

Czech Republic

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2018

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

In 2018, the number of third-country nationals in the Czech Republic increased, reaching a total of 334 438 foreigners registered for legal residence. At the end of 2018, all foreigners (including EU citizens) accounted for about 5.3 % of the Czech population, which was 0.4 % more than in 2017.

In 2018, the amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals was adopted by the Government and submitted to the Czech Parliament for approval.

The amendment entailed:

- Transposition of the Students and Researchers Directive ((EU) 2016/801);¹
- Introduction of quotas for acceptance of applications for long-term residence permits for employment purposes as well as long-stay visas for business purposes at Embassies of the Czech Republic around the world;
- Inclusion of all regional integration centres under the state scheme covered by the state budget; and

¹ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.

KEY POINTS



The amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals was adopted by the Government in 2018 and submitted to the Czech Parliament for approval.



The economic migration project addressed at Ukrainian workers was extended to include Serbian, Mongolian and Filipino nationals.



A new centre for the support of the integration of foreigners in the Central Bohemian Region started operating. As a result, every region in the Czech Republic had an integration centre.

- Introduction of compulsory integration-adaptation courses for most of the newly arrived third-country nationals.

Furthermore, a new type of visa called **special work visa**, was introduced as part of the amendment to the **Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals**. This visa could be activated on a temporary basis by the Government according to the momentary needs of the labour market. The maximum duration was one year without the possibility of extension.

China, Egypt and Pakistan were included in the programme **Student Mode** that aimed at facilitating visa applications for foreign students from these countries who were enrolled in the programme and admitted to universities in the Czech Republic.

Throughout 2018, pre-departure information for foreigners provided by Czech Embassies in third countries was updated, translated and promotional activities also took place.

ECONOMIC MIGRATION

As of 31 December 2018, 202 052 third-country nationals were registered as employees with the regional branch offices of the Employment Agency of the Czech Republic.

In 2018, a migration project for Ukrainian nationals wishing to perform low-skilled and unskilled work in agriculture, the food industry and forestry was launched. The target group included workers applying for long-stay visas for purposes of seasonal employment or employee card applicants.

Moreover, the annual quotas of the '**Ukraine Regime**' for medium and low-skilled workers were increased from 9 600 to 19 600. The goal of this project was to reduce the processing time of applications for employee cards for workers from Ukraine.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs introduced a new project entitled '**Other States**' for citizens of Mongolia, Philippines and Serbia. The aim was to facilitate the process of receiving and processing the employee card applications for nationals of the aforementioned countries who intended to carry out qualified jobs in the manufacturing, services or public sector.

The project '**Support for the Integration of Foreign Nationals into the Labour Market**', funded and implemented by the Fund of Further Education (under the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) was established to prevent irregular employment and labour exploitation of foreigners through individual counselling, trainings, interpretation and assistance for the Labour Office's staff and other institutions.

In 2018, a bilateral labour agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of Japan on visas for working holidays (No. 43/2018 Collection of International Agreements) came into force.

The '**Work and Holiday for Young People Pilot Programme**' was launched in 2018; Australian citizens participating in the Programme were entitled to a long-stay visa and work permit for the duration of their stay.

Lastly, the Project '**Special Procedures for Highly Qualified Employees**' was extended to include up to 500 highly skilled workers annually from India. Until September 2018, the project only targeted Ukrainian nationals.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

No relevant changes were reported in 2018.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

An **amendment to the Act No. 85/1996 Coll., on Advocacy** came into force in 2018. This concerned the provision of free legal counselling available to asylum seekers whose income was insufficient as well as to persons placed in detention facilities.

In 2018, reception facilities reached almost their full capacity. As a result, additional capacities were set up within the existing premises to meet the needs.

A proposal to revise the Decree of the Minister of Interior on the list of safe countries of origin was submitted in late 2018. It was proposed to include 12 additional countries to the national list of safe countries of origin, namely Algeria, Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, India, Georgia (except Abkhazia and South Ossetia), Moldova (except Transnistria), Ukraine (except Crimea and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk), Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

In November 2018, the Constitutional Court revoked two provisions of the Asylum Act that required the Courts to stop the appeal procedure against detention decision in cases where the persons concerned were no longer present in the detention facility.

