

Data extracted on 12 December 2017. Most recent data: Further Eurostat information, Main tables and Database . Planned update of the article: March 2018.

### First time asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: third quarter 2017

This article describes recent developments in relation to numbers of [asylum applicants](#) and first instance decisions on [asylum applications](#) in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) . Asylum is a form of international protection given by a state on its territory. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in his/her country of citizenship and/or residence, in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.

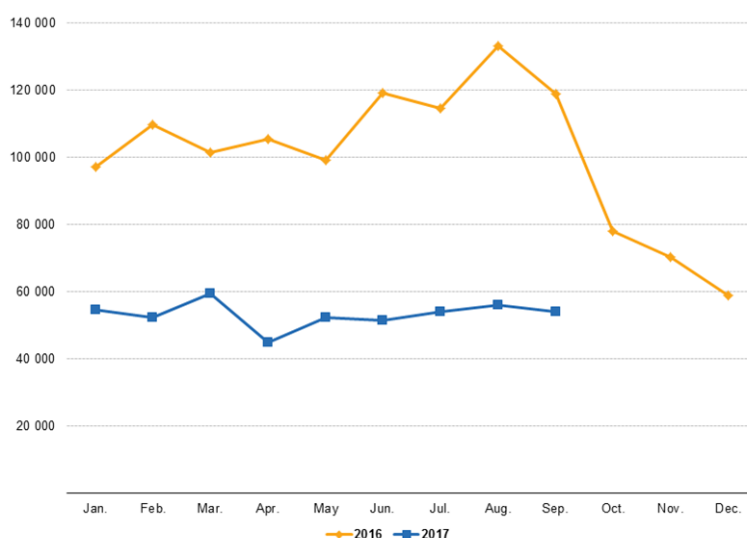


Figure 1: First time asylum applicants, EU-28, January 2016 – September 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

## Main statistical findings

### Main trends in the numbers of asylum applicants

The number of [first time asylum applicants](#) <sup>1</sup> in the EU-28 decreased by -55 % in the third quarter of 2017 compared with the same quarter of 2016, while it increased by 10 % compared with the second quarter of 2017. Overall, the number of persons seeking asylum from non-EU countries in the [EU-28](#) during the third quarter of 2017 was 164 300, a number around the levels recorded in 2014, before the 2015 peaks (Table 1, Table 2). Out of the 177 000 total asylum applicants (i.e. including repeat applicants), 164 000 (93 %) were first time applicants (Table 2, Table 3).

<sup>1</sup>First time applicant for international protection is a person who lodged an application for asylum for the **first time** in a given Member State. The indicator 'First time asylum applicants' excludes repeat applicants i.e. persons applying for asylum more than once in one country and therefore more accurately presents the number of persons applying for international protection in the EU Member States. The use of this indicator is possible as all Member States are able to provide it to Eurostat since 2014.

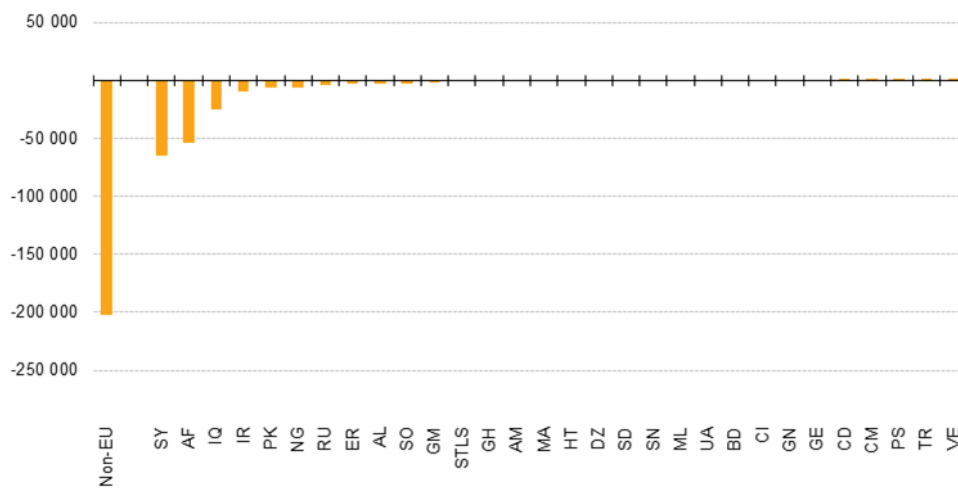


Figure 2: First time asylum applicants by citizenship, EU-28, absolute change between Q3 2016 and Q3 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm), see country codes

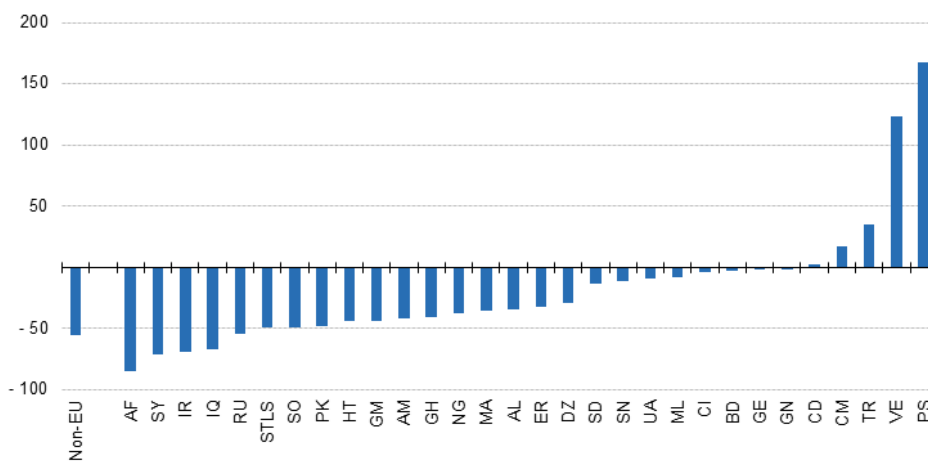


Figure 3: First time asylum applicants by citizenship, EU-28, relative change between Q3 2016 and Q3 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm), see country codes

