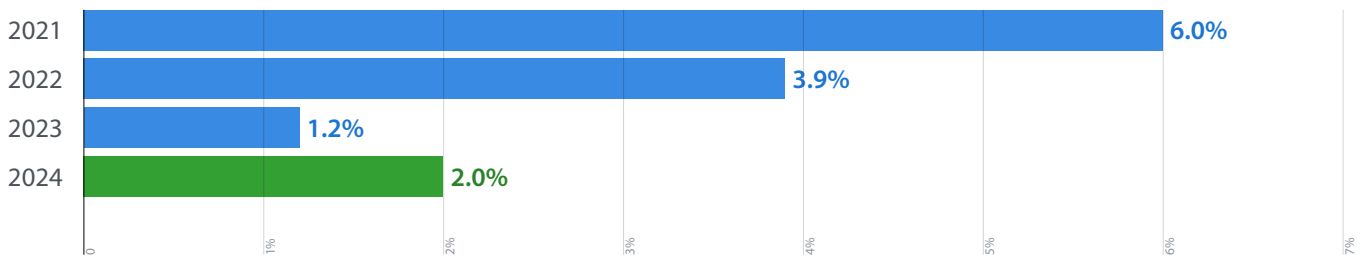
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2021–2024

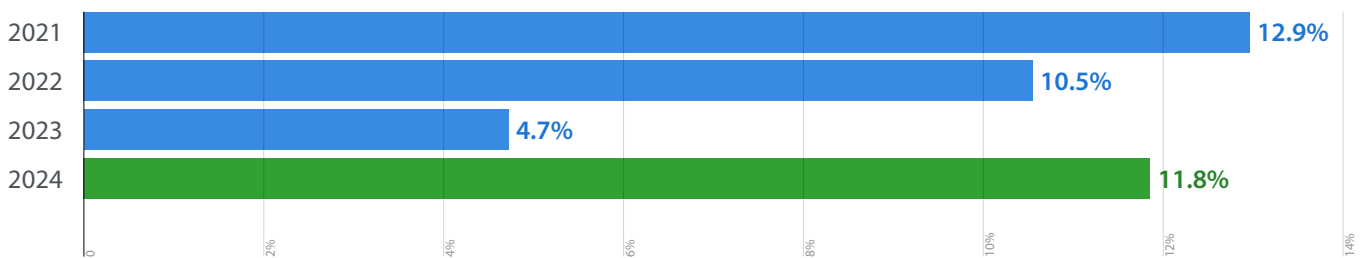
Number of first-time asylum applicants (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