The Czech Republic supported EASO activities by deploying 21 national experts to Italy and Greece (17 in Italy and 4 in Greece) and training 9 asylum and migration personnel.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the Office of the Ombudsman and UNHCR started a pilot project to develop a non-medical age assessment method. This assessment was based on the interview with the unaccompanied minor carried out by a

psychologists and interpreter who have relevant knowledge of the country of origin.

Furthermore, the standard of host care provision was significantly improved in 2018 through cooperation with the non-profit sector and a new system of provision of this form of substitute care for unaccompanied minors. The latter system, an international project called '**Forum**', aimed to map the best practices of substitute family care for unaccompanied minors in Europe as well as set standards of care for individual Member States.

INTEGRATION

The **Centre for support of the integration of foreigners** in the Central Bohemian Region started its operation; therefore all 14 regions of the Czech Republic were provided with their own integration centre. During 2018, integration centres offered further Czech language courses of different levels of proficiency to third-country nationals.

The Ministry of Interior financially supported 15 municipalities that created their own integration strategies to ensure third-country national inclusion and active social participation. The support amounted to around CZK 16 million (approx. € 624 000).

In 2018, the National Institute for Further Education (NIDV) offered 31 **training programmes on foreign pupils' integration** for teachers and school staff. In addition, NIDV strengthen cooperation with non-profit and volunteer organisations dealing with the integration of foreigners.

Two new services were inaugurated in 2018 targeting foreign pupils/students. First, the **School Adaptation Coordinator Service** was introduced aiming at providing support to foreign children in adapting to a new cultural environment and different living conditions through a dedicated specialist in the school. Second, the **Interpreting and Translation Service for Schools** was set up to facilitate communication with foreign children and provide information on the Czech education system.

CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No relevant changes were reported in 2018.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISA

A new transit visa for Cubans was introduced to tackle the issue of Cuban nationals arriving to the Czech Republic and then applying for international protection.

As of 2 December 2018, an agreement between India and the Czech Republic entered into force allowing holders of diplomatic passports of the two countries to enter each other's territory without visas and fees for a period not exceeding 90 days in any 180-day period.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

In general, since visa liberalisation, applications for international protection remained stable except from the applications submitted by Georgian citizens which slightly increased compared to 2017.

In 2018, the abuse of legal migration channels continued, especially in the case of Ukrainian nationals who worked irregularly in the Czech Republic on legally issued Polish long-stay visas. As a result, inspections regarding irregular employment were intensified.

To prevent irregular migration, the Czech Republic supported UNHCR programmes in Jordan and Mali. Moreover, awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of irregular migration were incorporated in projects in Niger and Chad in 2018.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Czech Republic decided to support the call of the British Prime Minister '[A Call to Action for End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking](#)' and took the necessary steps to join this initiative.

In the framework of the Programme on Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings operated by the Ministry of the Interior, 17 likely victims of human trafficking entered the programme in 2018.

The Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the NGO La Strada, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the National Centre against Organised Crime organised seminars on victims' identification for social workers, workers from child's social and legal

protection institutions, regional crime prevention workers and police specialists from the Czech Republic.



RETURN AND READMISSION

A **new edifice in the Foreigner Detention Facility Bělá-Jezová** was built in 2018 to accommodate up to 112 persons, also taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Czech Republic on aspects of migration and international protection (2015-2018), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as “N/A”.

