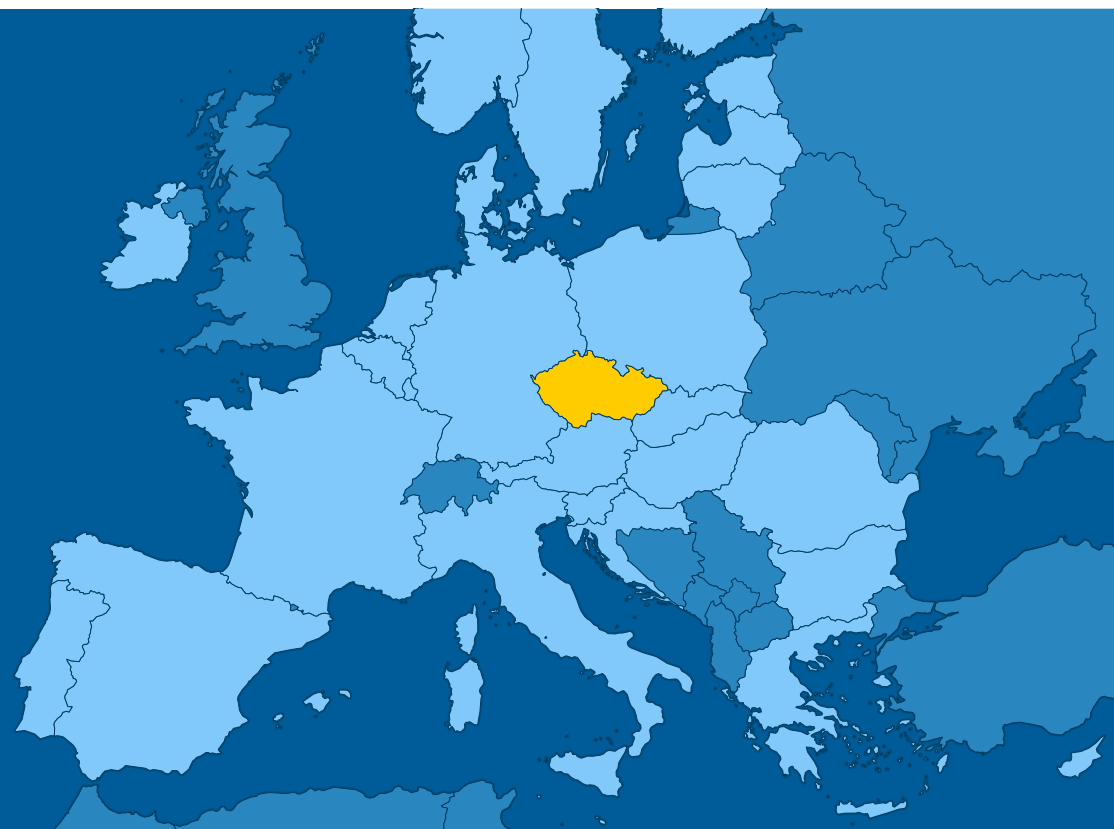




COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics



CZECH REPUBLIC 2023



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

In 2023, the Czech Republic continued to receive registrations for temporary protection from newly arriving Ukrainians.

In total, 373 035 beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP) resided in the Czech Republic as of 31 December 2023. This was the highest number per capita in the EU. Of these, 60% were females and 40% were males. Most of them were between 18 and 64 years old (70%), 26% were children up to 17 years of age, and only 4% were aged 65+.

The process of extending temporary protection registrations was successfully carried out in the first quarter of 2023. By the end of registration for the extension of temporary protection, 504 107 temporary protection registrations had been issued (since February 2022). Of these, 275 429 were extended (i.e. about two thirds). In September 2023, Lex Ukraine VI (a package of laws issued to regulate temporary protection – Act No 65/2022, Act No 66/2022, Act No 67/2022) was passed, providing for the extension of temporary protection until 2025.

On 1 July 2023, the Amendment of the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals came into force,

KEY POINTS

The Czech Republic continued to host the largest number of refugees from Ukraine per capita in the European Union (EU), with 373 035 beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP) registered as of 31 December 2023.

The Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals was amended. Although small, the changes will increase the efficiency of various processes.

Annual quotas for migrant workers from third countries were increased to 20 000, primarily for qualified applicants for single permits (employee cards) from the Philippines, Ukraine and Mongolia.

containing small but significant changes to increase the efficiency of migration processes:

- Change in requirements for employee card applications;
- Change in the range of persons who can apply for long-term residence for the purpose of family reunification;
- Widening the range of persons who can apply for a Blue Card;
- Amendment to the definition of applicants who cannot be granted a work permit (i.e. cannot be issued/extended for a foreign national with an employment card);
- Extension of employment permits for seasonal employees from six to nine months.



LEGAL MIGRATION

The new Amendment of the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals added categories of people who can now apply for a Blue Card. These include: asylum seekers, BoTP, holders of a visa for the purpose of seasonal employment, or family members of an EU citizen if they have the status of a family member in another EU Member State and would like to move to the Czech Republic alone or with an EU citizen. The Blue Card is now issued for up to three years.

At the end of 2023, the Czech government amended a Regulation on annual quotas for the admission of migrant workers from third countries. The quotas were increased to 20 000 persons, mainly qualified applicants for single permits (employee cards) from the Philippines, Ukraine and Mongolia. Recruitment of workers from Ukraine will be limited to Ukrainian nationals living outside Ukraine or allowed to leave Ukraine, so that Czech migration policy will not undermine Ukraine's military efforts.

On 1 July 2023, the Czech Republic launched a new immigration programme for digital nomads and their close family members, with the aim of creating a migration channel for highly qualified IT experts. The programme is open only to nationals of eight selected countries (Australia, Japan, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, United Kingdom (UK), United States (US), Taiwan), but its scope may be extended after evaluation.

The Ministry of the Interior continued to explore new communication channels with foreign nationals. The Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior focused on social media such as the Facebook page 'Our Ukrainians' (*Naši Ukrajinci*) and more unconventional channels provided by artificial intelligence (AI), such as voicebots or chatbots.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Legislative changes were made to Act No 325/1999 (Asylum Act), alongside other relevant acts. This was the largest amendment since 2015, comprising several small individuals changes.

Regulation 328/2015 implementing the Act on Asylum and Act on Temporary Protection of Foreigners was updated on 1 October 2023. Armenia and the UK were added to the list of safe countries of origin, while Ukraine was removed. The exceptions were removed for Georgia and Moldova (Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Transnistria).



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

In September 2023, Lex Ukraine VI was passed to extend temporary protection until March 2025.

In April 2023, the coordination of regional centres for help and assistance to Ukraine (KACPU) was transferred to the Ministry of the Interior. The KACPU continue to provide assistance to displaced people from Ukraine by accepting requests for temporary protection and (in part) providing accommodation.

The new legislation on the social protection of Ukrainians with temporary protection was introduced by Lex Ukraine V from 1 July 2023. The key change was in the housing allowance. A financial contribution was provided to private persons who offered free accommodation to displaced people from Ukraine until the end of June 2023. From July 2023 this contribution was no longer offered directly to private persons providing the accommodation, but to BoTP (as part of their humanitarian allowance). To be granted the full allowance, the owner of the accommodation must be registered in the special national housing register for persons accommodating BoTP.

As of 1 July 2023, humanitarian financial support was calculated individually by household. It is conceived as both a subsistence allowance and a housing allowance. All income and any savings are taken into account, including the household's employment income, bank account balance, the subsistence minimum and the housing allowance received.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Increased support from the non-profit sector created additional opportunities for accommodation and care of unaccompanied minors from Ukraine, particularly minors aged 16-18. All aspects of integration were fully supported, particularly education and leisure activities.

INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

In February 2023, the Government Commissioner for Human Rights was tasked with coordinating the integration of BoTP, while the integration of other groups of foreign nationals remained the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior.

As of 1 March 2023, accreditations were newly granted for the Czech language course for Foreigners – Advanced Learners. Subsidised training courses implemented through the Labour Office of the Czech Republic promoted digital skills and competencies needed for work and life in a digitalised society.

Minor children who legally reside in the Czech Republic based on long-term residence were incorporated into the public health insurance system. This change equalises the conditions for children of foreign nationals who have been residing in the Czech Republic for an extended period, granting them access to quality healthcare services and ensuring stability in the insurance system.

The monopoly of the VZP a.s. insurance company – which dominated the private health insurance of foreigners – ended. Foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic for more than 90 days can again choose any commercial insurance.

The National Agency against Terrorism, Extremism and Cybercrime came into operation on 1 January 2023. It is a nationwide unit dedicated to combating hate crimes and hate speech, including against migrants.

CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

The Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals was amended on 1 July 2023 to include provisions on the procedure to determine the status of stateless persons.

BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

In response to the increase in transiting irregular migration, partly caused by the activities of organised groups of smugglers (a record high was reported in 2022), the Czech authorities reintroduced border protection along the entire stretch of the land border with the Slovak Republic from 4 October 2023. The government extended this measure several times until 2 February 2024.

On 1 May 2023, the Visa Centre affiliated with the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Dresden, Germany was opened. It serves as a hub for collecting and processing all long-term visa and residence permit applications of applicants residing in the territory of the Schengen area.

In 2023, the Czech Republic opened new visa outsourcing centres for processing Schengen visas in Doha, Qatar and Tunis, Tunisia.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

A detailed analysis was undertaken in 2023 of migration in neighbouring countries (countries from which migrants enter and exit the territory of the Czech Republic). Figures of detected irregular migration were used to estimate levels of undetected irregular migration.

