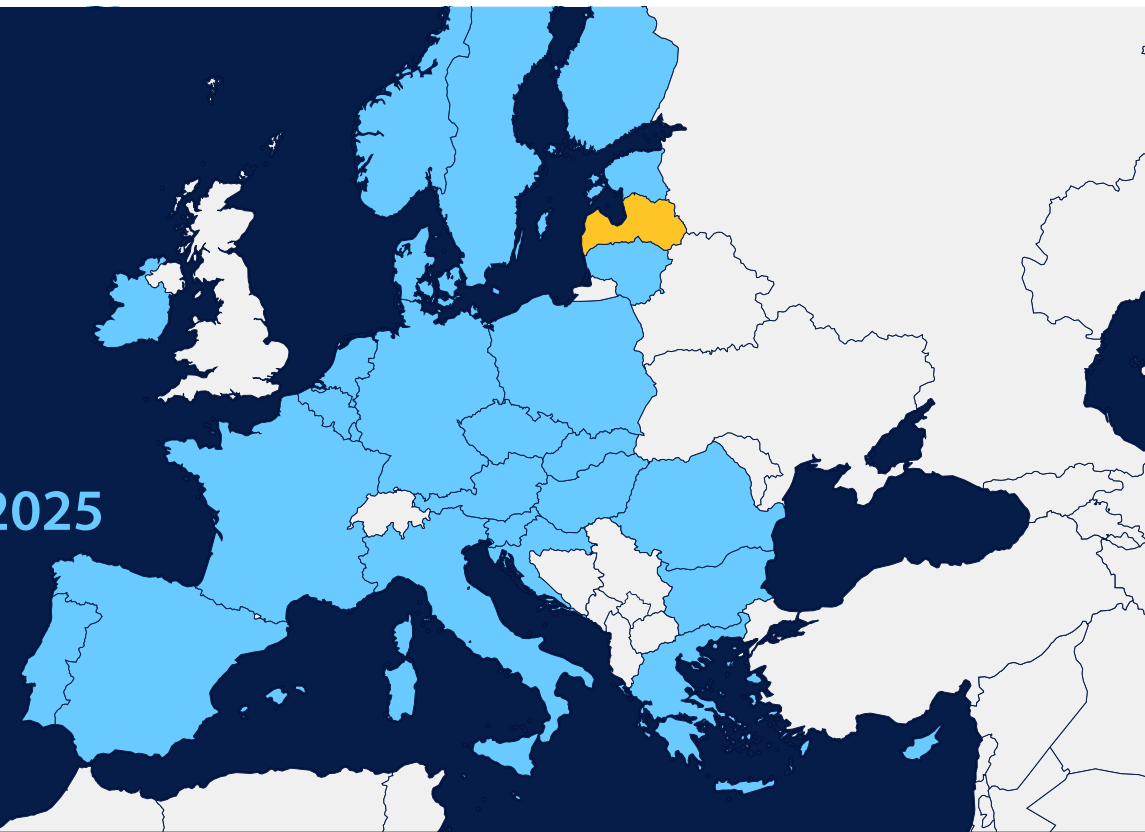




COUNTRY FACTSHEET | DECEMBER 2025

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

LATVIA 2024

KEY POINTS

- Latvia took significant steps to strengthen its border security, as the external border of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU). The construction of the border fence with Belarus was completed, enhancing control and preventing irregular crossings.
- To curb unfair employment practices, Latvia implemented a temporary ban on inviting foreign workers, targeting employers that exploit labour regulations.
- The State Border Guard joined the EU Reintegration Programme to facilitate the return of third-country nationals staying irregularly within the EU. This initiative reinforced Latvia's commitment to a structured and effective migration policy.



OVERARCHING AND CROSS- CUTTING CHANGES

On 11 December 2024, the Ministry of the Interior set up a high-level working group on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum to ensure a unified and coordinated approach, including the development and monitoring of Latvia's national implementation plan.



LEGAL MIGRATION

On 23 May 2024, amendments to the [Immigration Law](#) were adopted, giving the Cabinet of Ministers the right to adopt regulations on changing the procedure for inviting third-country workers and to set criteria for establishing the so-called green corridor. These measures will simplify administrative procedures for employers to attract employees from third countries, enhancing competitiveness.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In June 2024, the practice of providing an explanation of a decision to deny refugee or alternative status to asylum seekers who are not detained was revised. A concise explanation of the substance of the decision is now prepared separately and translated into a language that the asylum seeker understands. It is accompanied by a pre-prepared and translated explanation of the conditions for appealing the decision and receiving legal aid from the State, again in a language the asylum seeker understands.



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

On 18 December 2024, the [Plan of Measures for the Provision of Support to the Ukrainian Civilians in the Republic of Latvia for 2025](#) was approved. It set out the measures to be provided to Ukrainian civilians in 2025 in accordance with the [Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians](#) and calculated the indicative funding required to implement those measures.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

On 30 April 2024, Cabinet [Regulation No. 275](#), Amendments to the Cabinet Regulation No. 857 of 15 November 2005, Regulations Regarding Social Guarantees for an Orphan and a Child Left without Parental Care who is in Out-of-Family Care, as well as After the Termination of Out-of-Family Care, was approved. It stipulates that an orphan or child left without parental care, upon reaching the age of majority, will be provided with additional support to begin an independent life. Support includes assistance in setting up a support network, strengthening financial and budget management literacy and targeted support in education, as well as the provision of a social mentoring service, all of which significantly reduce various future risks, including youth poverty.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

On 17 December 2024, the [Plan for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society 2024-2027](#) was approved, which will implement three action lines: national identity and belonging; culture of democracy and inclusive citizenship; and integration. The latter will include measures targeting the integration of third-

country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection (BIP) into Latvian society.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

In 2024, 694 people were granted Latvian citizenship, including 12 minors who were naturalised together with their parents.



SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN BORDER MANAGEMENT AND VISA POLICIES

On 18 December 2024, the [Integrated Management Plan for the State Border of the Republic of Latvia 2024-2027](#) was approved. It aims to strengthen national border security and internal security in general, as well as to increase the return of third-country nationals who have no legal grounds to stay in Latvia or the EU Member States.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

On 23 May 2024, amendments to the [Immigration Law](#) were adopted, establishing the right of a foreigner to request legal assistance provided by the State, including in the event of an appeal against detention.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Ministry of the Interior participated in the project, Tackling Financial and Benefit Fraud in the Baltic Sea Region ([FRAUD](#)). Its goal was to raise awareness, build capacity, and foster cooperation on anti-trafficking work in the Baltic Sea region, specifically financial and benefit fraud, which have connections to trafficking in human beings.



RETURN AND READMISSION

In 2024, the State Border Guard joined the EU Reintegration Programme to facilitate the return of irregularly staying third-country nationals from the EU. It offered the possibility of reintegration support from the European Border and Coast Guard (Frontex) to encourage people to return and not abuse the asylum procedure.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments 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 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 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.

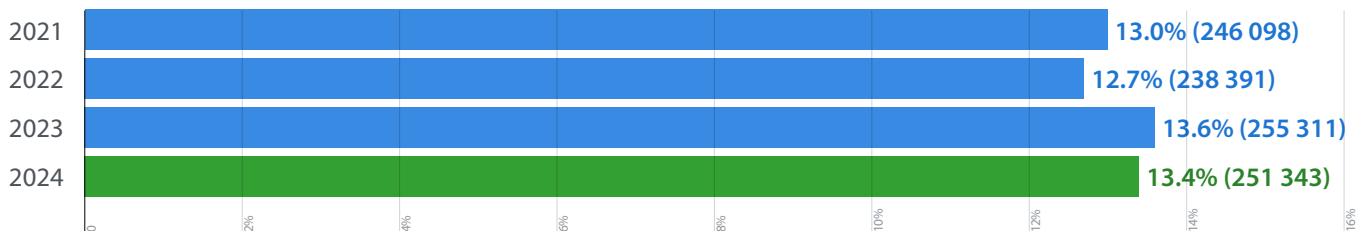
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2021–2024