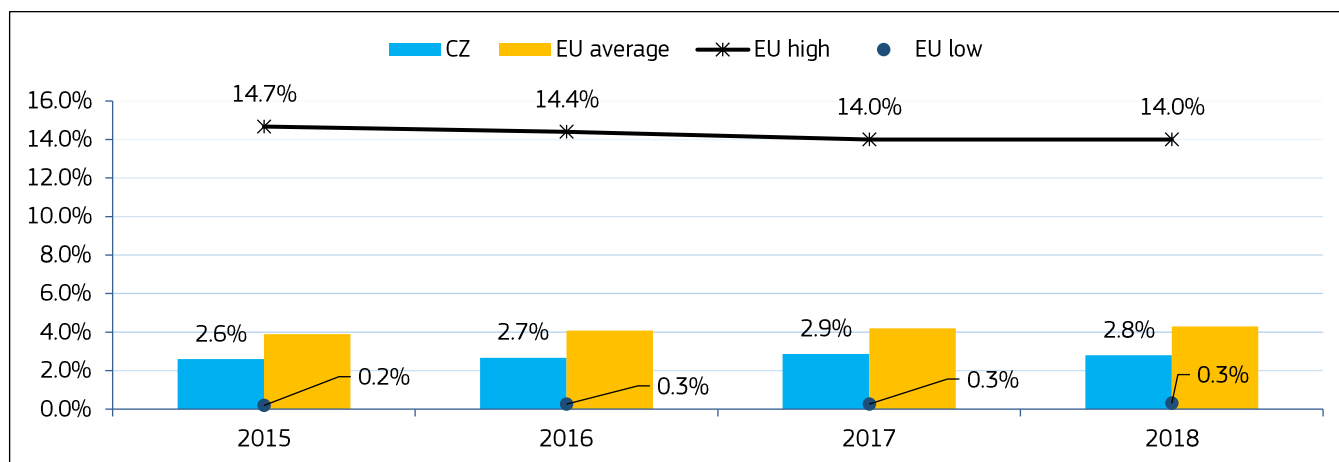
STATISTICAL ANNEX: MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN CZECH REPUBLIC (2015-2018)



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Eurostat data on first residence permits for 2018 was not available at the time of writing. Please consult the 2018 ARM Statistical Annex for statistics on the number of first residence permits by reason (to be published in July 2019).

Figure 1: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Czech Republic, EU average, EU high and low (2015-2018)

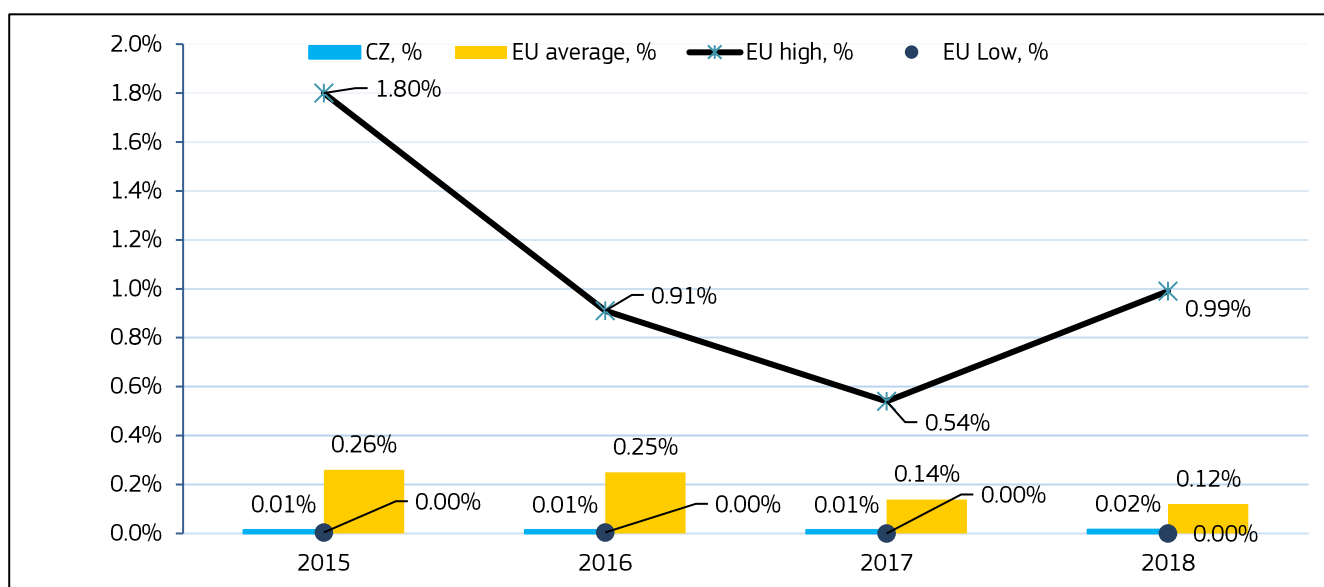


Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_pop1ctz](#)), data extracted 26.04.19.