A new Article 341(a) was added to the Criminal Code's section on aiding and abetting an unauthorised stay in the territory of the Republic (Articles 339-341). This legislative change extended the scope to irregular migration to/through the territory of the Czech Republic and other EU Member States and to states applying the Schengen Border Code. It is possible to prosecute members of organised groups who plan the illegal transportation of migrants not only to/through the territory of the Czech Republic, but also other Schengen countries. This change came into effect on 1 July 2023.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

As part of the Programme for Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, the non-governmental organisation (NGO) La Strada Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior (which provides funding), prepared preventive videos and online seminars on labour exploitation of Ukrainian refugees, which were presented at relevant educational events. Two 60-minute videos (one for adults, the other for minors) were produced for the most 'hidden' part of the refugee population from Ukraine residing on the territory of the Czech Republic, who are isolated and live mostly in private apartments without access to relevant information.

RETURN AND READMISSION

The European Parliament and Council Regulations 2018/1860, 2018/1861, 2018/1862 entered into force on 7 March 2023 by Commission Implementing Decision 2023/201. Among other things, they regulated the use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals. Under the terms of Regulation 2018/1860, records of foreign nationals subject to a return decision are now kept in SIS.

On 11 October 2023, the readmission agreement with Uzbekistan was signed. The ratification is expected to take place in 2024.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments to report in 2023.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Czech Republic 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 cover the period 2020-2023. Since 2023 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the

period 2020-2022 is covered. Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2024. **The data were extracted during April–May 2024. The manuscript was completed in May 2024.**

The Eurostat website is constantly updated. Therefore, it is likely that more recent data will have become available since. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the latest data on [Eurostat's website](#).

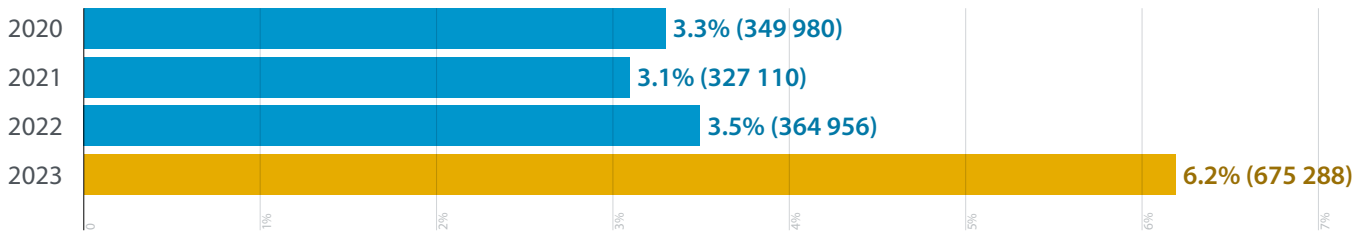
For some indicators, data are rounded at the source. Due to this, in some cases, the sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value.

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 2020–2023

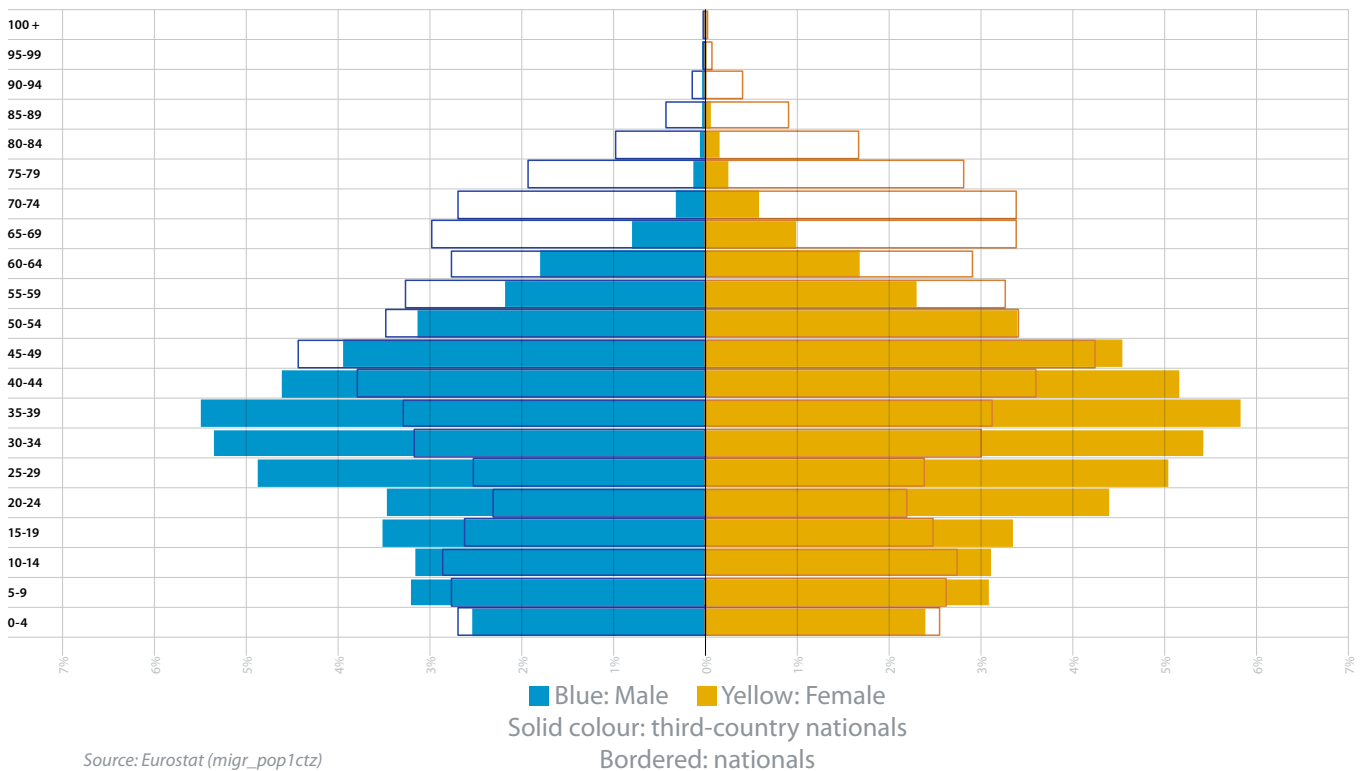
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2023

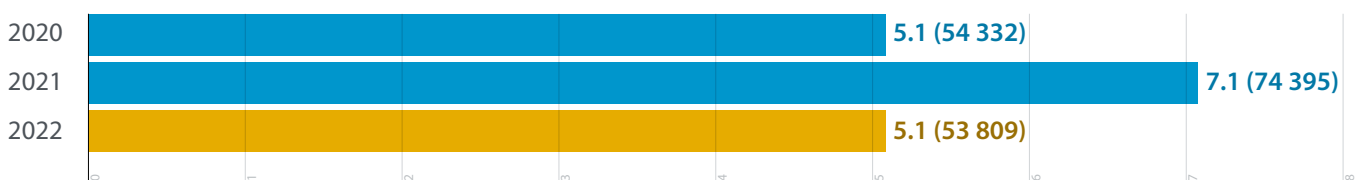
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2020–2022

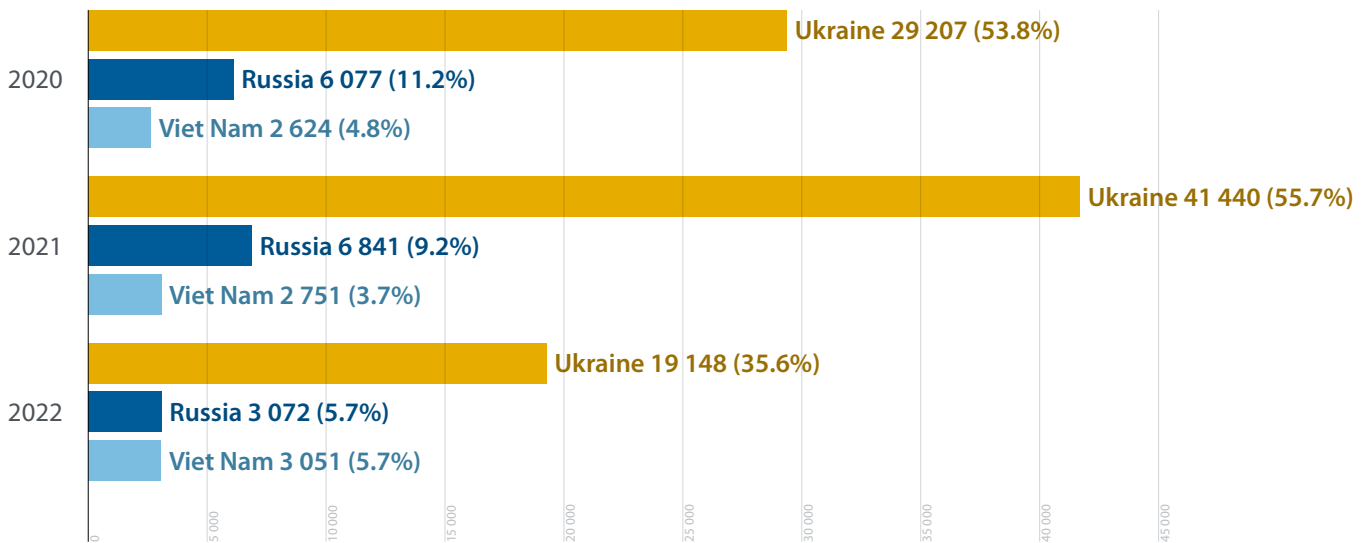
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz and migr_respop)

