

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | DECEMBER 2025

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

SLOVAKIA 2024

KEY POINTS

- The Slovak Republic enacted legislation to facilitate the arrival of foreign workers to respond to the continuous labour shortage. Some of the proposals were prepared by the new *Inter-ministerial Working Group for Coordinating the Employment of Third-Country Nationals*.
- The Slovak Republic adjusted several areas of rights and obligations of beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTPs), granting them the option to carry out business activities, but limiting access to accommodation.
- Nitra and Košice were the first Slovak cities to adopt comprehensive strategies to integrate foreigners. Centres to Support Foreigners were institutionalised in Košice, Trnava, and Prešov.



OVERARCHING AND CROSS- CUTTING CHANGES

In 2024, the Slovak Republic focused on three key areas: addressing the continuous shortage of foreign workers in the Slovak labour market; simplifying the administrative processes for residence; and measures for accommodation and registration of BoTPs. It passed two major amendments to the [Act on Residence of Foreigners](#) in 2024, effective from 15 July 2024 (Act no. 160/2024) and 15 December 2024 (Act no. 342/2024), respectively.

The primary objective of the first amendment was to transpose the [European Union \(EU\) Directive on the Conditions of Entry and Residence of Third-country Nationals for the Purpose of Highly Qualified Employment \(2009/50/EC\)](#). It also introduced changes based on the conclusions from the Schengen evaluation in 2019, as well as changes, suggestions, comments and recommendations from the Interministerial Working Group for the Coordination of the Employment of Third-Country Nationals. The amendment was intended to facilitate the arrival and residence of foreign workers

in the Slovak Republic. It also introduced significant changes to temporary residence, permanent and long-term residence, tolerated stay and returns (administrative expulsion and detention).

The second amendment allowed for the electronisation of foreigners' residence registration processes. The Ministry of the Interior will gradually build a system allowing foreigners to use electronic services for administrative processes, accelerating and simplifying communication, reducing the administrative burden, and minimising the risk of corruption.

The Slovak Republic passed several amendments to the [Act on Administrative Fees](#) in 2024, which increased the fees paid by foreigners for residence permit applications, visa applications, trade licences, registrations on the companies register, conclusions of marriage, issuances of a foreigners' passport, and granting citizenship etc.

In 2024, the Slovak Republic began work on the new National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Governance, replacing the [Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Perspective until 2025](#) in force since 2021.



LEGAL MIGRATION

From 15 July 2024, the amendment to the [Act on Residence of Foreigners](#) regulated the process of granting temporary residence for the purpose of employment (single permit) and granting the EU Blue Card. For highly qualified workers with the Blue Card, the amendment extended the scope of application to additional categories, simplified some conditions for admission of highly qualified workers, introduced the recognition of professional qualifications (in addition to university degrees) as a criterion for a Blue Card, adjusted the salary threshold for a highly qualified worker, and extended the upper limit of the period for which a Blue Card can be issued (from four to five years).

Changes were made to the [Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 383/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to selected groups of third-country nationals in selected occupations in industry](#). These aimed to fast-track third-country nationals' access to the Slovak labour market, streamline the admission process for nationals of selected third countries in specific occupations, and reduce the acute shortage of labour in those occupations. The [Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 34/2024 Coll.](#) increased the number of national visas granted for the occupations of bus drivers, heavy goods vehicles drivers and lorry drivers (domestic and international transport).

[Amendments](#) were passed to remedy some national legislation inconsistencies with the EU [Seasonal Workers Directive](#) (2014/36/EU)

The municipality of Košice developed a portal for foreigners, [BrainPort Košice](#), offering information about the city, specific job opportunities, and basic information on relocation (e.g. visa requirements, residence permits, useful information on key integration areas such as work, accommodation, healthcare, education). This was the first portal of its kind at municipal level in the Slovak Republic.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The Slovak Republic amended the [Act on Asylum](#) twice in 2024:

From 1 July 2024, with the exception of Sections II and IV, which came into effect on 1 September 2024, and Section III (2), which came into effect on 1 January 2025;

From 15 December 2024 and 1 March 2025.

In addition to changes to temporary protection (see below), the amendment specified a 'substantial change in the facts' in cases of recurrent asylum applications and extended the grounds for discontinuing asylum procedure. The second amendment introduced the possibility of issuing documents for BoTPs in the form of identity (ID) cards complying with European standards.



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

The amendments to the [Act on Asylum](#) and the [Act on Residence of Foreigners](#) had an impact on the status of BoTPs in the Slovak Republic. Previously issued in paper form, the temporary protection document began to be issued in the form of a plastic ID card from December 2024. The card form was deemed more secure and facilitated inspection of holders' eligibility to stay in the Slovak Republic and in all EU Member States. Given the continuing stay of BoTPs in the Slovak Republic, the procedure for providing temporary protection in the event of the birth of their child was added in 2024, stipulating that the procedure began with the birth of the child. New grounds for discontinuing the procedure for granting temporary protection were introduced, such as if the foreigner fails to comply with the obligation to cooperate with the Ministry of Interior, particularly if they repeatedly fail to appear for an interview without serious reasons, preventing assessment of the application.

To introduce long-term sustainable solutions, [changes](#) to the [Act on Residence of Foreigners](#) in 2024 allowed BoTPs to apply for permanent residence for a period of five years directly from within the territory of the Slovak Republic. From 15 July 2024, BoTPs became [eligible](#) to engage in business activities in the Slovak Republic. A labour market test was not required when confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy was issued, provided it concerned a BoTP

who was in an employment relationship in the Slovak Republic for a minimum of six months, to be employed in the same job, and who applied for a temporary residence permit for the purpose of employment.

In 2024, the government extended the provision¹ of the allowance to natural or legal persons providing accommodation for BoTPs until 30 June 2024 under the original schemes. However, from 1 July 2024, the support was focused exclusively on new arrivals and vulnerable persons. The period during which BoTPs could enjoy free accommodation was set at 120 days from the first provision of temporary protection in the Slovak Republic, with the possibility of extension for vulnerable persons (no distinction between first/subsequent provision of temporary protection).

Criteria were established for withholding a one-off allowance and an integration allowance from asylum holders or foreigners enjoying subsidiary protection. The allowance shall not be provided if a permanent residence or temporary residence in the Slovak Republic was already granted, or if temporary protection was previously provided in the Slovak Republic.

Access to healthcare was facilitated for applicants for temporary protection and for BoTPs. Healthcare providers in outpatient practices were obliged to enter a healthcare provision agreement with BoTP and could not refuse them even when exceeding a reasonable level of workload (numbers of registered patients, capacity, staffing).

An amendment to the [School Act](#) in 2024 introduced compulsory school attendance from 1 September 2025 for child BoTPs (aged 5-16).



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

No significant developments in 2024.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

In 2024, the cities of [Nitra](#) and [Košice](#) became the first Slovak cities to adopt comprehensive strategies for the integration of foreigners. Košice also approved the creation of a Support Centre for Foreigners and a First Contact Office for Foreigners under the Košice City Hall, with counselling services already provided throughout 2024. Support Centres for Foreigners were also established or began full operation in [Prešov](#) and [Trnava](#) in 2024.

The national project [Integration of Third-Country Nationals, including Migrants](#) supported counselling centres and other integration activities, such as housing, social security, culture, sports, mental healthcare, integration into schools, adult education, community organising, and information and awareness-raising activities. The project also supported municipal and non-governmental organisation (NGO) integration activities.

In line with the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan, three service centres for foreigners were opened at the end of 2024 at the foreign police departments in Bratislava, Žilina, and Košice. They provided services related to submitting applications for various types of residence permits for foreigners interested in working in occupations with labour shortages, international talent, professionals in science and research, international university students, persons with the status of Slovaks living abroad, and returnees.

In line with the 2023 [National Strategy for Research, Development, and Innovation 2030](#) and the amendment to the [Act on Residence of Foreigners](#), a call for applications for grants for Slovak language education for foreigners was launched in 2024. Slovak language courses for adults at levels A1, A2 and B1 (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) were eligible for financial support under the call.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments in 2024.



SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN BORDER MANAGEMENT AND VISA POLICIES

To combat irregular migration, the Slovak Republic extended temporary border controls at the internal border with Hungary in 2024. In December 2024, a pilot operation of the Slovak part of the entry/exit system (EES) was launched at the border crossing point Čierna nad Tisou (Slovak-Ukrainian border), following the [European harmonisation of external border controls of the Schengen area](#).

The Slovak Republic supported its consular activity on national visa applications abroad by sending five 'flying consuls' to India and Indonesia to streamline the process of recruiting workers from third countries and address underfilled positions in the Slovak labour market.

¹ Slov-Lex, 113/2023 Coll., <https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2023/113/20240306.html>, accessed 1 December 2025.
Slov-Lex, 383/2023 Coll., <https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2023/383/>, accessed 1 December 2025.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The Slovak Republic introduced a number of measures to prevent and stabilise irregular migration in 2024. It continued to detain foreigners apprehended within the scope of secondary transit migration for the time necessary to establish their identity, eliminating a significant pull factor. Police and security actions to eliminate secondary transit migration from Hungary continued. The national database was linked to the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), allowing biometric data to be checked against Interpol's international database. Closer cooperation and exchange of information continued between the Slovak Bureau of Border and Foreign Police and the State Border Service of Ukraine concerning unauthorised crossings of the external land border. The text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministries of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Serbia on the establishment of joint patrols on the territory of the Republic of Serbia as part of joint operations was revised.

