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Asylum in the EU27

The number of asylum applicants registered in the EU27 rose to more than 330 000 in 2012

In 2012, there were 332 000 asylum applicants¹ registered in the **EU27**. It is estimated that around 90% of these were new applicants and around 10% were repeat applicants². In 2011, there were 302 000 asylum applicants.

While **Afghanistan** (8% of the total number of applicants) remained in 2012 the first main country of citizenship³ of these applicants, **Syria** (7%) became the second just ahead of **Russia** (7%), **Pakistan** (6%) and **Serbia** (6%).

These data⁴ on asylum applicants in the **EU27** are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Germany, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Belgium register 70% of all applicants

In 2012, the highest number of applicants was registered in **Germany** (77 500 applicants, or 23% of total applicants), followed by **France** (60 600, or 18%), **Sweden** (43 900, or 13%), the **United Kingdom** (28 200, or 8%) and **Belgium** (28 100, or 8%). These five Member States accounted for more than 70% of all applicants registered in the **EU27** in 2012.

Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of applicants registered were recorded in **Malta** (5 000 applicants per million inhabitants), **Sweden** (4 600), **Luxembourg** (3 900), **Belgium** (2 500) and **Austria** (2 100), and the lowest in **Portugal** (30), **Estonia** and **Spain** (both 55) and the **Czech Republic** (70).

In some Member States, a large proportion of the applicants came from a single country. The Member States with the highest concentrations were **Malta** (60% of the applicants came from **Somalia**), **Poland** (57% from **Russia**), **Latvia** (51% from **Georgia**), **Lithuania** (48% from **Georgia**), **Estonia** (45% from **Georgia**) and **Hungary** (41% from **Afghanistan**).

More than a quarter of first instance decisions were positive

In 2012 in the **EU27**³, 73% of first instance decisions⁵ made on asylum applications were rejections, while 14% of applicants were granted refugee status, 10% subsidiary protection and 2% authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons. It should be noted that first instance decisions made in 2012 may refer to applications registered in previous years.

If 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.

Asylum applicants, 2012

	Applicants		Citizenships of main groups of asylum applicants**								
	2012	Per million inh.	First group	#	%	Second group	#	%	Third group	#	%
EU27	331 975*	660*	Afghanistan	26 250	8	Syria	23 510	7	Russia	23 360	7
Belgium	28 105	2 535	Afghanistan	3 290	12	Russia	2 655	9	Guinea	2 190	8
Bulgaria	1 385	190	Syria	450	32	Iraq	325	23	Stateless	155	11
Czech Republic	740	70	Ukraine	175	24	Syria	70	9	Belarus	55	7
Denmark	6 045	1 085	Somalia	910	15	Syria	875	15	Afghanistan	565	9
Germany	77 540	945	Serbia	12 810	17	Syria	7 930	10	Afghanistan	7 840	10
Estonia	75	55	Georgia	35	45	Russia	10	10	Armenia	5	6
Ireland	955	210	Nigeria	160	17	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	60	6	Zimbabwe	50	5
Greece	9 575	850	Pakistan	2 340	24	Bangladesh	1 005	11	Georgia	895	9
Spain	2 565	55	Syria	255	10	Nigeria	205	8	Algeria	200	8
France	60 560	925	Russia	5 930	10	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	5 500	9	Sri Lanka	3 825	6
Italy	15 715	260	Pakistan	2 365	15	Nigeria	1 515	10	Afghanistan	1 365	9
Cyprus	1 635	1 895	Syria	565	34	Vietnam	200	12	Bangladesh	190	12
Latvia	205	100	Georgia	105	51	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	25	12	Syria	20	9
Lithuania	645	215	Georgia	310	48	Afghanistan	100	15	Russia	95	15
Luxembourg	2 050	3 905	Serbia	385	19	Albania	305	15	Montenegro	290	14
Hungary	2 155	215	Afghanistan	880	41	Pakistan	325	15	Kosovo***	225	10
Malta	2 080	4 980	Somalia	1 250	60	Eritrea	435	21	Syria	150	7
Netherlands	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Austria	17 425	2 065	Afghanistan	4 015	23	Russia	3 110	18	Pakistan	1 825	10
Poland	10 750	280	Russia	6 085	57	Georgia	3 235	30	Armenia	415	4
Portugal	295	30	Guinea	65	22	Nigeria	30	10	Syria	20	7
Romania	2 510	120	Algeria	600	24	Morocco	355	14	Pakistan	335	13
Slovenia	305	150	Afghanistan	65	21	Syria	30	11	Turkey	25	9
Slovakia	730	135	Somalia	225	31	Afghanistan	90	12	Georgia	55	8
Finland	3 095	575	Iraq	830	27	Russia	225	7	Afghanistan	210	7
Sweden	43 865	4 625	Syria	7 920	18	Somalia	5 695	13	Afghanistan	4 760	11
United Kingdom	28 175	445	Pakistan	4 880	17	Iran	3 250	12	Sri Lanka	2 160	8
Iceland	105	330	Nigeria	15	14	Iran	15	13	Afghanistan	10	7
Norway	9 685	1 940	Somalia	2 180	23	Eritrea	1 185	12	Afghanistan	985	10
Switzerland	28 445	3 575	Eritrea	4 410	16	Nigeria	2 745	10	Tunisia	2 240	8