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2020–2022

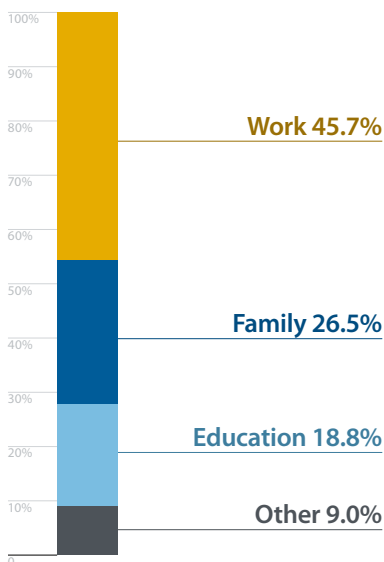
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



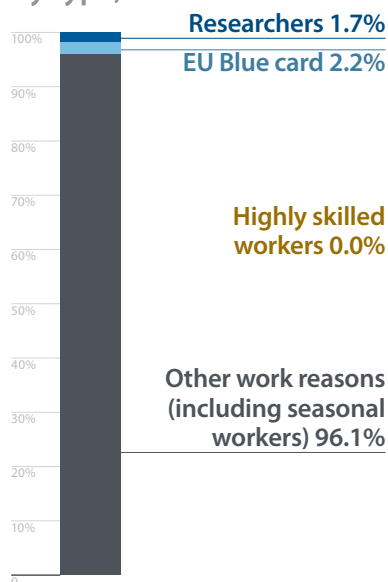
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfirst*)

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2022

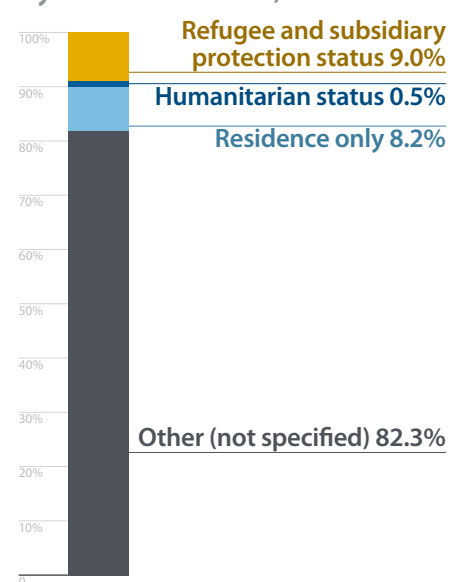
All permits,
by reason, %



Work reason,
by type, %



Other reason,
by detailed reason, %



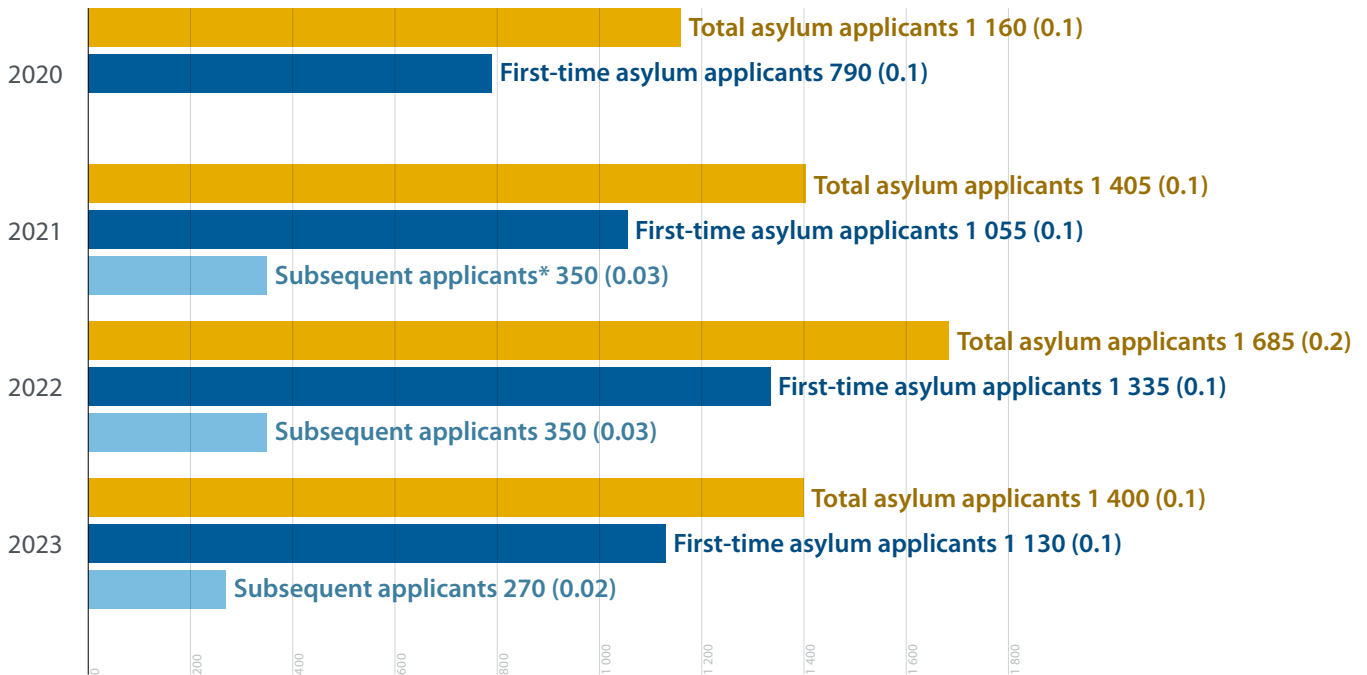
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfirst*, *migr_resfpc*, *migr_resocc* and *migr_resoth*)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

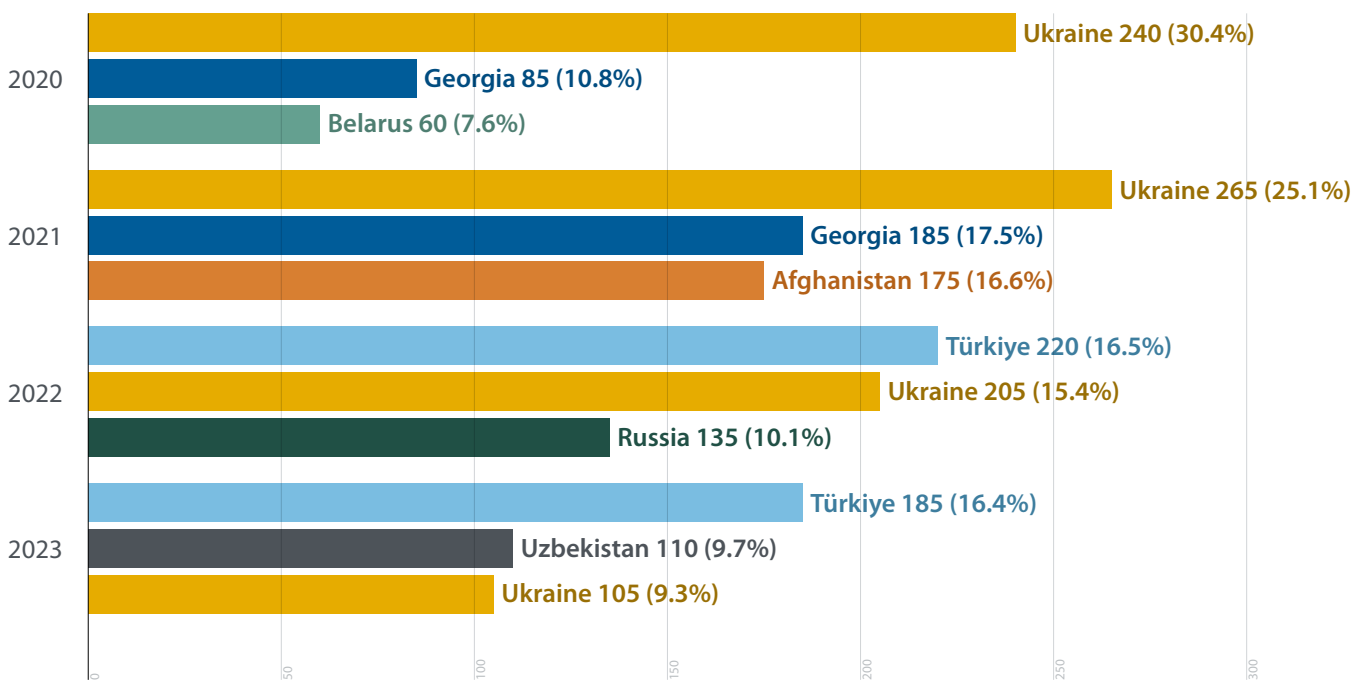


* Data collection from 2021.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz and migr_asyapp1mp)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2020–2023