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

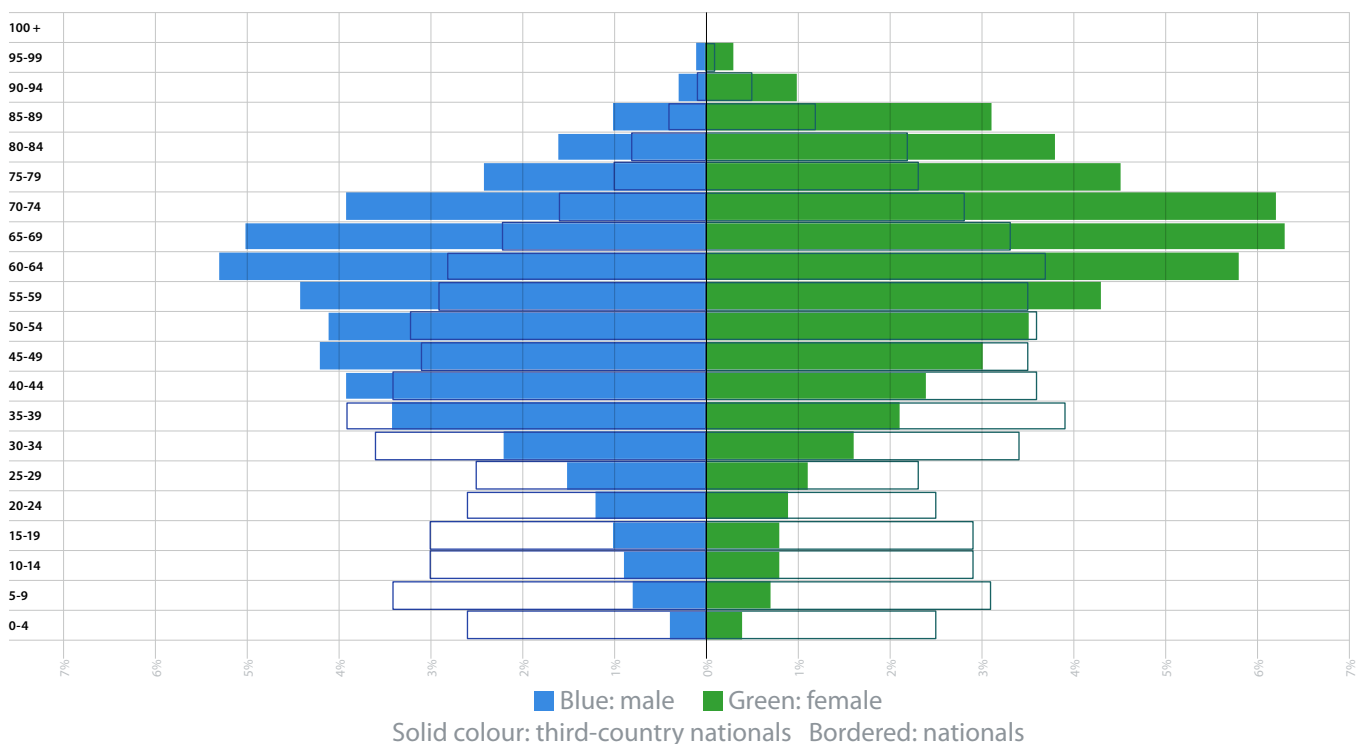


Note: including recognised non-citizens.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

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

%



Note: including recognised non-citizens. Stateless persons are not included in the calculations.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_poppcctz](#))

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

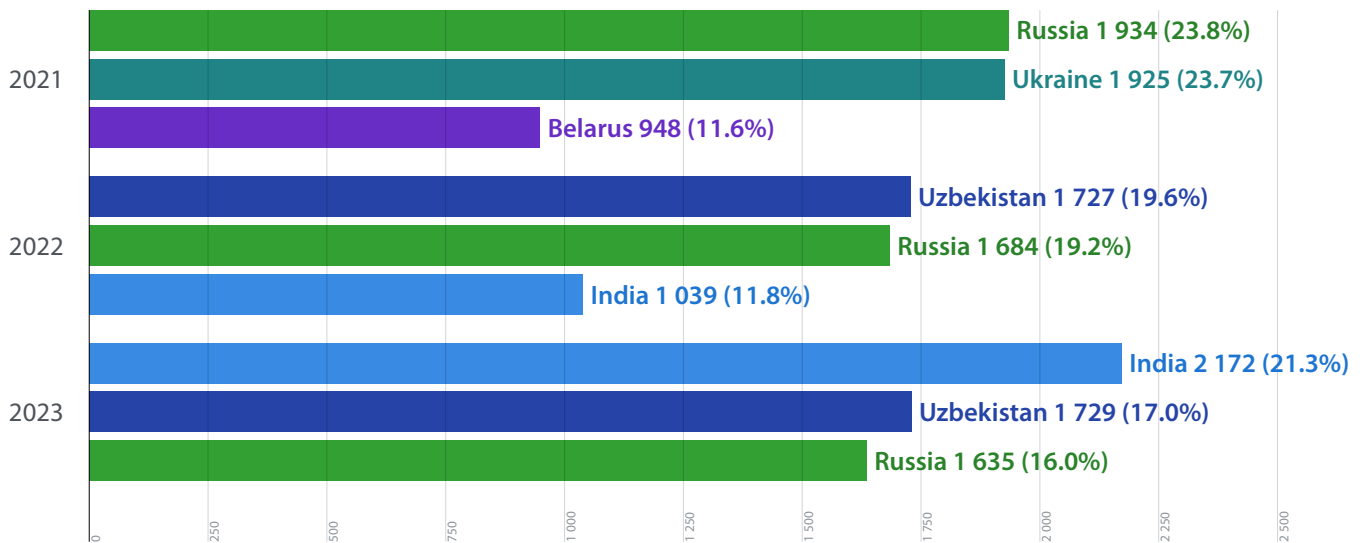
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



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

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

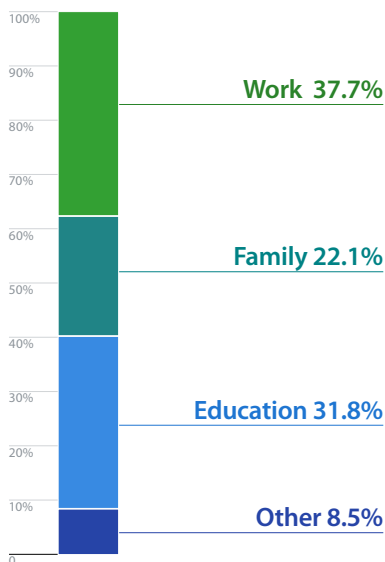
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



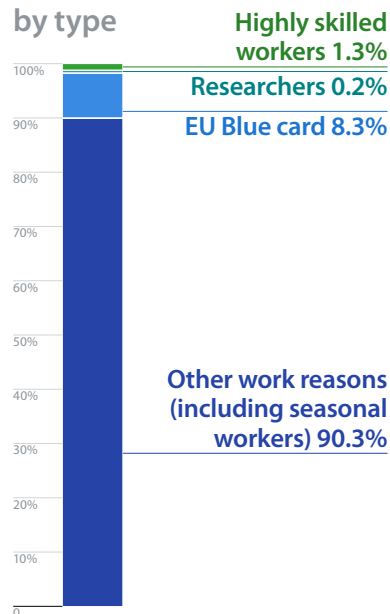
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#))