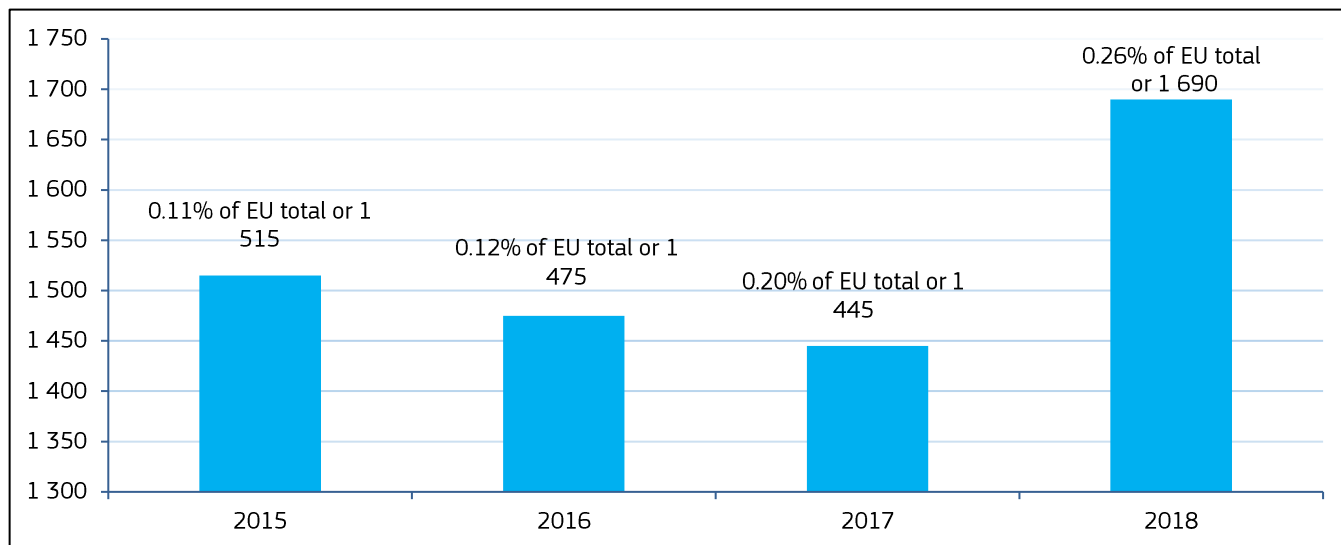
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Figure 2: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Czech Republic, EU average and EU high and low (2015-2018)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.19

Figure 3: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2015-2018)



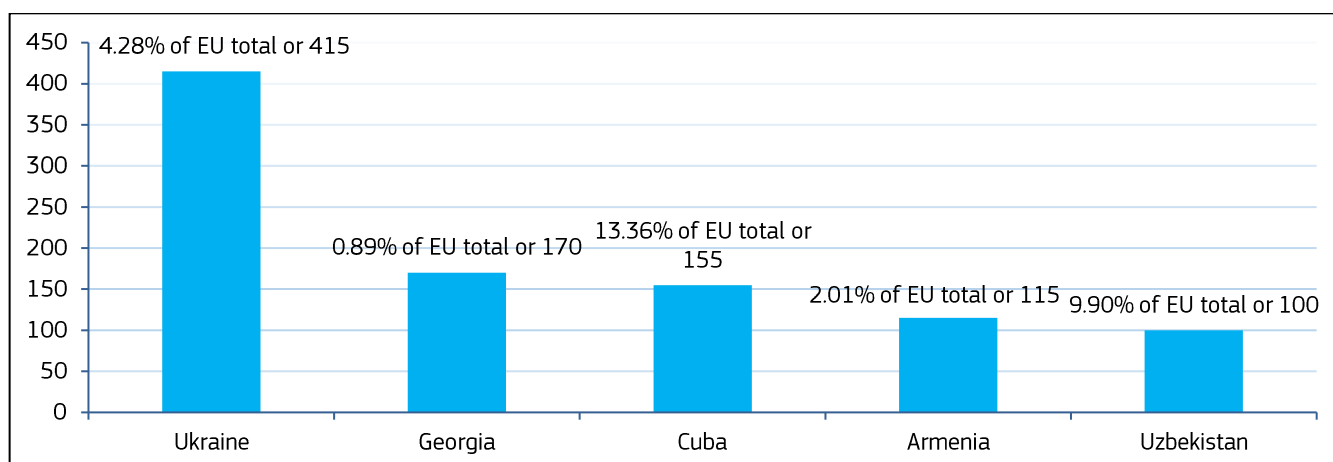
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.19

Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2015-2018)

2015			2016			2017			2018		
Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total
Ukraine	695	46%	Ukraine	505	34%	Ukraine	435	30%	Ukraine	415	25%
Syria	135	9%	Iraq	155	11%	Armenia	130	9%	Georgia	170	10%
Cuba	130	9%	Cuba	85	6%	Georgia	130	9%	Cuba	155	9%
Vietnam	80	5%	Syria	80	5%	Azerbaijan	125	9%	Armenia	115	7%
Russia	45	3%	China (including Hong Kong)	70	5%	Vietnam	80	6%	Uzbekistan	100	6%

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.19

Figure 4: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU total per given nationality (2018)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.19

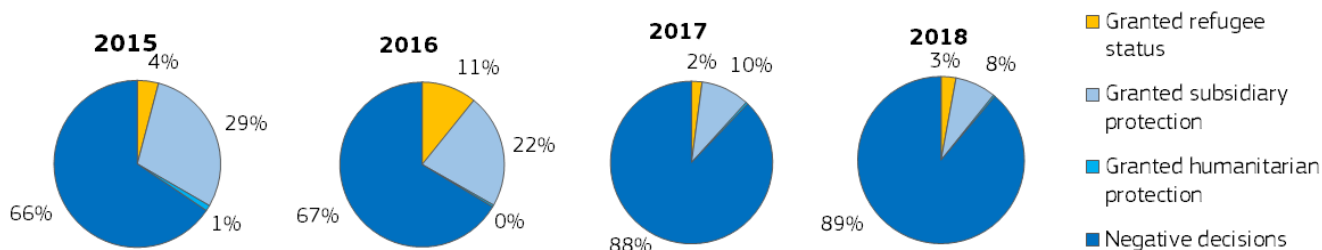
Note: the figure reads as: Czech Republic received 415 asylum applications from Ukraine or 4.28% of all asylum applications launched by Ukraine in EU in 2018.

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2015-2018)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:		Humanitarian reasons	Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		
2015	1 335	460	55	390	15	875
2016	1 300	435	140	290	5	860
2017	1 190	145	25	115	5	1 045
2018	1 385	155	40	110	5	1 230

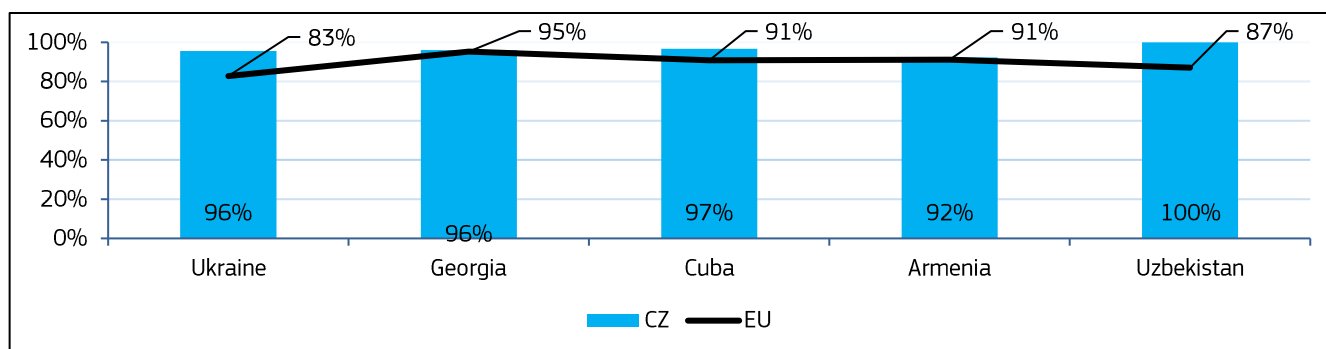
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asycfstata](#)), data extracted 26.04.19