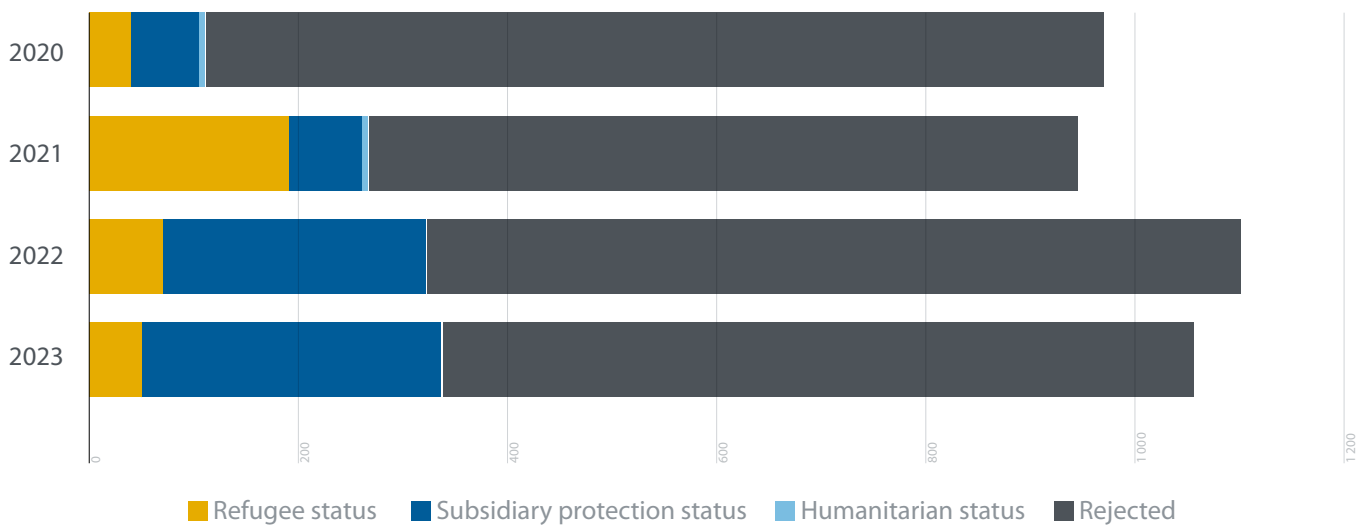
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

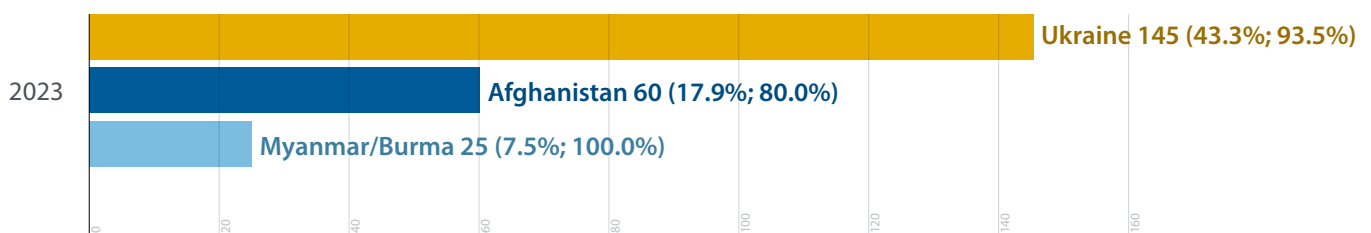


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	40 (4.0%)	65 (6.6%)	5 (0.3%)	855 (89.2%)
2021	190 (20.4%)	70 (7.3%)	5 (0.3%)	675 (72.0%)
2022	70 (6.4%)	250 (22.9%)	0 (0.0%)	775 (70.6%)
2023	50 (4.8%)	285 (27.0%)	0 (0.0%)	715 (68.2%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta and migr_asydec1pc)

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, 2023

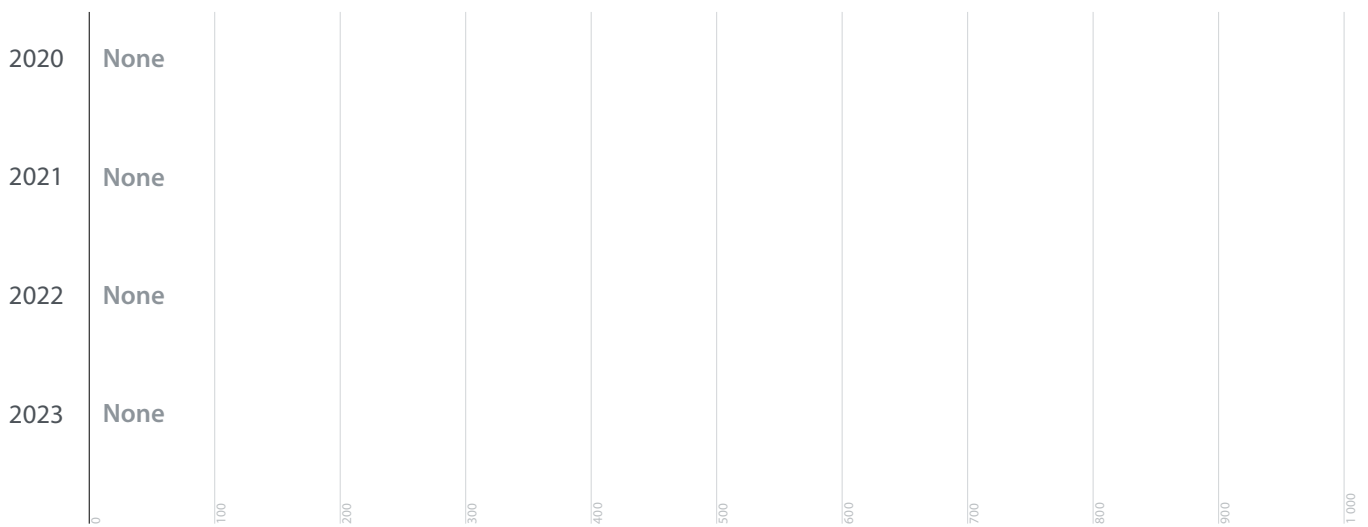
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

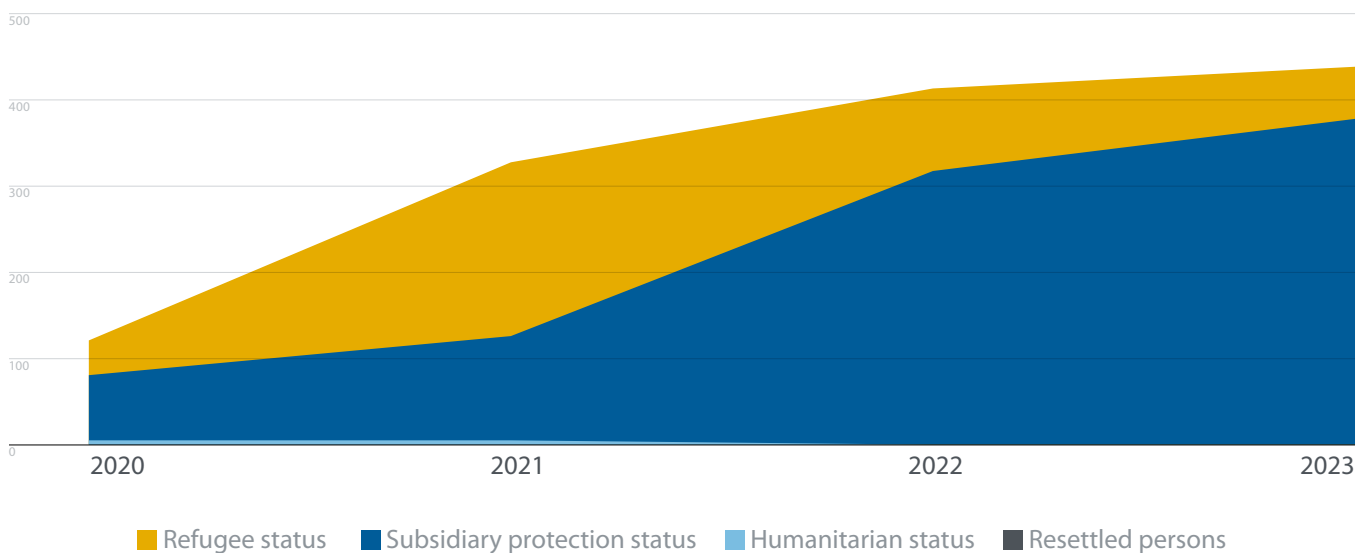
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

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



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2020–2023



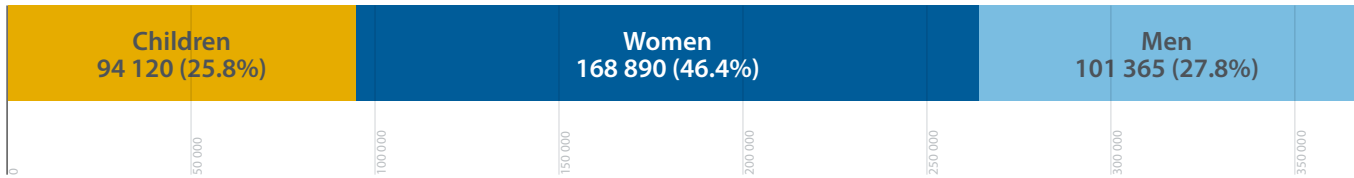
Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2020	40	75	5	0
2021	200	120	5	0
2022	95	315	0	0
2023	60	375	0	0

