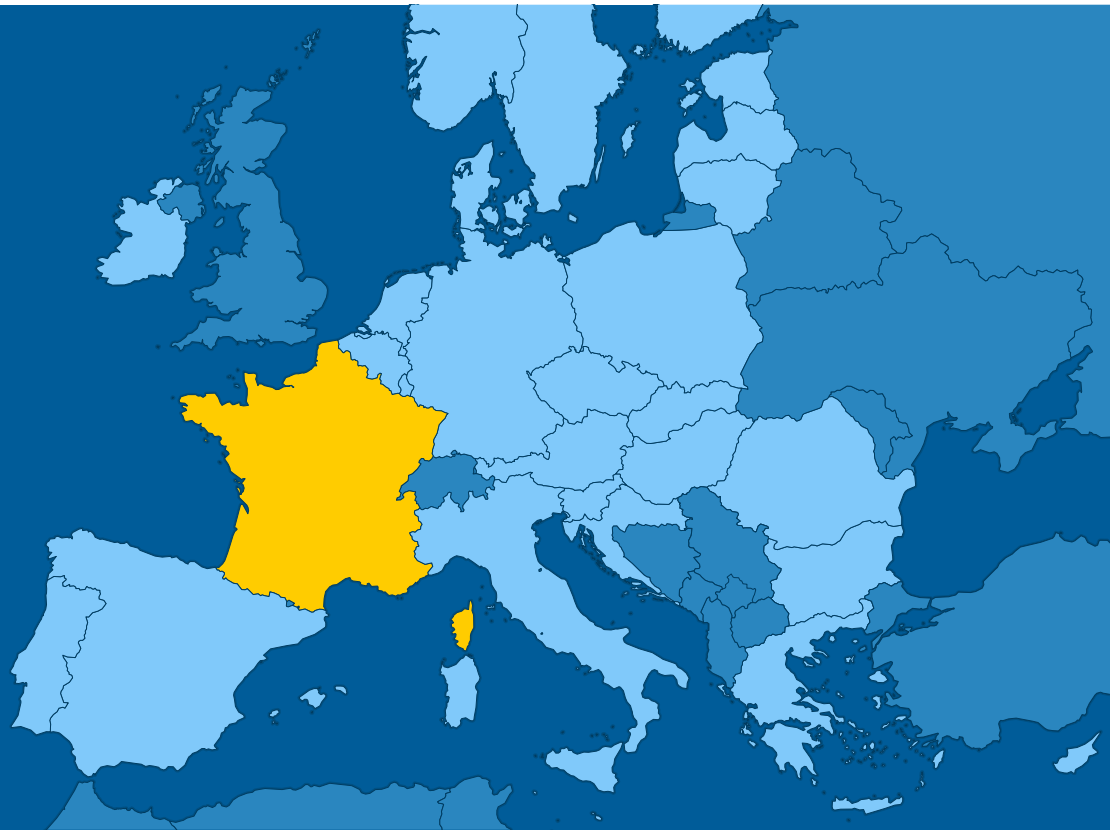


COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics



FRANCE 2023



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

2023 was marked by the examination of the bill to control immigration and improve integration. The bill was presented to the Council of Ministers in February 2023 and adopted on 19 December 2023. However, Law No 2024-42 to control immigration and improve integration was not promulgated until 26 January 2024. Some of its provisions are immediately applicable, while others will be applicable only once the implementing measures are taken.



LEGAL MIGRATION

In 2023, France set out online applications for residence permits on professional, family and humanitarian grounds.

In May 2023, France presented the PNLTI 2023-2027. The plan identified priorities for various State services around two key objectives: better monitoring of illegal employment situations; and improving penalties, recovery and compensation for the damage caused by illegal employment.



KEY POINTS

- France has prioritised the fight against all forms of exploitation of human beings in its public policies, including through the National Plan To Combat Illegal Employment (PNLTI) 2023-2027 and the Third National Plan to Combat the Exploitation and Trafficking of Human Beings 2024-2027.
- The integration of newly arrived foreign nationals is a public policy priority, with measures to provide language support and access to the labour market and housing.
- The 2023-2027 National Strategic Plan aims to strengthen its work with the most vulnerable groups of the populations and to roll out a national strategy for the assessment and care of unaccompanied minors.

Work-related migration

France continued to take steps to simplify the conditions of employment for migrant workers, in particular by reducing the information requested from employers of posted workers. With an instruction on 15 May 2023, France promoted a dedicated multi year residence permit [Talent Passport](#), for foreign e-sports players or trainers likely to make a significant and lasting contribution to France's economic development or influence. This sought to promote France's appeal and competitiveness in e-sports.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless people (OFPRA) continued to update its information for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection through its website and booklets, and strengthened the procedural guarantees for asylum seekers by organising training courses for interpreters.

Ongoing implementation of the National Plan for the Reception of Asylum Seekers and Refugees (SNADAR) for 2021-2023 increased the accommodation capacity of the national reception system, with the creation of 5 900 additional places in 2023.

Relocation, resettlement, humanitarian admission and other pathways to protection

As part of the information on policy guidelines for the reception of resettled persons in 2023, published on 23 May 2023, France renewed its commitments to the European Commission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for a total of 3 000 refugees from nine first asylum countries (Lebanon, Türkiye, Jordan, Egypt, Cameroon, Chad, Rwanda, Niger, Ethiopia).

On 13 December 2023, France co-sponsored the World Refugee Forum, where it announced its decision to triple its financial contribution over three years. France is also committed to resettling isolated and vulnerable refugee women in France, in particular victims of violence, exploitation, or human trafficking, via the Women in Danger scheme.



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

In accordance with the instructions of the General Directorate of foreign nationals in France, from 10 February 2023, temporary authorisation of stay issued under temporary protection does not have any particular territorial restrictions. Rather, it authorises the holder to travel within the territory of the Schengen area with

a valid travel document (passport) for a period not exceeding 90 days per period of 180 days.

A circular of 23 June 2023 on the multi-year guidelines for the reception and integration of displaced persons from Ukraine (2023-2024) continued the social and professional integration process for BoTP by supporting them towards greater social independence, in particular access to individual housing, medical care, and education and learning of French.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

On 13 December 2023, the Directorate for Youth Protection launched a new five-year plan, the 2023-2027 National Strategic Plan, to step up its work with the most vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors, in both civil and penal cases. This plan includes the deployment of a national strategy for the assessment and care of unaccompanied minors.

Status determination procedures and procedural safeguards for unaccompanied minors

On 22 December 2023, to support the assessment of minority status by all departments, a Council of State's Decree systematised the signing of an agreement between the President of the Department Council and the State representative in the Department to set out the terms and conditions of their coordination.

The same Decree reaffirmed the organisation of an initial identification of health needs and, if necessary, referral to appropriate assistance. It also specified the duration of temporary emergency assistance, introduced the mandatory relief period into the regulatory provisions prior to the evaluation of status and isolation, and provided guidelines for its duration.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

National integration strategy

In 2023, France made the integration of newly arrived foreign nationals (including beneficiaries of international protection) a public policy priority. It defined four priorities of action: steering of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) refugee support programme (comprehensive and individualised support for refugees) and its local links with existing support schemes; integrating foreign nationals through language and employment; involving the host society; and effective coordination in partnership with local authorities, in particular through territorial reception and integration contracts.

Education and training

In the Instruction of 8 February 2023 on the 2023 priorities of the integration policy for newly arrived foreign nationals, including refugees, France promoted language training that complements the Republican Integration Contract, in line with the local context and needs of the target groups.

France implemented measures to adapt the procedure for validating acquired experience and support the valorisation of qualifications with two schemes. In 2023, two support schemes for foreign nationals were upgraded: the 'VAE without borders' (*Validation des Acquis de l'Expérience sans frontières*), which aims to offer specific support to foreign nationals in 11 education authorities to help them with their VAE process; and the 'Experience without borders' (*Expérience sans frontières*) scheme. These two measures are designed to promote integration through employment by facilitating access to professional certification and enhancing the value of experience.

Collaboration with multiple stakeholders including non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

France undertook projects involving civil society, such as a civic service programme for the reception and integration of young foreign nationals (Volont'R), sponsorship and mentoring schemes, support for sporting activities, and positive communication on integration paths.

Fighting Racism and Discrimination

On 30 January 2023, France launched a new National Plan to combat Racism, Anti-Semitism, and Discrimination on the Grounds of Origin (2023-2026). It includes concrete measures such as training for all civil servants, the introduction of a genuine policy of enhanced testing to fight discrimination in hiring processes and in access to housing, facilitation for lodging complaints for victims, and the increase of penalties for racist or antisemitic expressions by persons acting in an official capacity.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Acquisition of Citizenship

From 6 February 2023, applications for access to French nationality by decision of the public authorities (naturalisation and reinstatement of French nationality) will be electronically processed via the NATALI teleservice set up by the Ministry of the Interior.



BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

In 2023, the Operational Border Headquarters was created under the aegis of the National Border Police Directorate to ensure better coordination between authorities involved in managing external borders.

