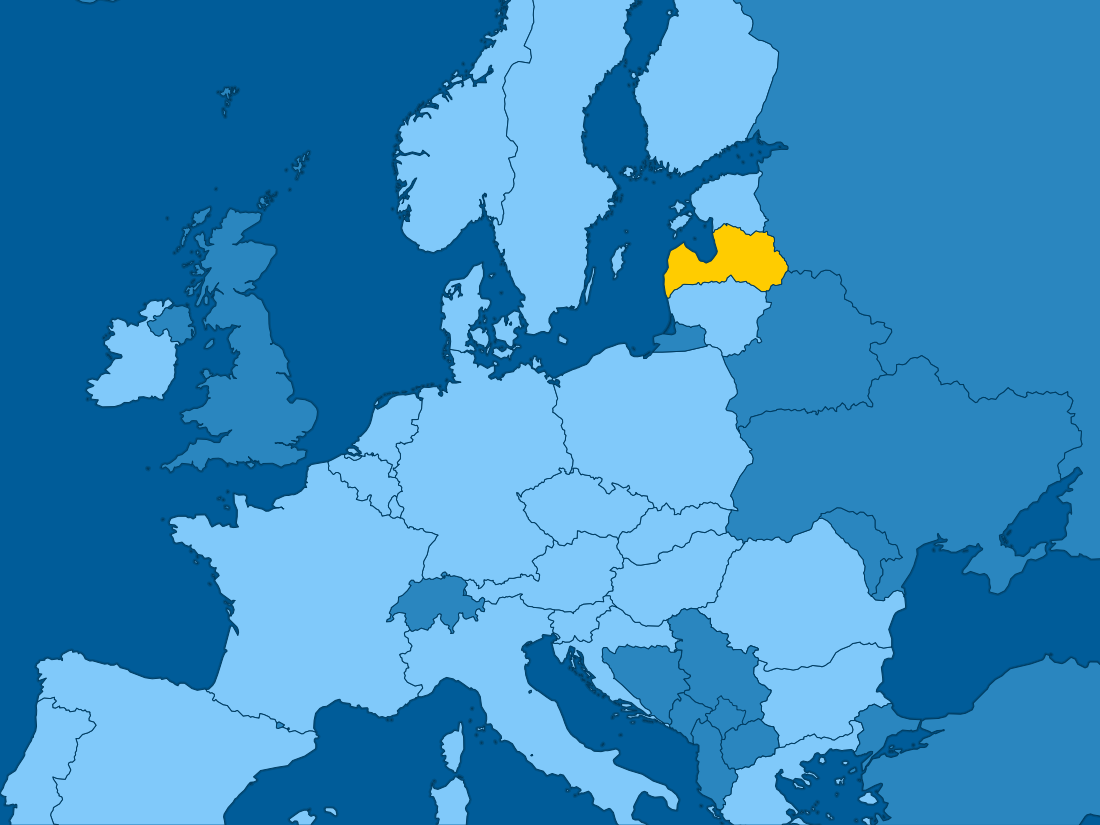




COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

LATVIA 2023



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

On 15 September 2023, the parliament (*Saeima*) expressed its confidence in the new Cabinet. The new government is a coalition between three political parties.

giving EU Blue Card holders more employment and mobility rights in the EU.



LEGAL MIGRATION

On 16 June 2023, [amendments to the Immigration Law](#) were approved, implementing [Directive 2021/1883](#)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In mid-2023, a new accommodation centre for asylum seekers, 'Liepna', was opened in the *Liepna* parish of the *Aluksne* municipality. It can accommodate up to 252 asylum seekers.



KEY POINTS

Amendments to the Immigration Law implemented Directive (EU) 2021/1883 by giving EU Blue Card holders more employment and mobility rights in the EU.

introduced stricter penalties for offences related to irregular immigration to prevent irregular movement of people across Latvia's external borders.

A new accommodation centre for asylum seekers, 'Liepna', was opened to accommodate up to 252 asylum seekers.



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

On 8 December 2022, [amendments to the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians](#) were adopted. As of 1 January 2023, Ukrainian civilians provided temporary protection in Latvia are issued a temporary residence permit for two years. Long-term visas and temporary residence permits issued to Ukrainian civilians who have been provided temporary protection status in Latvia until 31 December 2022, will be valid until 4 March 2024, regardless of the validity period indicated on the document. The visas and permits will continue to be valid in the territory of Latvia, but Ukrainian civilians will have to apply for a new temporary residence permit if:

- they need to travel outside of Latvia;
- the visa or residence permit has been lost or has become invalid through damage or because the details have changed;
- the person was previously issued with a visa but needs a residence permit to use the electronic signature facility.

On 23 November 2023, [amendments to the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians](#) were approved, extending the time period for the validity of visas and residence permits issued to Ukrainian civilians by 4 March 2025.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

No significant developments to report in 2023.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

On 13 April 2023, the Cabinet approved [the Plan for Reduction of Racism and Antisemitism for 2023](#). The Ministry of Culture was designated as the coordinating institution. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Justice and the Society Integration Foundation were designated co-responsible institutions.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments to report in 2023.



BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

On 22 June 2023, [the Amendments to the State Border Law of the Republic of Latvia](#) were approved. They established a special border surveillance regime in cases of a disproportionately high number of irregular or attempted border crossings. They also increased the powers of the national armed forces and the State Border Guard.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

On 5 October 2023, [Amendments to the Criminal Law](#) was adopted. For the offence of irregular movement of a person across a national border, the amended Law provides for a penalty of imprisonment for up to three years, probation, or a fine.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Ministry of the Interior partnered in the ELECT THB project, [Enhanced Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training on Trafficking in Human Beings](#). Within the framework of the project, the Ministry of the Interior organised four national training sessions dedicated to the themes of labour and sexual exploitation.



RETURN AND READMISSION

In 2023, Latvia took part in two joint return operations (JROs). In one case, organised by Germany, in cooperation with Frontex, a Nigerian national was deported to Nigeria after being taken by land to Frankfurt. In the second case, a Georgian national was deported to Georgia. That operation was organised by Poland, in cooperation with Frontex.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments to report in 2023.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

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

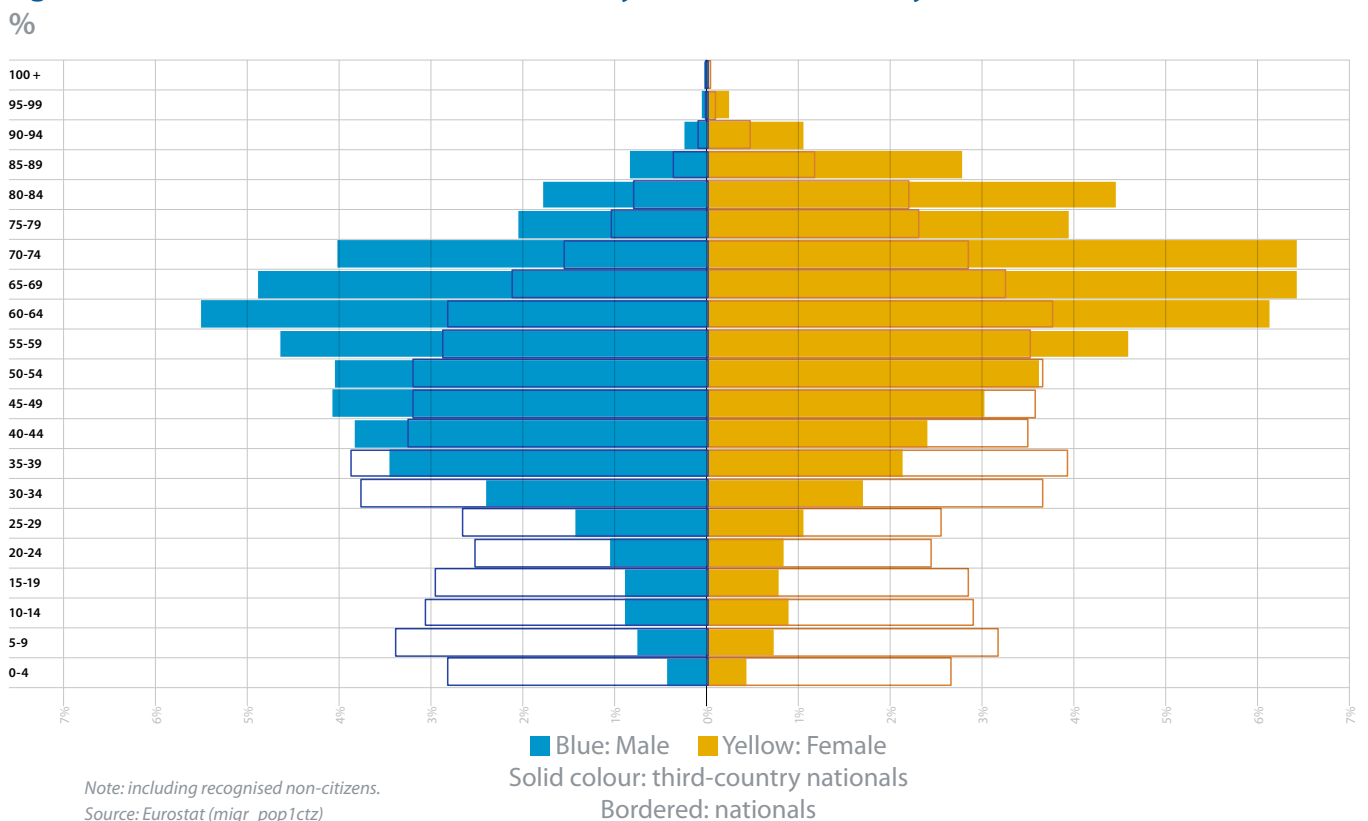
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Note: including recognised non-citizens.