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

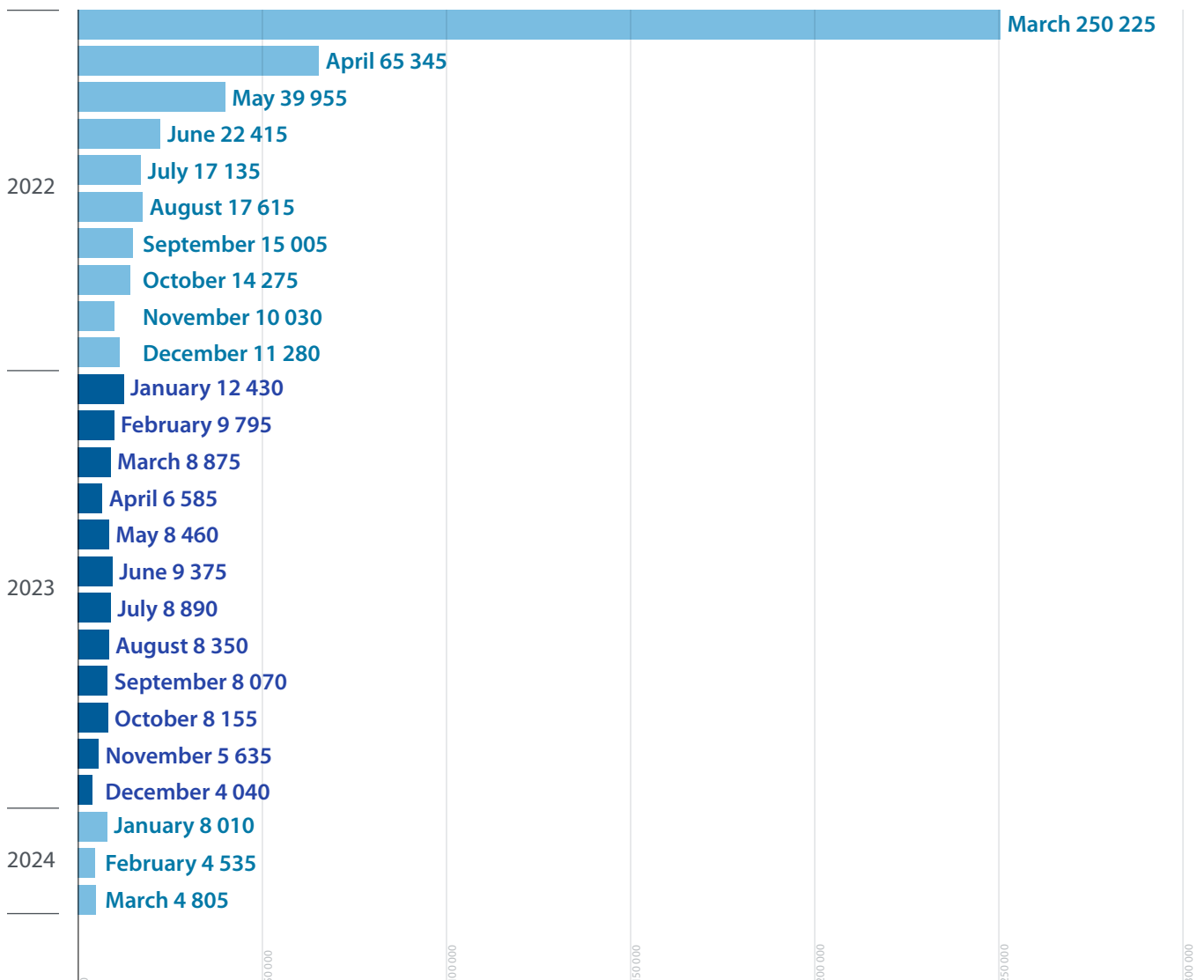
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



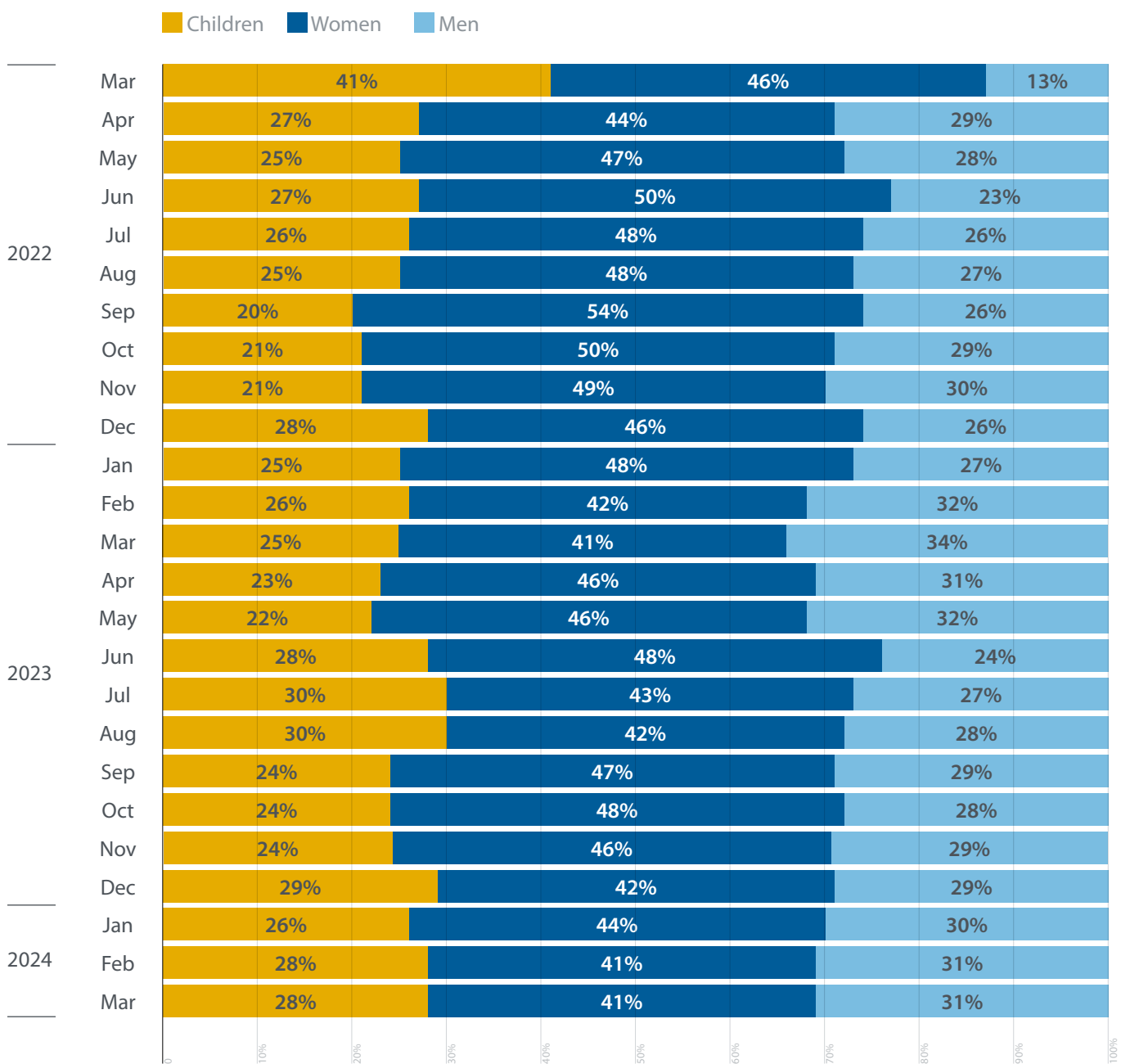
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytspm)

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



Source: Eurostat (migr_asytprm)

Distribution by age and sex of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



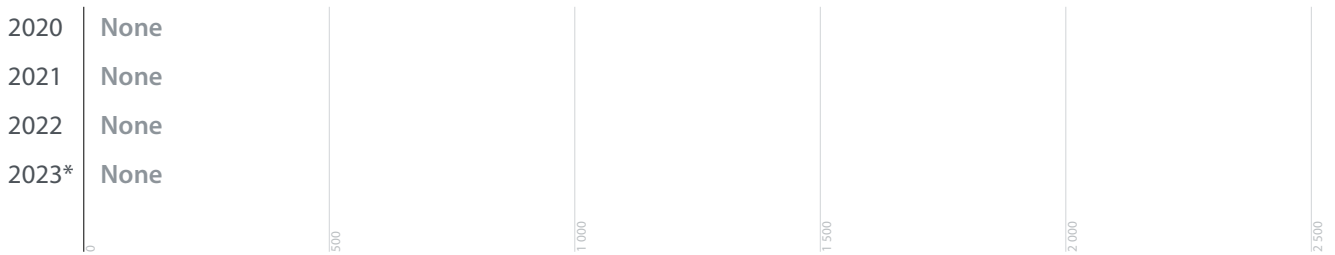
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytprm)



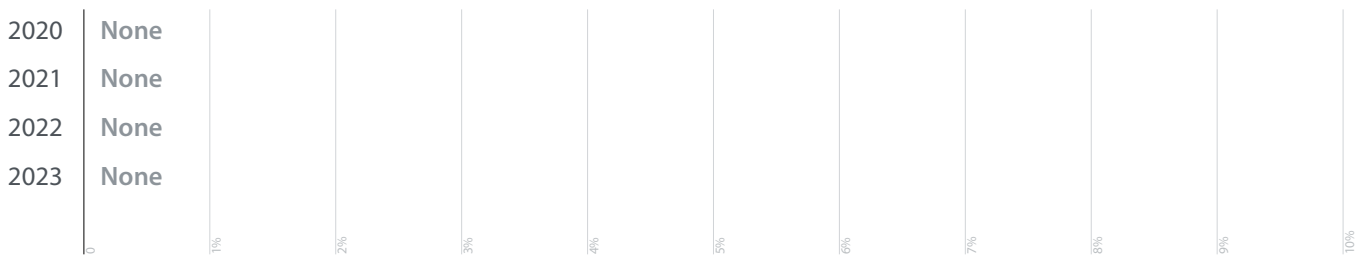
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