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

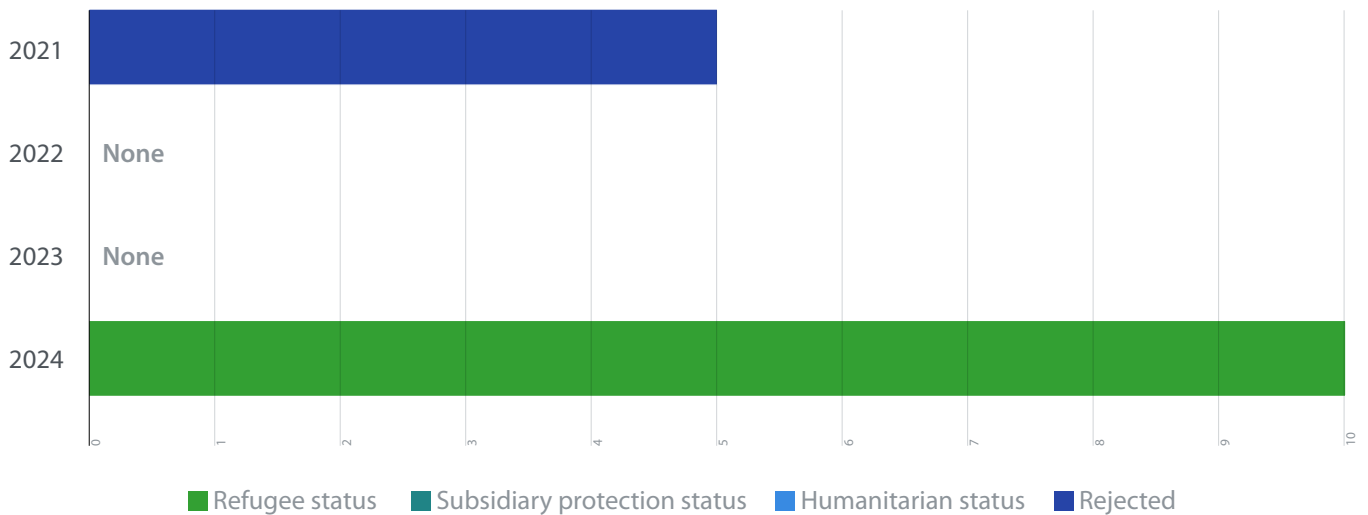


Note: The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes estimated 2024 data for Poland.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asymacta](#) 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	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	-	5 (100%)
2022	0 (-)	0 (-)	-	0 (-)
2023	0 (-)	0 (-)	-	0 (-)
2024	10 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	-	0 (0.0%)

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyumdca](#))

INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2024

Education

Share of tertiary educated (levels 5-8), persons aged 25-34 years



Participation rate in education and training (previous 4 weeks), persons aged 25-64 years



Share of early leavers from education and training, persons aged 18-24 years



Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years

Employment rate



Over-qualification rate



Unemployment rate



Social inclusion

Share of persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion, persons aged ≥ 18 years



Share of persons living in a household with a very low work intensity, persons aged 18-64 years



Share of persons in severe material and social deprivation, persons aged ≥ 18 years



Housing, persons aged ≥ 18 years

Home ownership rate



Overcrowding rate



Health, persons aged ≥ 16 years

Share of persons who perceive their health as very good or good



Self-reported unmet needs for medical care

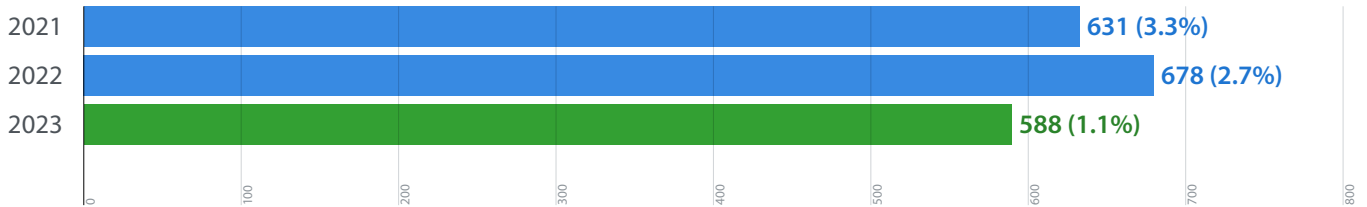




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2021–2023

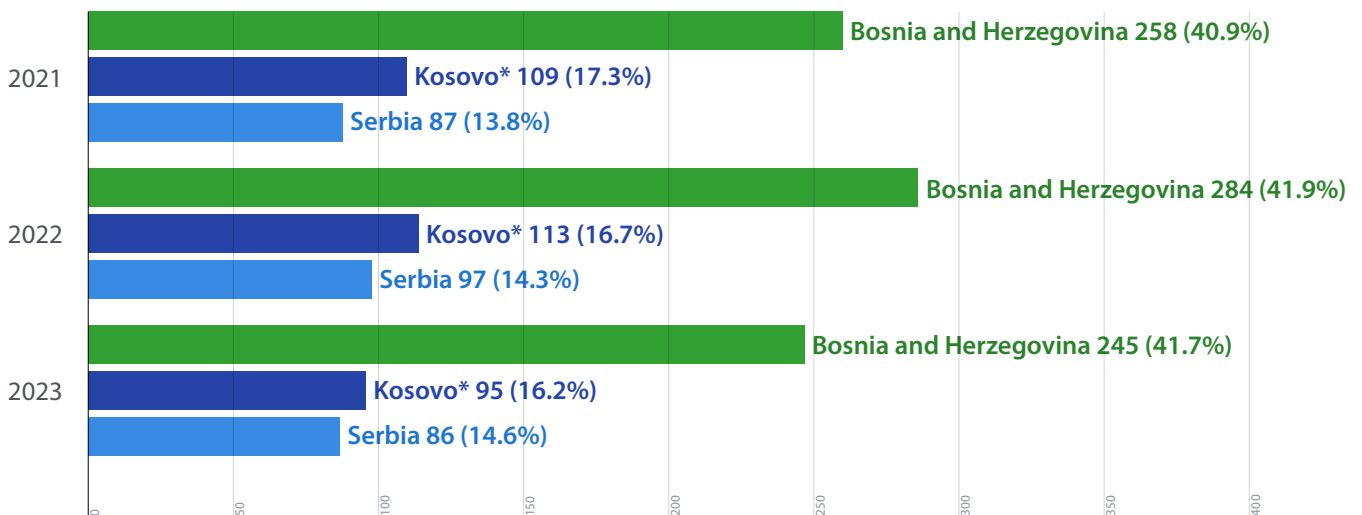
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