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

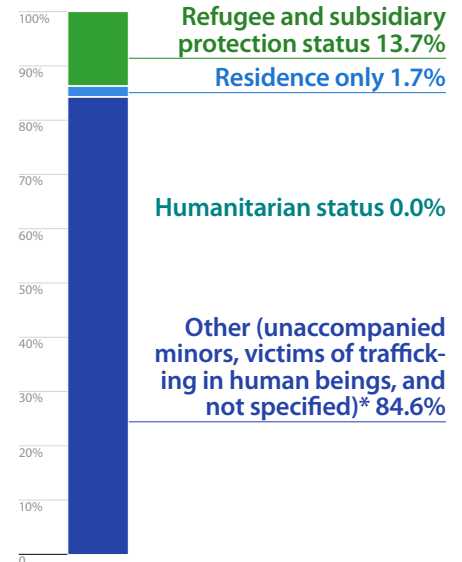
All permits, by reason



Work reason, by type



Other reason, by detailed reason



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

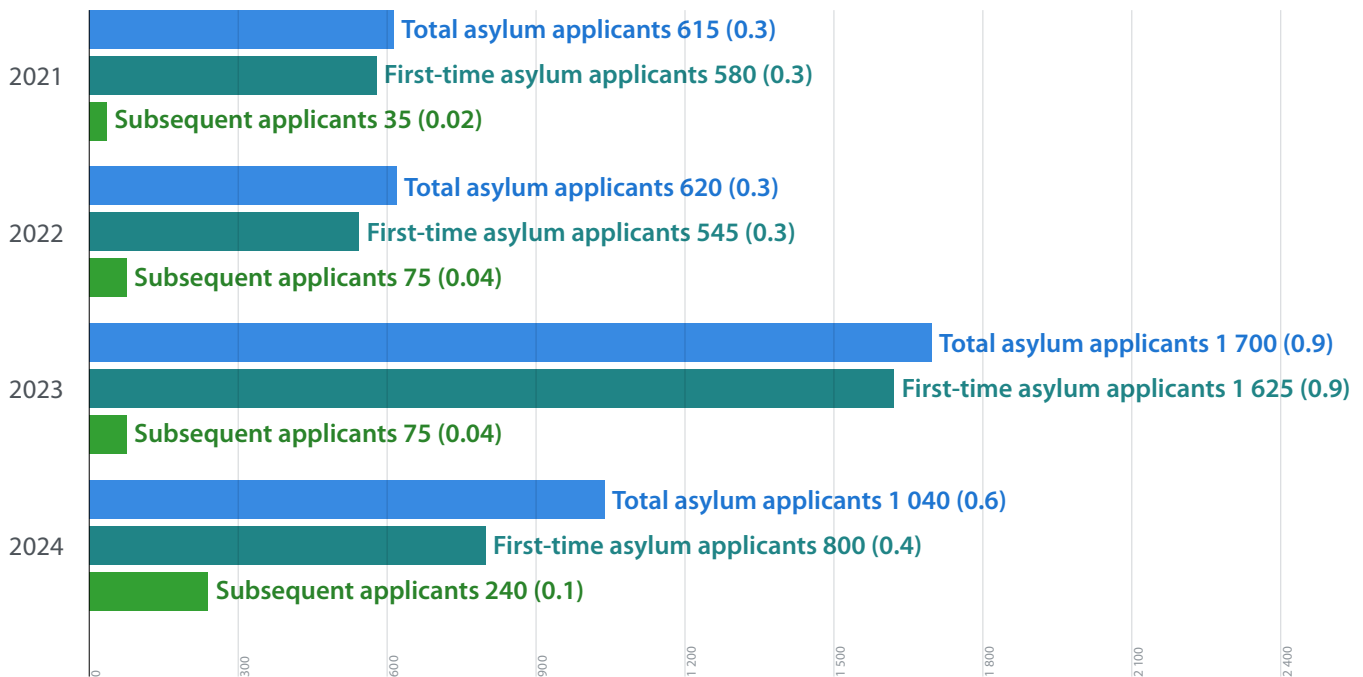
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [migr_resfpc](#), [migr_resocc](#) and [migr_resoth](#))



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2021–2024

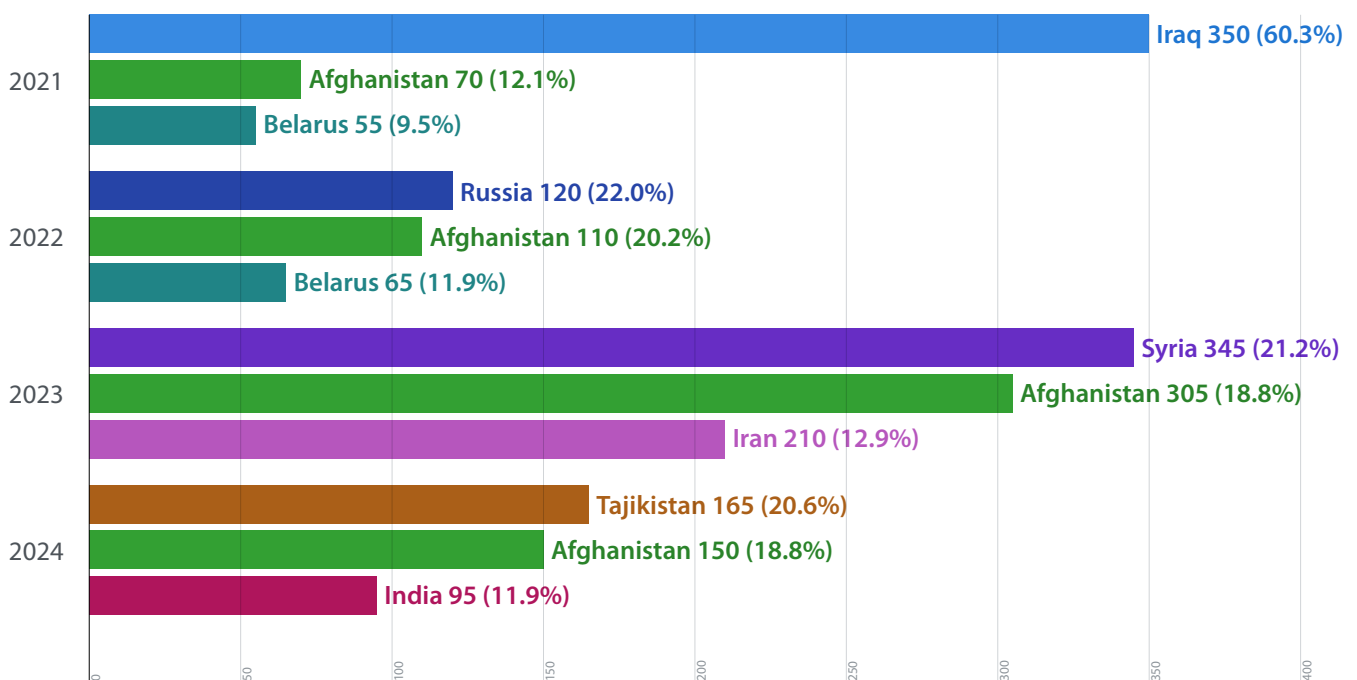
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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

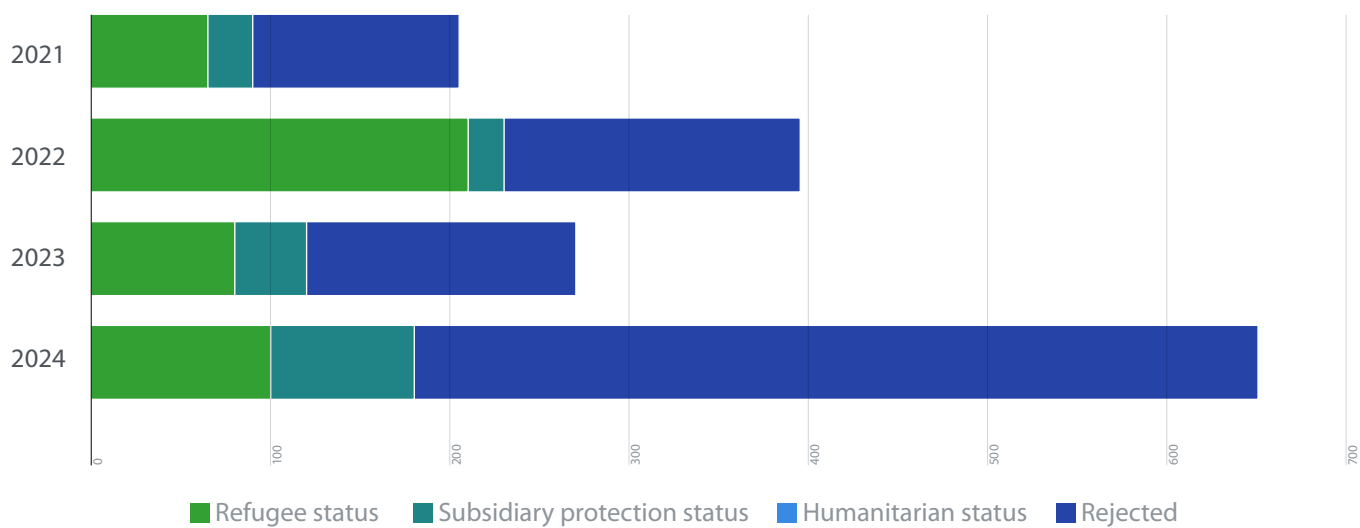
Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2021–2024

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



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#))