[Changes](#) adopted by the amendment to the [Act on Residence of Foreigners](#) restricted the possibility of abusing temporary residence for the purpose of business and study status.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Slovak Republic approved the sixth [National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024-2028](#), a strategic document on the prevention and combating of trafficking in human beings, including migration and victims of trafficking in human beings among foreigners. An Action Plan was developed as an integral part of the Programme, comprising 19 measures and an implementation strategy.

The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) undertook an evaluation visit in 2024 in the framework of the fourth evaluation round of the Slovak Republic's implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

The current model of the National Referral Mechanism was effective and valid since 2020, with a revision planned in 2025.

RETURN AND READMISSION

In 2024, the Slovak Republic was part of the periodic Schengen evaluation of return, including a thematic evaluation of the return agenda. A number of legislative and operational changes were initiated, similar to upgrading the material conditions of detention centres. Cooperation intensified with the European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) on returns, including voluntary returns.

A [motion](#) was approved on the conclusion of the Implementing Protocol between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the readmission of persons. A proposal was prepared on the conclusion of bilateral readmission agreements with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, as their citizens were eligible to apply for national visas in the interest of supporting the Slovak labour market on the basis of the specific regulations².

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2024, the Slovak Republic drafted a new [Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2025-2030](#) (approved on 15 January 2025). Similar to previous strategies, one of its four objectives was to address the causes of irregular migration by creating jobs, promoting food security, developing human capital, and increasing the economic and social resilience of communities. It built on international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the European Consensus on Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. SlovakAid's activities will primarily be implemented in the countries of EU Eastern Partnership, in the Western Balkans, the Middle East and East Africa. Moldova, Kenya and Georgia remained on the list of programme countries included in the strategy, while Ukraine retained its status of a country with specific needs. Central Asia was highlighted as a region with great potential for gradual intensification of development activities. The strategy introduced a new separate thematic programme focusing on the environment, climate change and circular economy.

The [Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2024](#), approved in March 2024, aspired to "present the Slovak Republic as a strong and innovative partner that is actively involved in improving the humanitarian situation and mitigating the effects of the war on the citizens of Ukraine as well as citizens of other countries affected by the consequences of the conflict, and is responsive to their needs".

² Slov-Lex, 113/2023 Coll., <https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2023/113/20240306.html>, accessed 1 December 2025.
Slov-Lex, 383/2023 Coll., <https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2023/383/>, accessed 1 December 2025.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

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

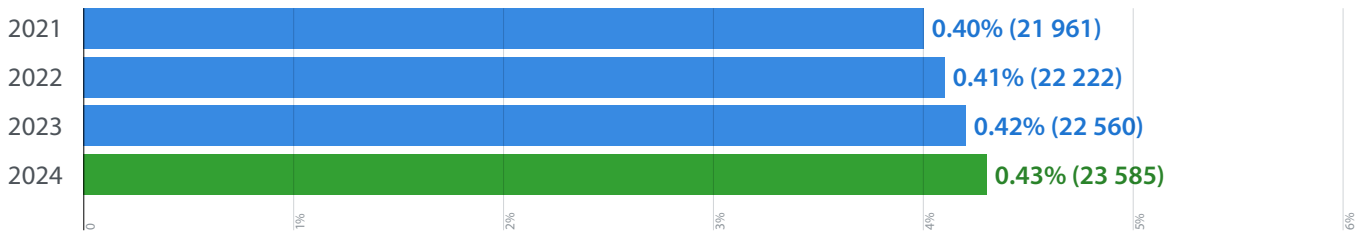
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2021–2024

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

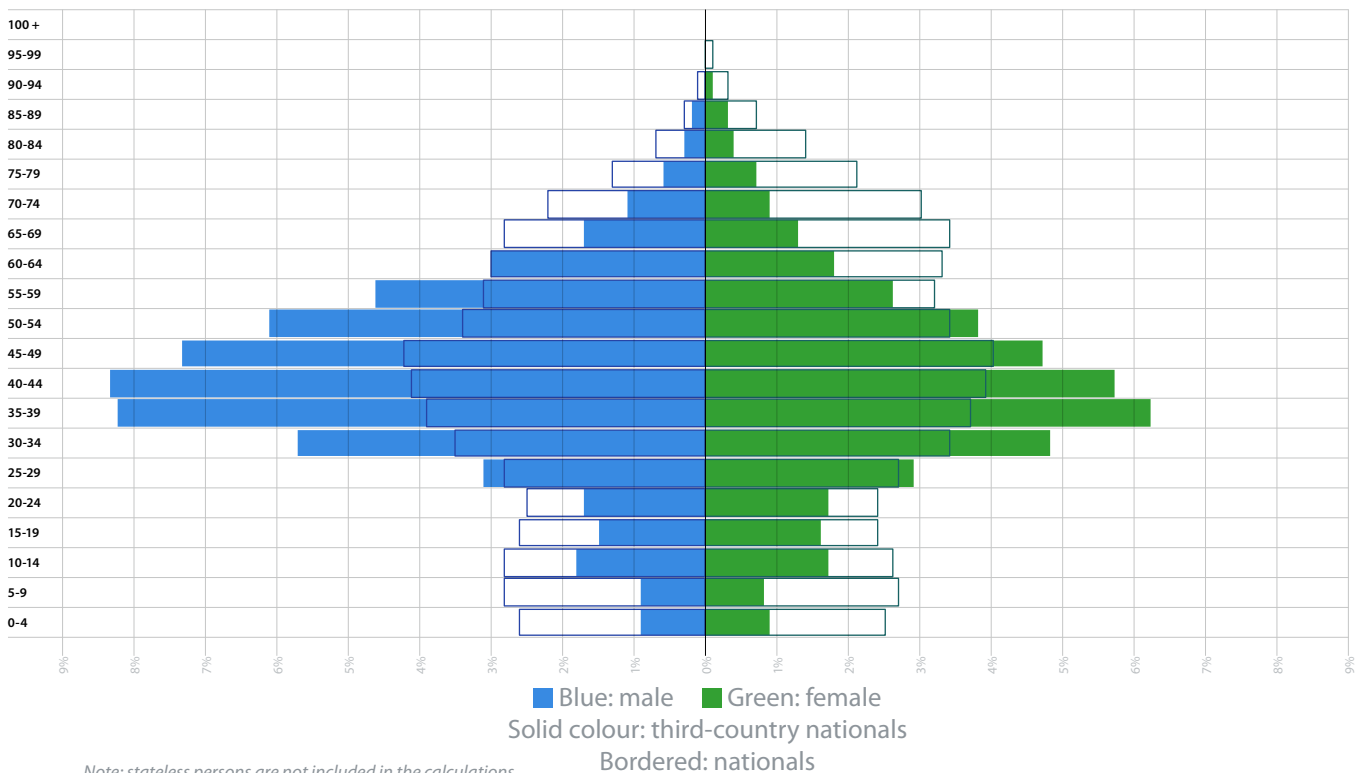


Note: figures include stateless persons.

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

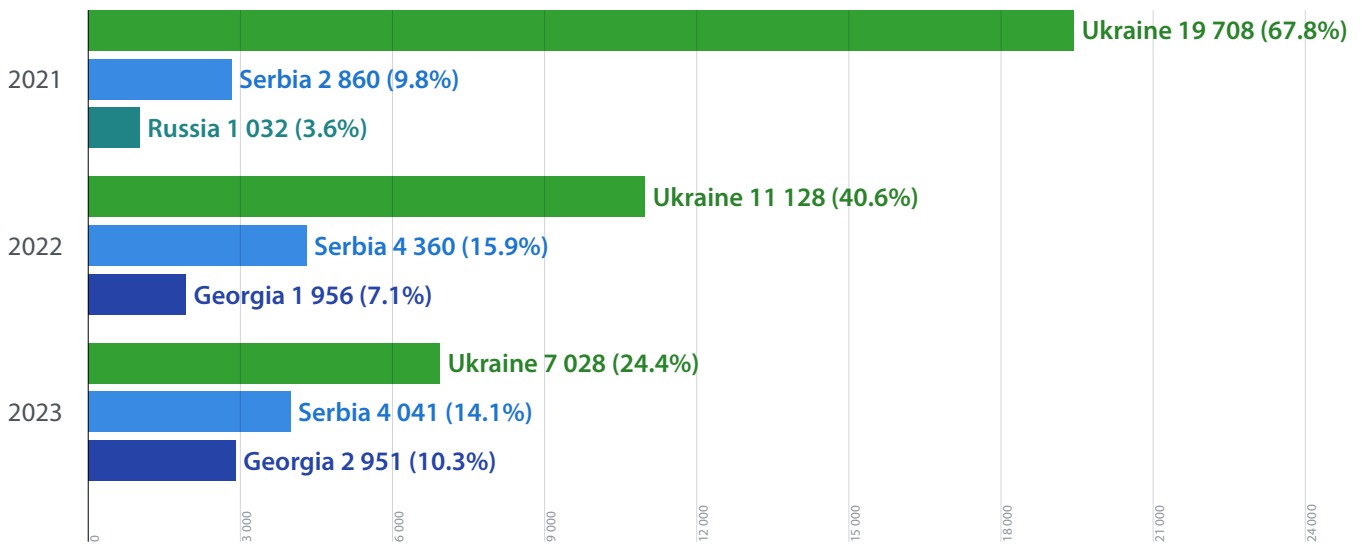
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