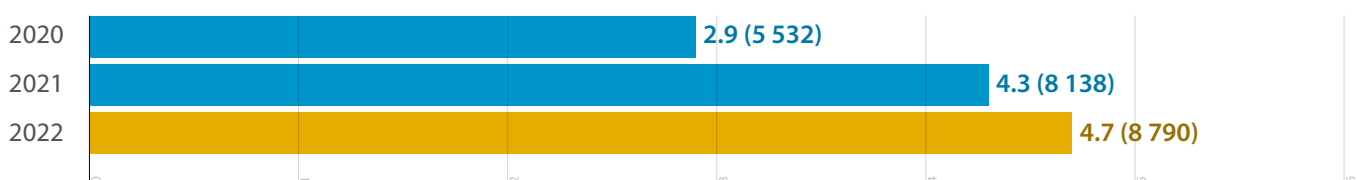
Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2023



First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2020–2022

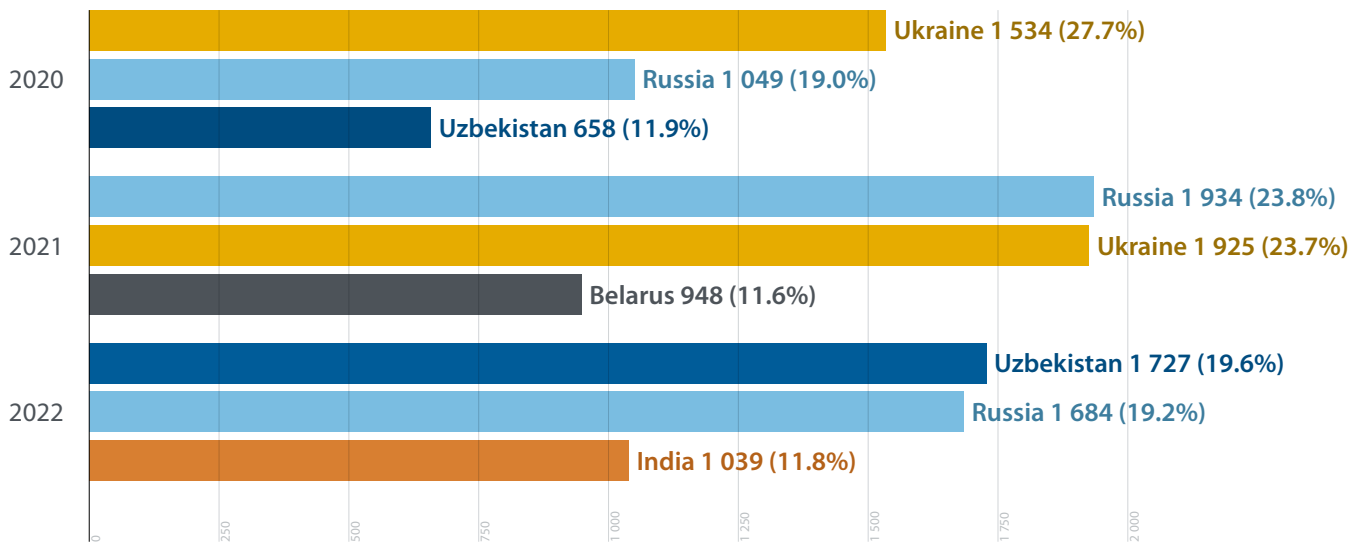
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz and migr_respop)

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

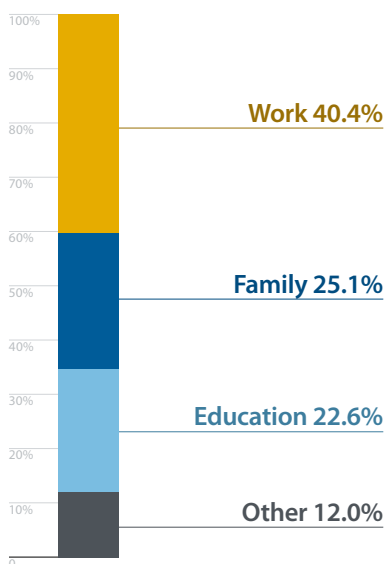
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



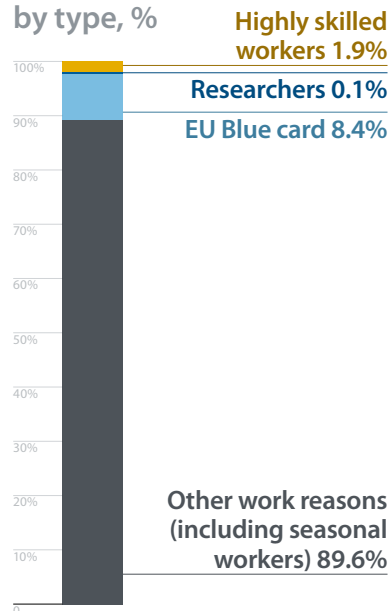
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