* Eurostat estimate including the Netherlands

** EU27 top three citizenships excluding data for the Netherlands

*** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244

: Data not available

Data are rounded to the nearest 5.

First instance decisions, 2012

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Rejections
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
EU27*	268 045	71 245	37 065	27 920	6 415	196 920
Belgium	24 525	5 555	3 985	1 565	-	18 970
Bulgaria	640	170	20	150	-	470
Czech Republic	720	175	50	125	5	545
Denmark	3 715	1 695	1 035	545	120	2 020
Germany	58 645	17 140	8 765	6 975	1 400	41 510
Estonia	65	20	10	5	10	45
Ireland	935	95	65	25	-	840
Greece	11 195	95	30	45	20	11 095
Spain	2 600	525	230	285	10	2 070
France	59 800	8 655	7 120	1 535	-	51 145
Italy	21 705	7 930	1 735	4 410	1 935	13 900
Cyprus	1 335	105	80	10	15	1 230
Latvia	145	25	5	20	-	120
Lithuania	390	55	15	40	-	335
Luxembourg	1 650	40	35	5	-	1 610
Hungary	1 100	350	70	240	40	750
Malta	1 590	1 435	35	1 235	160	155
Netherlands	:	:	:	:	:	:
Austria	15 895	4 455	2 680	1 775	-	11 440
Poland	2 435	475	85	140	250	1 960
Portugal	230	100	15	85	-	130
Romania	1 625	230	145	85	0	1 390
Slovenia	220	35	20	15	-	185
Slovakia	440	190	10	100	80	250
Finland	3 090	1 555	545	775	240	1 535
Sweden	31 520	12 400	3 745	7 595	1 060	19 120
United Kingdom	21 845	7 735	6 535	130	1 070	14 110
Iceland	50	10	5	**	**	40
Norway	7 160	4 600	3 675	1 185	280	5 430
Switzerland	16 650	4 280	2 455	505	1 315	12 370

- Not applicable

* EU27 excluding the Netherlands

** One or two first instance decisions

: Data not available

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.

2. This proportion has been estimated on the basis of the share of repeat applicants available in 23 of the 27 Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom). These Member States covered 90% of all asylum applicants registered in the EU27 in 2012.
3. EU27 figures on citizenships of main groups of asylum applicants and first instance decisions presented in this News Release do not include data for the Netherlands, which for technical reasons cannot deliver data for this publication.
4. 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 new 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.
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(d) of Directive 2004/83/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(c) 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(f) of Directive 2004/83/EC. According to the Art.2(e) 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 origin, 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.

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