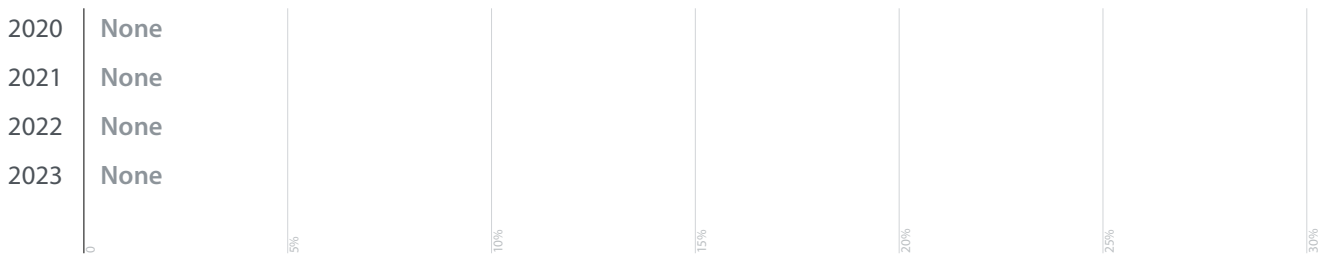
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



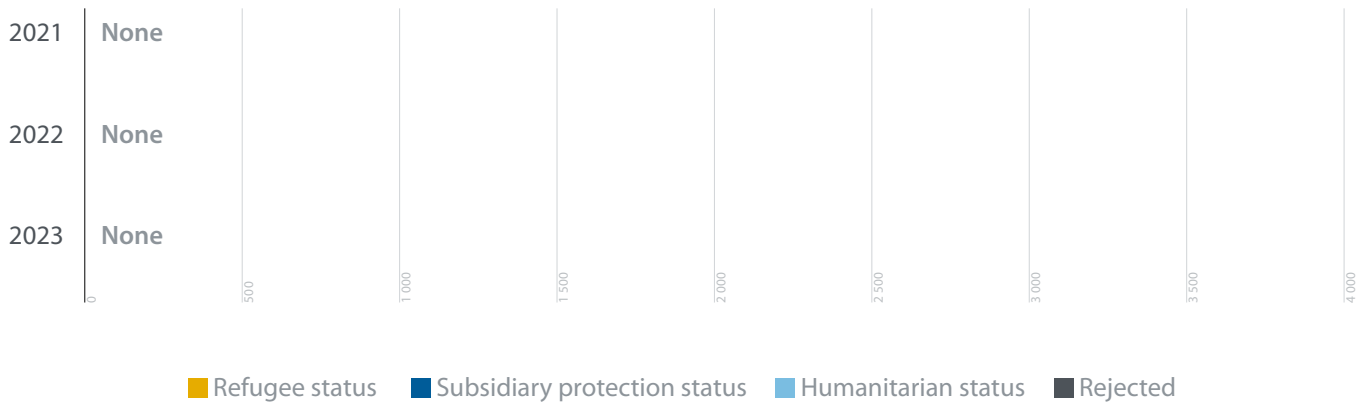
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



* The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes 2022 data for Cyprus.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa and migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



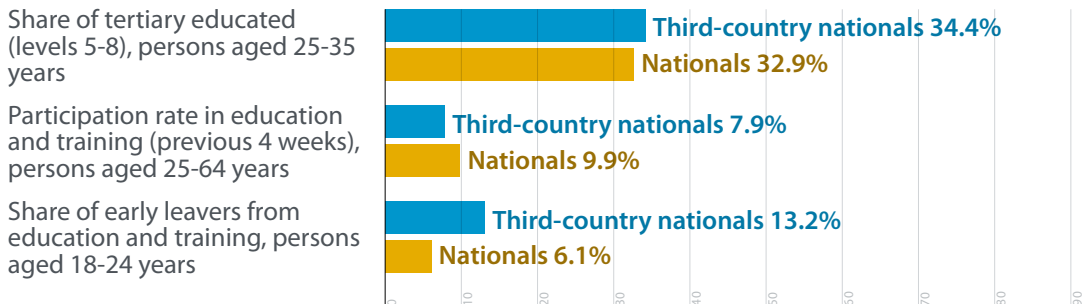
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyumdca](#))

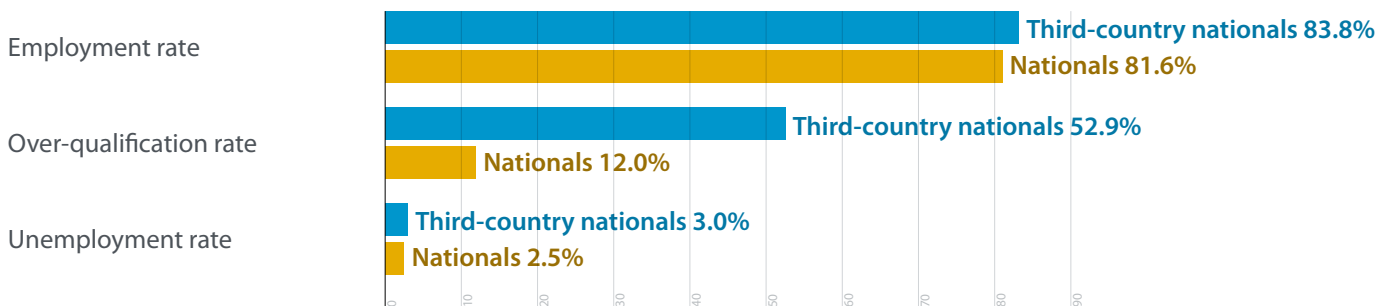
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

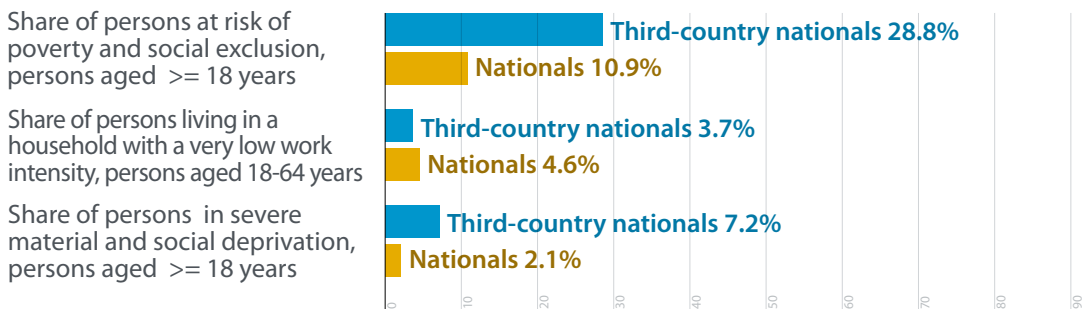
Education, 2023



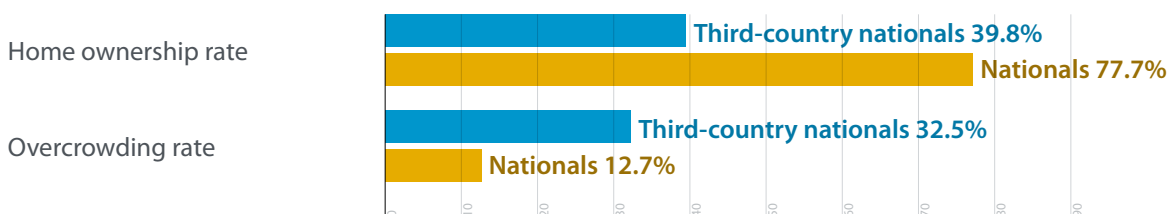
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