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2021-2024

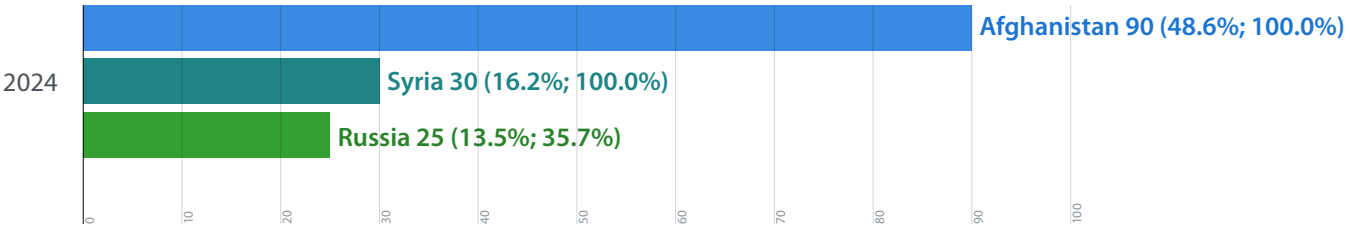


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	65 (31.3%)	25 (12.4%)	-	115 (56.2%)
2022	210 (52.8%)	20 (5.5%)	-	165 (41.7%)
2023	80 (29.9%)	40 (14.2%)	-	150 (56.0%)
2024	100 (15.5%)	80 (12.6%)	-	470 (72.0%)

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

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

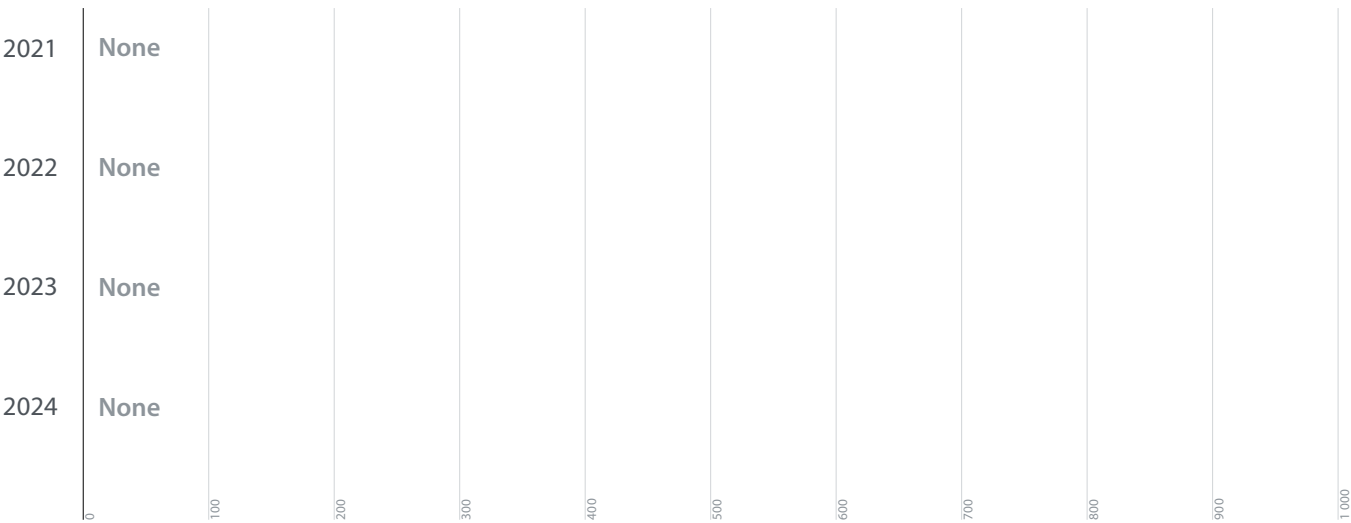
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#))

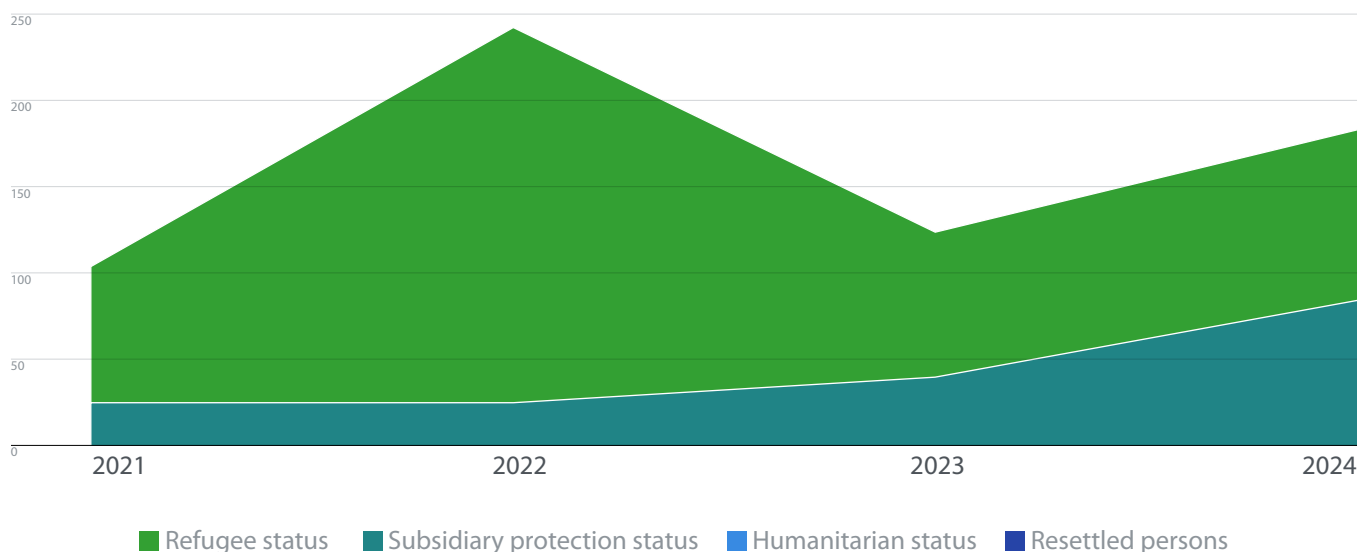
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyresa](#))

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



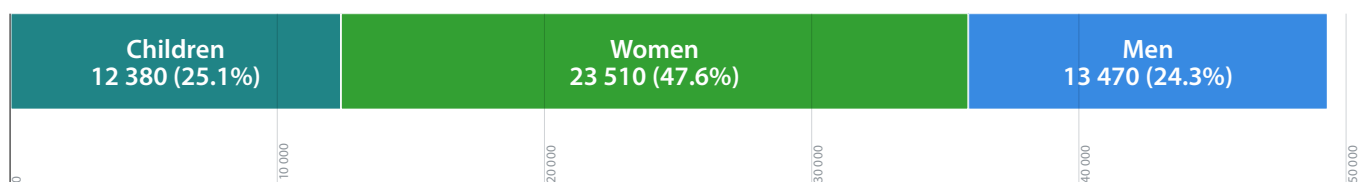
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfina](#) and [migr_asyresa](#))