In line with the recommendations of the European Commission's Schengen coordinator, France continued to develop bilateral operational cooperation with border countries.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

No significant developments to report in 2023.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

On 11 December 2023, France launched the Third National Plan to Combat the Exploitation and Trafficking of Human Beings 2024-2027. The plan aims to provide better protection for all citizens, whether French or foreign nationals, minors or adults, against the attacks on human dignity caused by the various forms of trafficking and exploitation. It also seeks to strengthen the effectiveness of the criminal justice policy to dismantle and convict criminal networks, particularly transnational networks, and exploiters operating in France. This plan includes some 60 concrete measures, notably the creation of a national mechanism for the early identification, referral and protection of victims.



RETURN AND READMISSION

(Assisted) voluntary return and reintegration

France radically modified its voluntary assisted return programme in the Decree of 9 October 2023. The new scheme introduces a degression of aid in three phases, while increasing the initial amounts of aid and stipulating that only illegal foreign nationals holding an obligation to leave French territory will be eligible for assisted return.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The new Integration and Development Strategy (2023-2030) was drafted in 2023 and will be officially launched in 2024. It is structured around five domains of the Joint Valletta Action Plan and will reflect developments in the international and European standards framework. It aims to strengthen France's action on migration by drawing on the expertise of its various operators.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for France 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.

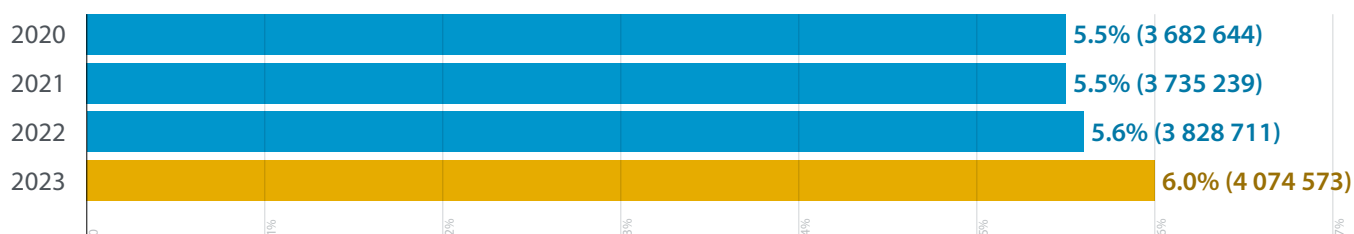
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2020–2023

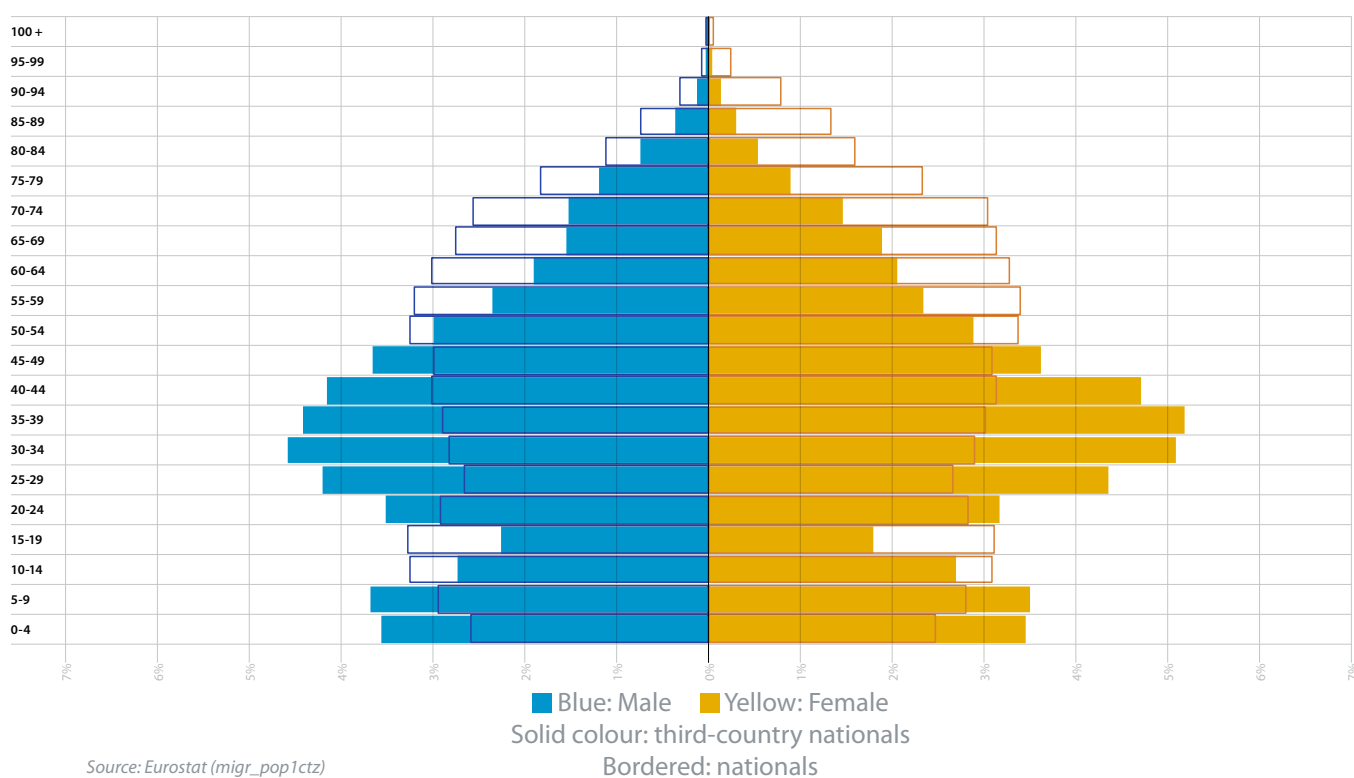
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

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

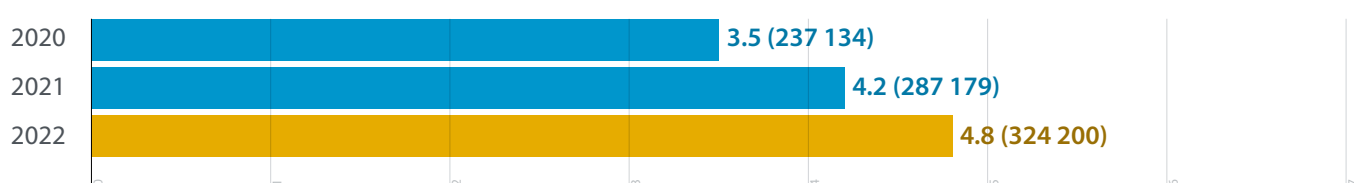
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

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

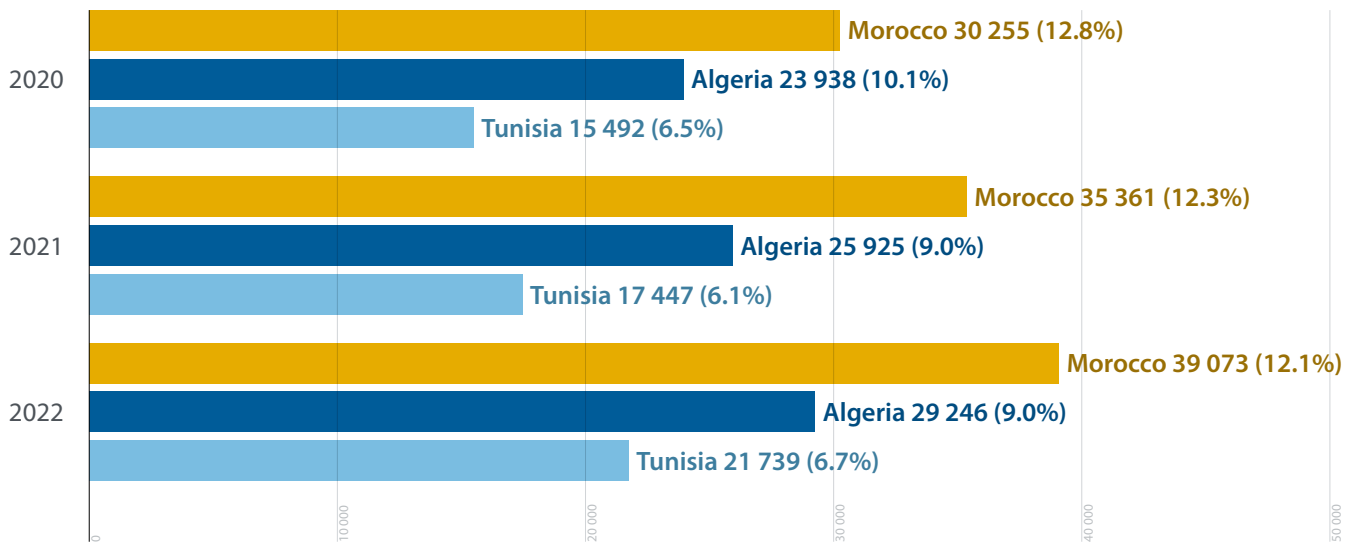
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz and migr_respop)