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)

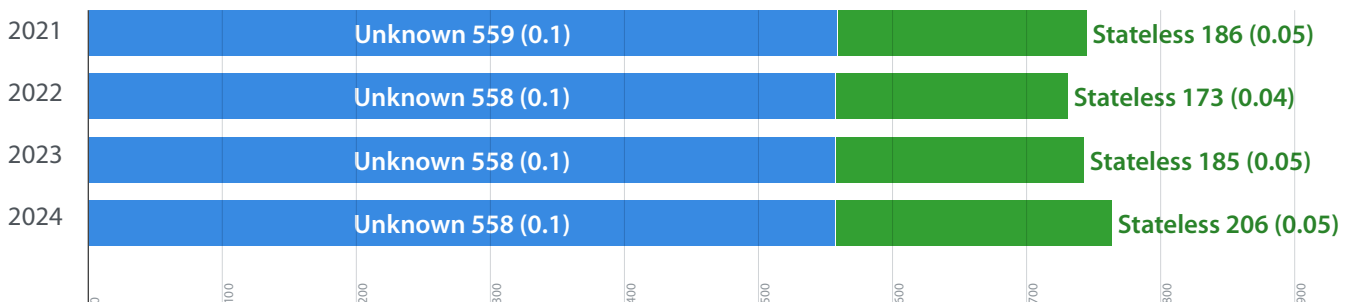


* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

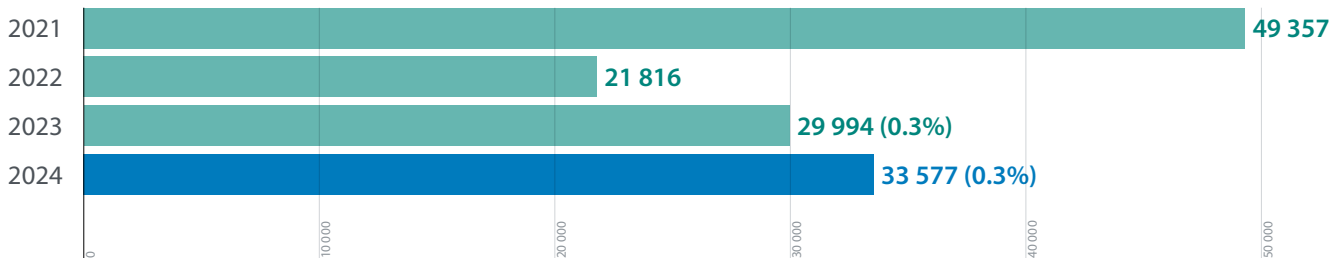


Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

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.

