

87/2016 - 2 May 2016

Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors

Almost 90 000 unaccompanied minors among asylum seekers registered in the EU in 2015

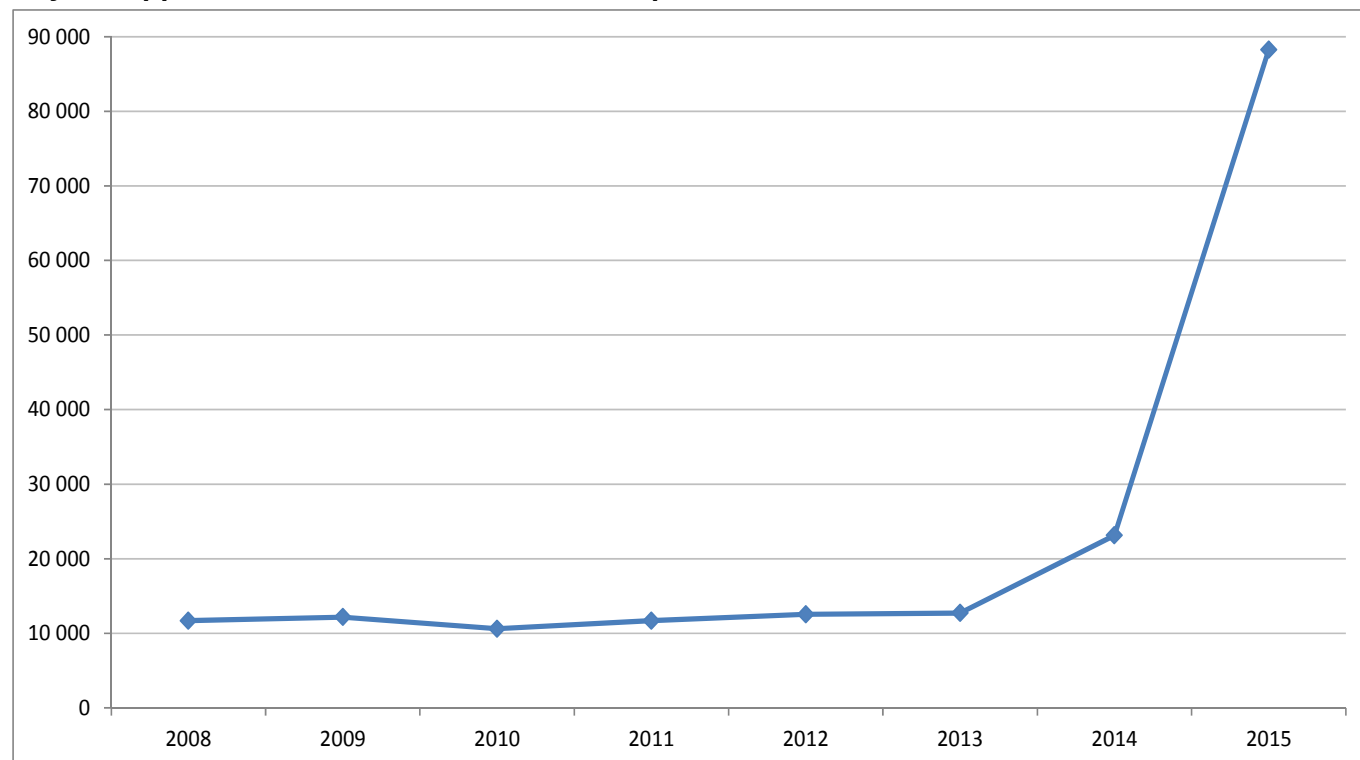
Slightly more than half are Afghans

In 2015, 88 300 asylum seekers applying for international protection in the Member States of the **European Union** (EU) were considered to be unaccompanied minors. While their number always stood between 11 000 and 13 000 in the **EU** over the period 2008-2013, it almost doubled in 2014 to reach slightly more than 23 000 persons, then nearly quadrupled in 2015.