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

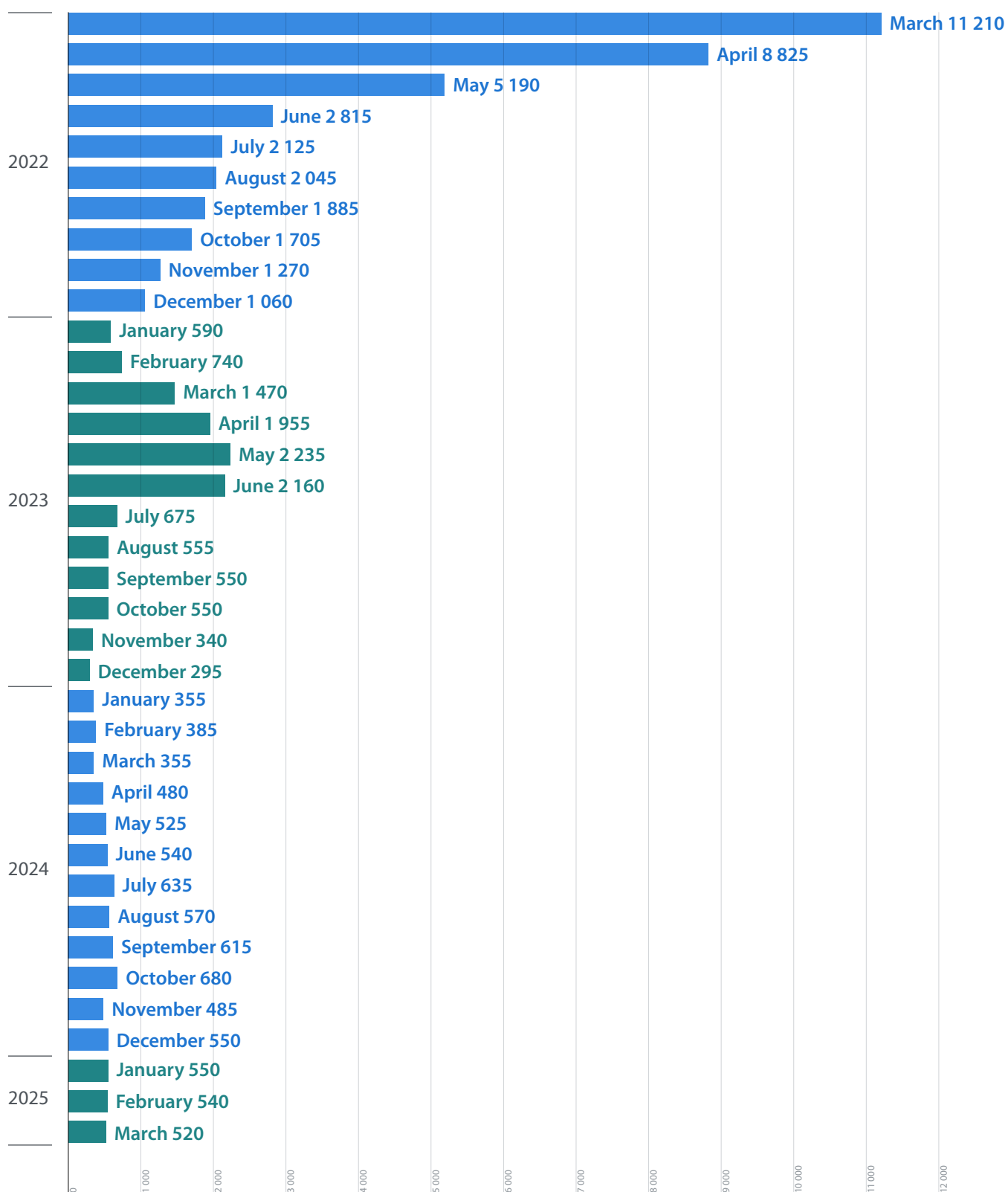
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2025

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



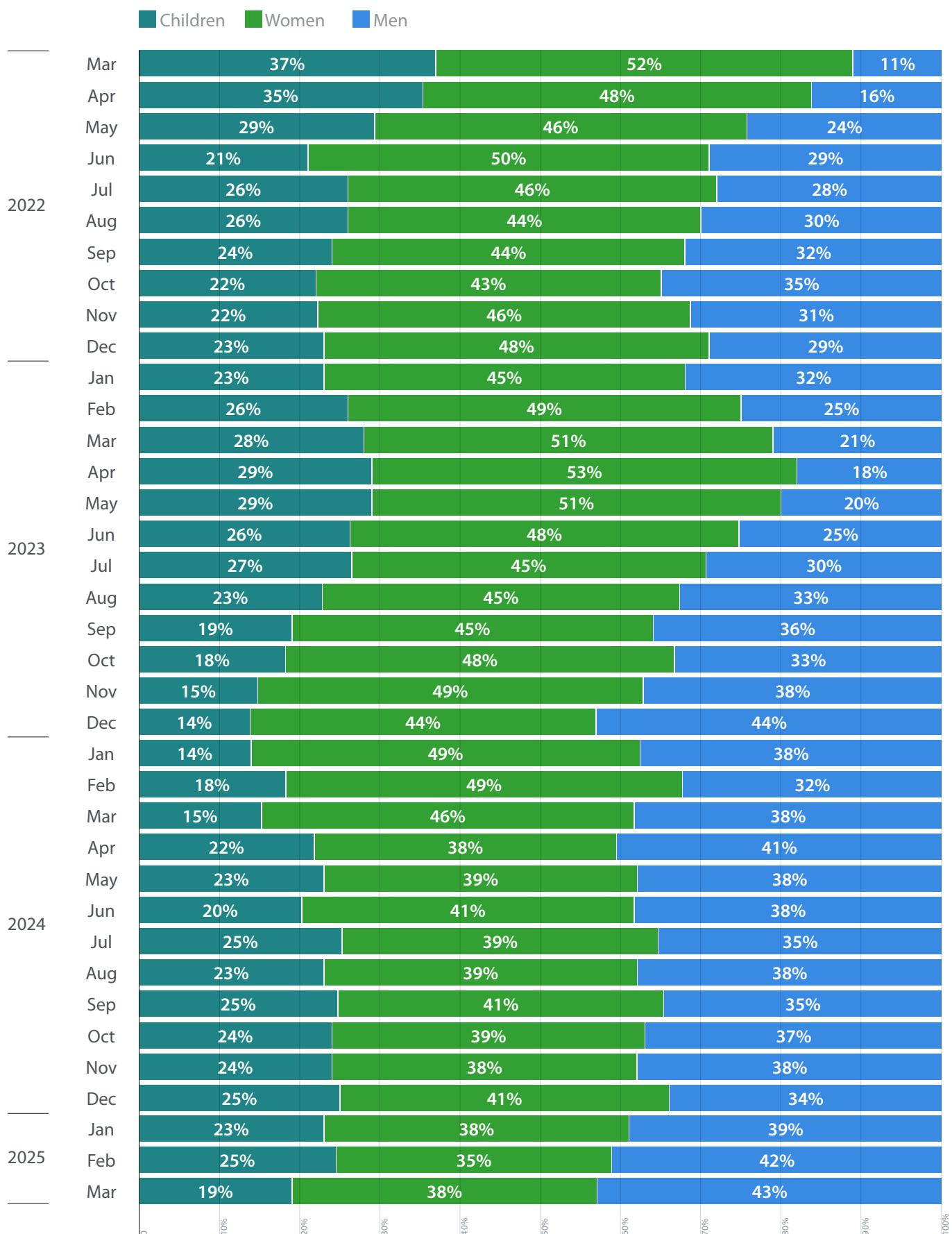
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asytpsm](#))

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

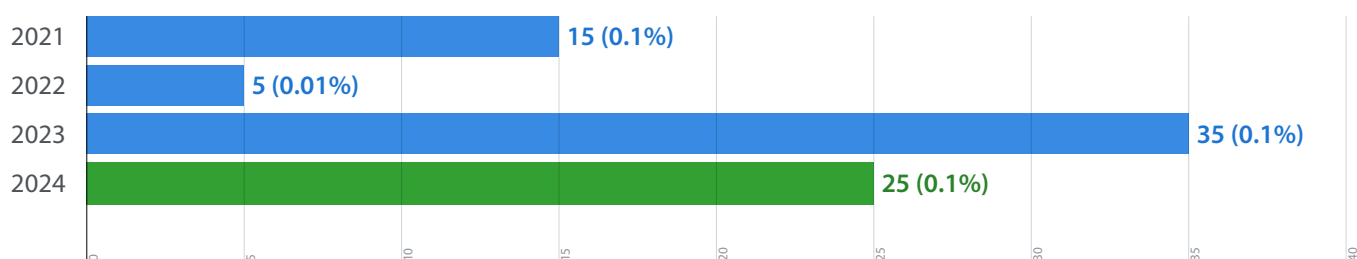




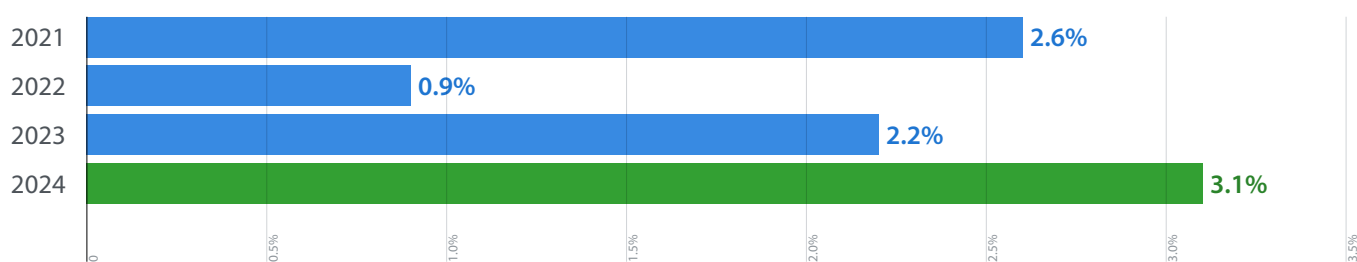
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2021–2024