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

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

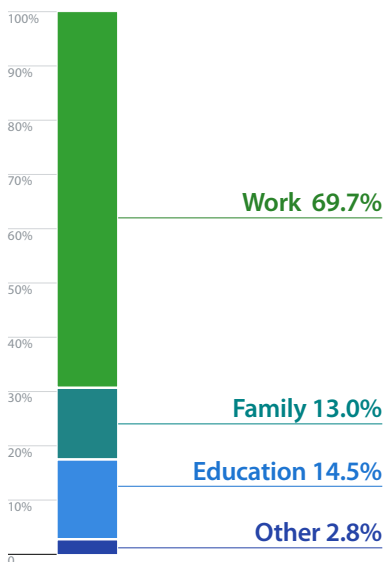
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



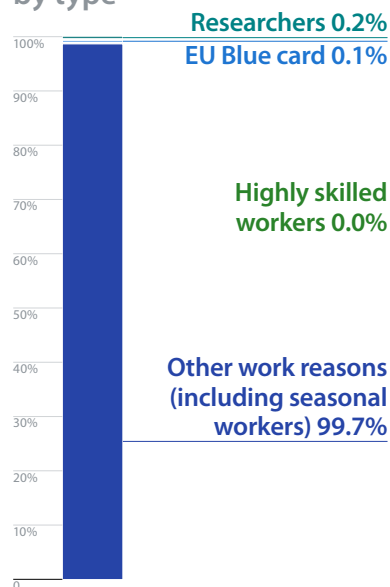
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#))

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

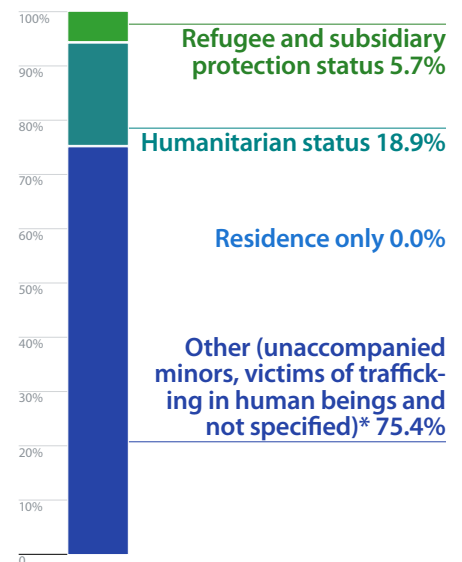
All permits, by reason



Work reason, by type



Other reason, by detailed reason



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

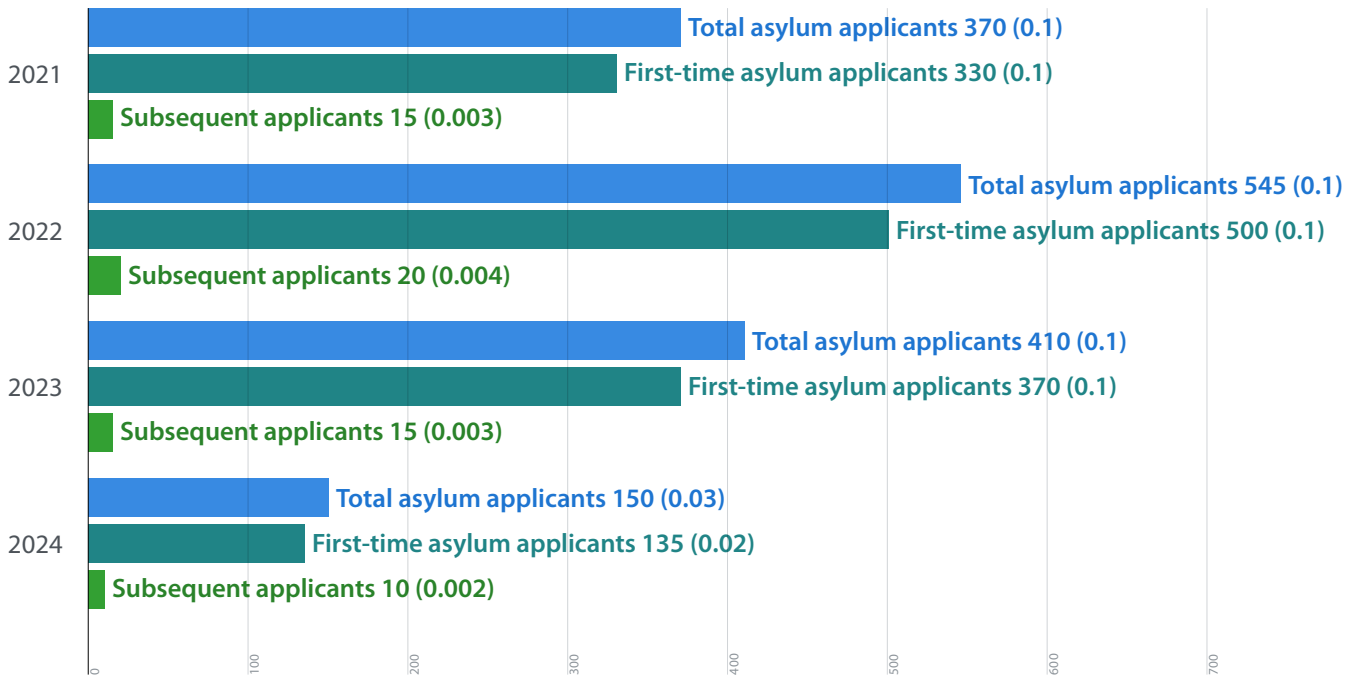
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [migr_resfpc](#), [migr_resocc](#) and [migr_resoth](#))



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2021–2024

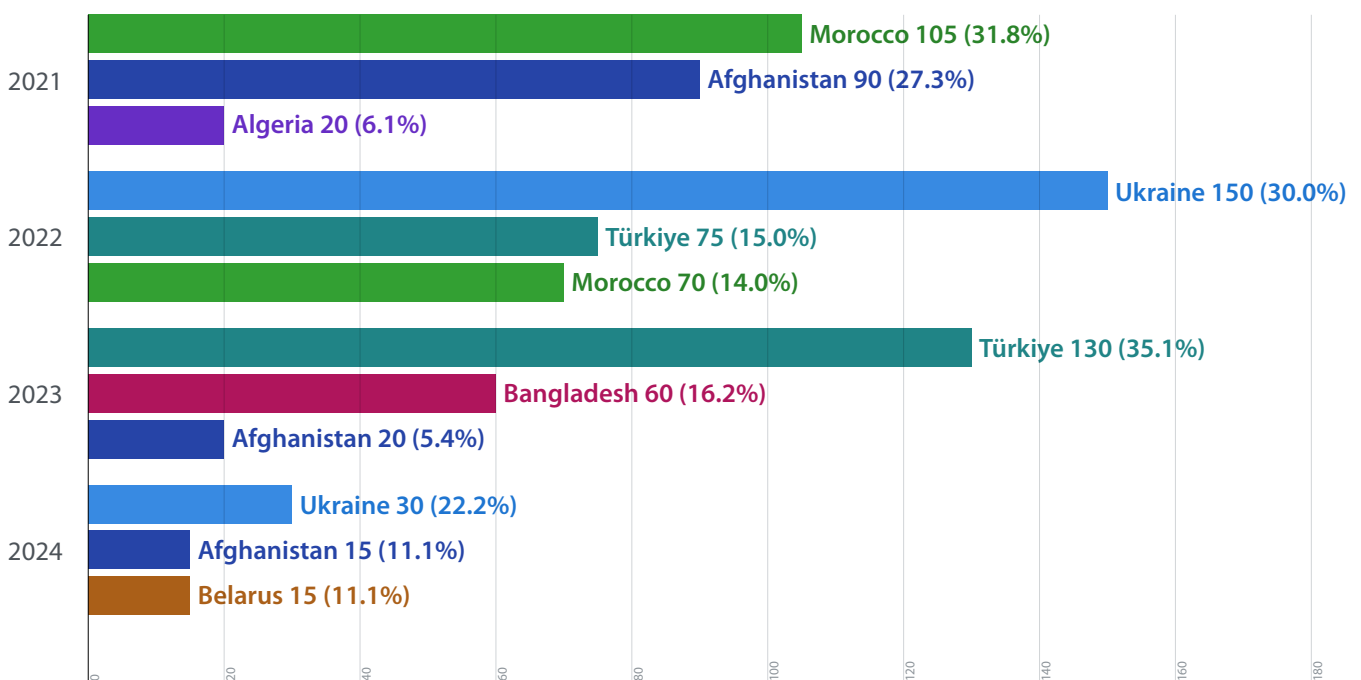
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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