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

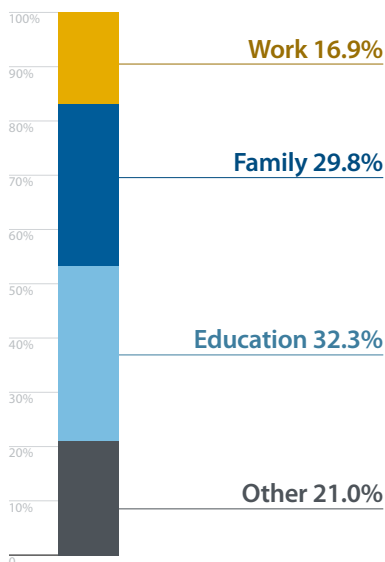
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



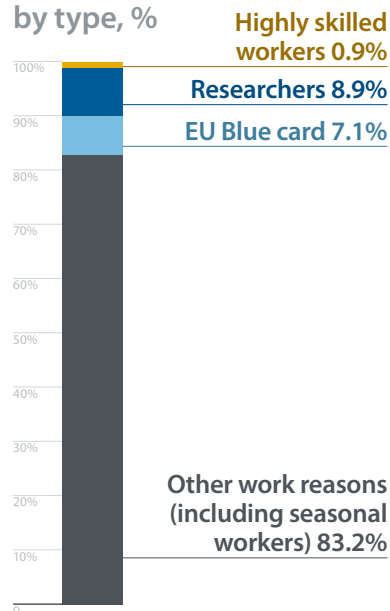
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

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

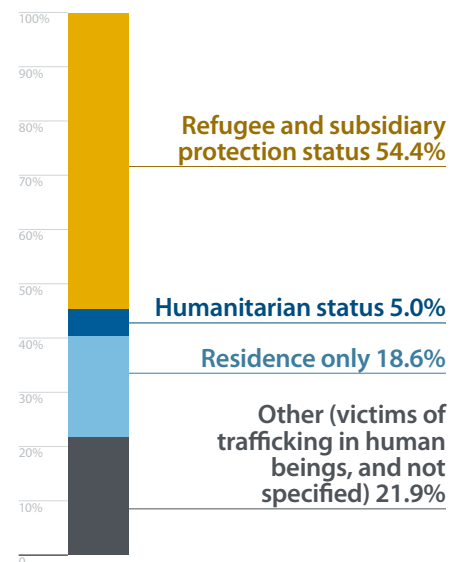
All permits,
by reason, %



Work reason,
by type, %



Other reason,
by detailed reason, %



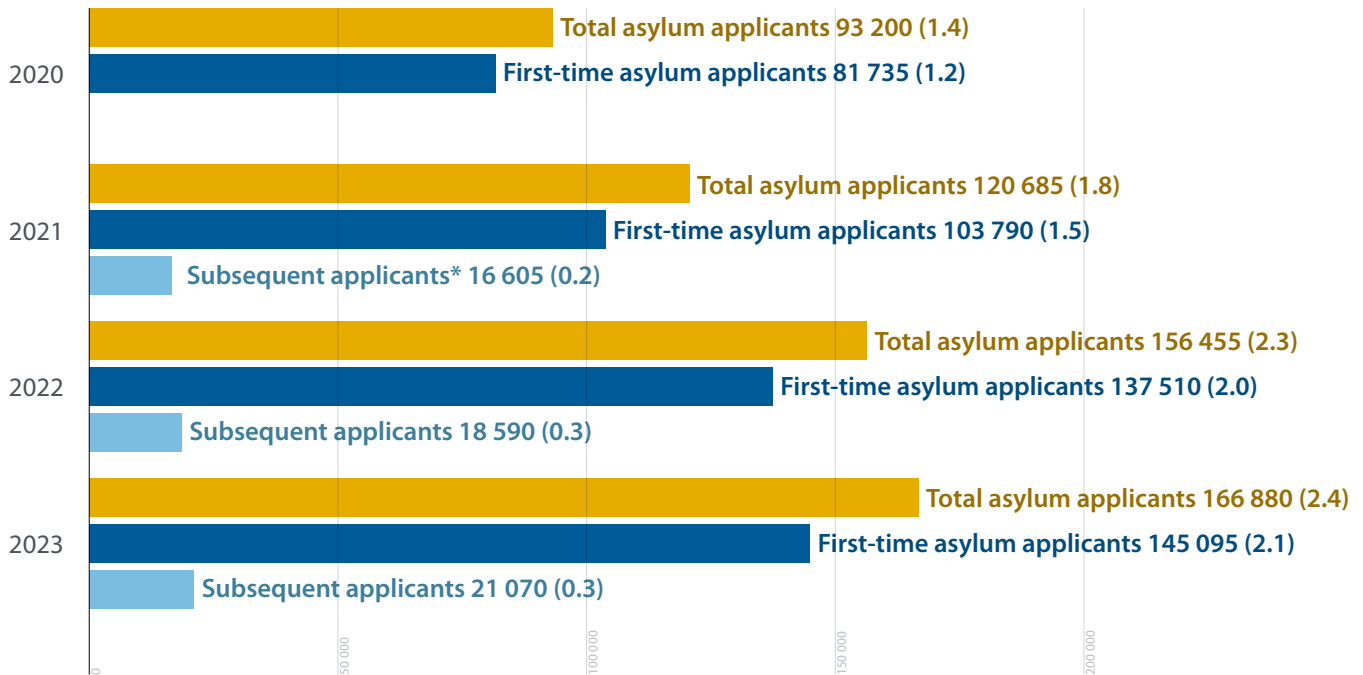
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resfpc, migr_resocc and migr_resoth)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

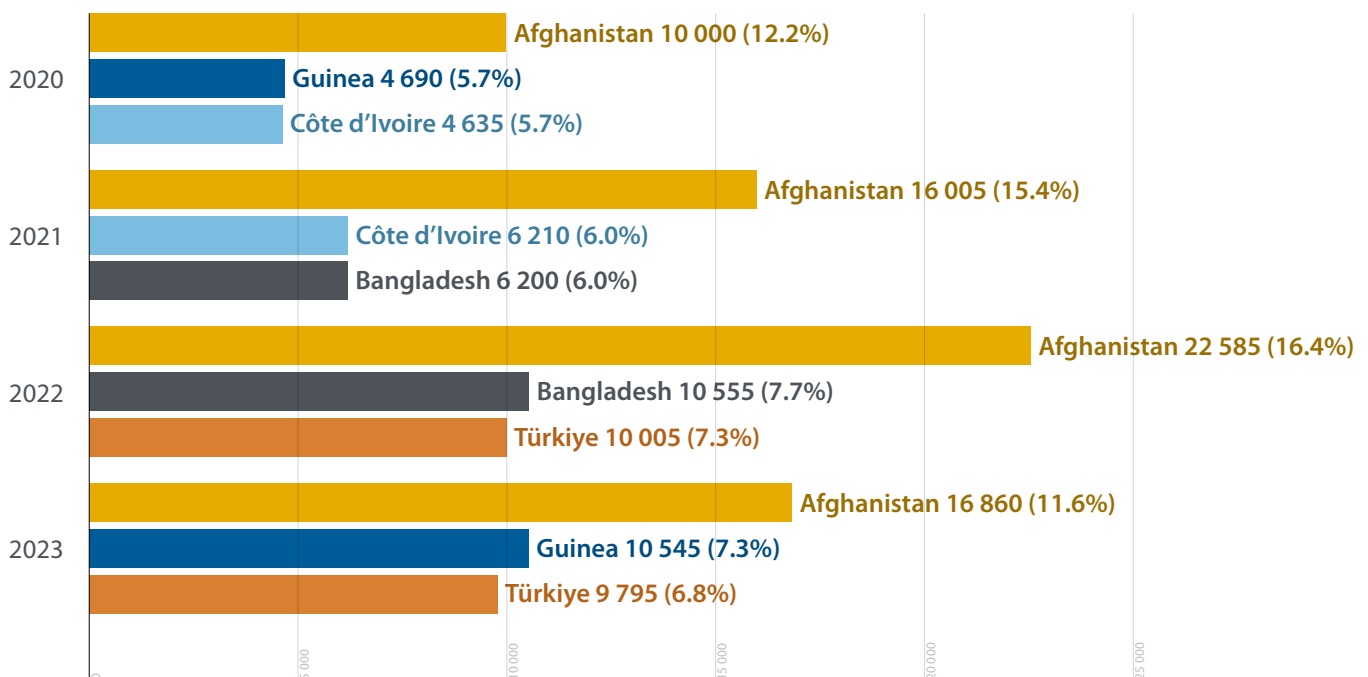


* Data collection from 2021.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz and migr_asyapp1mp)