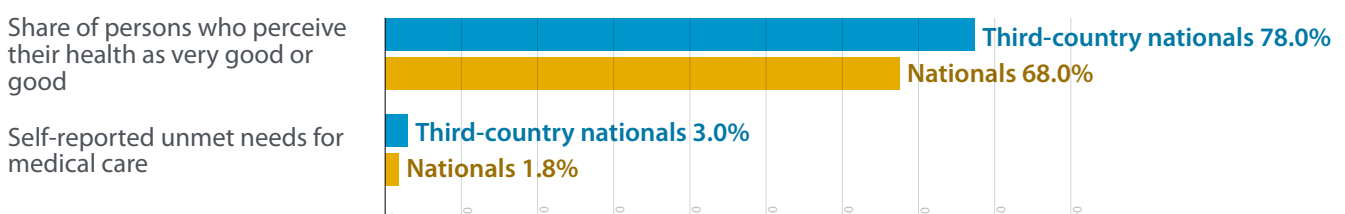
Social inclusion, 2023



Housing, persons aged ≥ 18 years, 2023



Health, persons aged ≥ 16 years, 2022

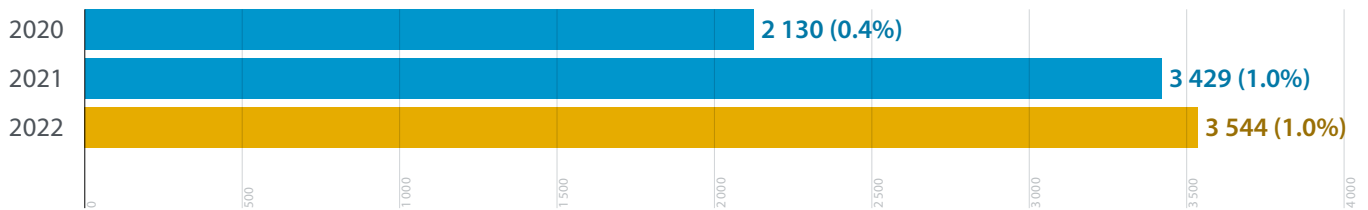




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2020–2022

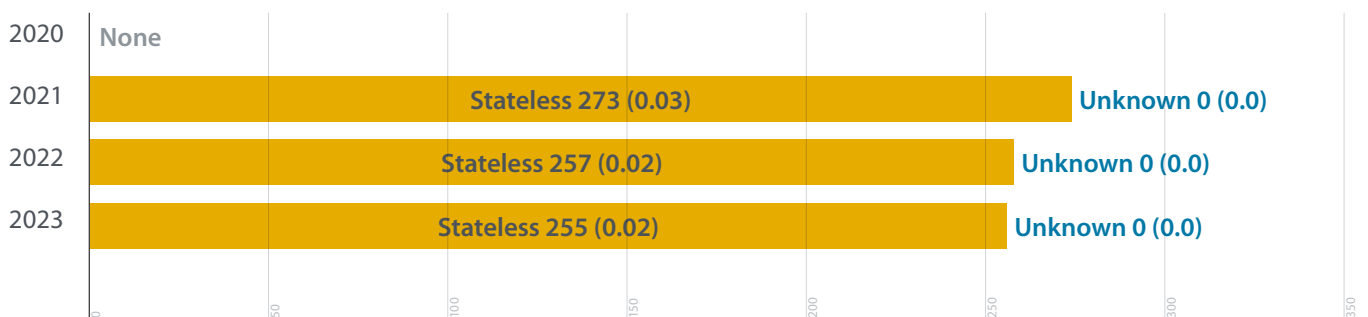
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2020–2023

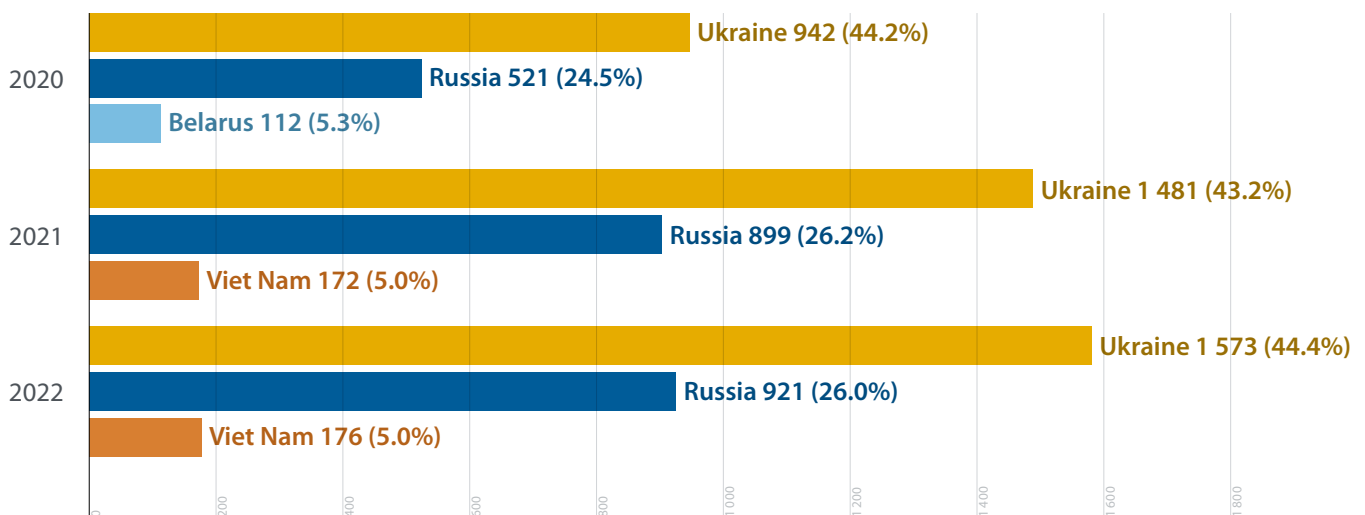
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2020–2022

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

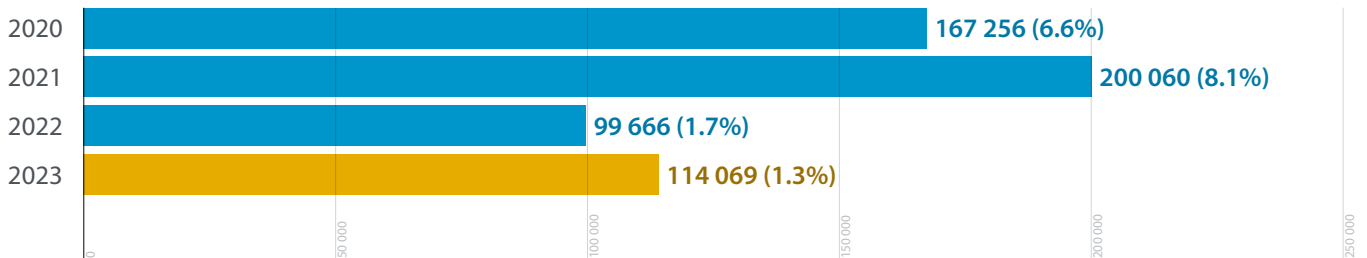


Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued within the Schengen Area)

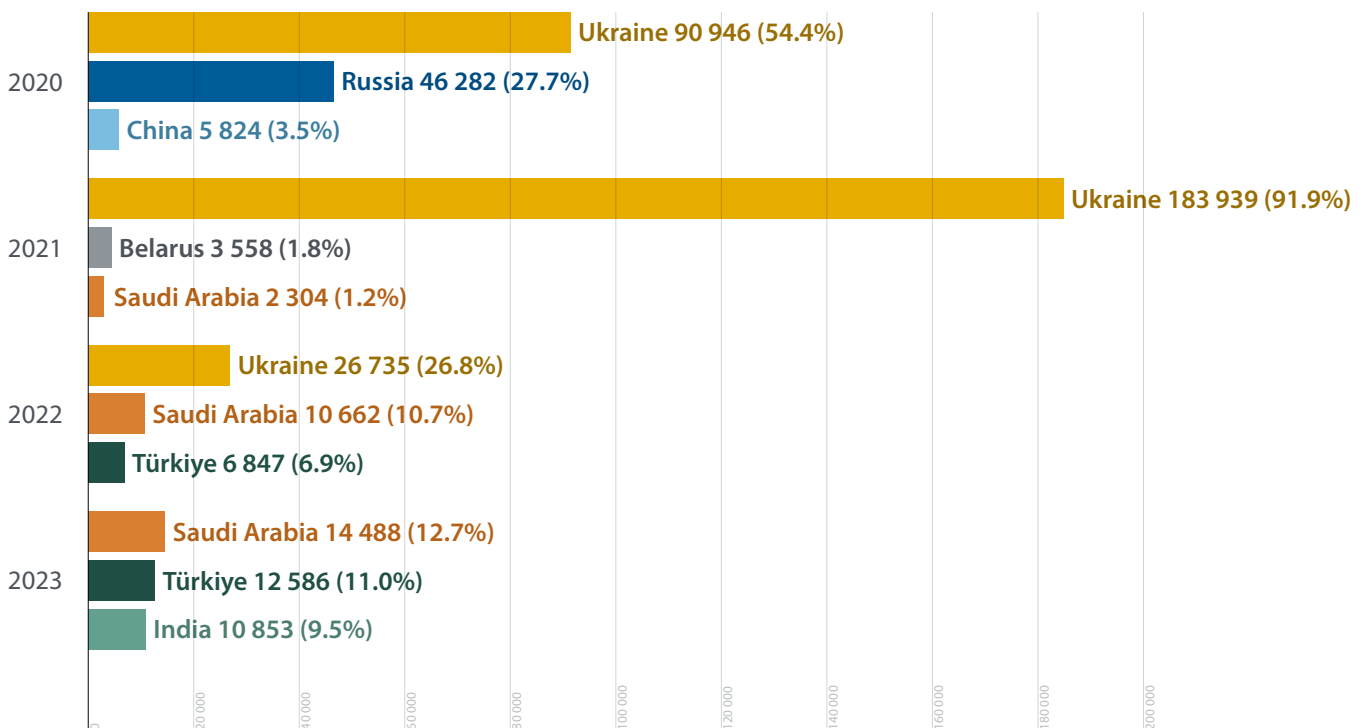


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Three consulate countries in which the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2020–2023

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.

