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Asylum in the EU27

The number of asylum applicants registered in the EU27 rose to 301 000 in 2011

In 2011, there were 301 000 asylum applicants¹ registered in the **EU27**. It is estimated that around 90% of these were new applicants and around 10% were repeat applicants². In 2010, there were 259 000 asylum applicants.

In 2011, the main countries of citizenship of these applicants were **Afghanistan** (28 000 or 9% of the total number of applicants), **Russia** (18 200 or 6%), **Pakistan** (15 700 or 5%), **Iraq** (15 200 or 5%) and **Serbia** (13 900 or 5%).

These data³ on asylum applicants in the **EU27** are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Highest number of applicants recorded in France, Germany and Italy

In 2011, the highest number of applicants was registered in **France** (56 300 applicants), followed by **Germany** (53 300), **Italy** (34 100), **Belgium** (31 900), **Sweden** (29 700), the **United Kingdom** (26 400), the **Netherlands** (14 600), **Austria** (14 400), **Greece** (9 300) and **Poland** (6 900). These ten Member States accounted for more than 90% of applicants registered in the **EU27** in 2011.

When compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of applicants registered were recorded in **Malta** (4 500 applicants per million inhabitants), **Luxembourg** (4 200), **Sweden** (3 200), **Belgium** (2 900) and **Cyprus** (2 200).

In some Member States, a large proportion of the applicants came from a single country. The Member States with the highest concentrations were **Poland** (63% of the applicants came from **Russia**), **Latvia** (52% from **Georgia**), **Luxembourg** (44% from **Serbia**), **Lithuania** (43% from **Georgia**), **Bulgaria** (39% from **Iraq**) and **Hungary** (38% from **Afghanistan**).

Three quarters of first instance decisions were rejections

In 2011 in the **EU27**, 237 400 first instance decisions⁴ were made on asylum applications. There were 177 900 rejections (75% of decisions), 29 000 applicants (12%) were granted refugee status, 21 400 (9%) subsidiary protection and 9 100 (4%) authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons. It should be noted that first instance decisions made in 2011 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, 2011

	Applicants		Citizenships of main groups of asylum applicants								
	2011	Per million inh.	First group	#	%	Second group	#	%	Third group	#	%
EU27	301 375	600	Afghanistan	28 005	9	Russia	18 245	6	Pakistan	15 700	5
Belgium	31 915	2 925	Afghanistan	3 195	10	Russia	2 680	8	Guinea	2 425	8
Bulgaria	890	120	Iraq	345	39	Afghanistan	90	10	Syria	85	10
Czech Republic	750	70	Ukraine	150	20	Belarus	70	9	Russia	45	6
Denmark	3 945	710	Afghanistan	910	23	Iran	505	13	Syria	470	12
Germany	53 260	650	Afghanistan	7 955	15	Serbia	6 990	13	Iraq	6 210	12
Estonia	65	50	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	10	16	Afghanistan	10	12	Armenia	5	10
Ireland	1 290	290	Nigeria	180	14	Pakistan	175	14	China	140	11
Greece	9 310	820	Pakistan	2 310	25	Georgia	1 120	12	Afghanistan	635	7
Spain	3 420	75	Ivory Coast	550	16	Cuba	445	13	Nigeria	260	8
France	56 250	865	Russia	4 390	8	Armenia	4 190	7	Bangladesh	4 120	7
Italy	34 115	565	Nigeria	6 210	18	Tunisia	4 560	13	Ghana	3 130	9
Cyprus	1 770	2 200	Vietnam	210	12	Syria	185	11	Egypt	185	10
Latvia	340	150	Georgia	175	52	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	40	11	Russia	20	6
Lithuania	525	160	Georgia	230	43	Russia	110	21	Afghanistan	55	10
Luxembourg	2 150	4 200	Serbia	950	44	FYR of Macedonia	450	21	Kosovo*	140	6
Hungary	1 700	170	Afghanistan	655	38	Kosovo*	210	12	Pakistan	120	7
Malta	1 890	4 525	Somalia	455	24	Eritrea	315	17	Nigeria	250	13
Netherlands	14 600	875	Afghanistan	2 395	16	Iraq	2 005	14	Somalia	1 985	14
Austria	14 420	1 715	Afghanistan	3 630	25	Russia	2 325	16	Pakistan	950	7
Poland	6 900	180	Russia	4 320	63	Georgia	1 740	25	Armenia	215	3
Portugal	275	25	Guinea	45	17	Somalia	25	9	Nigeria	20	8
Romania	1 720	80	Algeria	460	27	Tunisia	215	13	Morocco	215	13
Slovenia	360	175	Afghanistan	65	19	Turkey	50	14	Pakistan	30	8
Slovakia	490	90	Somalia	80	16	Afghanistan	75	15	Georgia	65	13
Finland	2 915	540	Iraq	580	20	Somalia	340	12	Russia	290	10
Sweden	29 670	3 150	Afghanistan	4 130	14	Somalia	4 045	14	Serbia	2 645	9
United Kingdom	26 430	425	Pakistan	4 035	15	Iran	3 155	12	Sri Lanka	2 170	8
Liechtenstein	75	2075	Kosovo*	20	27	Russia	15	19	Serbia	10	15
Norway	8 995	1 830	Somalia	2 215	25	Eritrea	1 255	14	Afghanistan	980	11
Switzerland	23 625	3 005	Eritrea	3 450	15	Nigeria	1 980	8	Tunisia	1 665	7

* Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244

Data are rounded to the nearest 5.

First instance decisions, 2011

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Rejections
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
EU27	237 365	59 465	28 995	21 400	9 070	177 900
Belgium	19 825	5 075	3 810	1 265	-	14 750
Bulgaria	605	190	10	180	-	410
Czech Republic	685	320	105	200	10	365
Denmark	3 570	1 315	735	385	190	2 255
Germany	40 295	9 675	7 100	665	1 910	30 620
Estonia	65	15	10	5	5	50
Ireland	1 365	75	60	15	-	1 295
Greece	8 670	180	45	85	45	8 490
Spain	3 395	990	335	630	20	2 410
France	42 190	4 580	3 340	1 240	-	37 605
Italy	24 150	7 155	1 805	2 265	3 085	16 995
Cyprus	2 630	70	55	*	15	2 560
Latvia	90	20	5	15	-	70
Lithuania	305	25	5	15	-	285
Luxembourg	1 015	35	30	5	-	980
Hungary	895	155	45	100	10	740
Malta	1 605	885	70	690	125	720
Netherlands	15 790	6 830	710	4 065	2 050	8 965
Austria	13 245	4 085	2 480	1 605	-	9 160
Poland	3 215	475	155	155	170	2 740
Portugal	100	50	20	30	-	50
Romania	1 075	75	70	10	0	1 000
Slovenia	215	20	15	5	-	190
Slovakia	215	115	5	80	35	100
Finland	2 595	1 065	160	715	190	1 535
Sweden	26 720	8 805	2 335	5 390	1 075	17 915
United Kingdom	22 835	7 190	5 480	1 590	120	15 645
Liechtenstein	45	15	*	10	0	30
Norway	9 545	4 015	2 810	765	435	5 535
Switzerland	15 990	6 445	3 675	975	1 790	9 545

- Not applicable

* One or two first instance decisions

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 21 of the 27 Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom). These Member States covered 91% of all asylum applicants registered in the EU27 in 2011.

3. 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.
4. **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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