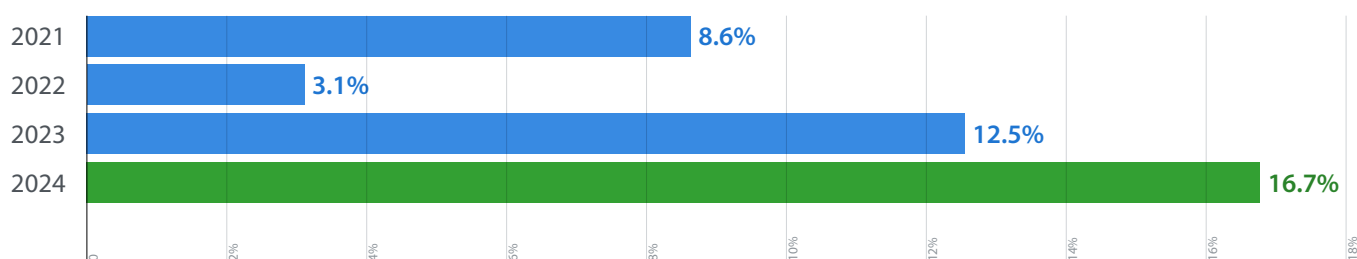
Number of first-time asylum applicants (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



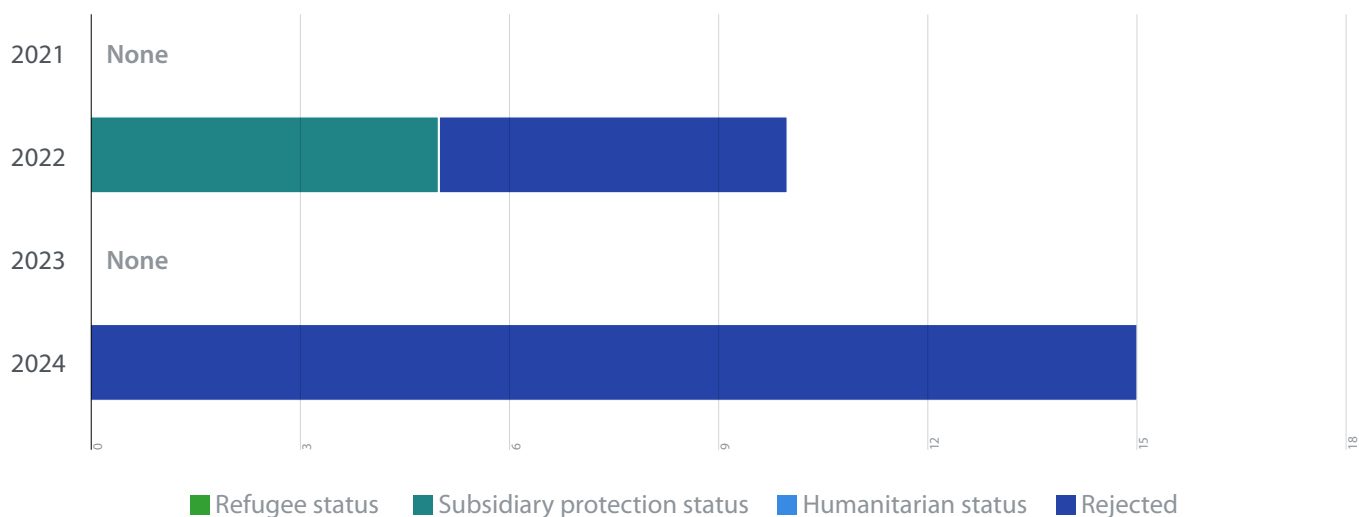
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



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%)	-	0 (0.0%)
2022	0 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)	-	5 (50.0%)
2023	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	-	0 (0.0%)
2024	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	-	15 (100.0%)

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



Note: including recognized non-citizens.

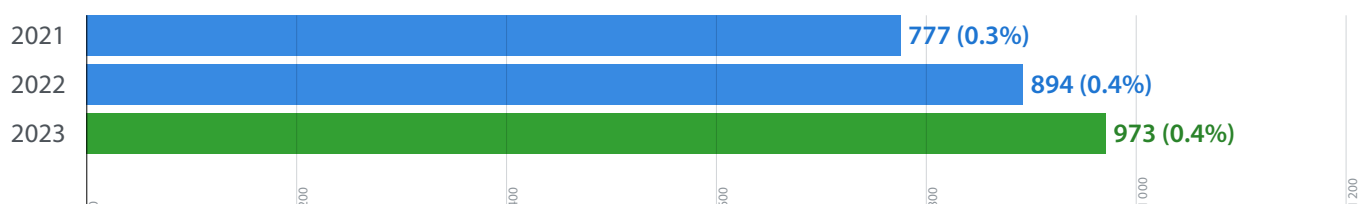
Source: Eurostat ([edat_lfs_9911](#), [trng_lfs_12](#), [edat_lfse_01](#), [lfsa_ergan](#), [lfsa_eoqgan](#), [lfsa_urgan](#), [ilc_peps05n](#), [ilc_lvhl15n](#), [ilc_mdsl15](#), [ilc_lvps15](#), [ilc_lvho15](#), [hlth_silc_24](#) and [hlth_silc_30](#))



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2021–2023

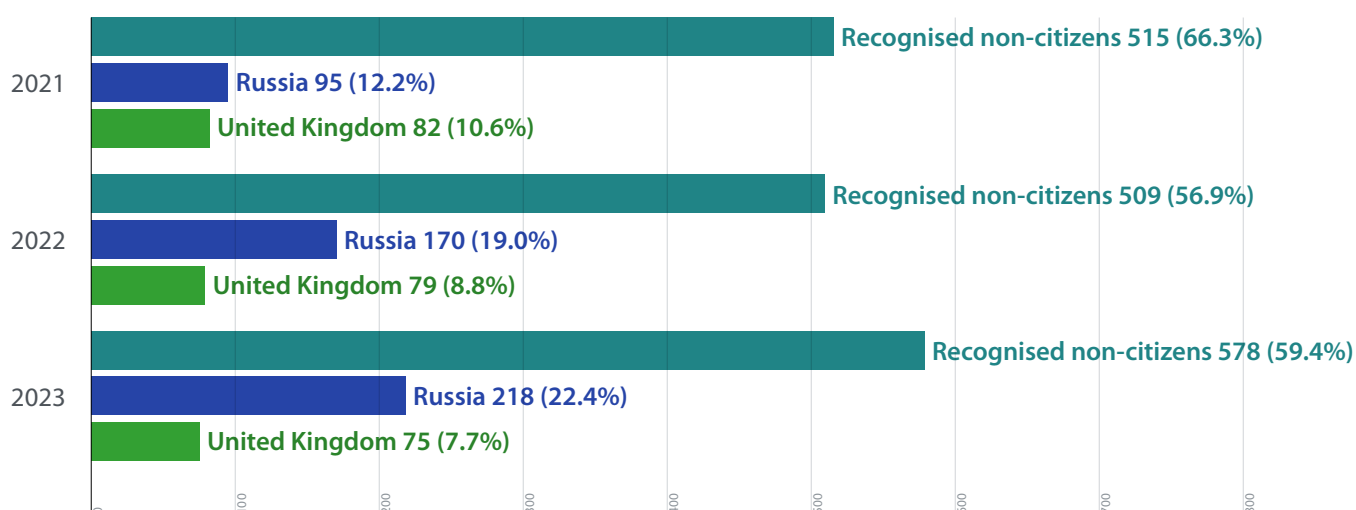
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



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

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

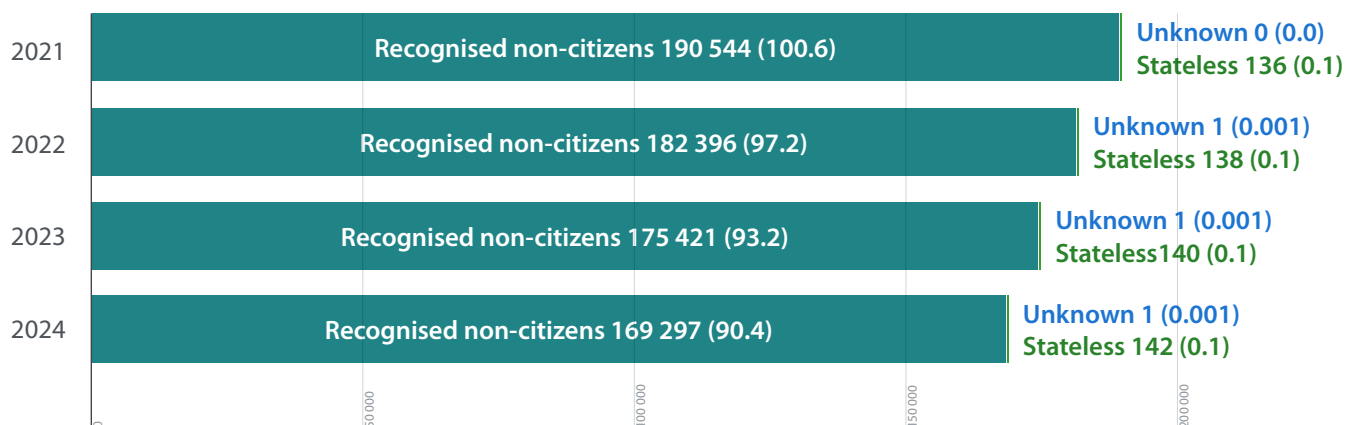
Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))