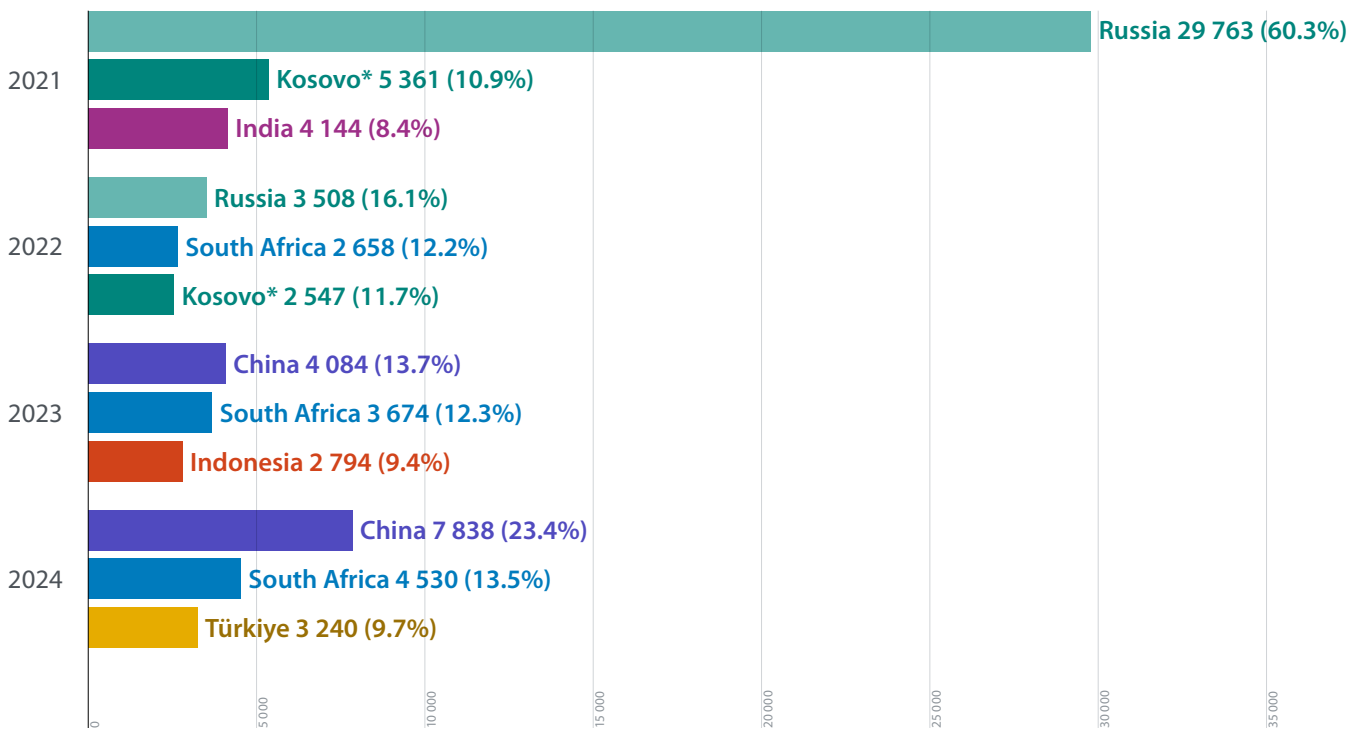
Croatia was not part of the Schengen Area till 2022.

2021 and 2022, excluding visas issued at border crossings.

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)



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Note: Croatia was not part of the Schengen Area till 2022. 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

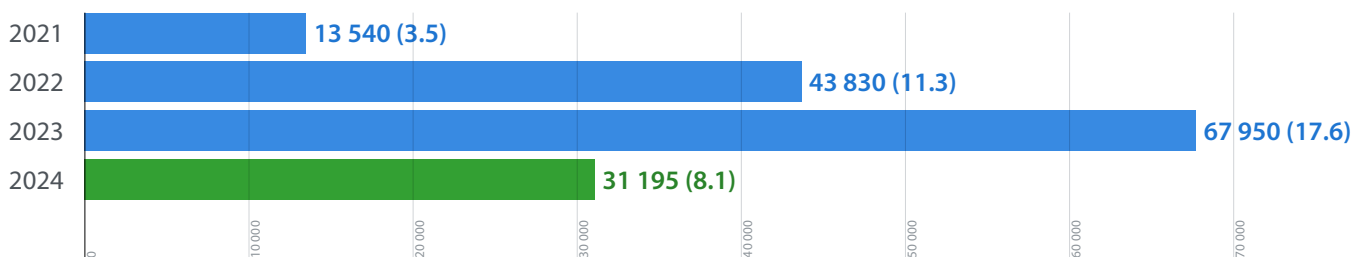
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

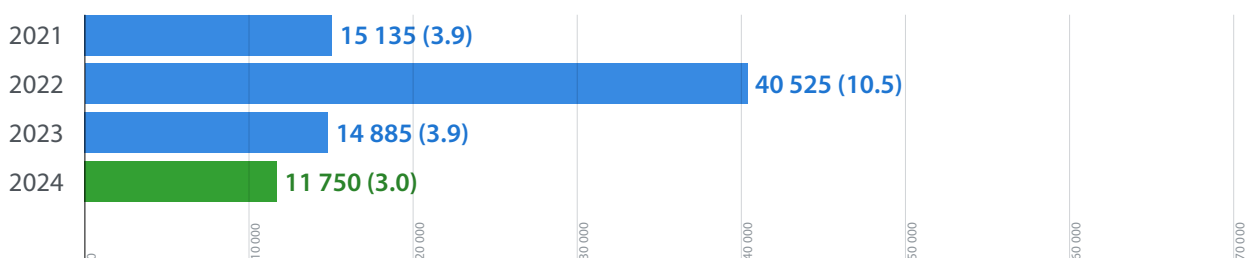
Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