In 2015, a substantial majority of unaccompanied minors were males (91%) and over half were aged 16 to 17 (57%, or 50 500 persons), while those aged 14 to 15 accounted for 29% (25 800 persons) and those aged less than 14 for 13% (11 800 persons). Around half (51%) of asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors in the **EU** in 2015 were Afghans.

This information is issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States*, 2008-2015



* excluding Croatia for the period 2008-2011

Four in 10 applied for asylum in Sweden

In 2015, the highest number of asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors was registered in **Sweden** (with almost 35 300 unaccompanied minors, or 40% of all those registered in the EU Member States), followed by **Germany** (14 400, or 16%), **Hungary** (8 800, or 10%) and **Austria** (8 300, or 9%). Together these four Member States accounted for three-quarters of all asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors registered in the EU in 2015.

Largest share of unaccompanied minors among young asylum seekers in Italy

The largest shares of unaccompanied minors among all young asylum applicants in 2015 were recorded notably in **Italy** (where 56.6% of all asylum applicants aged less than 18 were unaccompanied in 2015) and **Sweden** (50.1%), followed by the **United Kingdom** (38.5%), the **Netherlands** (36.5%), **Denmark** (33.7%), **Finland** (33.2%) and **Bulgaria** (33.1%). In total in the **EU**, unaccompanied minors accounted for almost a quarter (23.0%) of all asylum applicants aged less than 18 in 2015.

Asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States, 2015

	Total number 2015	of which:		Share in all minor applicants (%)
		Males	Aged below 14	
EU	88 265	91%	13%	23.0
Belgium	2 650	92%	15%	19.5
Bulgaria	1 815	94%	14%	33.1
Czech Republic	15	71%	29%	5.2
Denmark	2 125	90%	14%	33.7
Germany	14 440	89%	9%	9.7
Estonia	0	-	-	0.0
Ireland	35	88%	3%	8.5
Greece	420	87%	10%	16.8
Spain	25	85%	4%	0.7
France	320	70%	7%	2.4
Croatia	5	100%	40%	26.3
Italy	4 070	97%	1%	56.6
Cyprus	105	62%	7%	19.8
Latvia	10	92%	0%	14.1
Lithuania	5	100%	0%	4.3
Luxembourg	105	95%	5%	13.2
Hungary	8 805	86%	33%	19.2
Malta	35	94%	3%	8.3
Netherlands	3 855	82%	12%	36.5
Austria	8 275	95%	9%	25.7
Poland	150	55%	72%	2.7
Portugal	75	62%	4%	50.0
Romania	55	93%	13%	18.9
Slovenia	40	100%	14%	50.6
Slovakia	5	33%	0%	2.9
Finland	2 535	95%	5%	33.2
Sweden	35 250	92%	14%	50.1
United Kingdom	3 045	91%	8%	38.5
Iceland	5	100%	0%	9.0
Liechtenstein	5	100%	17%	14.6
Norway	5 050	93%	10%	48.7
Switzerland	2 670	87%	7%	23.4

Number of unaccompanied minors is rounded to the nearest 5.

Calculations are based on exact data, excluding the category "unknown" for both sex and age.