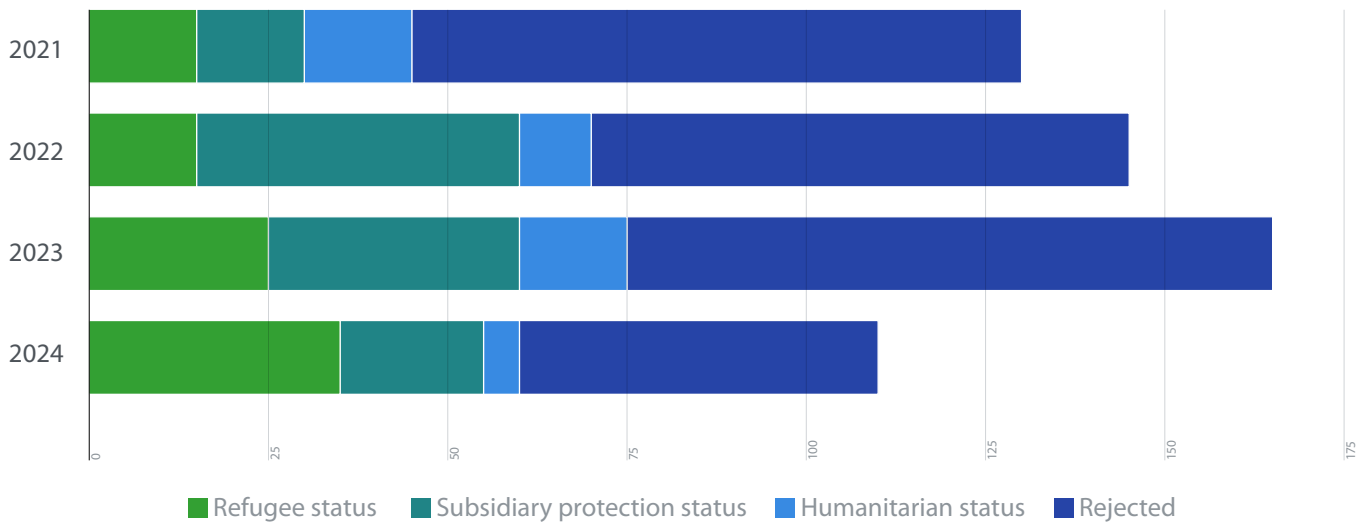
Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2021–2024

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



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#))

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2021-2024

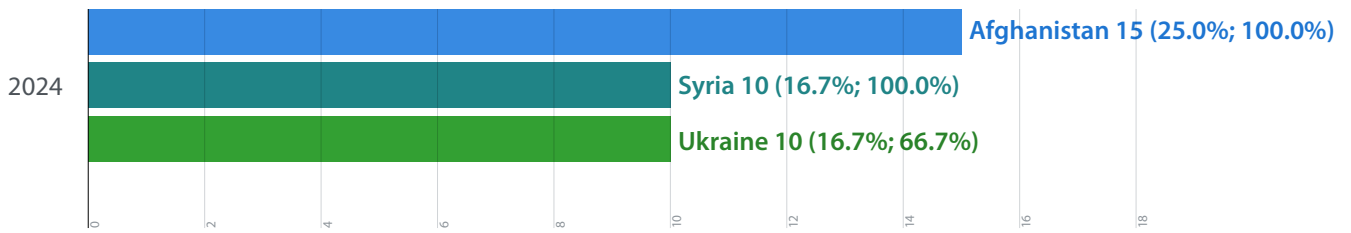


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	15 (12.5%)	15 (10.2%)	15 (11.7%)	85 (65.6%)
2022	15 (10.8%)	45 (29.7%)	10 (8.1%)	75 (51.4%)
2023	25 (14.5%)	35 (21.8%)	15 (10.3%)	90 (53.3%)
2024	35 (29.7%)	20 (18.9%)	5 (5.4%)	50 (45.9%)

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

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

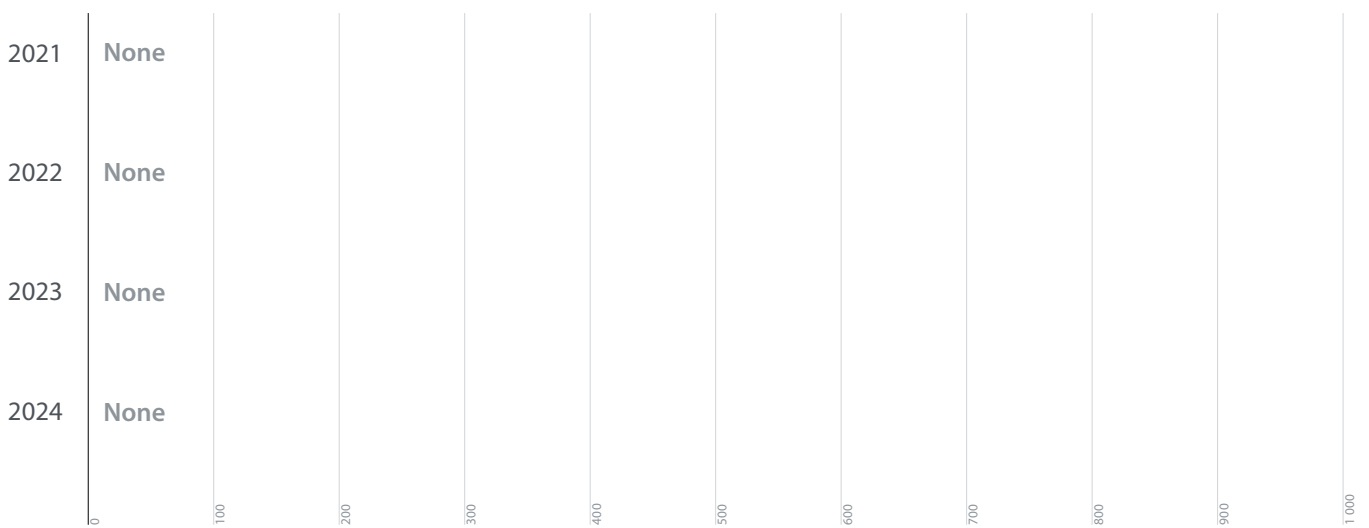
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asycfst](#))

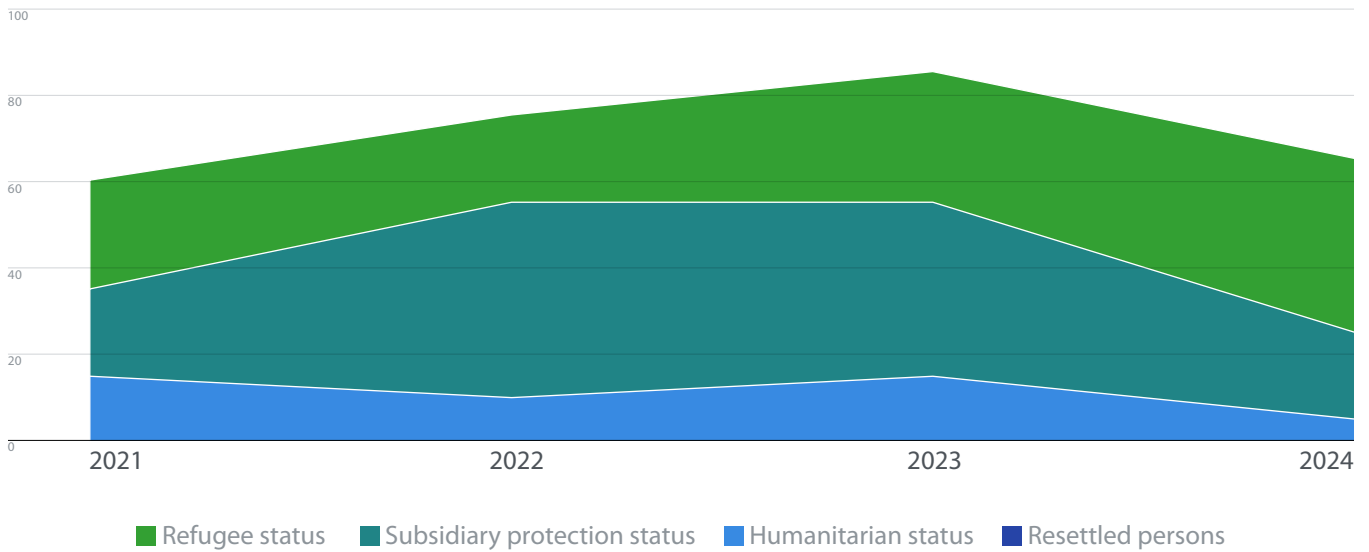
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyresa](#))

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



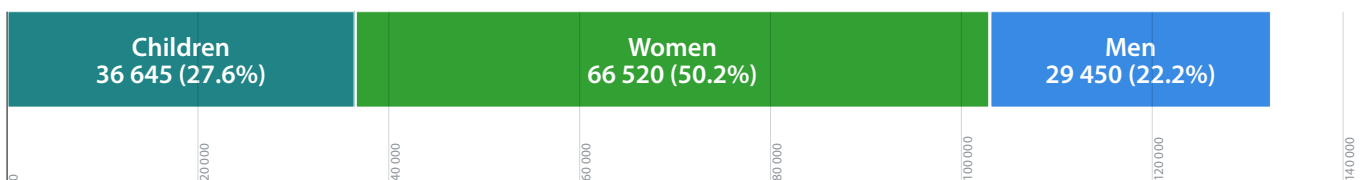
Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2021	25	20	15	0
2022	20	45	10	0
2023	30	40	15	0
2024	40	20	5	0