Stateless persons, persons with unknown citizenship and recognised non-citizens, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

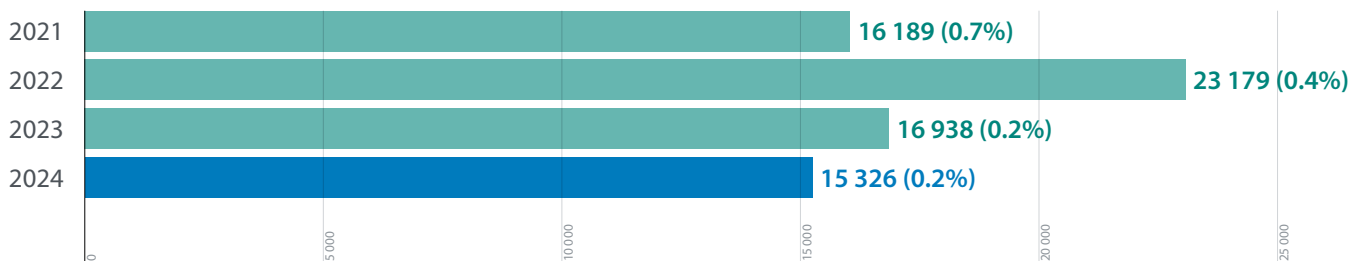


Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

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)

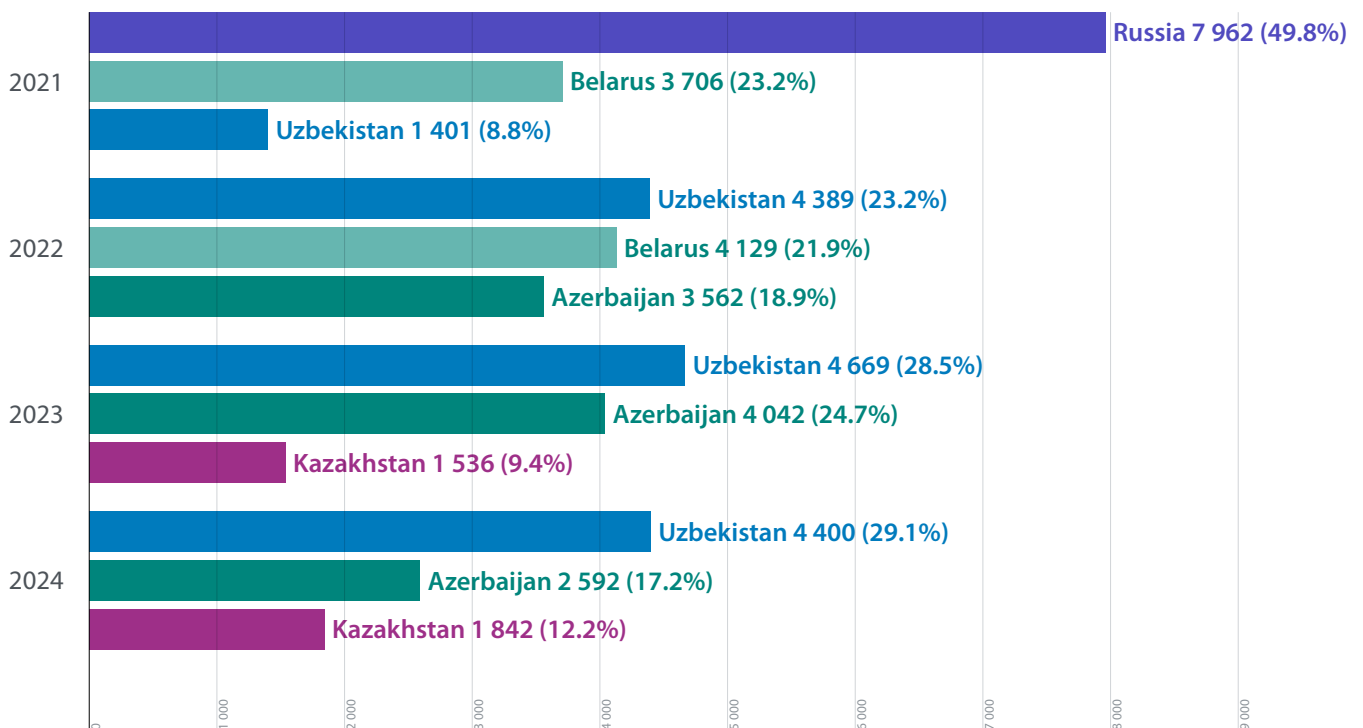


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

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

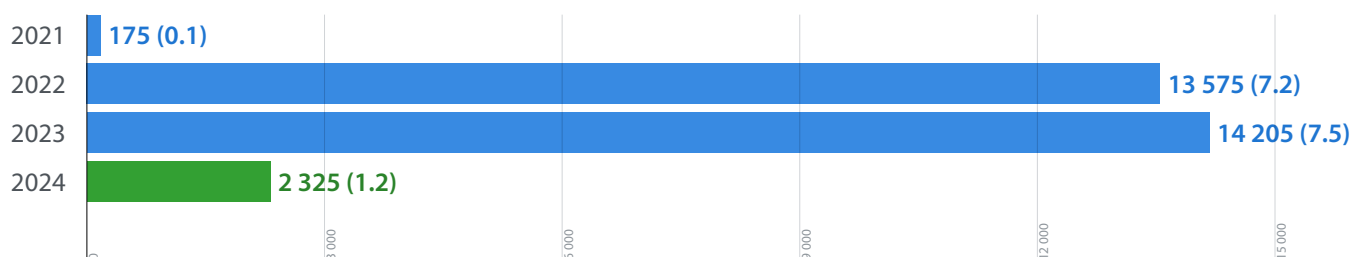
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Persons refused entry



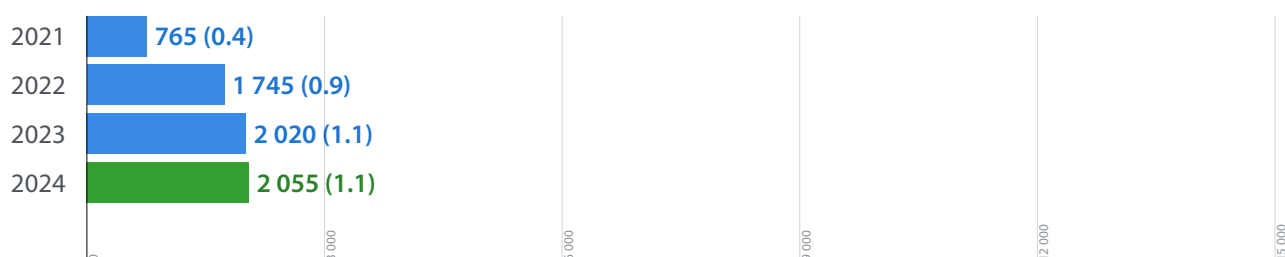
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

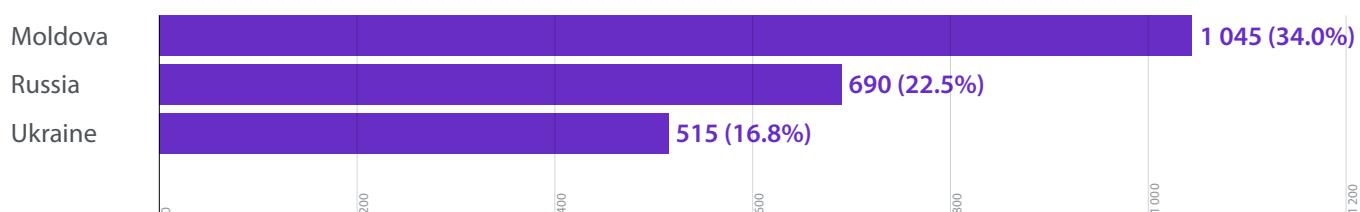


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#), [migr_eirtn](#), [migr_eilpop](#) and [demo_gind](#))