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

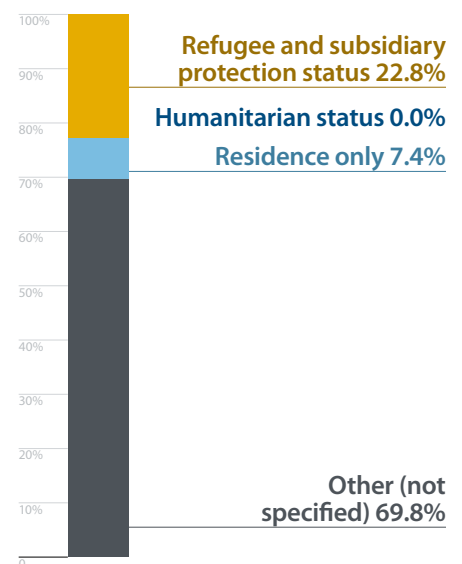
All permits,
by reason, %



Work reason,
by type, %



Other reason,
by detailed reason, %



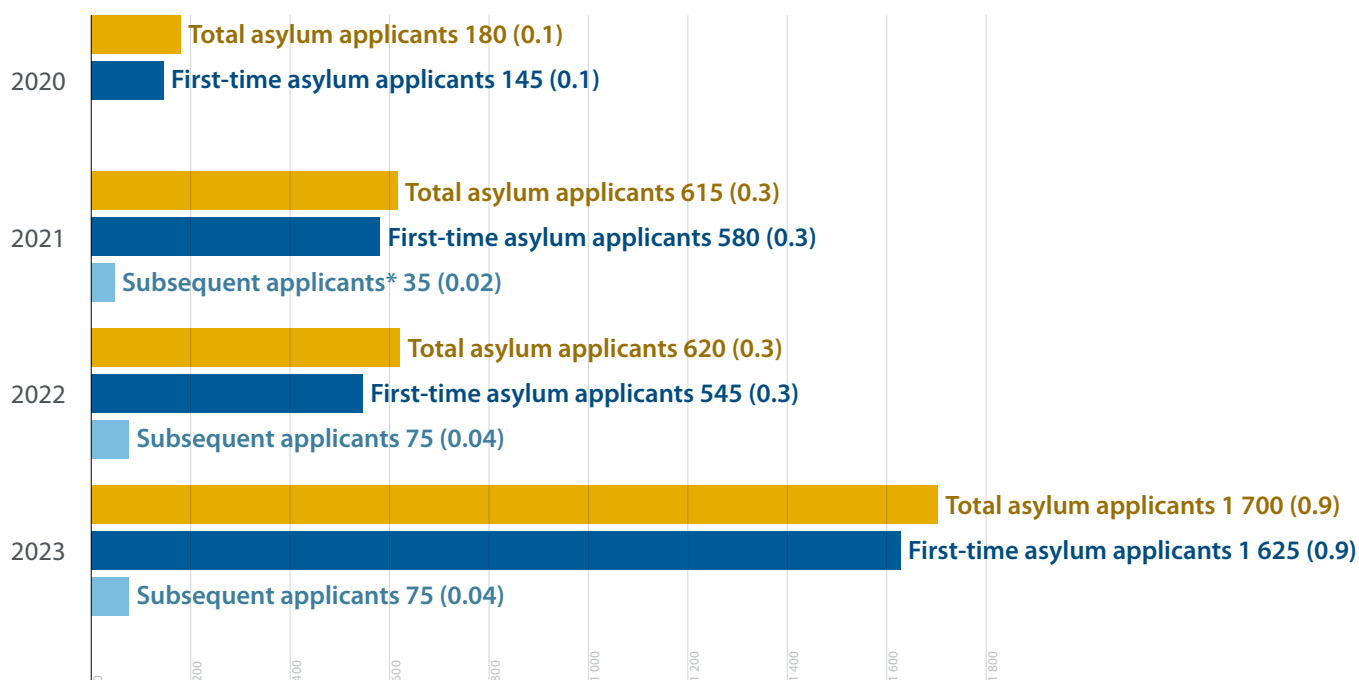
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resfpc, migr_resocc and migr_resoth)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

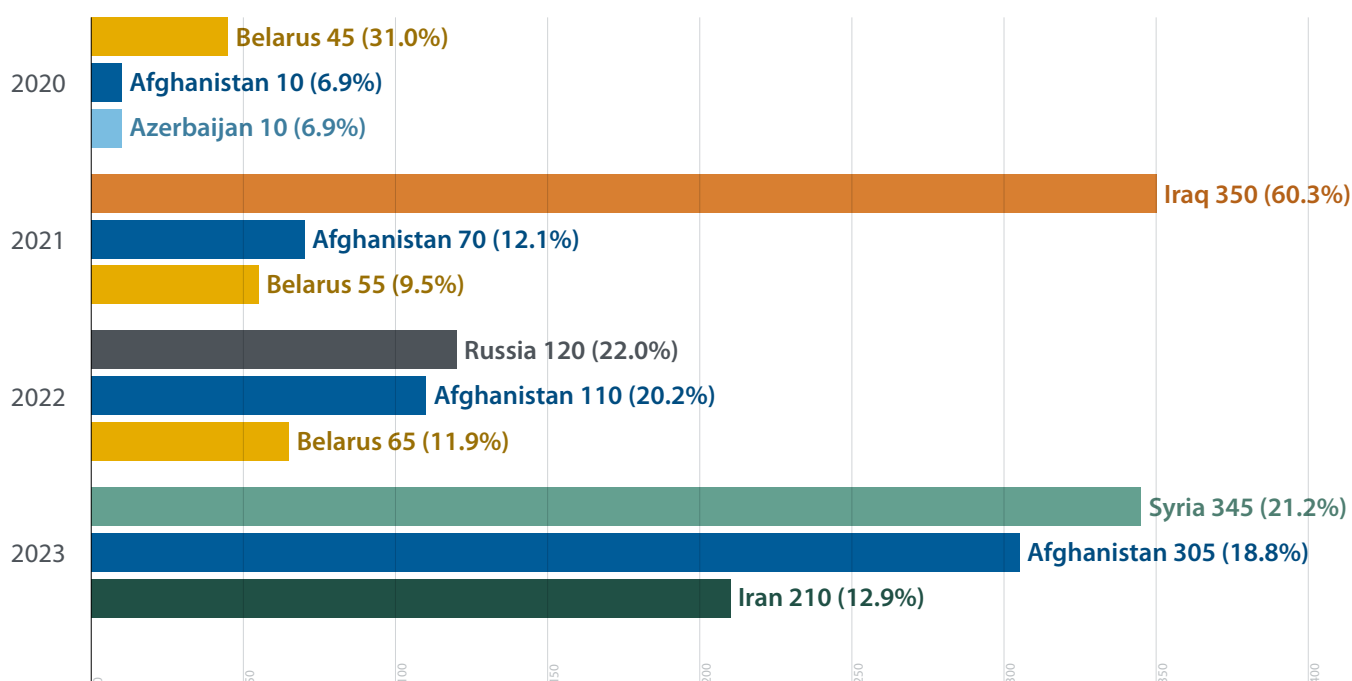


* Data collection from 2021.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz and migr_asyapp1mp)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2020–2023

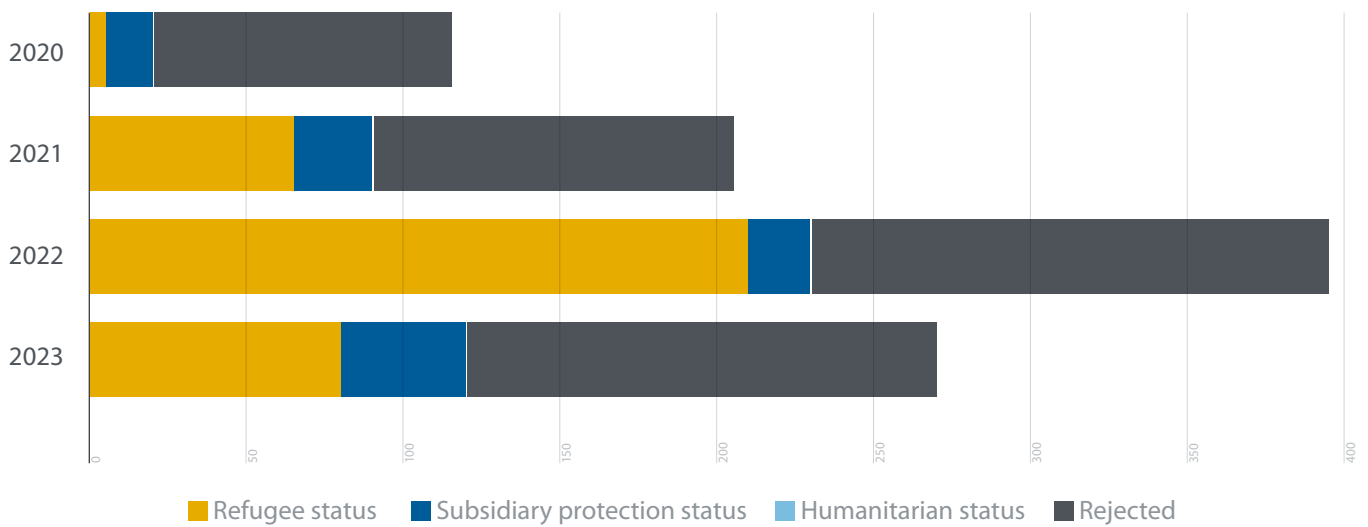
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