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

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

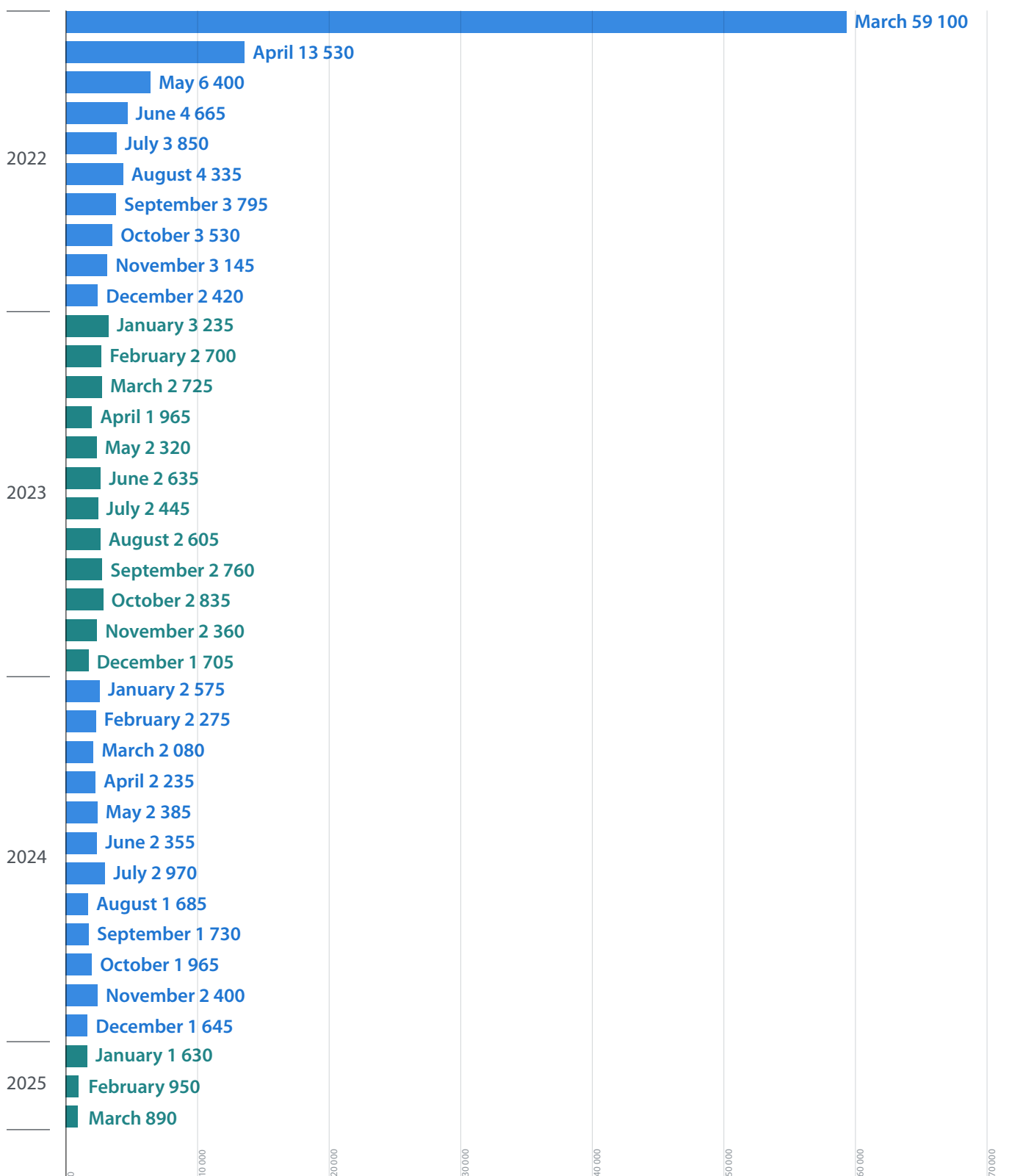
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2025

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



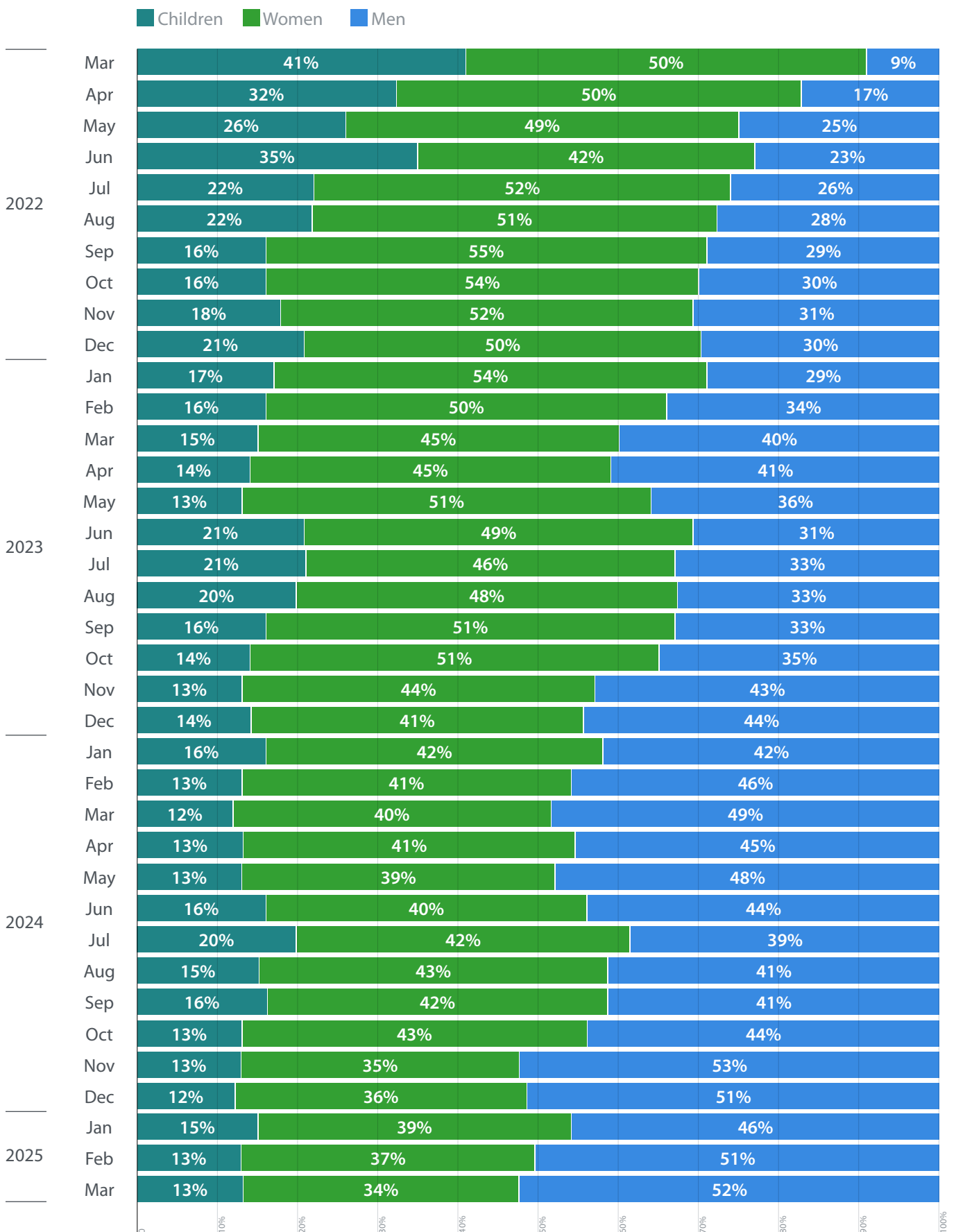
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asytpsm](#))

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

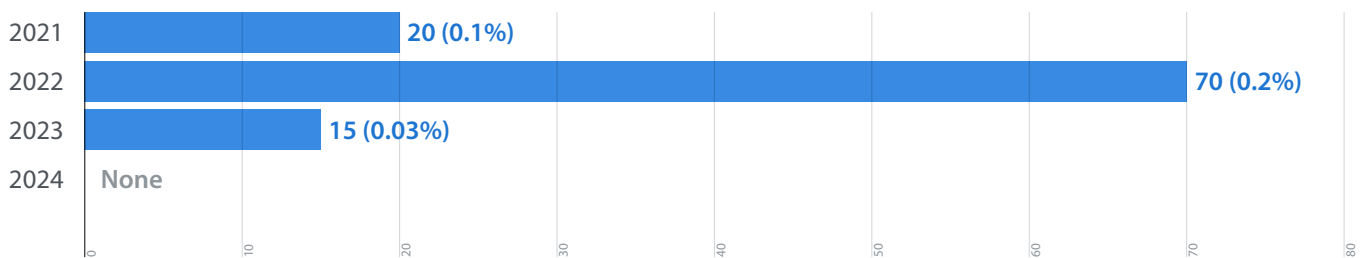




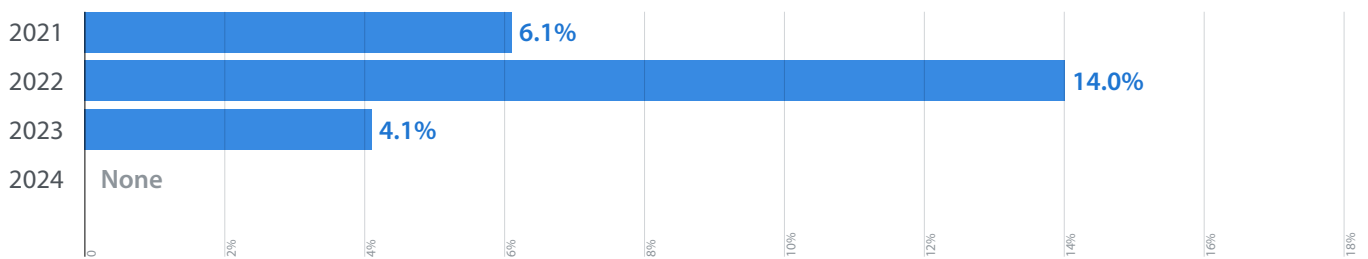
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2021–2024