- Not applicable

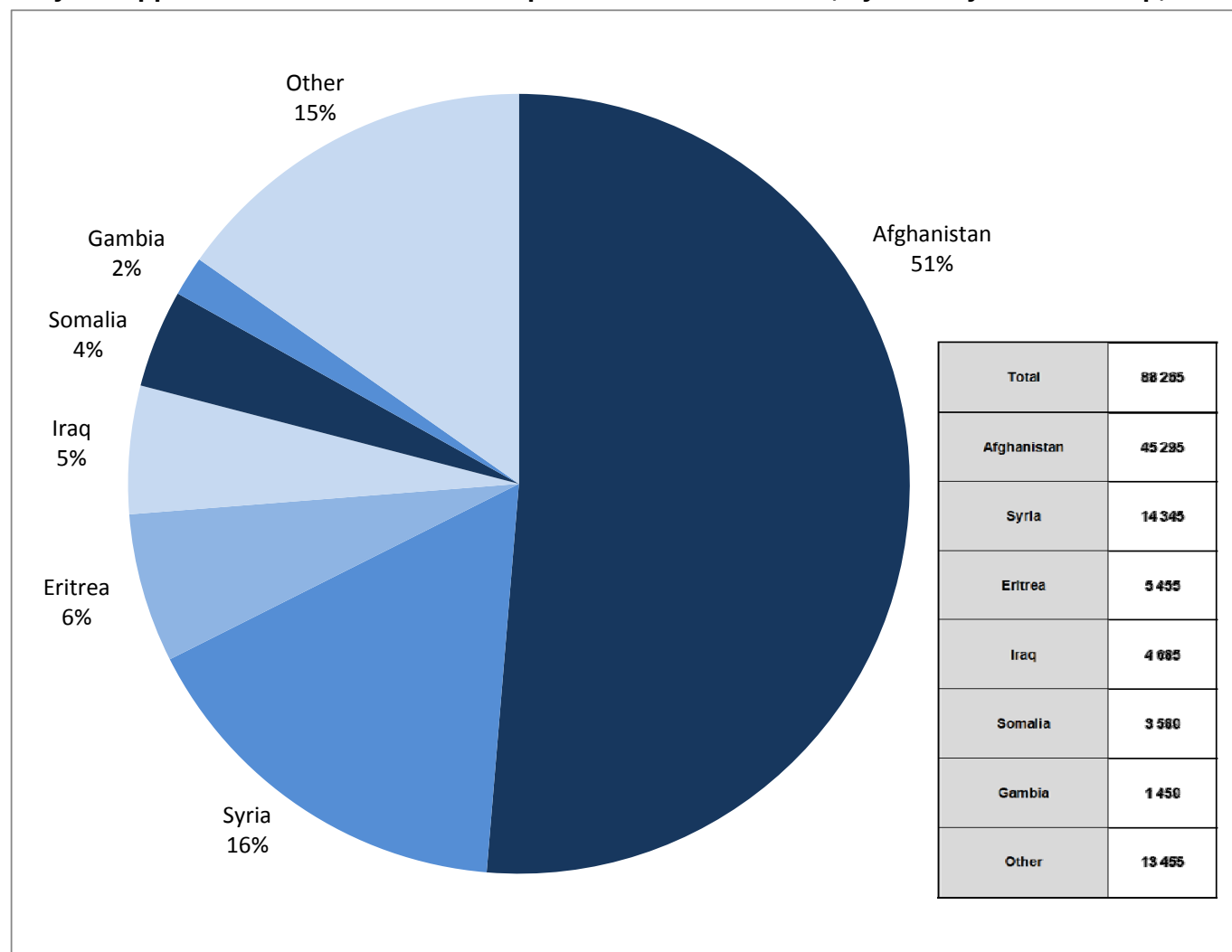
The source dataset can be found [here](#) by sex and [here](#) by age group.

1 out of 2 unaccompanied minors originates from Afghanistan

Most of the asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States were **Afghans** (51% of the total number of unaccompanied minors registered in 2015). Of the 45 300 **Afghans** considered unaccompanied minors in the EU in 2015, more than half were registered in **Sweden** (23 400). **Afghans** represented the most numerous citizenship of asylum seekers considered unaccompanied minors in fifteen EU Member States.

Syria (16% of the total number of unaccompanied minors) was the second main country of citizenship of asylum seekers considered unaccompanied minors in the EU Member States in 2015. Of the 14 300 **Syrians** seeking protection in the EU Member States and considered unaccompanied minors in 2015, 7 in 10 applied in one of the following three Member States: **Germany** (4 000), **Sweden** (3 800) and **Hungary** (2 200).

Asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors in the EU, by country of citizenship, 2015



The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors, by country of citizenship, 2015

	Applicants	Three main citizenships of asylum applicants considered unaccompanied minors								
	#	First citizenship	#	%	Second citizenship	#	%	Third citizenship	#	%
EU	88 265	Afghanistan	45 295	51	Syria	14 345	16	Eritrea	5 455	6
Belgium	2 650	Afghanistan	1 615	61	Syria	460	17	Iraq	180	7
Bulgaria	1 815	Afghanistan	940	52	Iraq	530	29	Syria	285	16
Czech Republic	15	Afghanistan	5	36	Ukraine	5	21	Syria	5	21
Denmark	2 125	Afghanistan	835	39	Syria	585	27	Eritrea	165	8
Germany	14 440	Afghanistan	4 745	33	Syria	3 985	28	Eritrea	1 350	9
Estonia	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	35	Afghanistan	10	33	Albania	10	24	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	5	12
Greece	420	Afghanistan	140	34	Pakistan	80	20	Syria	80	19
Spain	25	Syria	15	54	Afghanistan	5	19	^	^	^
France	320	Afghanistan	45	15	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	40	12	Syria	35	11
Croatia	5	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
Italy	4 070	Gambia	1 200	29	Nigeria	580	14	Senegal	450	11
Cyprus	105	Somalia	45	45	Syria	25	24	Palestine	20	19
Latvia	10	Vietnam	10	75	^	^	^	^	^	^
Lithuania	5	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
Luxembourg	105	Afghanistan	45	44	Albania	15	14	Syria	5	7
Hungary	8 805	Afghanistan	4 875	55	Syria	2 240	25	Kosovo*	745	8
Malta	35	Syria	15	52	Mali	5	21	^	^	^
Netherlands	3 855	Syria	1 455	38	Eritrea	1 240	32	Afghanistan	535	14
Austria	8 275	Afghanistan	5 610	68	Syria	1 135	14	Iraq	365	4
Poland	150	Russia	105	69	Vietnam	15	9	Tajikistan	5	5
Portugal	75	Mali	25	33	Iraq	10	15	Guinea	10	12
Romania	55	Afghanistan	20	32	Syria	20	32	Bangladesh	5	11
Slovenia	40	Afghanistan	25	55	Kosovo*	10	21	Syria	5	17
Slovakia	5	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
Finland	2 535	Afghanistan	1 735	68	Iraq	445	18	Somalia	180	7
Sweden	35 250	Afghanistan	23 395	66	Syria	3 765	11	Somalia	2 065	6
United Kingdom	3 045	Eritrea	695	23	Afghanistan	655	22	Albania	455	15
Iceland	5	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^	^
Liechtenstein	5	Afghanistan	5	50	^	^	^	^	^	^
Norway	5 050	Afghanistan	3 300	65	Eritrea	680	13	Syria	530	11
Switzerland	2 670	Eritrea	1 160	44	Afghanistan	900	34	Syria	220	8

Number of unaccompanied minors is rounded to the nearest 5.

Calculations are based on exact data.

- Not applicable

^ No data presented for those countries of citizenship where the number of unaccompanied minors was 2 or less during the reference period.

* Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Data on asylum are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the 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.

An **asylum applicant considered to be unaccompanied minor** is a minor (aged less than 18) who arrives on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for him or her whether by law or by the practice of the Member State concerned, and for as long as he or she is not effectively taken into the care of such a person. It includes a minor who is left unaccompanied after he or she has entered the territory of the Member States. 'Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors' refer all applicants for international protection who are considered by the national authority to be unaccompanied minors during the reference period. The age of unaccompanied minors reported by Member States shall refer to the age accepted by the national asylum authority. In case the national authority carries out an age assessment procedure in relation to the applicant claiming to be an unaccompanied minor, the age reported shall be the age determined by the age assessment procedure.

'**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 the border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.

For more information

Eurostat [database](#) on asylum and managed migration

Eurostat [metadata](#) on asylum applications statistics

Eurostat [news release 44/2016](#) of 4 March 2016 on asylum applicants in 2015.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on asylum quarterly data.

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on asylum annual data.

Eurostat [interactive infographic](#) on asylum applicants in 2015.

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