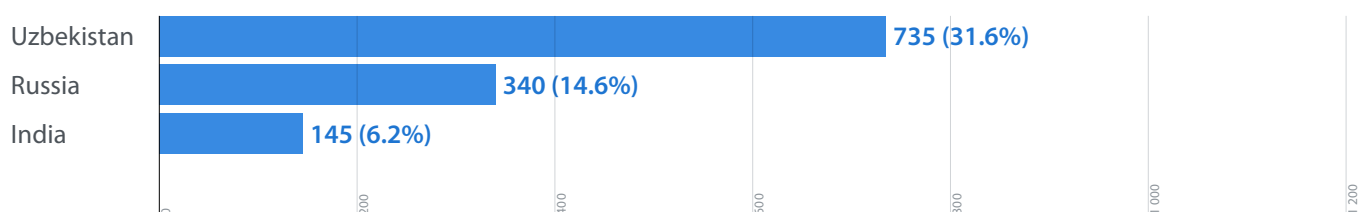
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2024

Absolute number (and the share in the respective total)

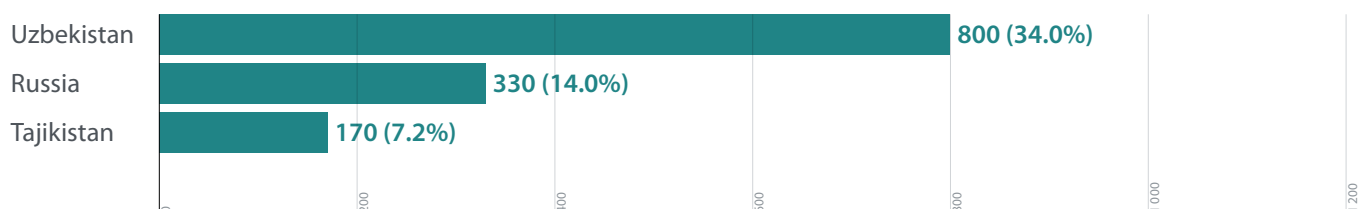
Persons refused entry



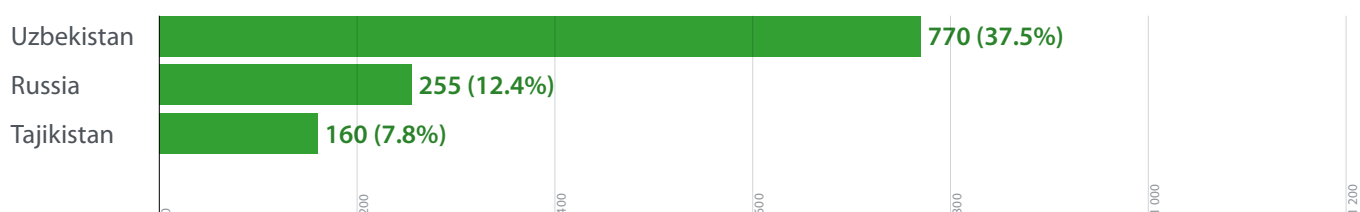
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

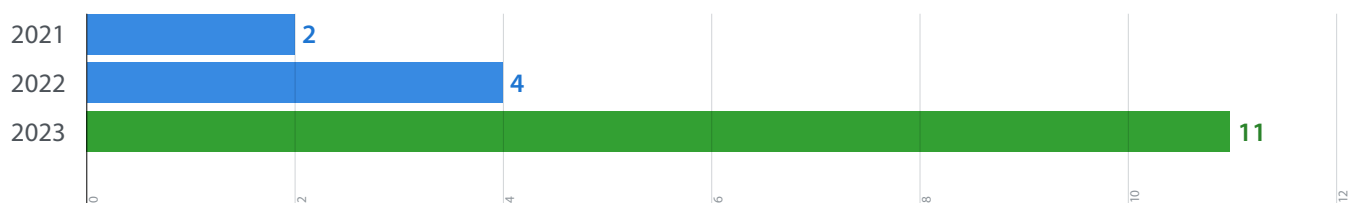


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#) and [migr_eirtn](#))



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



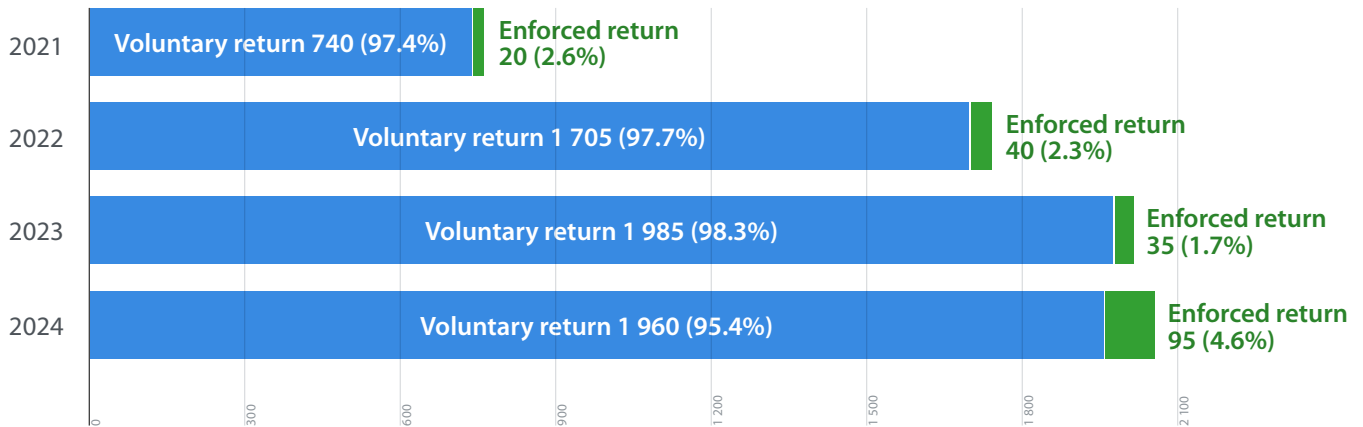
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resoth](#))



RETURN AND READMISSION

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

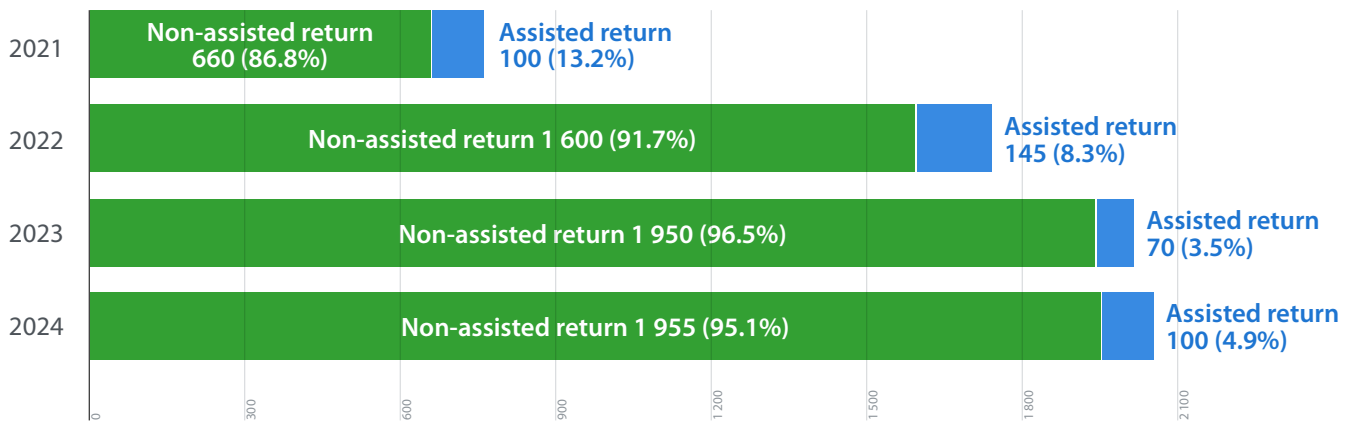
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



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](#))