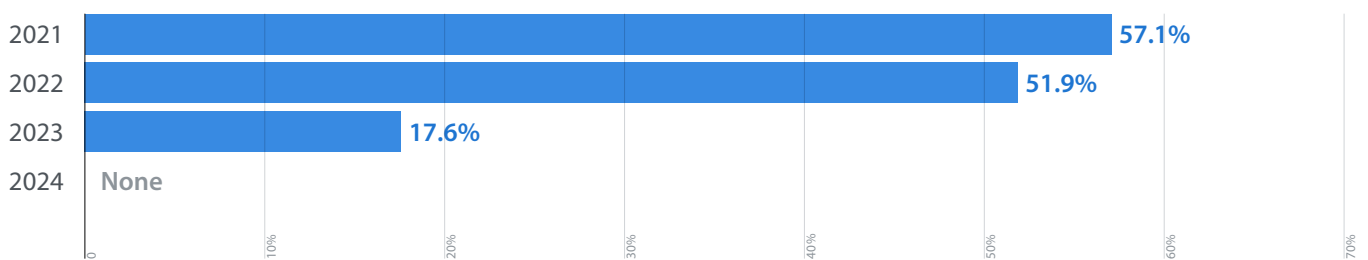
Number of first-time asylum applicants (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



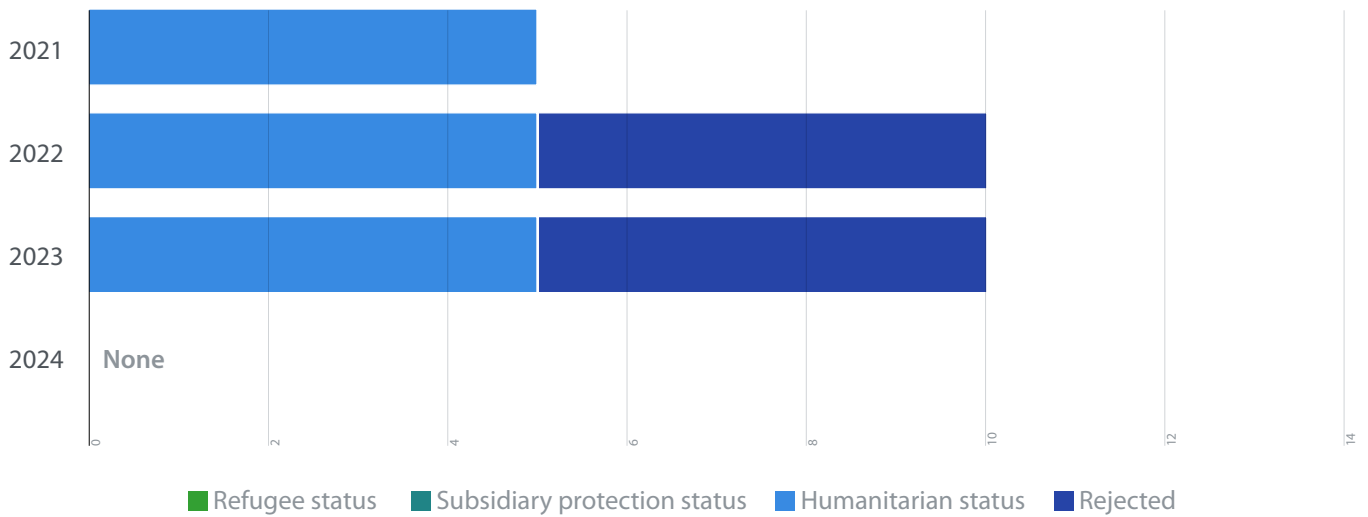
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



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	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)
2022	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)	5 (50.0%)
2023	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)	5 (50.0%)
2024	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)

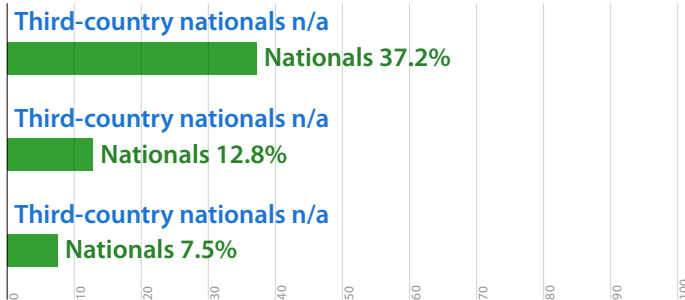
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyumdca](#))

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

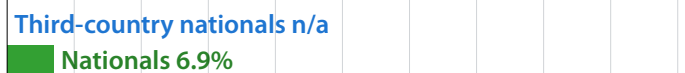
Share of persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion, persons aged >= 18 years



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

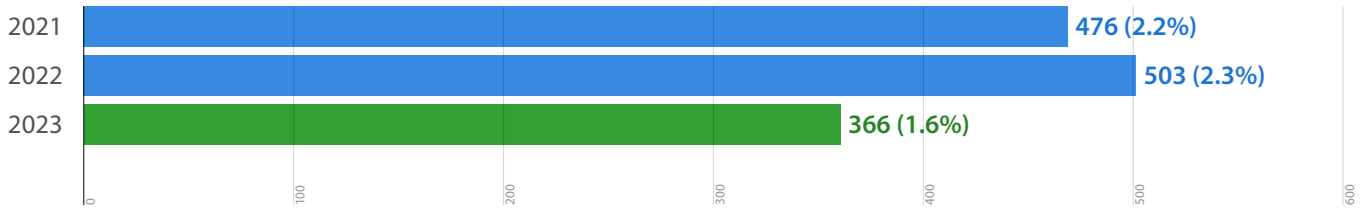




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2021–2023

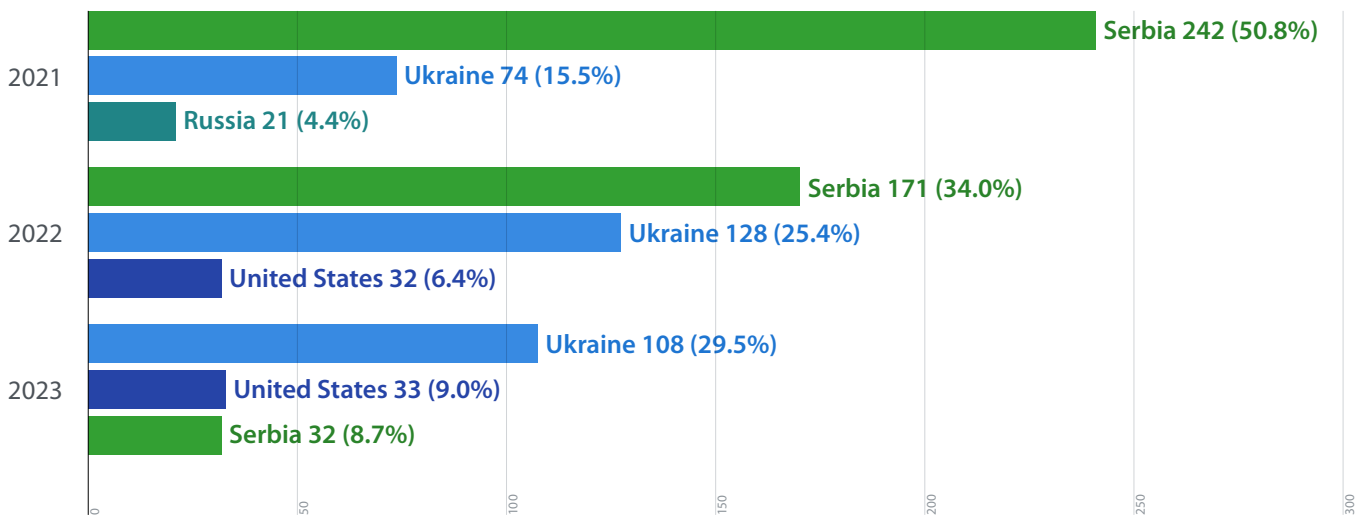
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



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

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

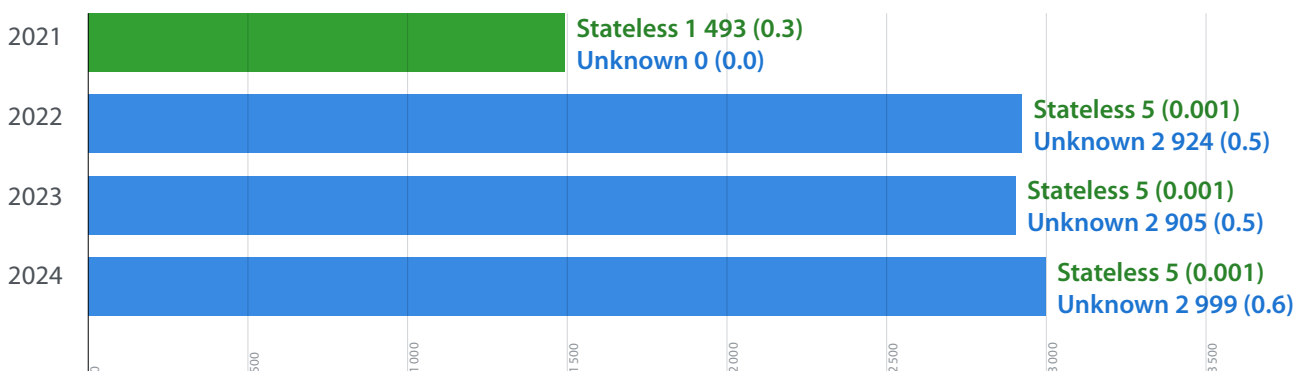
Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

