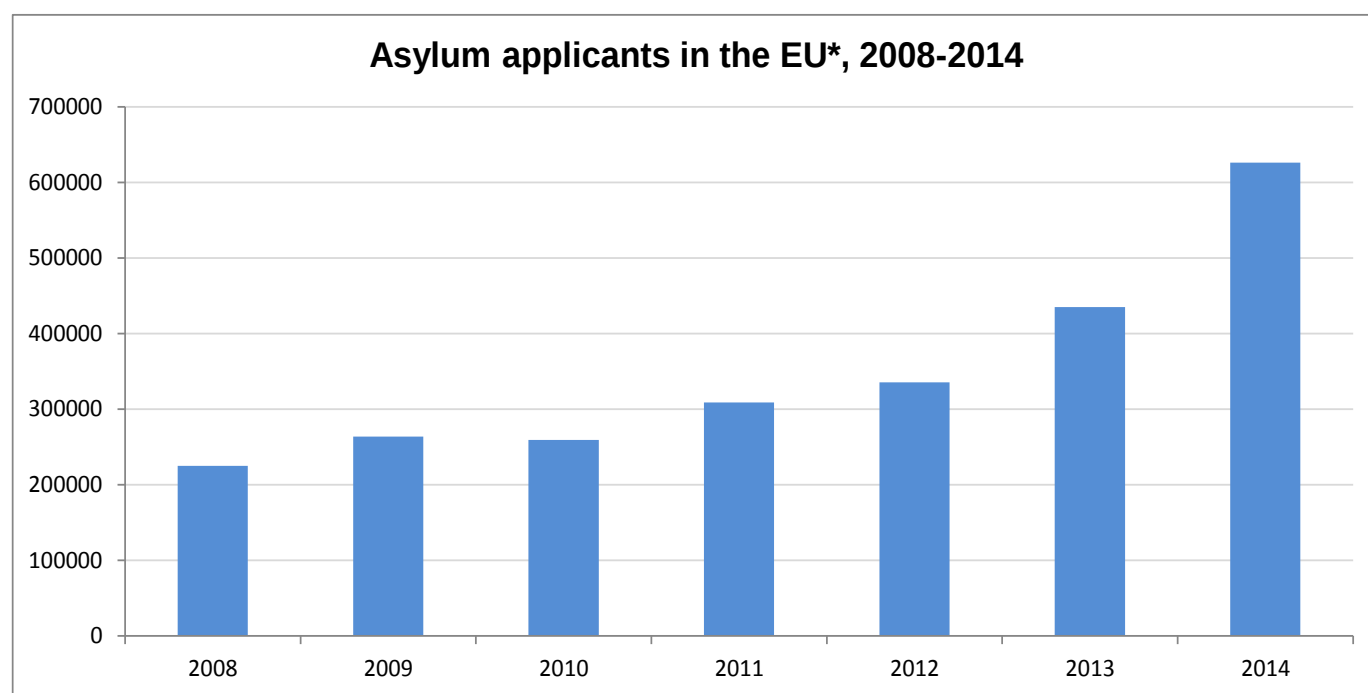


Asylum in the EU

The number of asylum applicants in the EU jumped to more than 625 000 in 2014 20% were Syrians

Over a year, the number of asylum applicants¹ registered in the **European Union** (EU) has increased by 191 000 (+44%) to reach a peak of 626 000 in 2014. In particular, the number of Syrians rose by 72 000, from 50 000 in 2013 to almost 123 000 in 2014.



* EU refers to EU27 (excluding Croatia) for the years 2008 to 2012 and to EU28 for 2013 and 2014.

These data² on asylum applicants in the **EU** are published in a [report](#)³ issued by **Eurostat**, the statistical office of the **European Union**.

1 out of 3 asylum seekers in the EU applied in Germany

In 2014, the highest number of applicants was registered by far in **Germany** (202 700 applicants, or 32% of total applicants), followed by **Sweden** (81 200, or 13%), **Italy** (64 600, or 10%), **France** (62 800, or 10%) and **Hungary** (42 800, or 7%). It should be noted that these five Member States registered different trends last year. The number of asylum applicants in 2014 more than doubled compared with 2013 in **Italy** (+143%) and **Hungary** (+126%) and increased significantly in **Germany** (+60%) and **Sweden** (+50%), while it decreased by 5% in **France**.

Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of registered applicants were recorded in **Sweden** (8.4 applicants per thousand inhabitants), well ahead of **Hungary** (4.3), **Austria** (3.3), **Malta** (3.2), **Denmark** (2.6) and **Germany** (2.5). In contrast, the lowest rates were observed in **Portugal**, **Slovakia** and **Romania**. In 2014, there were 1.2 asylum applicants per thousand inhabitants in the **EU**.

Asylum applicants in the EU Member States

	Number of applicants			Share in EU total (%)	Number of applicants per thousand inhabitants*
	2013	2014	Evolution 2014/2013 (in %)	2014	2014
EU	435 190	626 065	44%	100.0%	1.2
Belgium	21 030	22 710	8%	3.6%	2.1
Bulgaria	7 145	11 080	55%	1.8%	1.5
Czech Republic	695	1 145	65%	0.2%	0.1
Denmark	7 170	14 680	105%	2.3%	2.6
Germany	126 705	202 645	60%	32.4%	2.5
Estonia	95	155	63%	0.0%	0.1
Ireland	945	1 450	53%	0.2%	0.3
Greece	8 225	9 430	15%	1.5%	0.9
Spain	4 485	5 615	25%	0.9%	0.1
France	66 265	62 735	-5%	10.0%	1.0
Croatia	1 075	450	-58%	0.1%	0.1
Italy	26 620	64 625	143%	10.3%	1.1
Cyprus	1 255	1 745	39%	0.3%	2.0
Latvia	195	375	92%	0.1%	0.2
Lithuania	400	440	10%	0.1%	0.2
Luxembourg	1 070	1 150	7%	0.2%	2.1
Hungary	18 895	42 775	126%	6.8%	4.3
Malta	2 245	1 350	-40%	0.2%	3.2
Netherlands	17 160	26 210	53%	4.2%	1.6
Austria	17 500	28 035	60%	4.5%	3.3
Poland	15 240	8 020	-47%	1.3%	0.2
Portugal	500	440	-12%	0.1%	0.0
Romania	1495	1 545	3%	0.2%	0.1
Slovenia	270	385	43%	0.1%	0.2
Slovakia	440	330	-25%	0.1%	0.1
Finland	3 210	3 620	13%	0.6%	0.7
Sweden	54 270	81 180	50%	13.0%	8.4
United Kingdom	30 585	31 745	4%	5.1%	0.5
Iceland	125	170	36%	-	0.5
Liechtenstein	55	65	18%	-	1.8
Norway	11 930	13 205	11%	-	2.6
Switzerland	21 305	23 555	11%	-	2.9

* Inhabitants refer to the resident population at 1st January 2014.

Data are rounded to the nearest 5.

Over 70 000 Syrians applied for asylum in Germany and Sweden

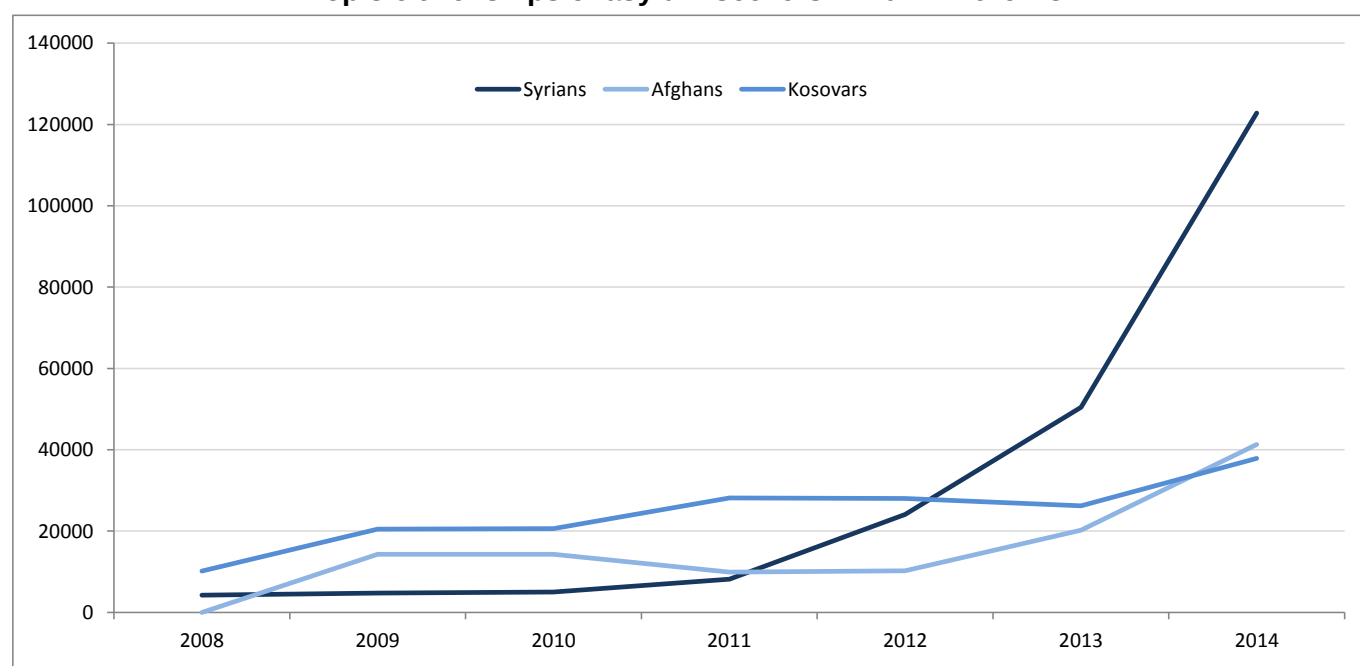
Syria (122 800 asylum applicants, or 20% of the total number of applicants) continued to be the main country of citizenship of asylum applicants. Of the 122 800 **Syrians** who applied for asylum in the **EU** in 2014, around 60% were registered in two Member States: **Germany** (41 100) and **Sweden** (30 800). **Syrians** represented also the main citizenship of asylum seekers in **Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Austria, Romania and Slovenia**.