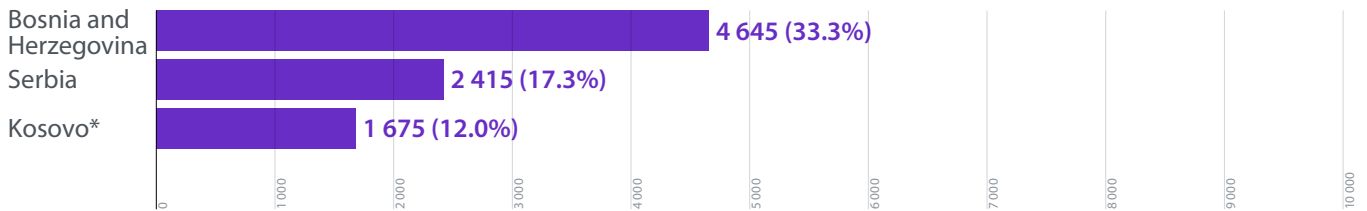


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#), [migr_eirtn](#), [migr_eilpop](#) and [demo_qind](#))

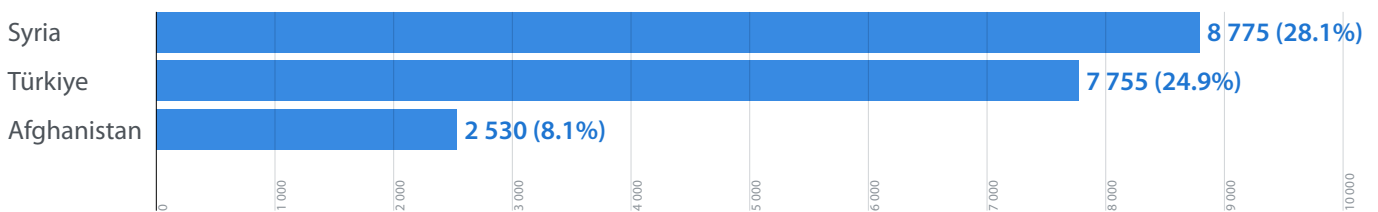
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2024

Absolute number (and the share in the respective total)

Persons refused entry



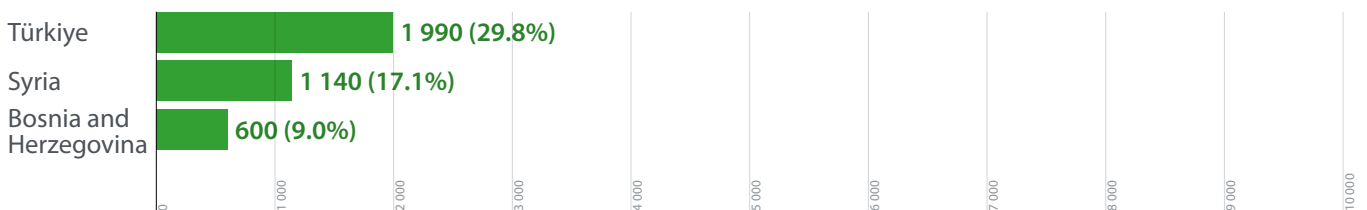
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country



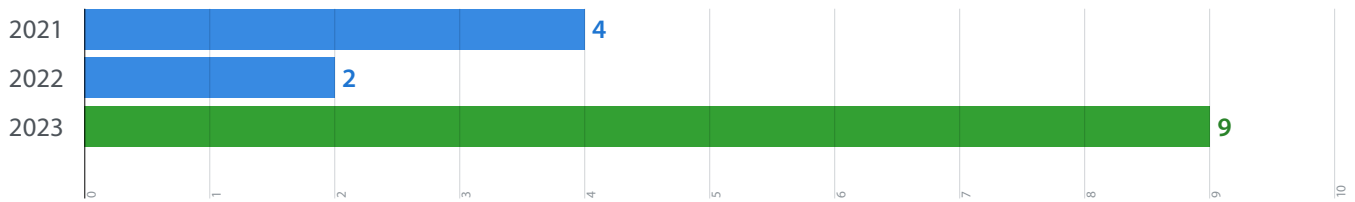
* Kosovo designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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