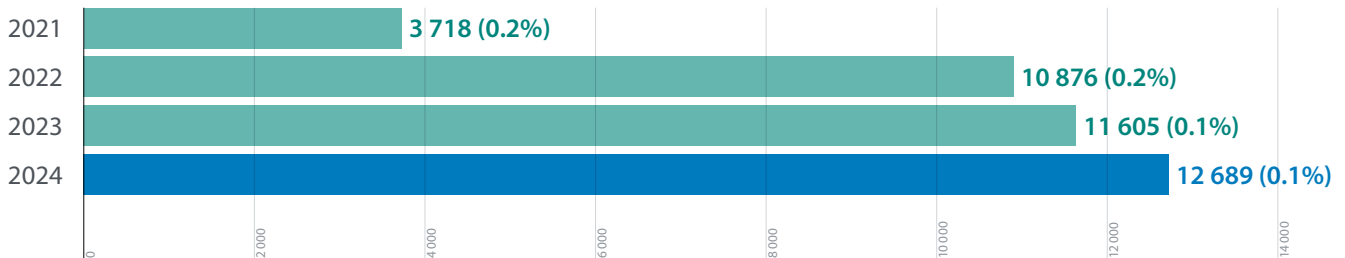


Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

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)

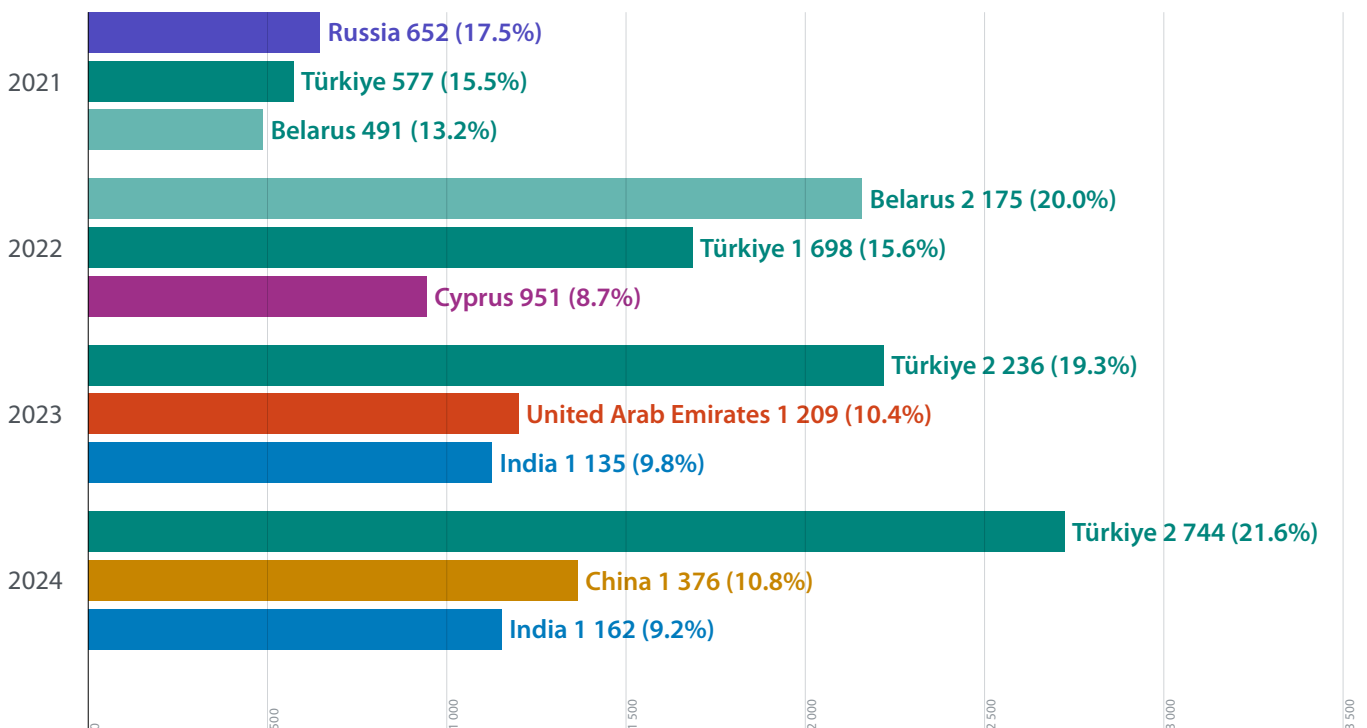


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

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.

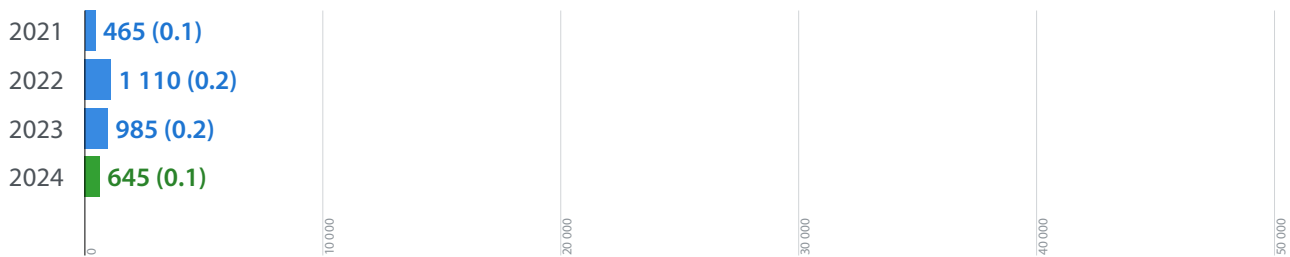
Source: [Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs](#)

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

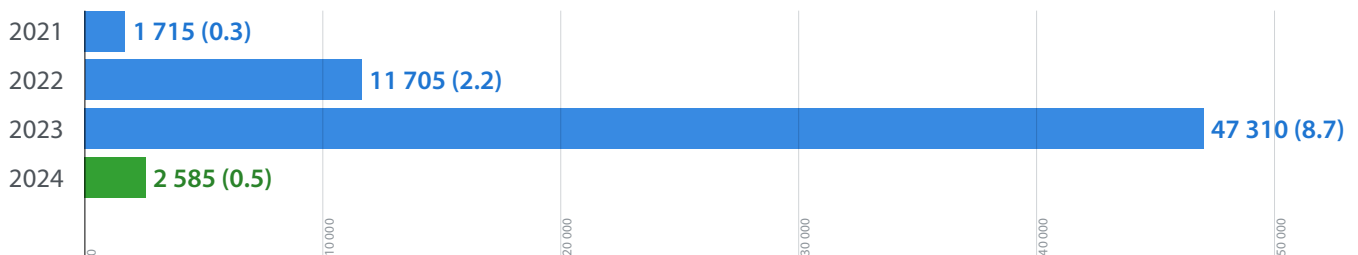
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

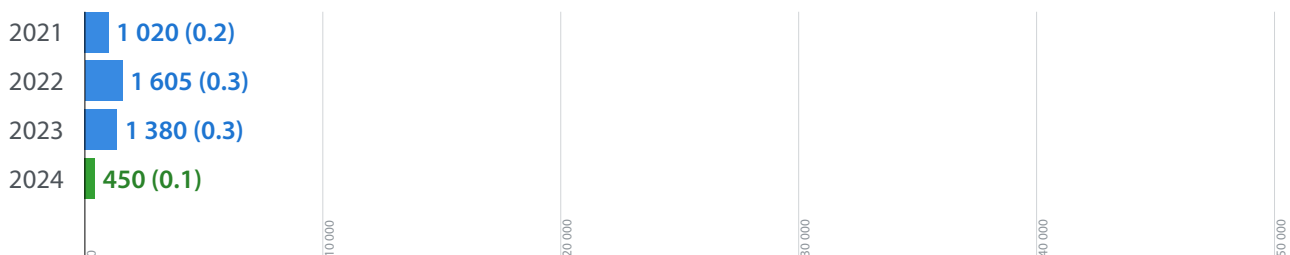
Persons refused entry



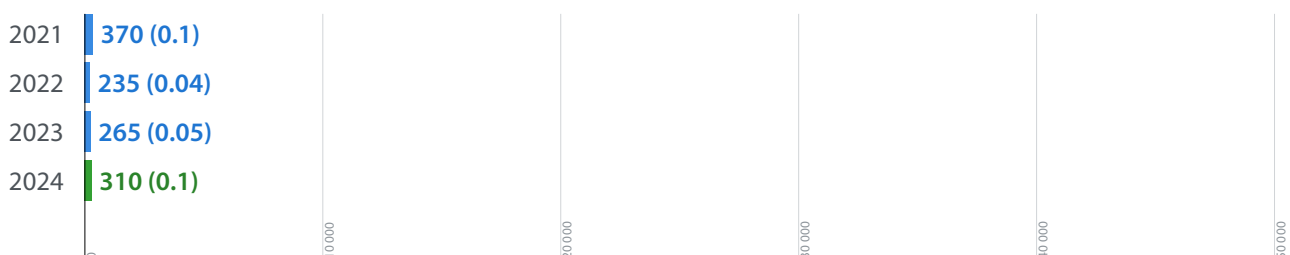
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