Figure 5: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2015-2018)



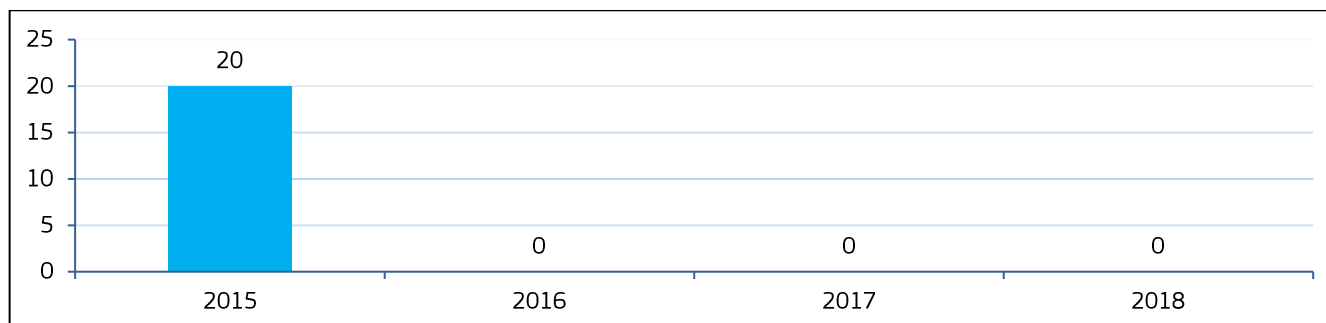
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asycfstata](#)), data extracted 26.04.19

Figure 6: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2018)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asycfstata](#)), data extracted 26.04.19

Figure 7: Third-country nationals resettled (2015-2018)

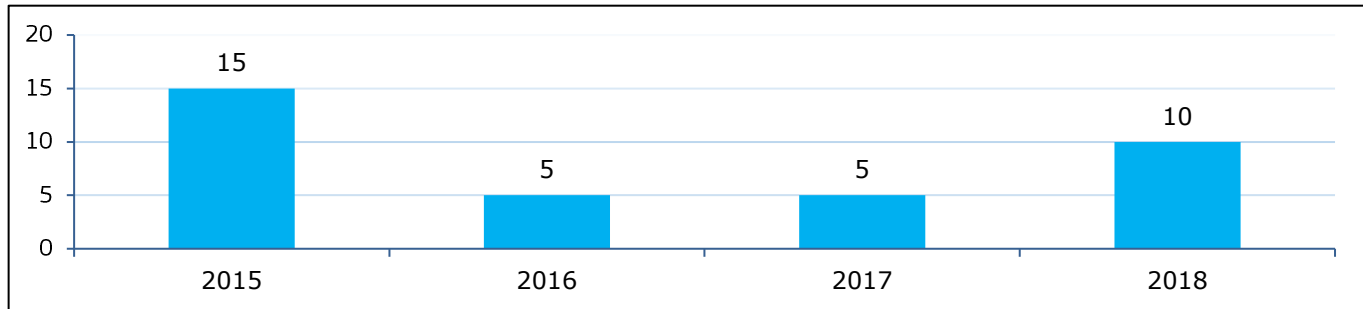


Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyresa](#)), data extracted 26.04.19



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 8: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2015-2018)



Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) ([migr_asynaa](#)), data extracted 26.04.19.