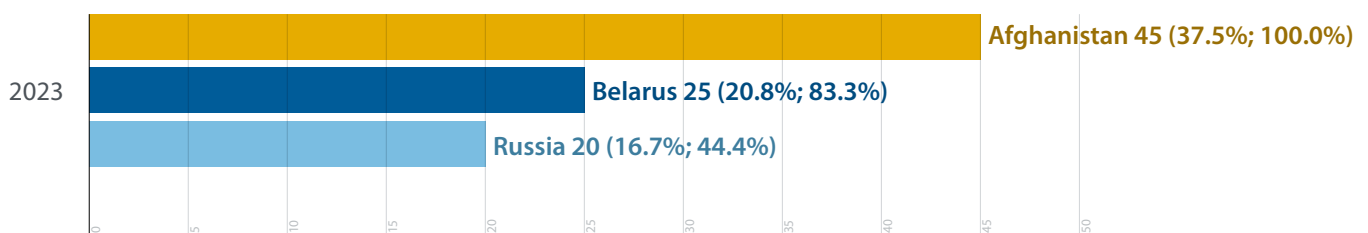


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	5 (5.9%)	15 (13.6%)	–	95 (80.5%)
2021	65 (31.3%)	25 (12.4%)	–	115 (56.2%)
2022	210 (52.8%)	20 (5.5%)	–	165 (41.7%)
2023	80 (29.9%)	40 (14.2%)	–	150 (56.0%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst and migr_asydec1pc)

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, 2023

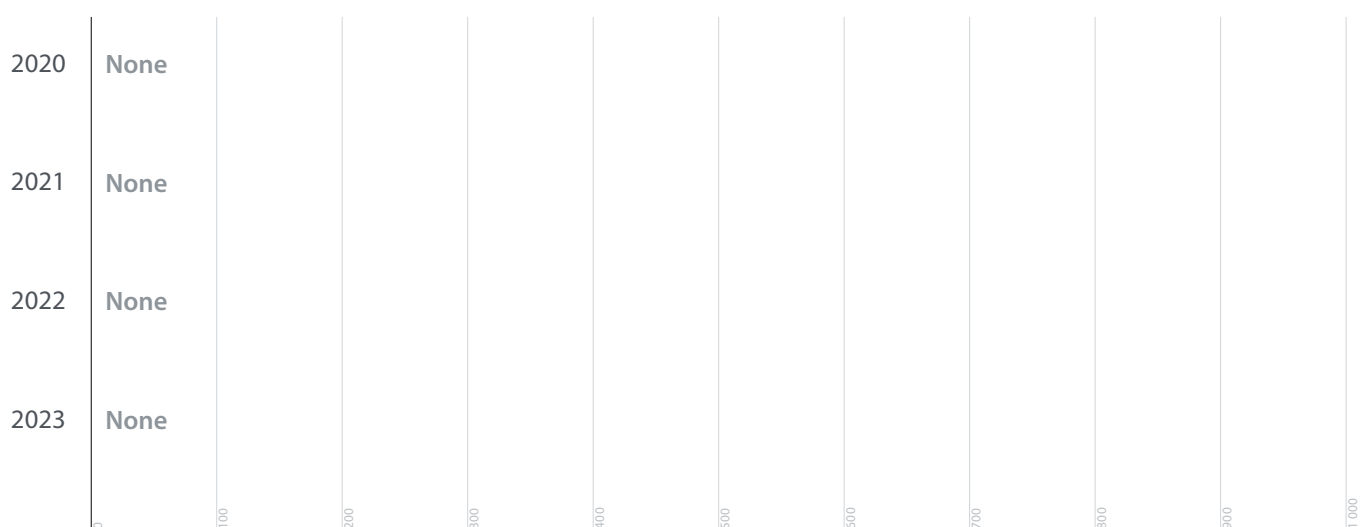
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst)

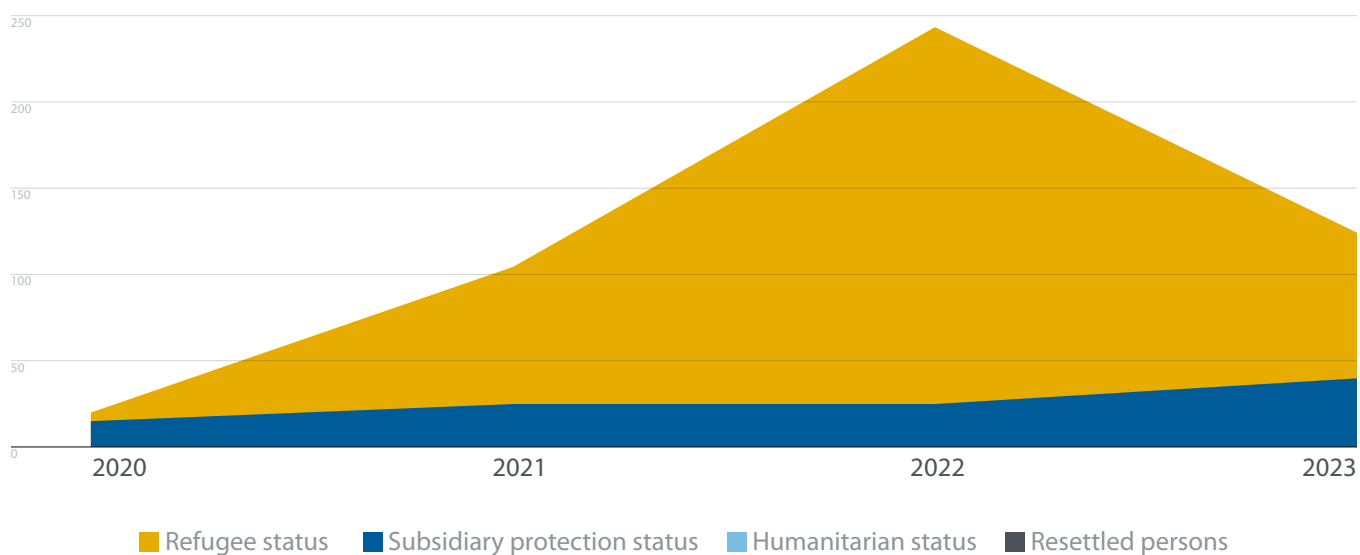
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

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	5	15	–	0
2021	80	25	–	0
2022	220	25	–	0
2023	85	40	–	0

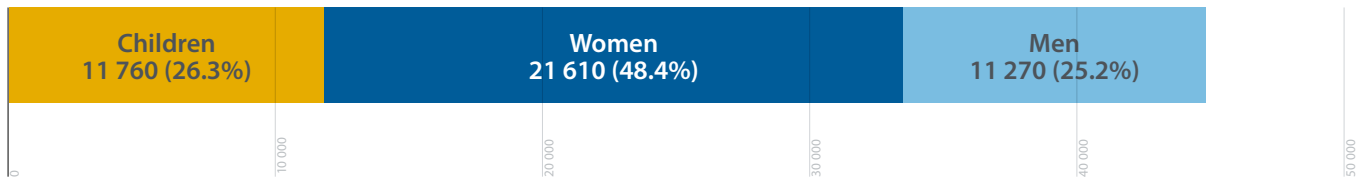
Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