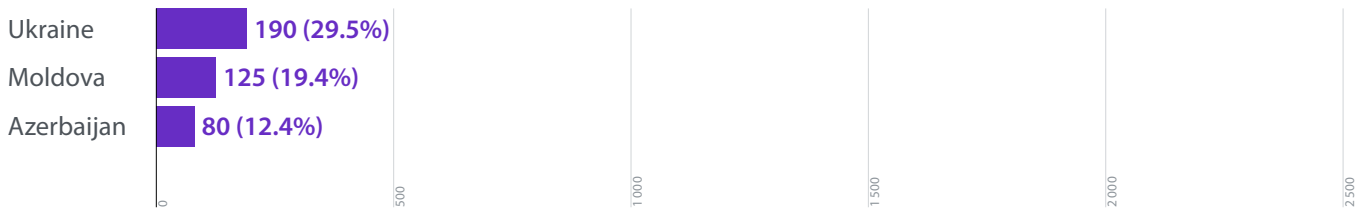


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#), [migr_eirtn](#), [migr_eilpop](#) and [demo_gind](#))

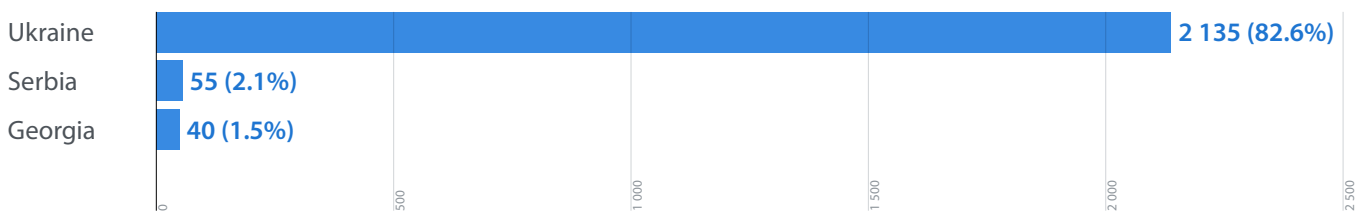
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2024

Absolute number (and the share in the respective total)

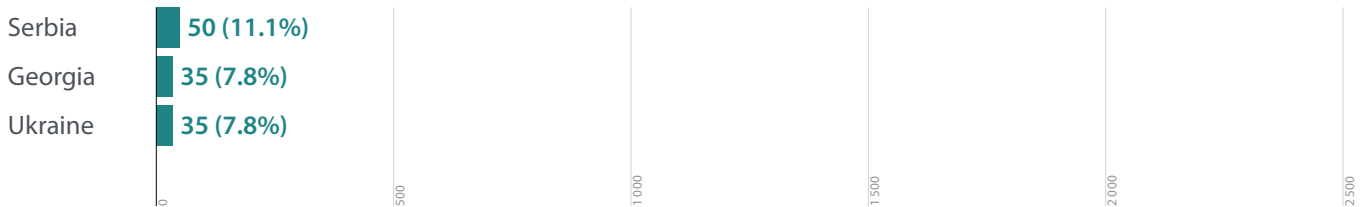
Persons refused entry



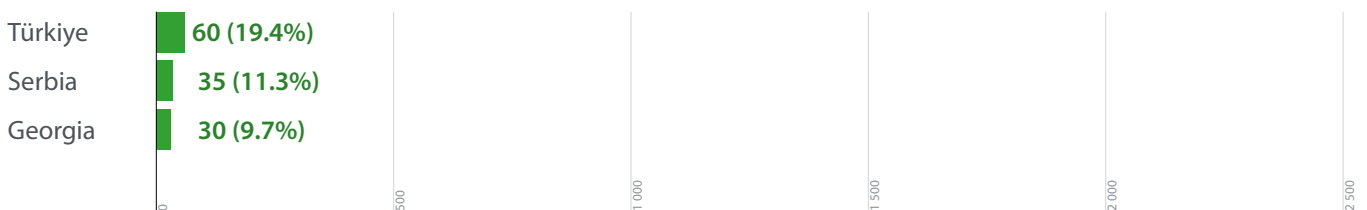
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

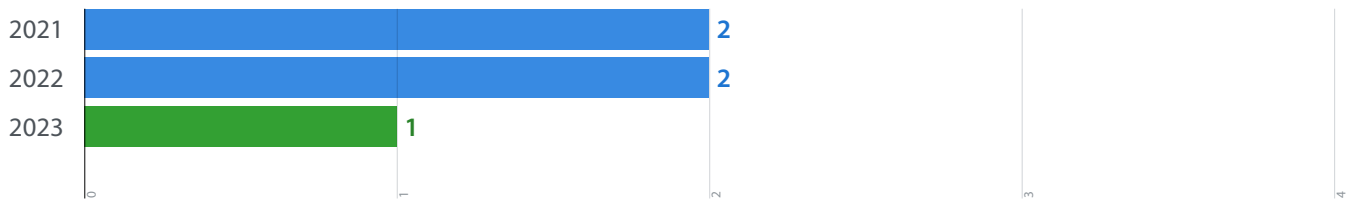


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#) and [migr_eirtn](#))



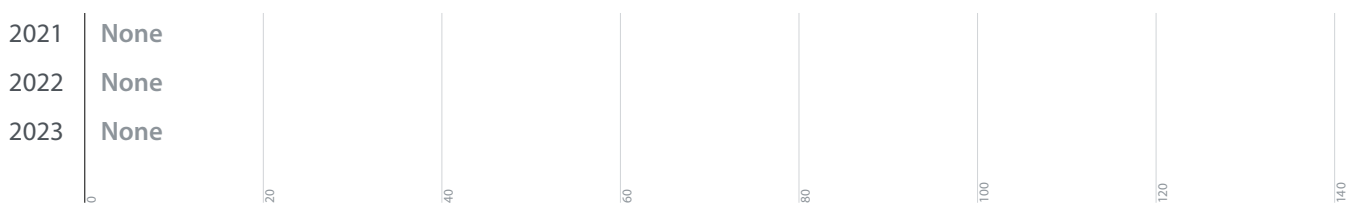
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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



Source: Eurostat ([crim_thb_vctz](#))

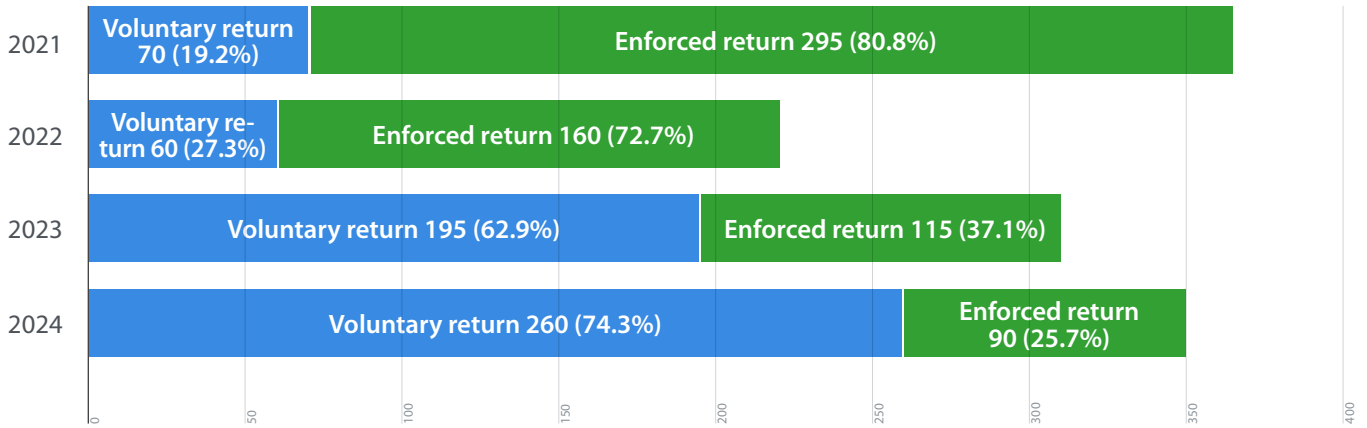
Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2021–2023



Source: Eurostat ([migr_resoth](#))

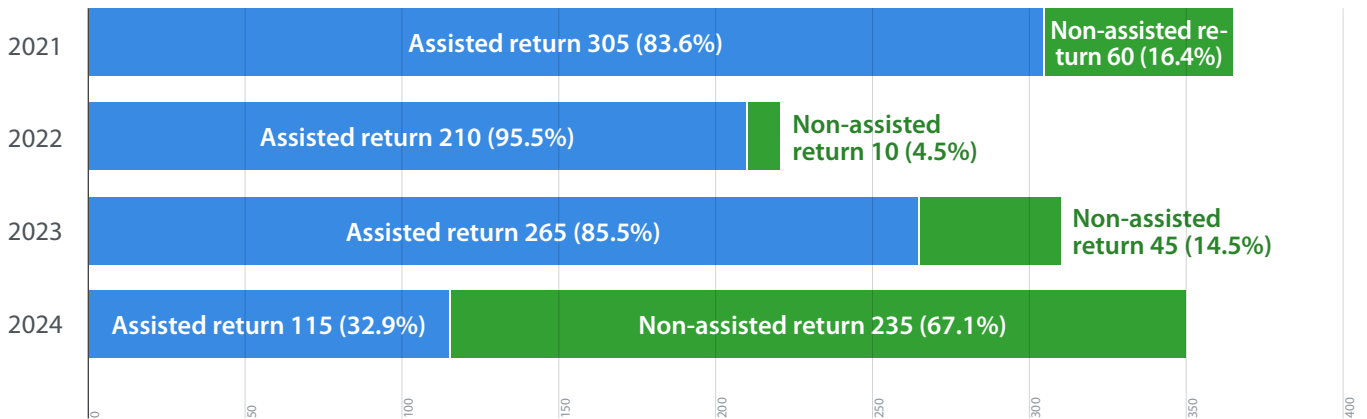
RETURN AND READMISSION

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](#))