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

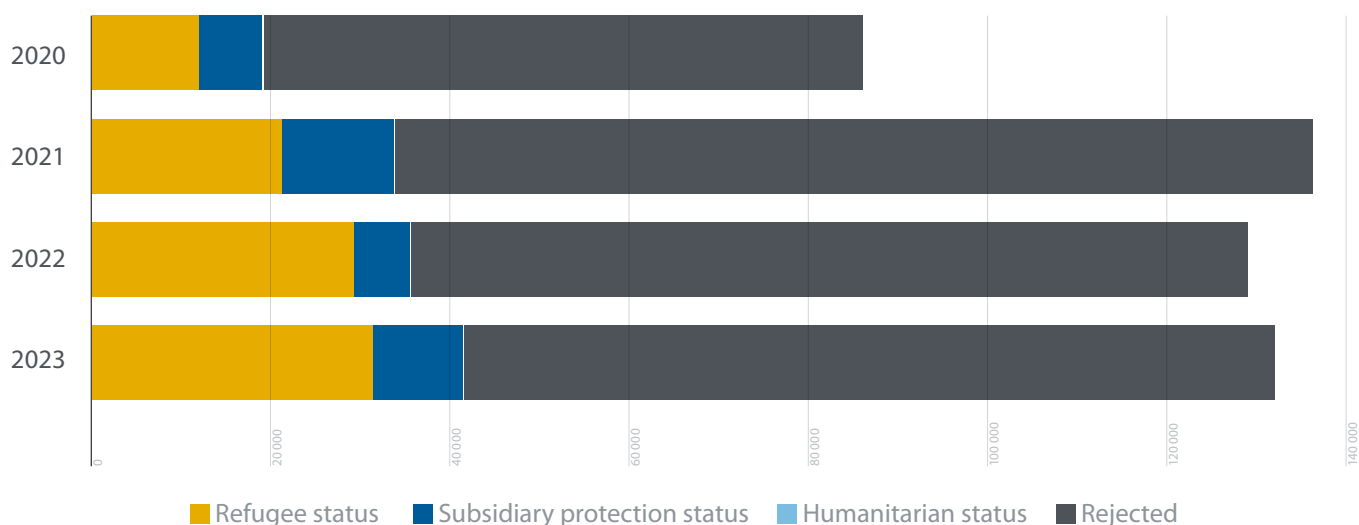
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

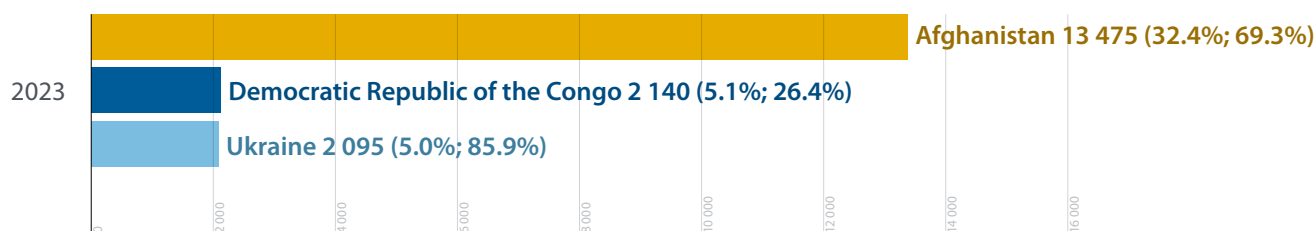


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	11 955 (13.8%)	7 180 (8.3%)	–	67 200 (77.8%)
2021	21 340 (15.6%)	12 535 (9.1%)	–	103 140 (75.3%)
2022	29 410 (22.7%)	6 265 (4.8%)	–	93 980 (72.5%)
2023	31 480 (23.7%)	10 135 (7.6%)	–	91 085 (68.6%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst and migr_asydec1pc)

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

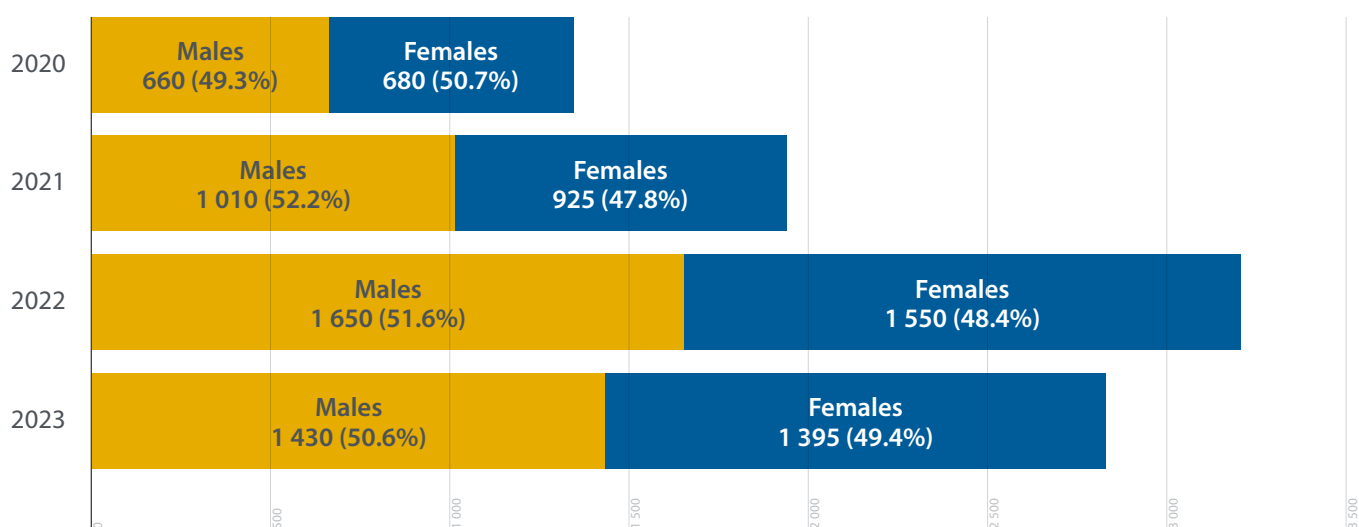
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst)

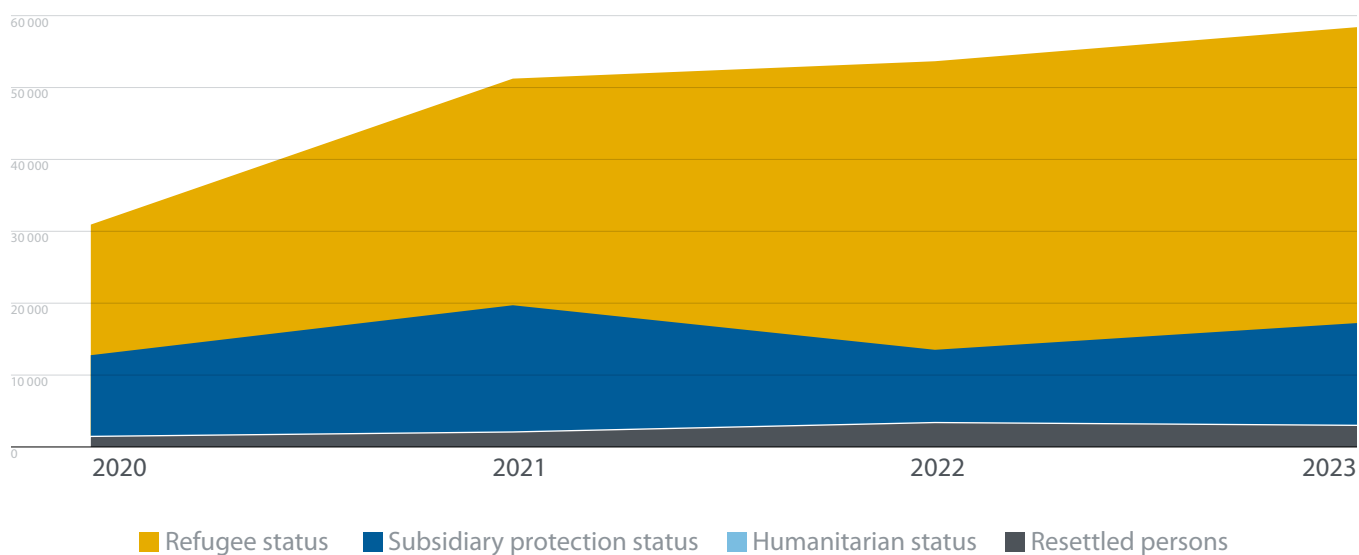
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

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	18 070	11 320	–	1 340
2021	31 355	17 635	–	1 935
2022	39 925	10 205	–	3 200
2023	40 940	14 280	–	2 825