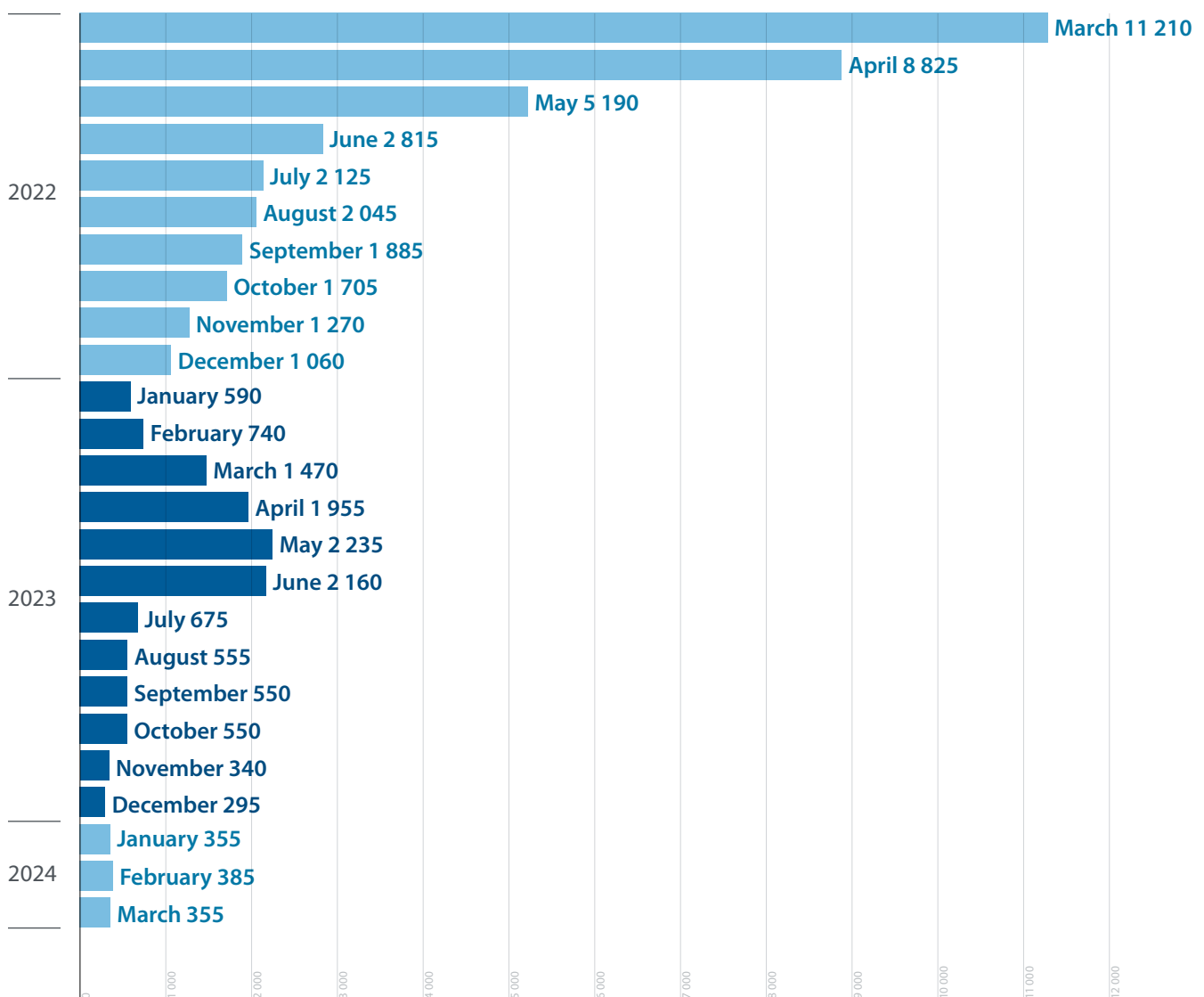
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



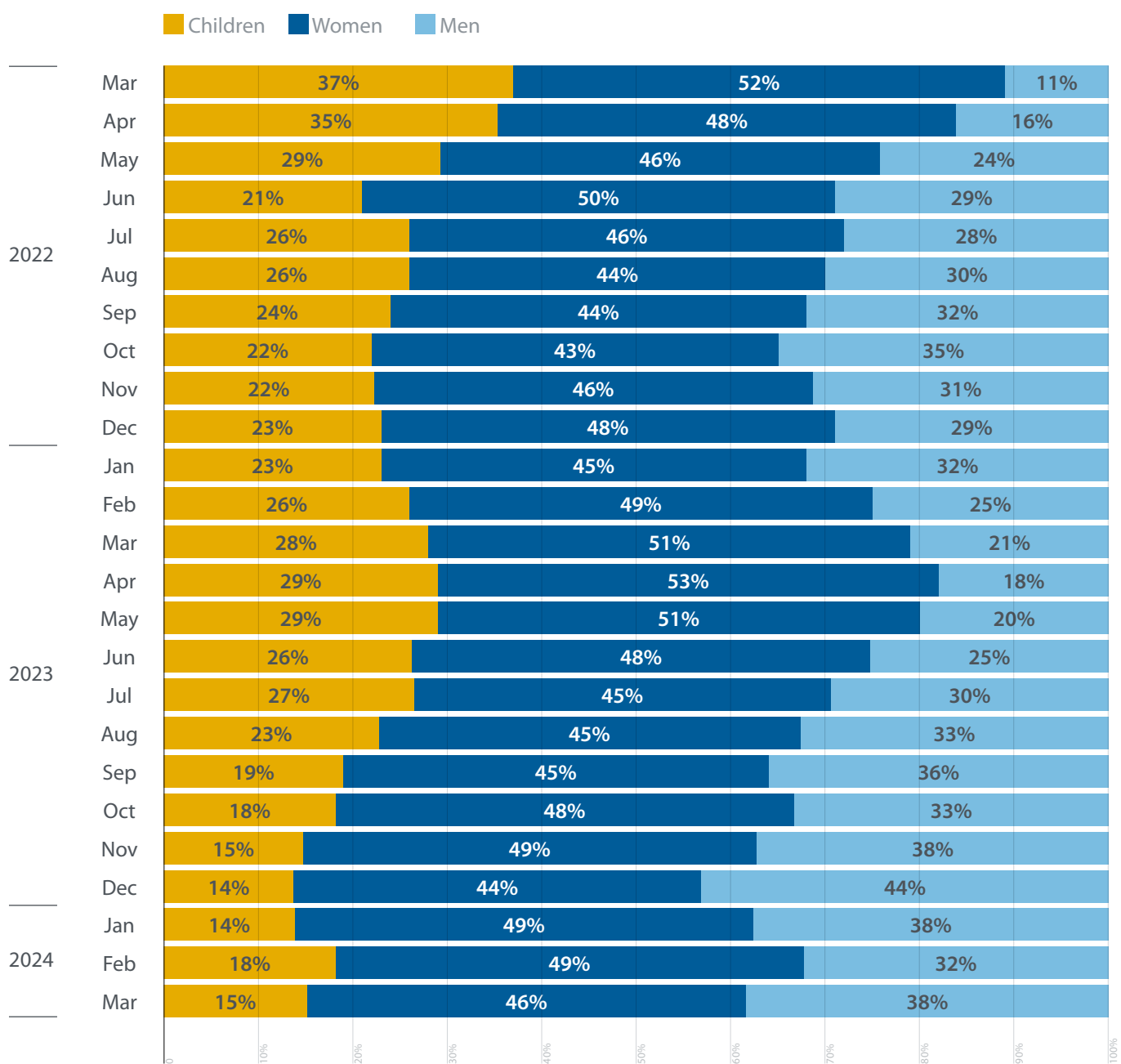
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

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



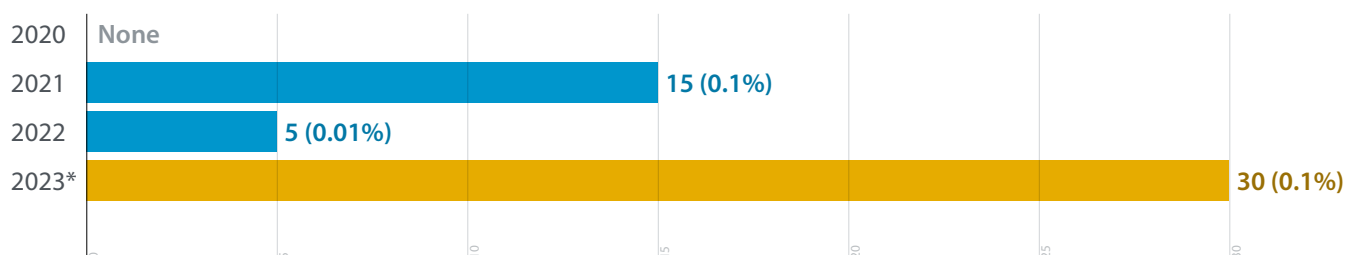
Source: Eurostat (migr_asypfm)