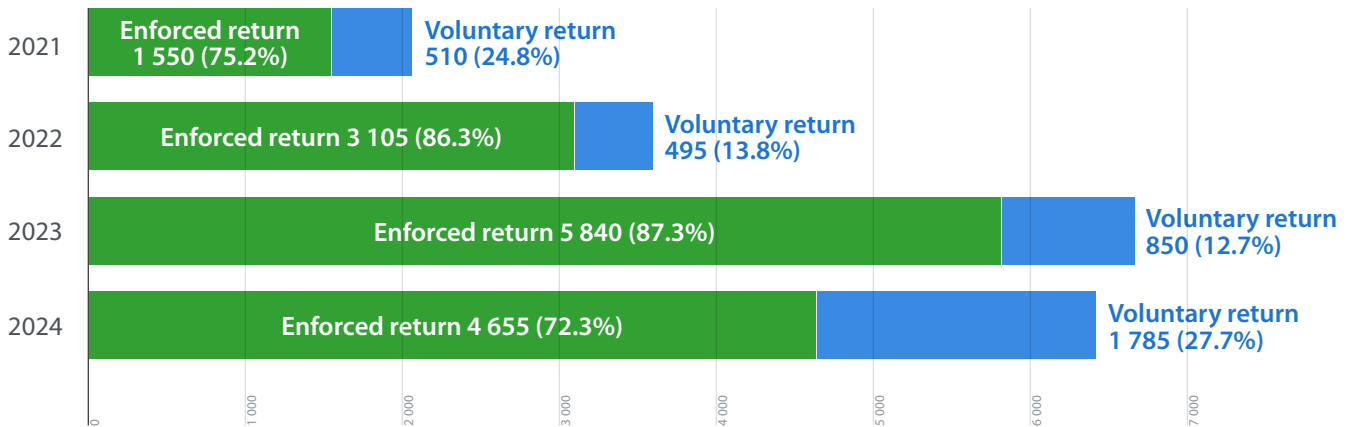


Source: Eurostat ([migr_resoth](#))

RETURN AND READMISSION

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

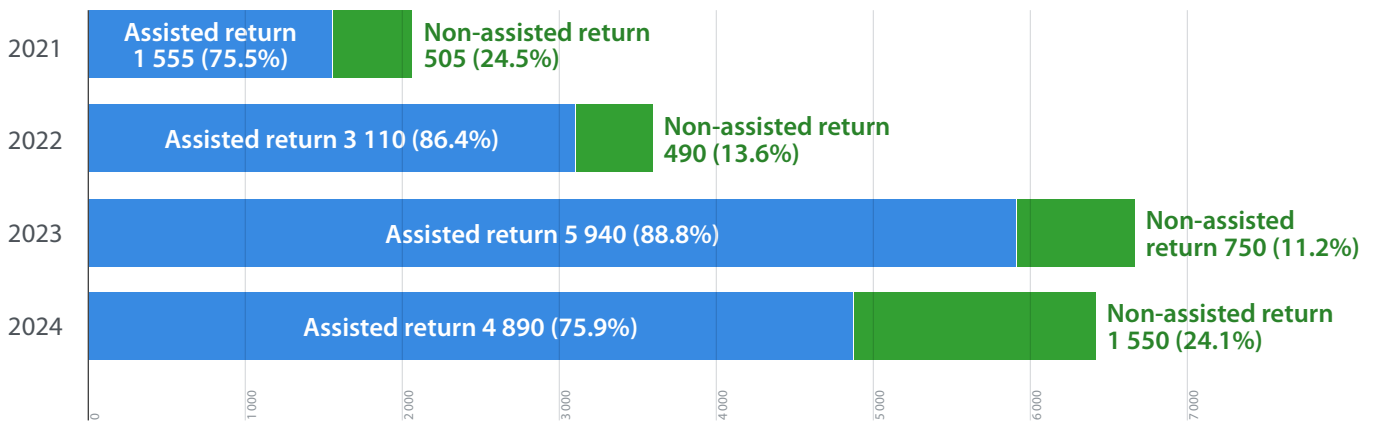
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



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](#))