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

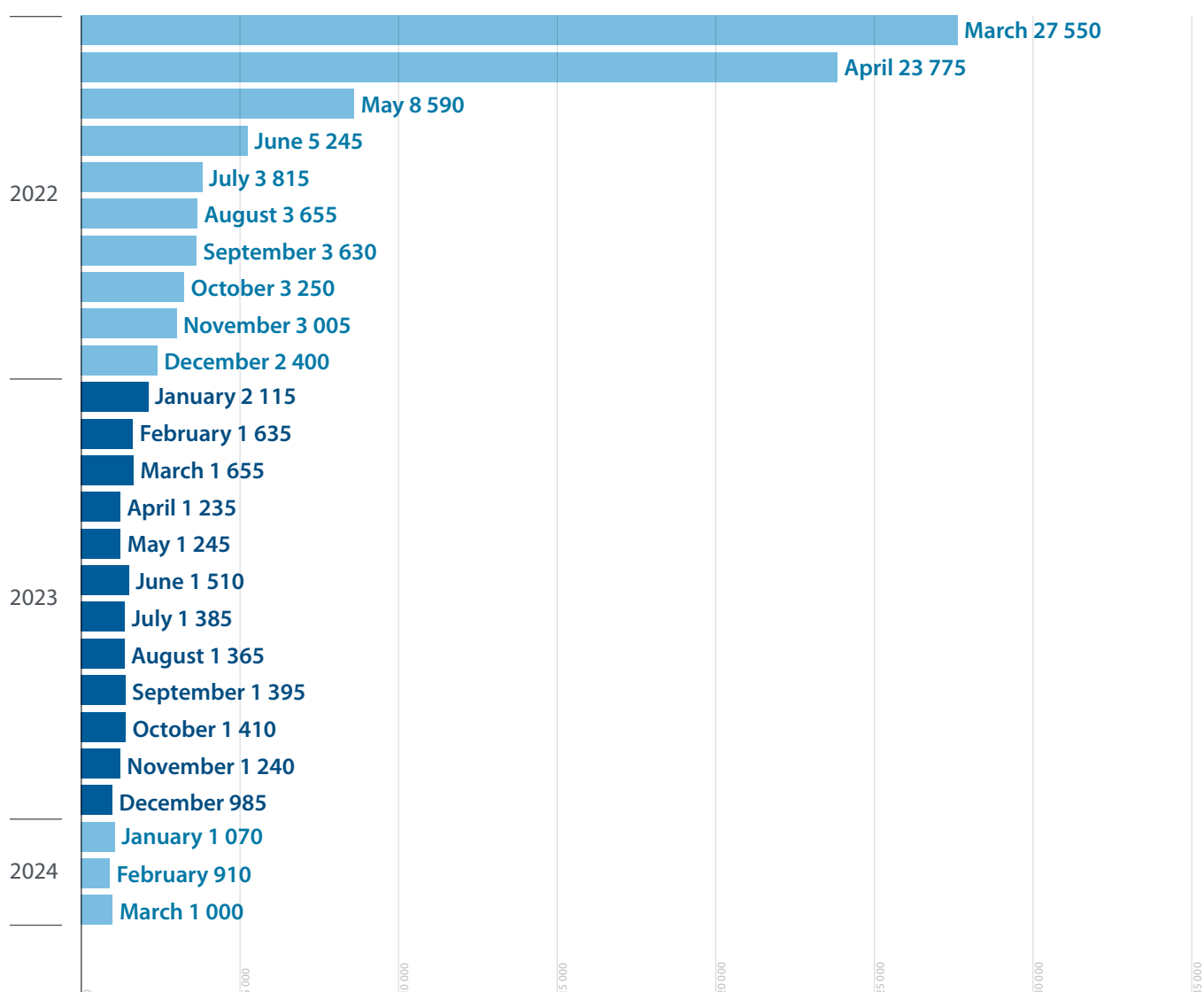
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Note: French data does not generally include minors.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

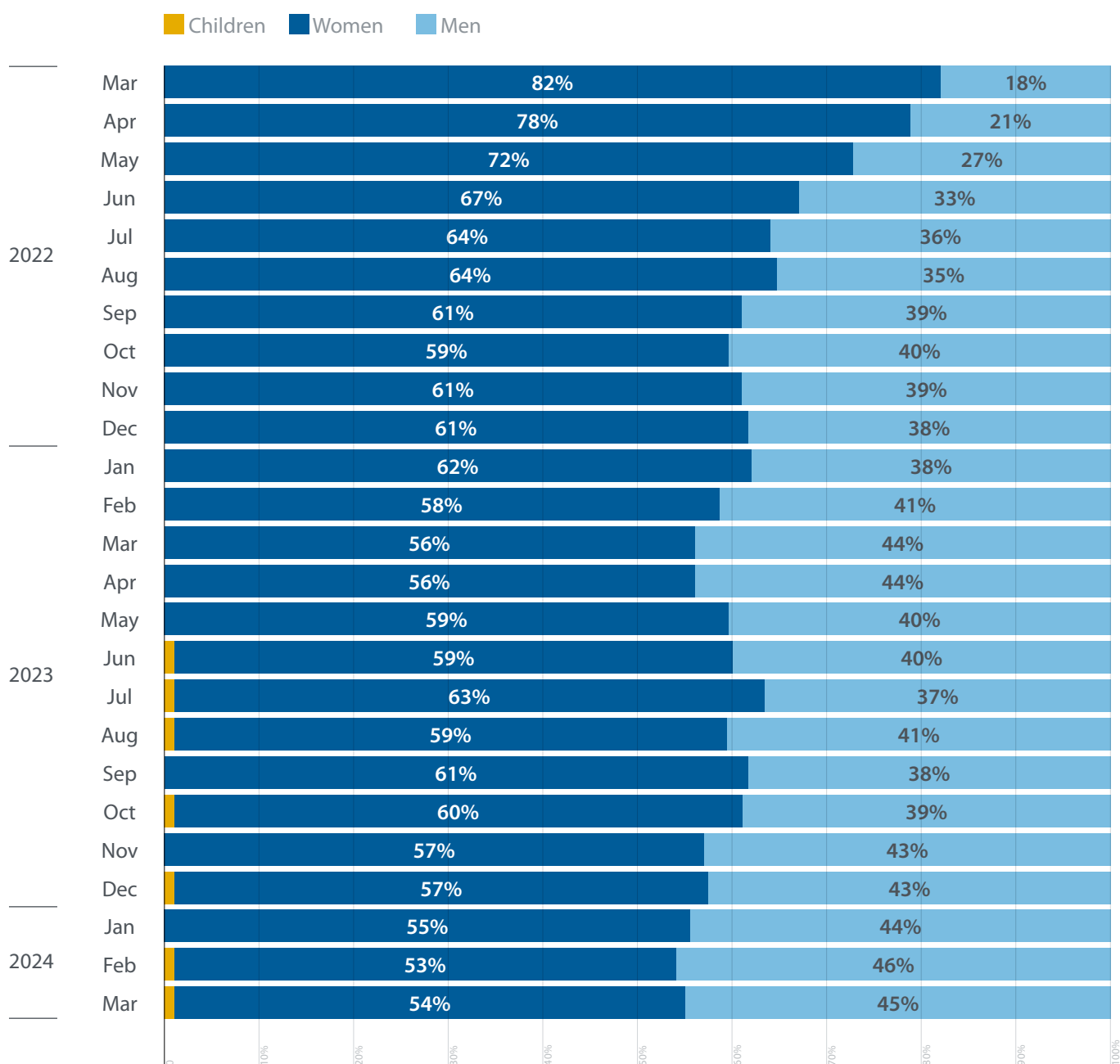
Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



Note: French data does not generally include minors.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)

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



Note: French data does not generally include minors.

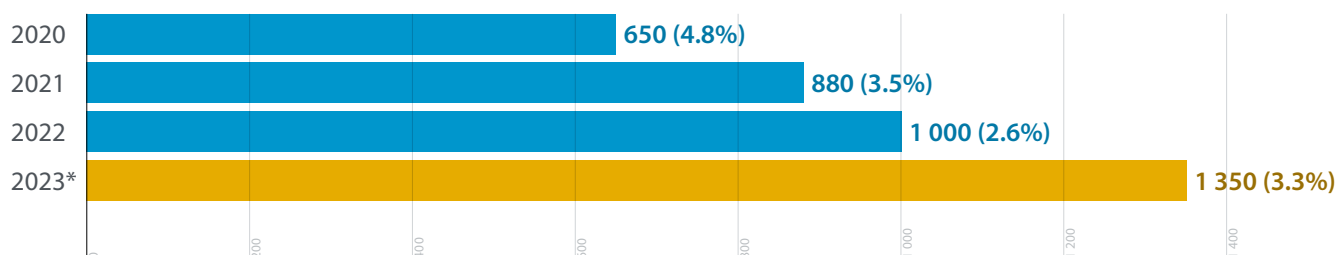
Source: Eurostat (migr_asypfm)