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

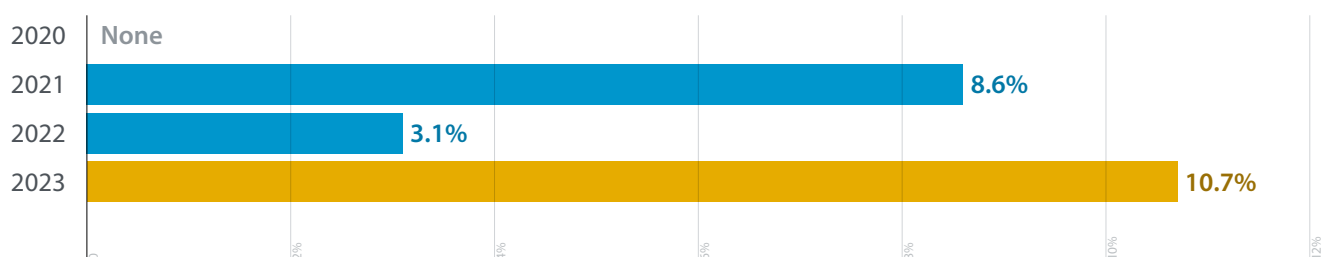
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



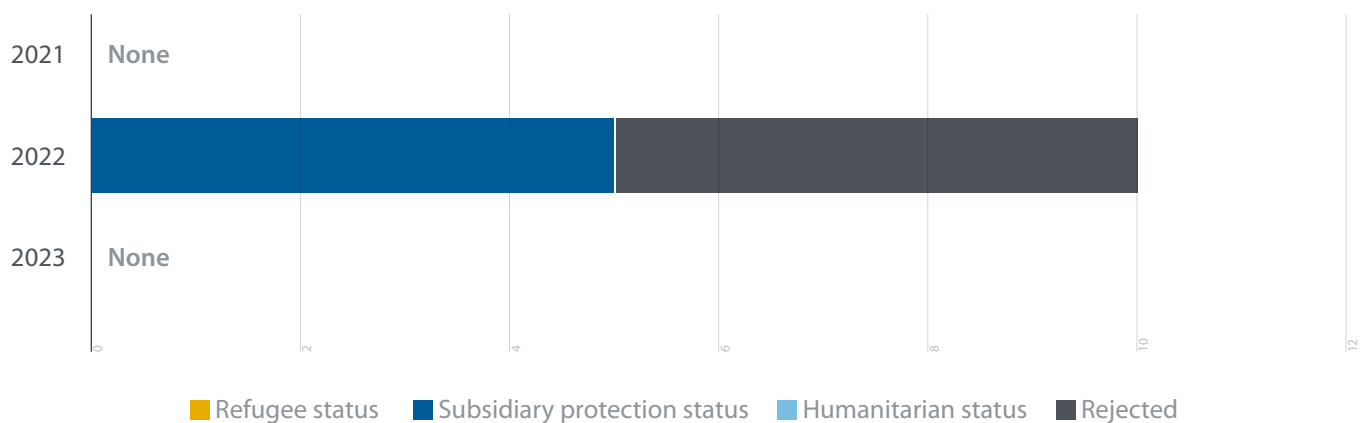
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



* 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)



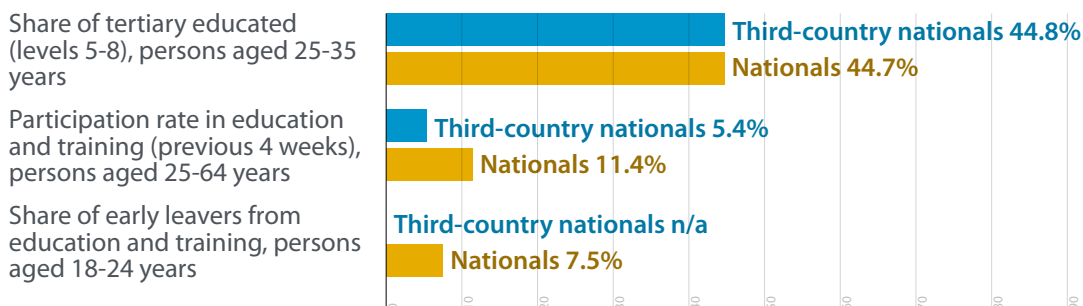
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	–	0 (0.0%)
2022	0 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)	–	5 (50.0%)
2023	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	–	0 (0.0%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdca)

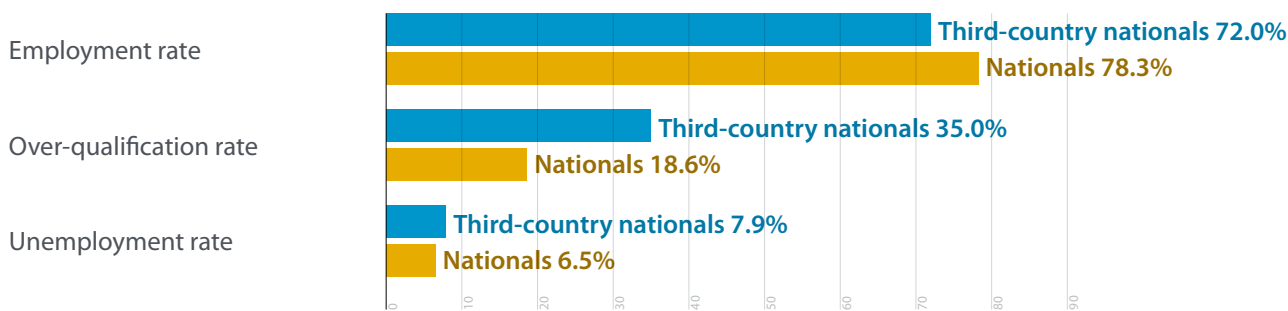
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

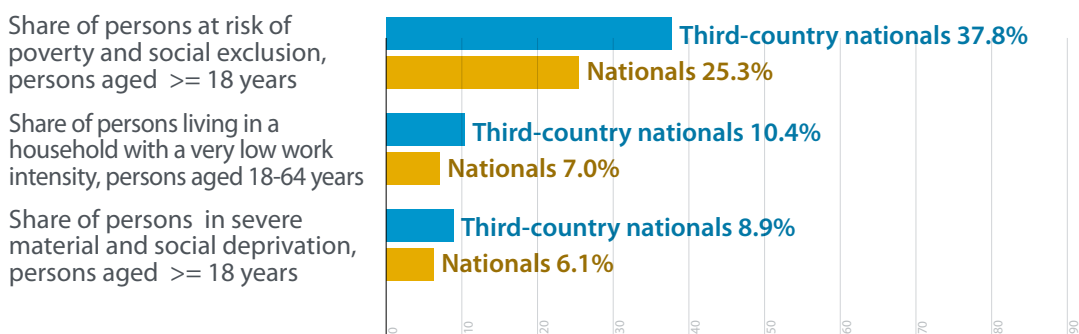
Education, 2023



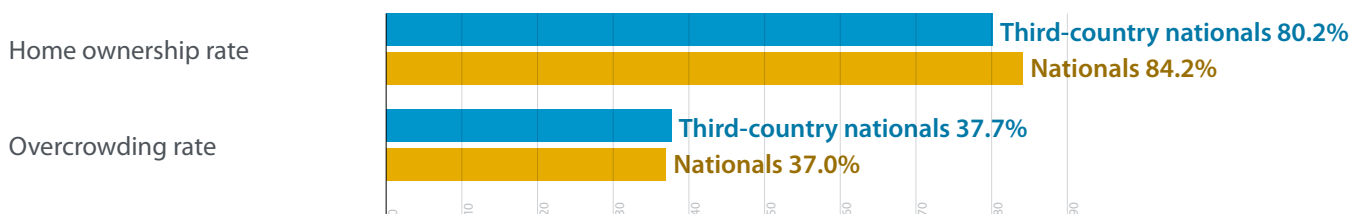
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



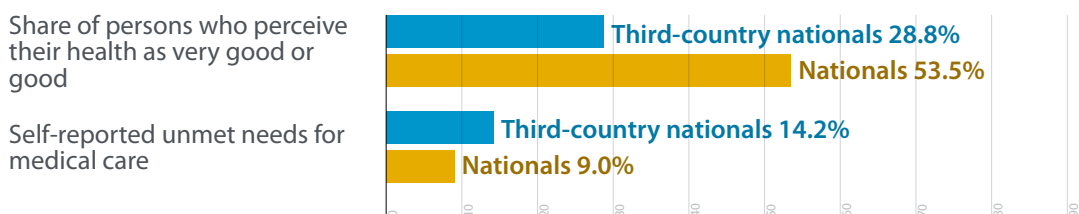
Social inclusion, 2023



Housing, persons aged >= 18 years, 2023



Health, persons aged >= 16 years, 2022



Note: including recognised non-citizens.