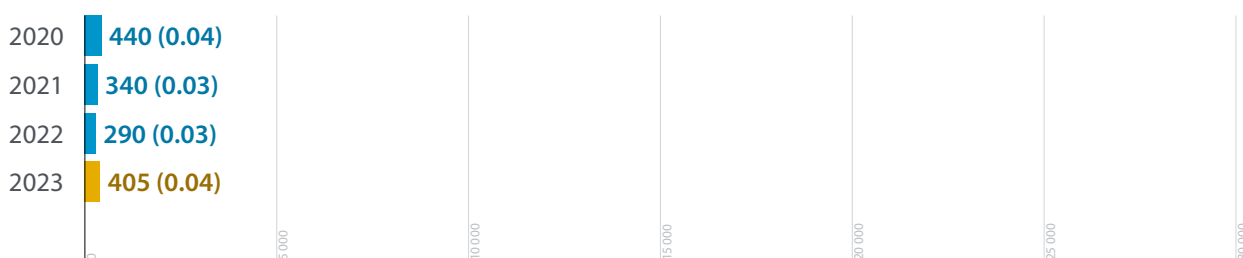
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

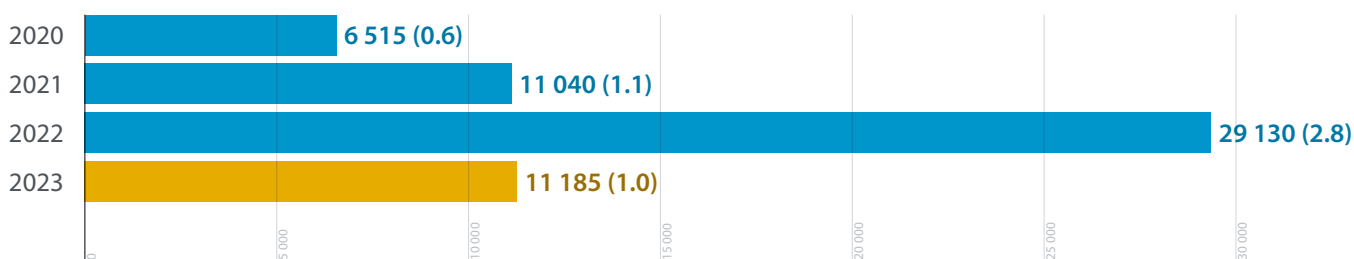
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Persons refused entry



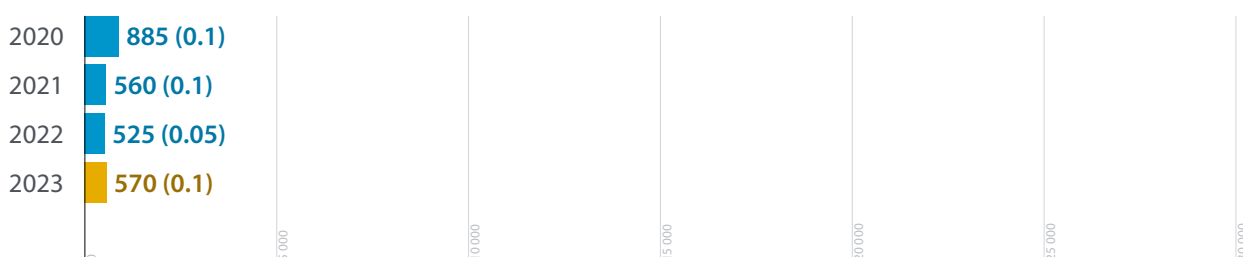
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country



Source: Eurostat (*migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn, demo_gind and migr_eilpop*)

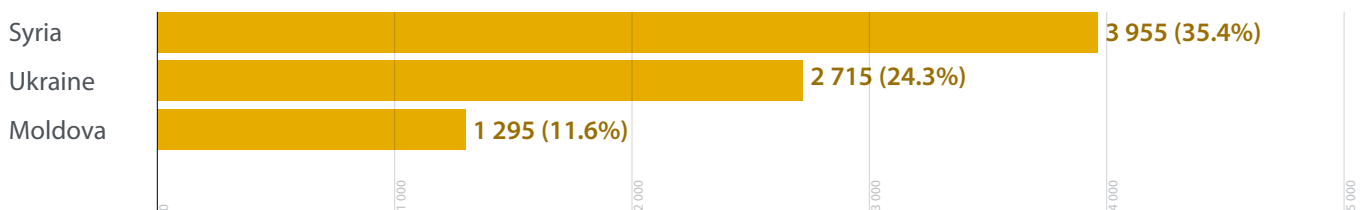
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

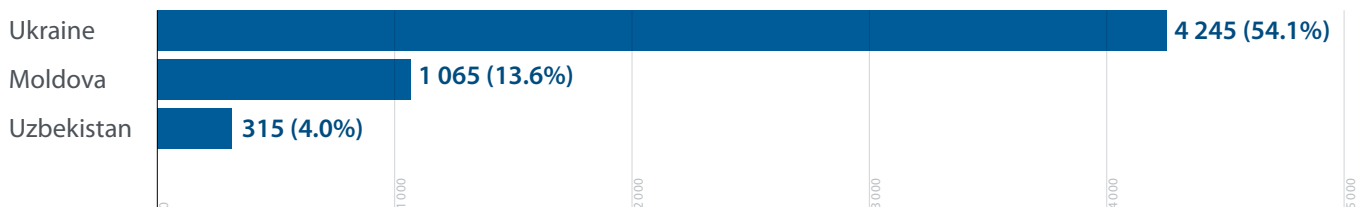
Persons refused entry



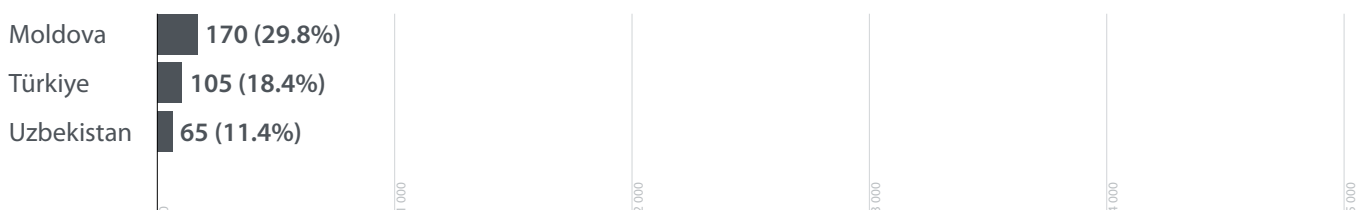
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

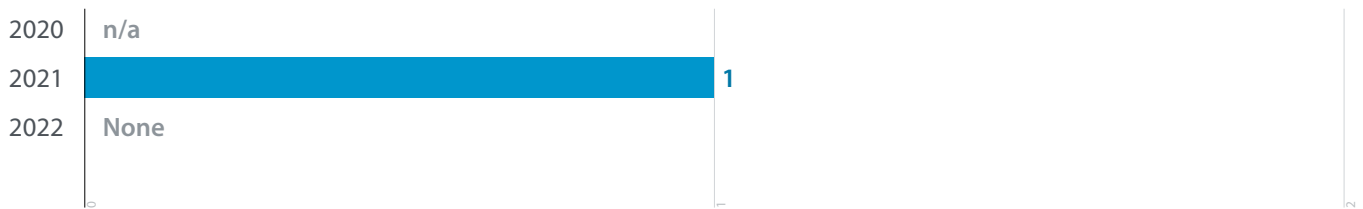


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

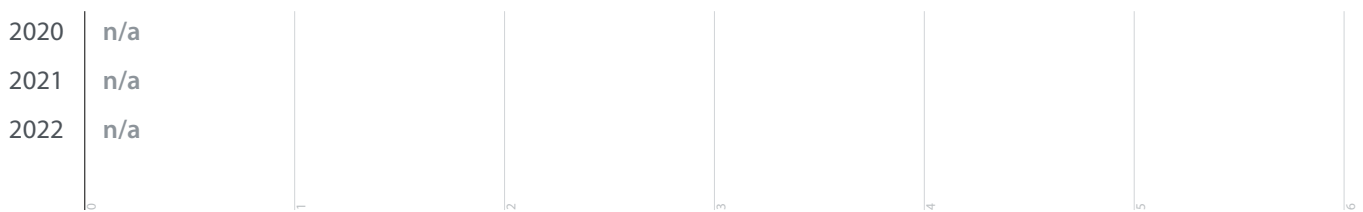
Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022



Note: data not available in 2020; no cases recorded in 2022.

Source: Eurostat (*crim_thb_vctz*)

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020–2022



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resoth*)

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2023

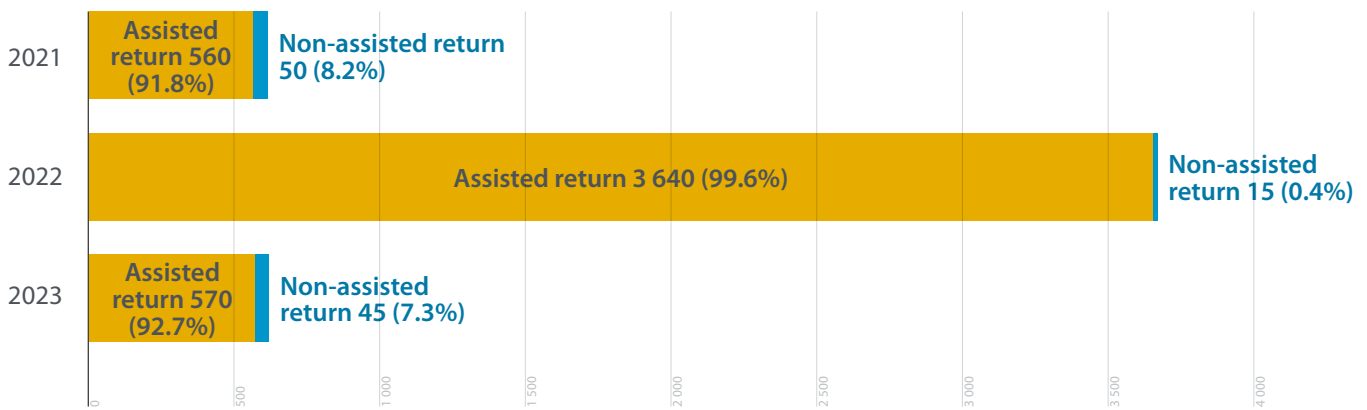
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)