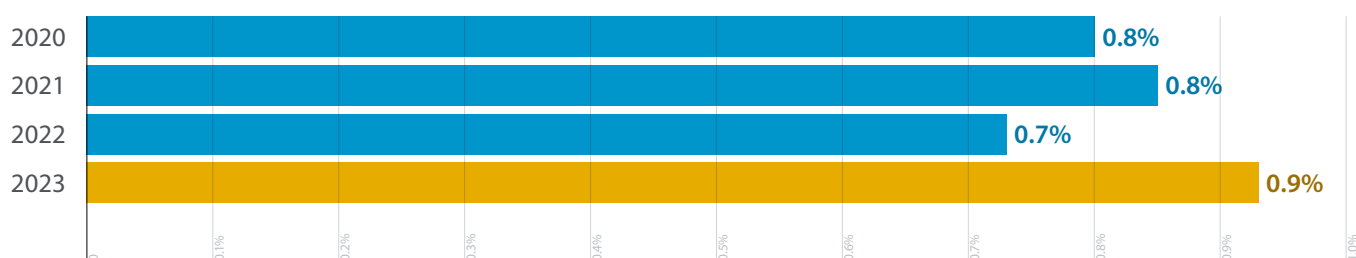
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

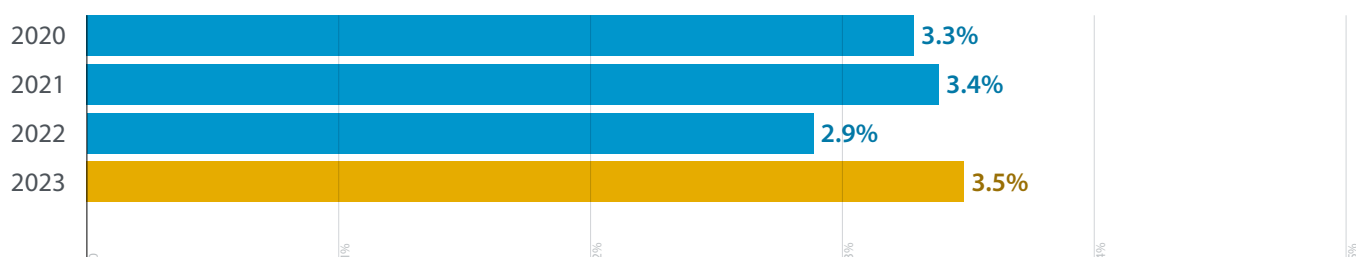
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



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

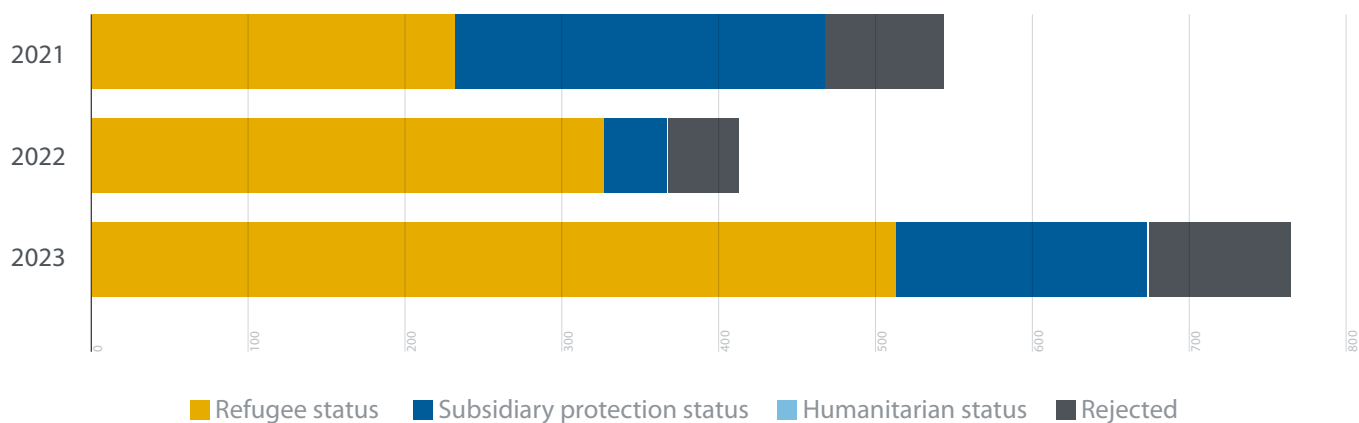


* The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes 2022 data for Cyprus.

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	230 (42.6%)	235 (43.5%)	–	75 (13.9%)
2022	325 (79.3%)	40 (9.8%)	–	45 (11.0%)
2023	510 (67.1%)	160 (21.1%)	–	90 (11.8%)

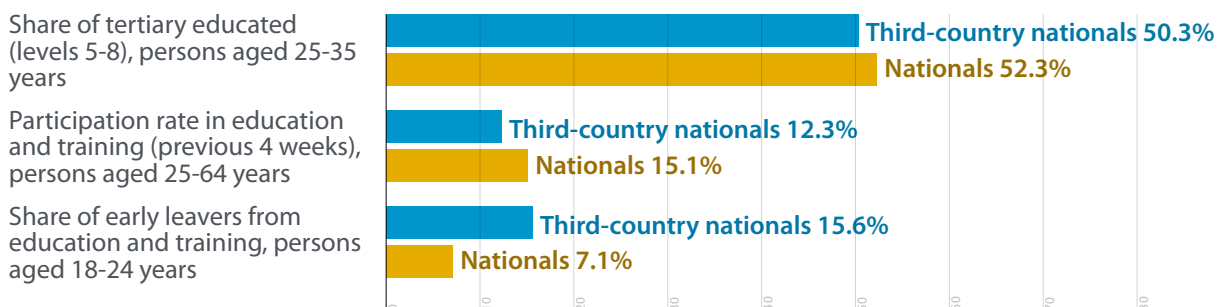
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdca)



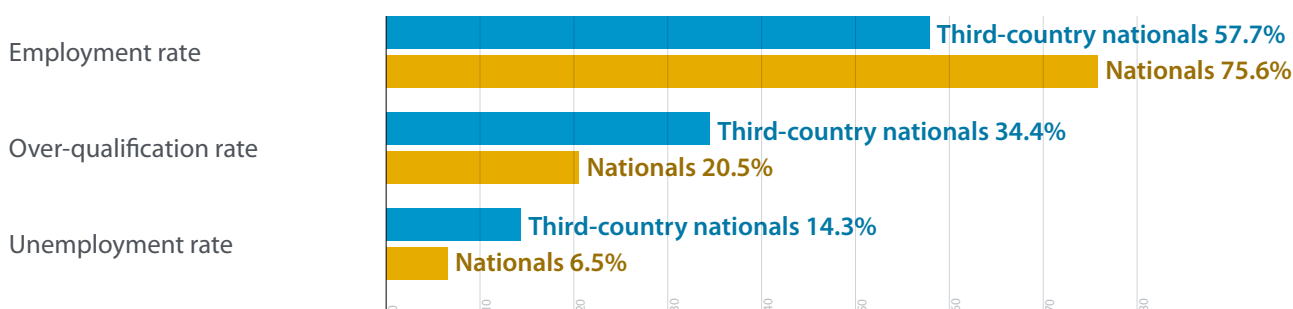
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

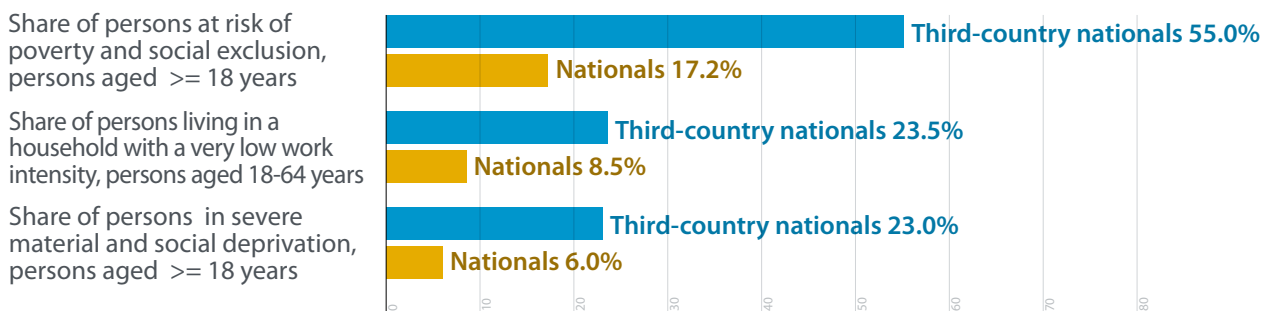
Education, 2023



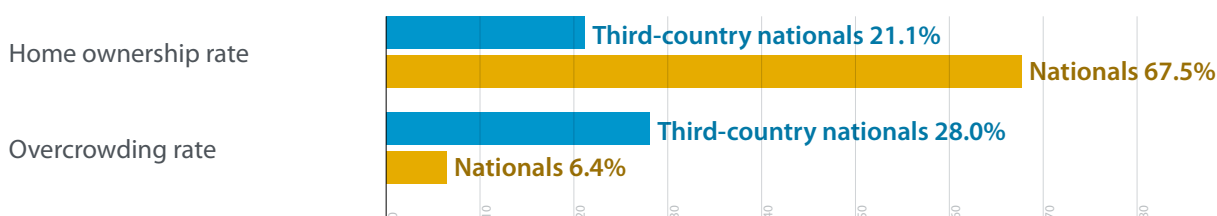
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