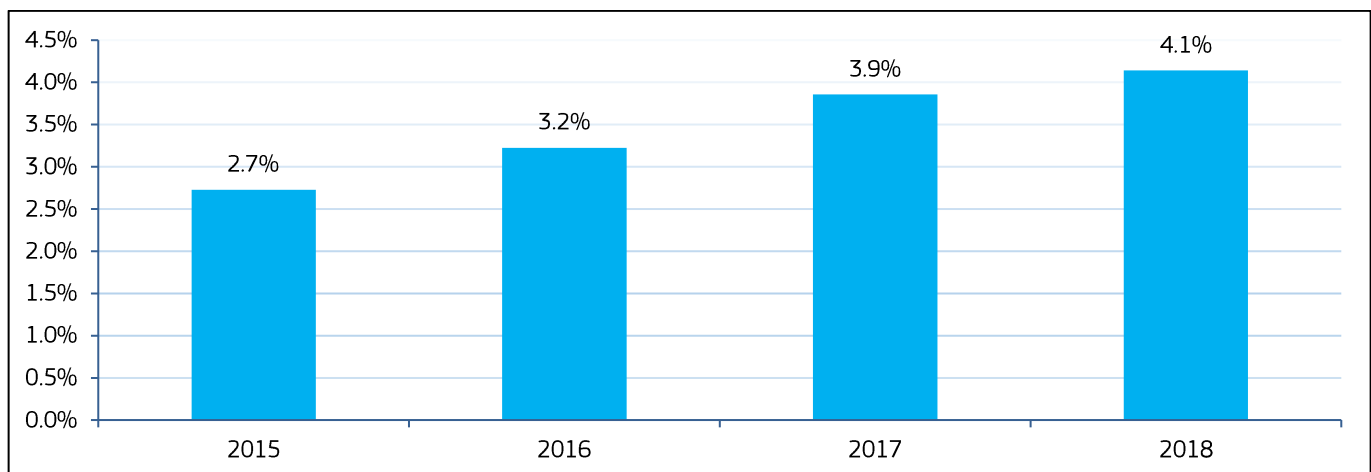
BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISA

Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2015-2018)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Uniform visas (short-stay visas)	421 355	489 920	623 255	662 902

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Figure 9: Uniform visa applications received in Czech Republic as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2015-2018)



Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of Schengen visa applications for Czech Republic was lodged (2015-2018)

2015		2016		2017		2018	
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Russian Federation	203 131	Russian Federation	410 752	Russian Federation	278 642	Russian Federation	244 393
Ukraine	65 729	Ukraine	143 007	China	106 333	China	122 232
China	28 760	China	97 181	Ukraine	73 997	Ukraine	120 008
Turkey	15 604	Turkey	30 414	India	23 987	India	26 683
India	12 744	India	13 076	Turkey	22 804	Turkey	21 792

Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders, found to be illegally present, ordered to leave and returned following an order to leave (2015-2018)

Third-country nationals:	2015	2016	2017	2018
Refused entry at external borders	465	365	230	315
Found to be illegally present	8 165	4 885	4 360	4 505
Ordered to leave	4 510	3 760	6 090	3 445
Returned following an order to leave	1 715	530	805	820

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_eirfs](#))([migr_eipre](#))([migr_eiord](#))([migr_eirtn](#)) data extracted 26.04.19



RETURN

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2015-2018)

Year	Returned as part of forced return measure	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2015	151	120	257
2016	126	93	238
2017	144	104	523
2018*	219	703**	529***

Source: EMN Czech Republic.

*In 2018 there was a change in a methodology. See below footnotes.

**This number corresponds to the category voluntary departure (in the case of a voluntary return it would be n/a for the Czech Republic – no statistics of independent returns are available as CZ only has air external borders and third-country nationals to whom the Alien Police Service ensured transit through the neighbouring state (so called Annex transfers). The category voluntary departure includes Annex transfers (174) + Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (DAMP) (378) + Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (SUZ) (98) + IOM (53) = 703

*** This category includes assisted voluntary return carried out by DAMP (378) + SUZ (98) + IOM (53) = 529.