Afghanistan (41 300 asylum applicants, or 7% of the total number of applicants) became the second country of citizenship of asylum seekers in the **EU** in 2014. Of the 41 300 **Afghans** seeking asylum protection in the **EU** in 2014, 9 700 were registered in **Germany** and 8 800 in **Hungary**.

With 37 900 applicants (or 6% of the EU total) in 2014, **Kosovo**⁴ completed the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers in the **EU**. More than half applied for asylum in **Hungary** (21 500).

In some Member States, at least half of the applicants came from a single country. This was the case in 2014 in **Cyprus** (57% of the applicants came from **Syria**), **Bulgaria** (56% from **Syria**), **Hungary** (50% from **Kosovo**⁴) and **Poland** (50% from **Russia**).

Top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers in 2014 in the EU*



* EU refers to EU27 (excluding Croatia) for the years 2008 to 2012 and to EU28 for 2013 and 2014.

Asylum applicants by citizenship, 2014

	Applicants	Three main citizenships of asylum applicants								
	#	First citizenship	#	%	Second citizenship	#	%	Third citizenship	#	%
EU	626 065	Syria	122 790	20	Afghanistan	41 305	7	Kosovo⁴	37 875	6
Belgium	22 710	Syria	2 705	12	Afghanistan	2 330	10	Russia	1 850	8
Bulgaria	11 080	Syria	6 245	56	Afghanistan	2 965	27	Iraq	610	6
Czech Republic	1 145	Ukraine	515	45	Syria	110	9	Vietnam	65	6
Denmark	14 680	Syria	7 210	49	Eritrea	2 275	16	Stateless	1 140	8
Germany	202 645	Syria	41 100	20	Serbia	27 145	13	Eritrea	13 255	7
Estonia	155	Ukraine	60	37	Sudan	20	14	Russia	20	12
Ireland	1 450	Pakistan	290	20	Nigeria	140	10	Albania	100	7
Greece	9 430	Afghanistan	1 710	18	Pakistan	1 620	17	Syria	785	8
Spain	5 615	Syria	1 510	27	Ukraine	895	16	Mali	595	11
France	62 735	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	5 210	8	Russia	4 050	6	Bangladesh	3 775	6
Croatia	450	Algeria	75	17	Syria	65	14	Pakistan	25	5
Italy	64 625	Nigeria	10 135	16	Mali	9 790	15	Gambia	8 575	13
Cyprus	1 745	Syria	995	57	Ukraine	95	5	Egypt	85	5
Latvia	375	Georgia	175	46	Ukraine	75	20	Syria	35	9
Lithuania	440	Georgia	115	27	Afghanistan	85	19	Ukraine	70	16
Luxembourg	1 150	Bosnia and Herzegovina	170	15	Montenegro	145	13	Kosovo ⁴	140	12
Hungary	42 775	Kosovo ⁴	21 455	50	Afghanistan	8 795	21	Syria	6 855	16
Malta	1 350	Libya	420	31	Syria	305	23	Somalia	130	9
Netherlands	26 210	Syria	9 485	36	Eritrea	3 985	15	Stateless	2 790	11
Austria	28 035	Syria	7 730	28	Afghanistan	5 075	18	Russia	1 995	7
Poland	8 020	Russia	4 000	50	Ukraine	2 275	28	Georgia	720	9
Portugal	440	Ukraine	155	36	Pakistan	25	6	Morocco	25	6
Romania	1 545	Syria	615	40	Afghanistan	280	18	Iraq	210	14
Slovenia	385	Syria	90	24	Afghanistan	75	20	Pakistan	25	6
Slovakia	330	Afghanistan	95	28	Syria	40	12	Vietnam	25	8
Finland	3 620	Iraq	820	23	Somalia	410	11	Ukraine	300	8
Sweden	81 180	Syria	30 750	38	Eritrea	11 530	14	Stateless	7 820	10
United Kingdom	31 745	Pakistan	3 990	13	Eritrea	3 280	10	Iran	2 500	8
Iceland	170	Albania	20	11	Ukraine	15	9	Russia	15	8
Liechtenstein	65	Serbia	10	19	Somalia	10	16	Albania	5	11
Norway	13 205	Eritrea	3 295	25	Syria	2 085	16	Somalia	1 775	13
Switzerland	23 555	Eritrea	6 920	29	Syria	3 820	16	Sri Lanka	1 275	5