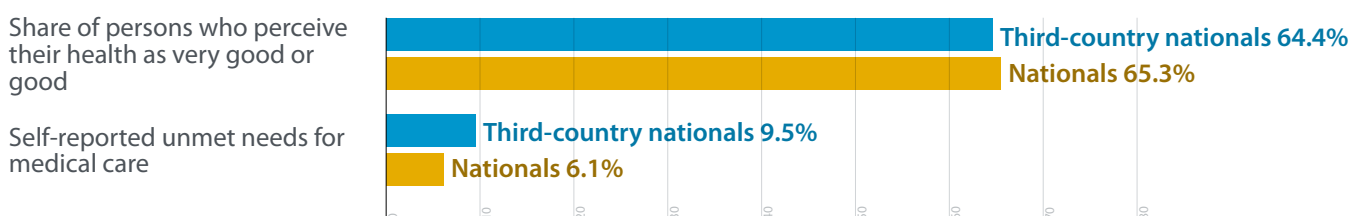
Social inclusion, 2022



Housing, persons aged ≥ 18 years, 2022



Health, persons aged ≥ 16 years, 2022

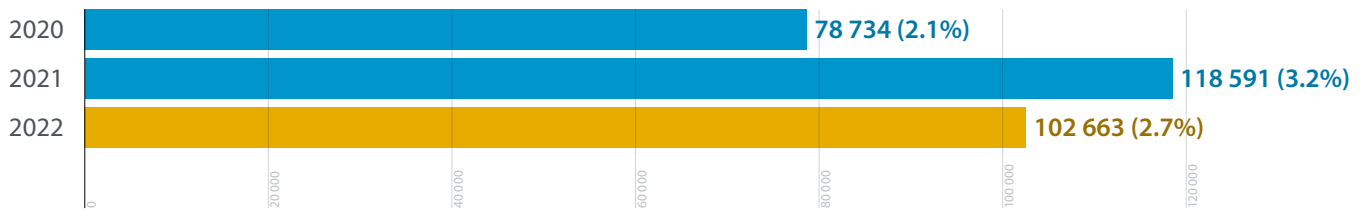




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

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

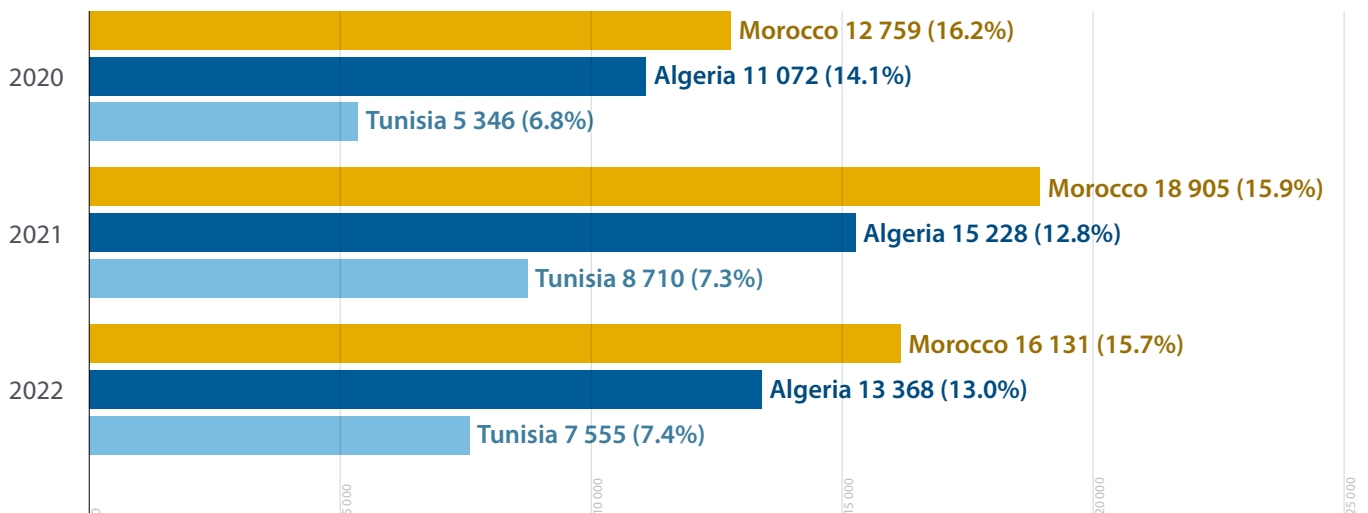
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)

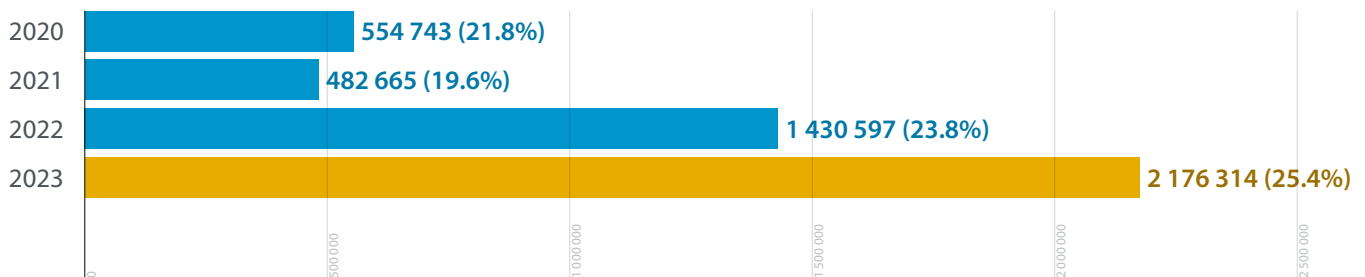


Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

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)

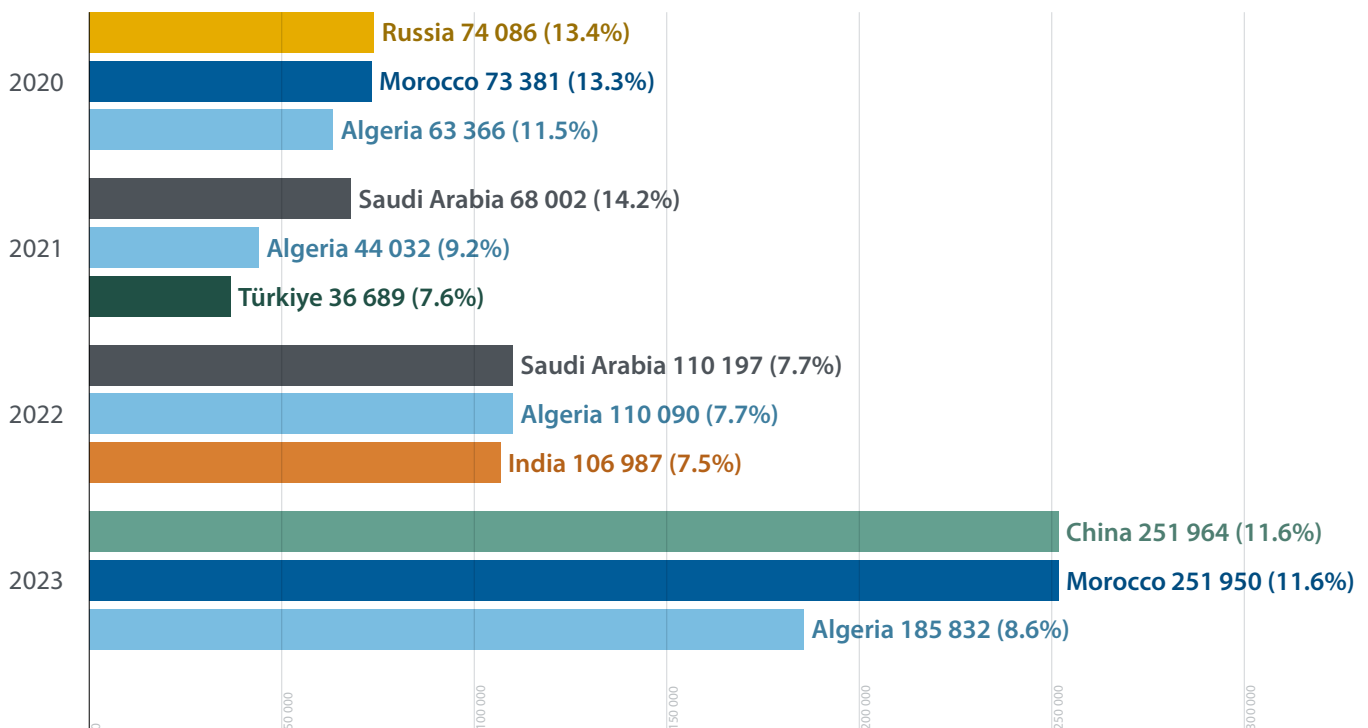


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

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

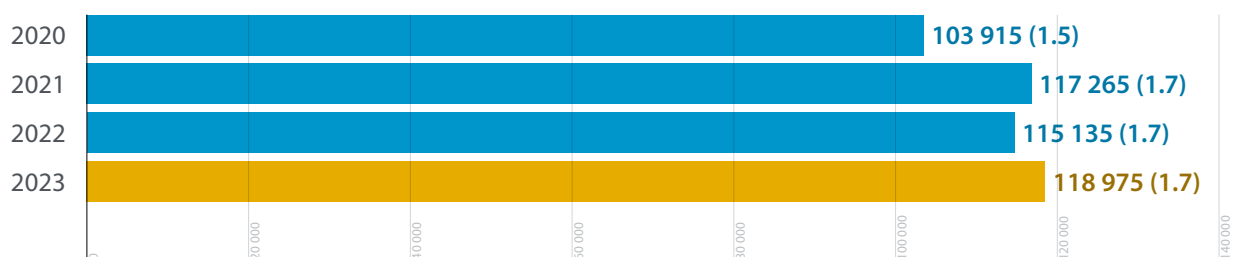
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