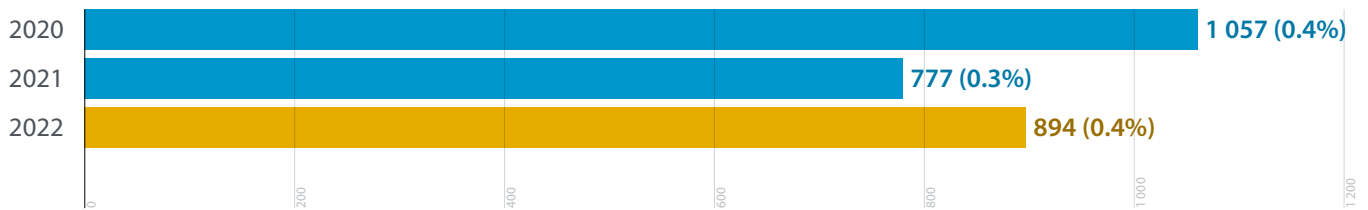
Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9911, trng_lfs_12, edat_lfse_01, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_eoqgan, lfsa_urgan, ilc_peps05n, ilc_lvhl15n, ilc_mdsl15, ilc_lvps15, ilc_lvho15, hlth_silc_24 and hlth_silc_30)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2020–2022

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

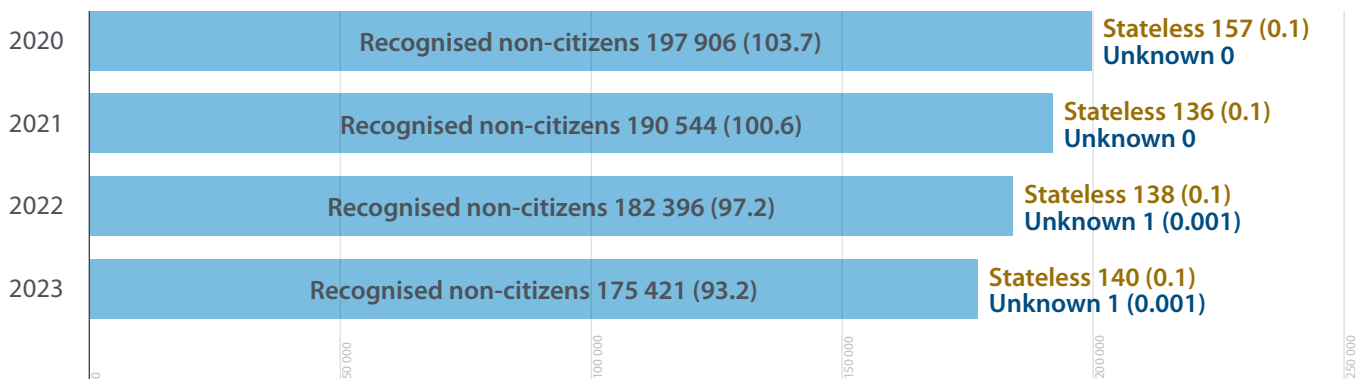


Note: including recognised non-citizens.

Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons, persons with unknown citizenship and recognised non-citizens, 2020–2023

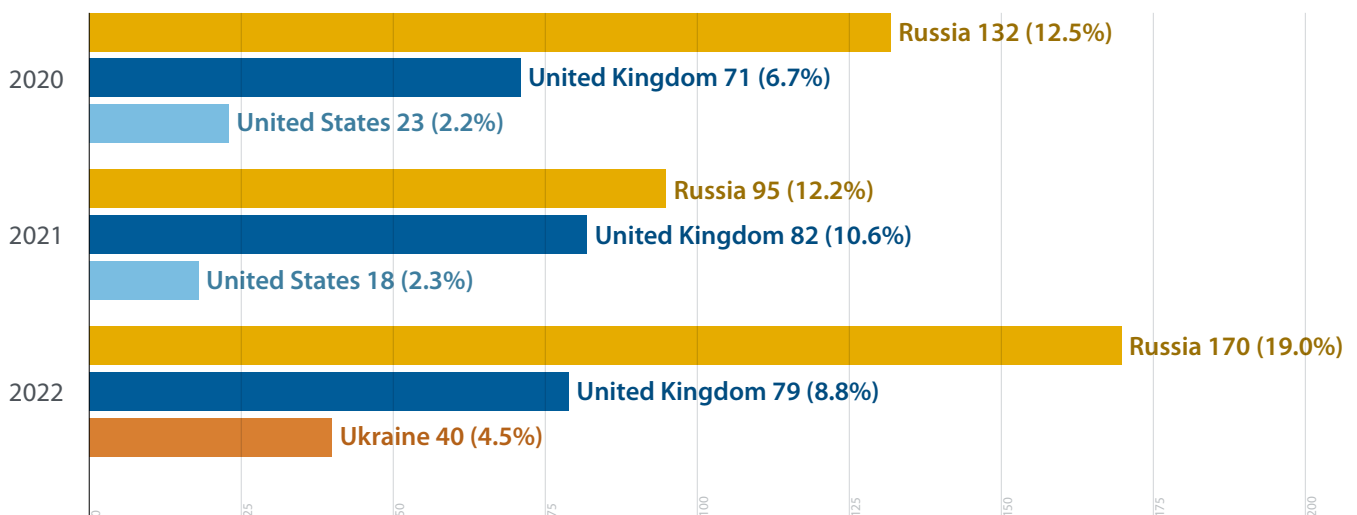
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)



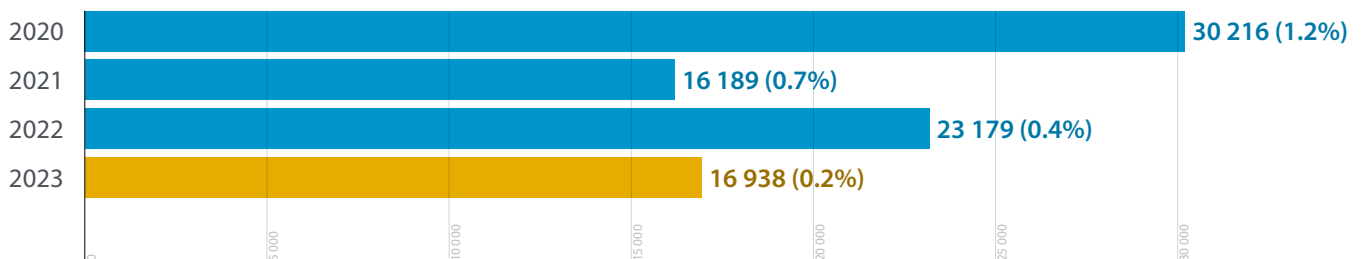
Note: Recognised non-citizens are a large number of those acquiring citizenship in Latvia.