Data are rounded to the nearest 5.

Approaching half of first instance decisions were positive in 2014

In 2014 in the **EU**, 45% of first instance decisions⁵ made on asylum applications were positive⁶ (360 000 first instance decisions were taken in the 27 EU Member States for which data are available, of which 163 000 granted refugee status, subsidiary protection or authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons). With 66 300 first instance decisions granting asylum protection status (or 41% of all first instance positive decisions), **Syrians** were the main recipients in the **EU** in 2014.

While the proportion of positive decisions varies considerably among Member States, it should be kept in mind that the country of origin of applicants also differs greatly between Member States and that first instance decisions made in 2014 may refer to applications registered in previous years.

First instance decisions, 2014

	Number of decisions		Three main citizenships of recipients of first instance positive decisions								
	Total	of which positive	First citizenship	#	%	Second citizenship	#	%	Third citizenship	#	%
EU*	359 795	162 770	Syria	66 260	41	Eritrea	14 170	9	Afghanistan	11 175	7
Belgium	20 335	8 045	Syria	1 675	21	Afghanistan	1 255	16	Iraq	815	10
Bulgaria	7 435	7 000	Syria	6 405	91	Stateless	425	6	Iraq	90	1
Czech Republic	1 000	375	Ukraine	150	41	Syria	75	20	Cuba	30	8
Denmark	8 055	5 480	Syria	3 985	73	Stateless	540	10	Somalia	360	7
Germany	97 275	40 560	Syria	23 860	59	Afghanistan	3 400	8	Iraq	3 390	8
Estonia	55	20	Sudan	5	35	Syria	5	20	Kosovo	5	20
Ireland	1 060	400	Afghanistan	50	12	Iraq	45	11	Sudan	30	8
Greece	13 305	1 970	Syria	590	30	Afghanistan	510	26	Eritrea	135	7
Spain	3 620	1 585	Syria	1 160	73	Somalia	90	6	Palestine	85	5
France	68 535	14 905	Syria	1 980	13	Russia	1 385	9	Sri Lanka	1 075	7
Croatia	235	25	Somalia	5	27	Nigeria	5	15	Belarus	5	12
Italy	35 180	20 580	Pakistan	2 405	12	Afghanistan	2 400	12	Nigeria	2 145	10
Cyprus	1 305	995	Syria	930	93	Iraq	25	3	Somalia	20	2
Latvia	95	25	Syria	20	83	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	185	70	Afghanistan	30	42	Ukraine	25	34	Russia	10	15
Luxembourg	885	120	Syria	40	34	Eritrea	15	12	Iraq	10	8
Hungary	5 445	510	Syria	180	36	Afghanistan	85	17	Somalia	65	13
Malta	1 735	1 260	Syria	360	28	Libya	295	23	Somalia	285	23
Netherlands	20 190	14 225	Syria	6 175	44	Eritrea	3 515	25	Stateless	1 480	10
Austria	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Poland	2 700	720	Russia	315	44	Syria	130	18	Georgia	40	5
Portugal	155	40	Iran	5	10	Pakistan	5	10	Guinea	5	10
Romania	1 585	740	Syria	460	62	Iraq	120	16	Afghanistan	60	8
Slovenia	95	45	Somalia	20	41	Syria	10	25	Iran	5	16
Slovakia	280	170	Afghanistan	50	30	Somalia	25	15	Syria	15	9
Finland	3 280	2 210	Iraq	555	25	Somalia	225	10	Ukraine	145	7
Sweden	39 905	30 650	Syria	16 295	53	Eritrea	5 240	17	Stateless	4 300	14
United Kingdom	25 870	10 050	Eritrea	2 200	22	Syria	1 425	14	Iran	1 260	13
Iceland	110	30	Iran	5	21	Syria	5	14	Afghanistan	5	10
Liechtenstein	10	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	7 640	4 905	Eritrea	1 905	39	Syria	1 250	25	Somalia	490	10
Switzerland	21 800	15 410	Syria	3 650	24	Eritrea	3 640	24	Afghanistan	1 880	12