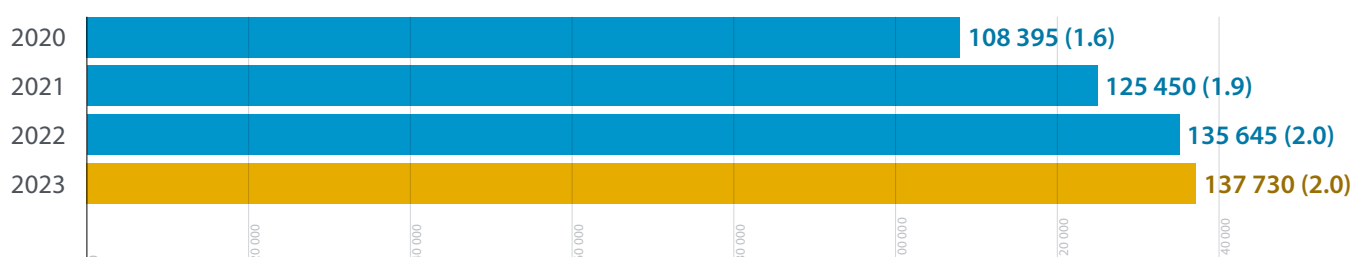
Persons refused entry



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)

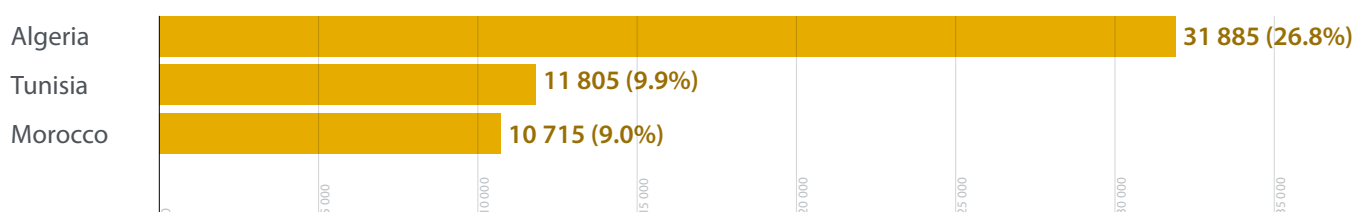
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

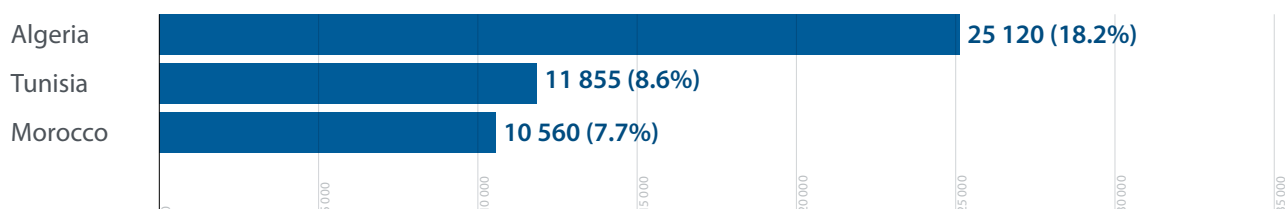
Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

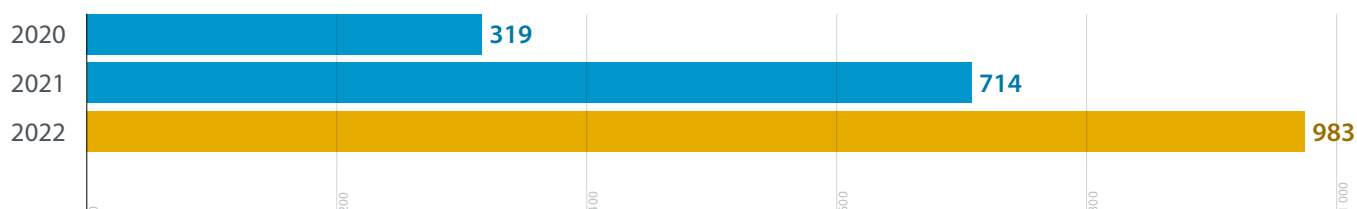


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



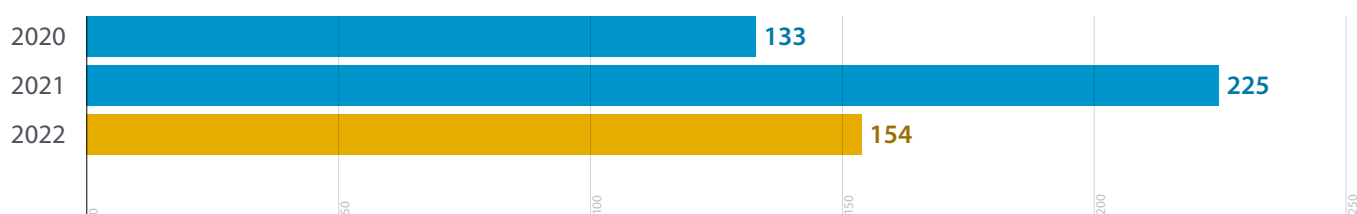
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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



Source: Eurostat (crim_thb_vctz)

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



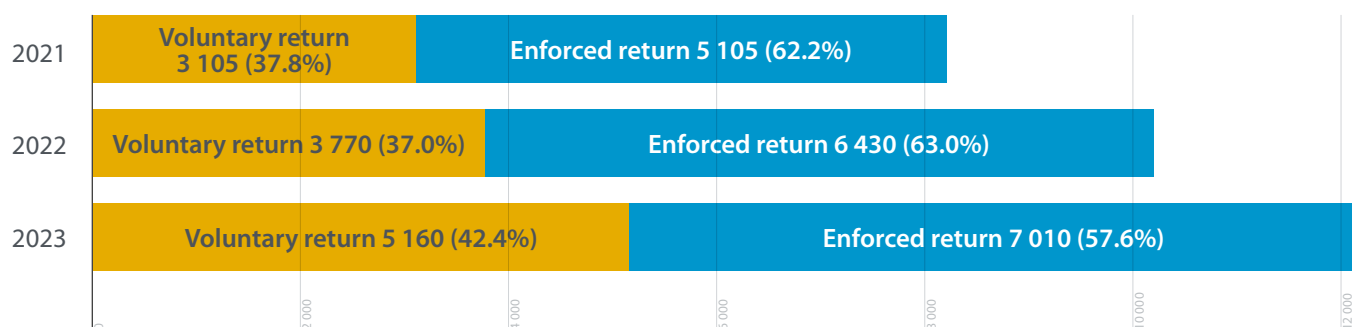
Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



RETURN AND READMISSION

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

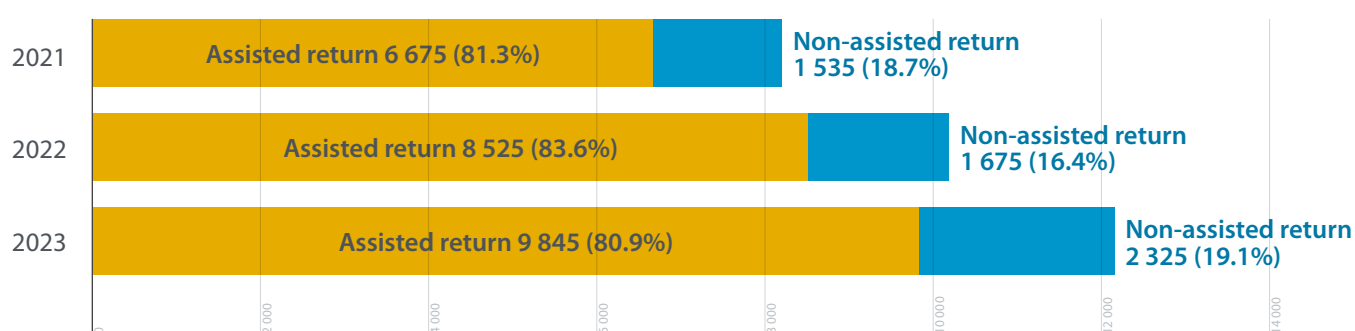
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



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)