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)

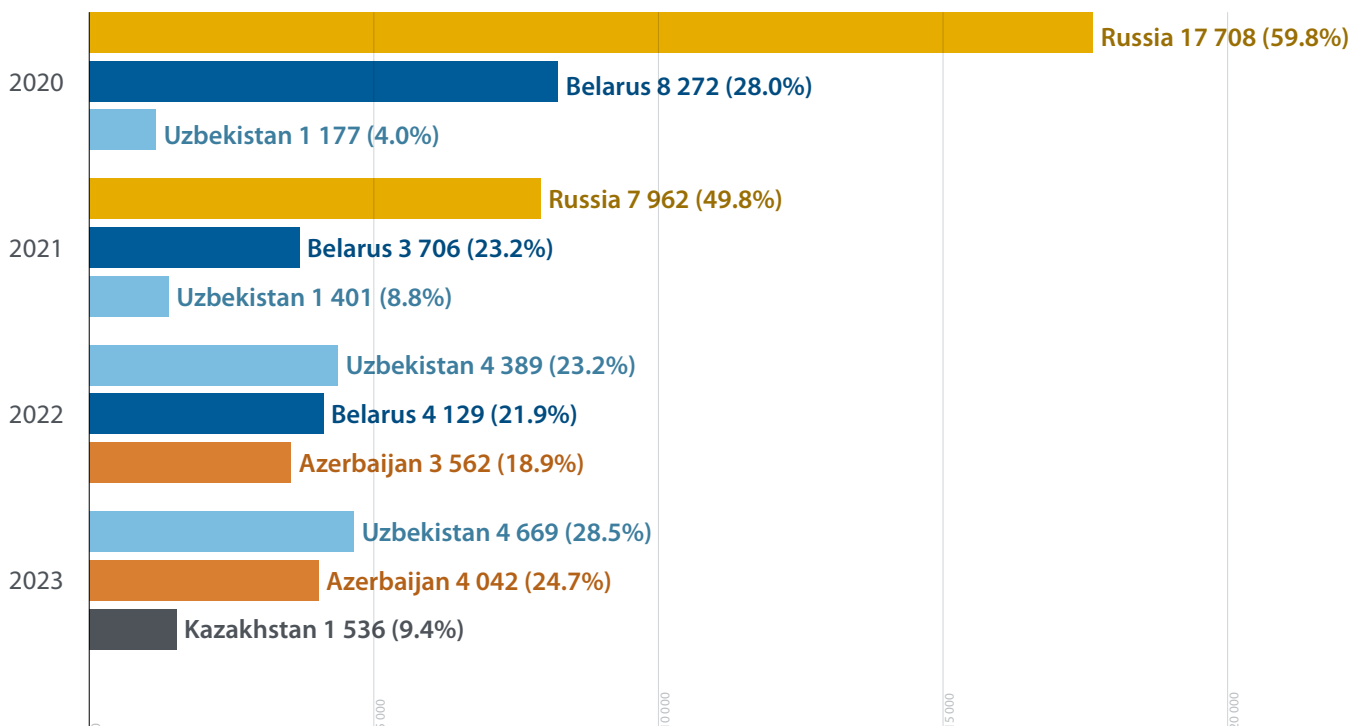


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

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

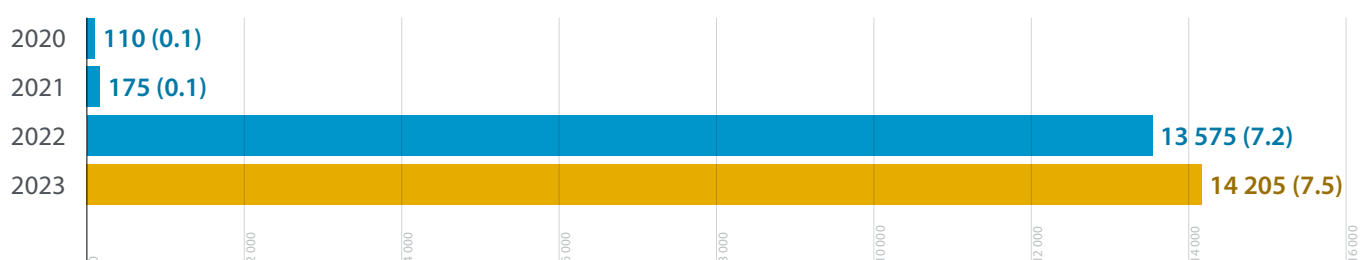
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

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)

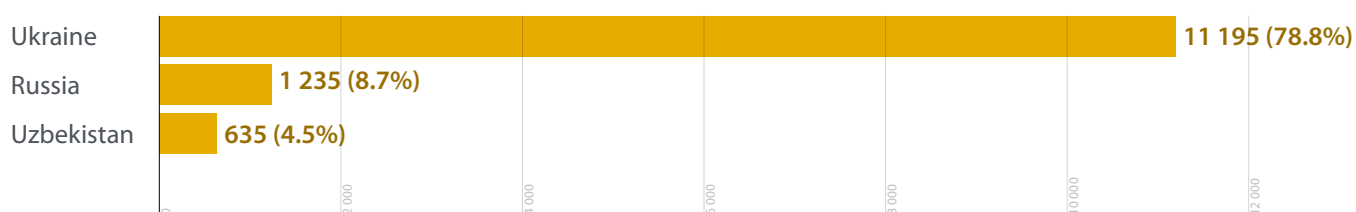
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

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

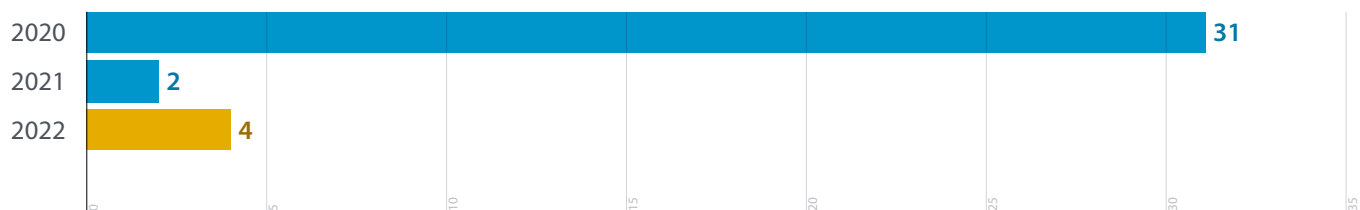


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



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

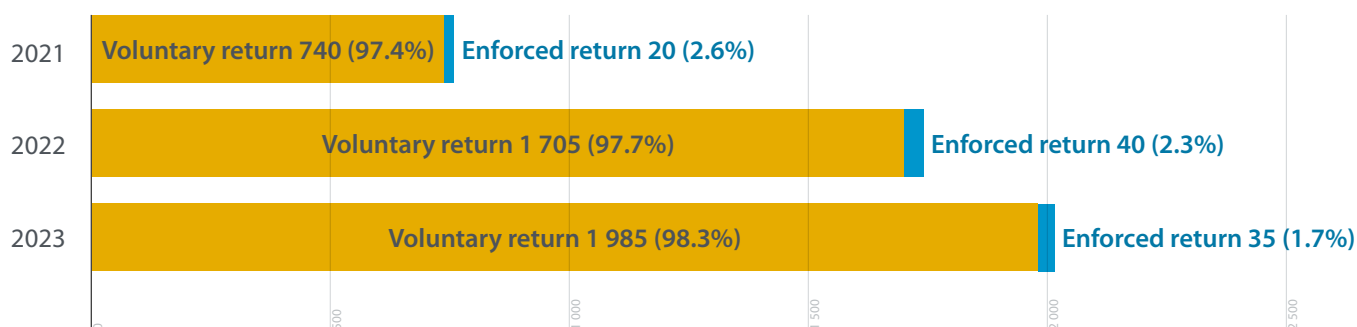


Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

RETURN AND READMISSION

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

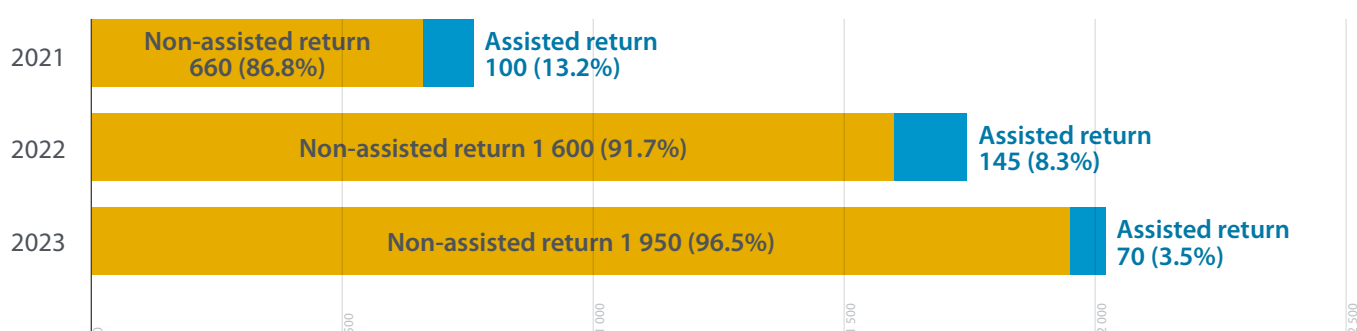
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



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)