* EU aggregates are based on available data.

: Data not available.

- Data for citizenships with 2 or fewer positive first instance decisions during 2014 are not shown.

Data are rounded to the nearest 5.

1. **Asylum applicant** means a person having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such application as a family member during the reference period. For reasons of simplicity, the term "applicant" has been used in this Release, because the data counts individuals rather than applications, which include in some cases several persons. 'Application for international protection' means an application for international protection as defined in Art. 2(g) of Council Directive 2004/83/EC, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.

Within the same month every person being a subject of asylum application is counted only once, therefore repeat applications are not recorded if the first application has been lodged in the same month. However, such a **repeat application** will be recorded if lodged in a different reference month. It means that the annual figures, which are based on an aggregation of monthly data, may overestimate the number of persons applying for international protection.

In 2014, it is estimated that around 89% of asylum applicants were first time applicants and around 11% were repeat applicants. This proportion has been estimated on the basis of the share of repeat applicants available in the 28 EU Member States, except Austria. These Member States covered 96% of all asylum applicants registered in the EU in 2014.

2. The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States. Apart from statistics on first time asylum applicants, these data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.
3. Eurostat, Statistics Explained article "**Asylum statistics**" available on Eurostat's website: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics. See also the publication "**Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: 2014**": <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-data-in-focus/-/KS-QA-15-003>
4. Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.
5. **First instance decision** means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure. The number of asylum applicants and the number of first instance decisions during the same reference period differs. This is due to the time lag between the date of the asylum application and the date of the decision on the asylum application. The duration of this time lag may vary considerably depending on the national asylum procedure and the administrative workload. An asylum application lodged in one reference period may therefore result in a decision in a later period, while some asylum decisions reported for that period may relate to applications lodged in previous reference periods.
Rejected applicant means a person covered by first instance decision rejecting application for international protection, such as, inter alia, decisions considering applications as inadmissible or as unfounded and decisions under priority and accelerated procedures, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Rejected applicants have the possibility to appeal against refusal. The outcomes of the appeals may overturn the results of the first instance decisions and may vary greatly between countries.
Person granted refugee status at first instance means a person covered by first instance decision granting refugee status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Refugee status means status as defined in Art.2(e) of Directive 2011/95/EC within the meaning of Art.1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967. According to the Art.2(d) of that Directive refugee means a third country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.
Person granted subsidiary protection status at first instance means a person covered by first instance decision granting subsidiary protection status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Subsidiary protection status means status as defined in Art.2(g) of Directive 2011/95/EC. According to the Art.2(f) of that Directive person eligible for subsidiary protection means a third country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his or her country of citizenship, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.
Person granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons at first instance means a person covered by other first instance decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. It includes persons who are not eligible for international protection as currently defined in the first stage legal instruments, but are nonetheless protected against removal under the obligations that are imposed on all Member States by international refugee or human rights instruments or on the basis of principles flowing from such instruments. Examples of such categories include persons who are not removable on ill health grounds and unaccompanied minors. The national humanitarian status is not applicable in the following EU Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland, France, Croatia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal and Slovenia.
6. Since reference year 2014, asylum applicants rejected on the basis that another EU Member State accepted responsibility to examine their asylum application under 'Dublin' Regulation No 604/2013 are not included in data on negative decisions. This has lowered the number of rejections. Consequently, the proportion of positive decisions in the total number of first instance decisions is estimated to have increased by around 5 percentage points.

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