### Where do they come from?

Citizens of 146 countries sought asylum for the first time in the EU in the third quarter of 2017. Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging 26 600, 12 500 and 9 900 applications respectively (Table 1).

	Q3 2016			Q4 2016				Q1 2017			Q2 2017				Q3 2017			Q3 2017	Change in %		Last 12 months
	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	between Q2 2017 and Q3 2017	between Q3 2016 and Q3 2017				
Non-EU	114 545	133 285	118 900	78 160	70 285	58 945	54 655	52 335	59 500	44 790	52 500	51 535	54 090	56 110	54 135	163 340	10	-55	687 045		
Syria - (SY)	29 685	32 570	28 900	13 535	11 695	9 550	7 345	7 430	8 425	6 040	7 980	7 100	8 760	9 635	8 210	26 600	26	-71	105 705		
Iraq - (IQ)	11 530	14 125	12 120	6 355	5 045	4 110	3 355	3 545	3 680	2 630	3 480	3 155	3 350	4 460	4 710	12 525	35	-67	47 880		
Afghanistan - (AF)	20 865	24 535	18 500	10 055	7 020	4 985	4 510	3 640	4 655	2 990	3 500	3 205	3 135	3 630	3 130	9 900	2	-85	54 455		
Nigeria - (NG)	4 480	5 730	5 535	5 045	5 310	4 045	4 065	3 795	3 715	2 790	3 285	3 705	3 745	3 165	2 940	9 850	1	-37	45 600		
Pakistan - (PK)	4 180	5 340	4 545	2 985	3 145	2 575	2 425	2 500	3 015	2 245	2 550	2 475	2 375	2 495	2 480	7 350	1	-48	31 270		
Eritrea - (ER)	3 740	3 640	3 400	3 375	3 410	2 750	2 115	2 030	1 810	1 630	1 675	2 345	2 230	2 320	2 755	7 305	29	-32	28 440		
Albania - (AL)	2 590	2 870	3 570	2 310	2 510	2 175	1 775	1 515	2 150	2 015	2 000	1 940	2 040	2 170	1 690	5 900	-1	-35	24 290		
Bangladesh - (BD)	1 210	1 690	2 090	1 665	1 860	1 420	1 380	1 495	1 870	1 635	1 930	1 960	1 650	1 630	1 560	4 835	-13	-3	20 055		
Turkey - (TR)	805	1 180	1 155	1 270	1 260	1 070	1 020	950	1 015	850	930	885	1 085	1 505	1 650	4 245	59	35	13 495		
Guinea - (GN)	1 200	1 525	1 535	1 565	1 520	1 425	1 620	1 585	2 050	1 390	1 555	1 620	1 585	1 370	1 255	4 205	-8	-1	18 535		
Iran - (IR)	4 500	4 710	4 220	2 660	1 945	1 665	1 645	1 320	1 525	1 550	1 410	1 270	1 290	1 320	1 520	4 125	-3	-69	19 115		
Ivory Coast - (CI)	1 000	1 365	1 260	1 240	1 090	1 020	1 160	1 345	1 595	940	1 365	1 305	1 315	1 125	1 035	3 475	-4	-4	14 540		
Russia - (RU)	2 745	2 705	2 095	1 445	1 200	1 200	1 035	1 035	1 135	950	945	1 005	1 150	1 195	1 070	3 415	18	-55	13 355		
Somalia - (SO)	1 995	2 095	2 115	1 800	1 385	1 160	1 080	1 030	1 115	925	1 045	955	1 090	1 105	960	3 160	8	-49	13 650		
Gambia - (GM)	1 915	1 515	1 360	1 145	1 485	1 260	1 285	1 360	1 555	1 100	1 095	1 060	970	875	865	2 715	-17	-43	14 065		
Venezuela - (VE)	370	390	455	600	810	585	880	985	1 045	830	915	950	775	850	1 090	2 715	1	123	10 315		
Mali - (ML)	875	1 030	980	990	860	745	895	950	1 060	700	870	900	1 010	850	795	2 660	8	-8	10 630		
Sudan - (SD)	750	1 080	1 115	1 170	840	1 340	660	700	805	780	775	660	805	940	815	2 560	16	-13	10 290		
Senegal - (SN)	775	930	930	910	970	890	1 025	1 015	1 190	770	975	1 020	885	720	735	2 340	-15	-11	11 105		
Georgia - (GE)	805	775	705	710	615	535	590	600	715	605	770	740	745	730	760	2 230	5	-2	8 115		
Algeria - (DZ)	755	1 065	1 275	1 150	1 145	1 005	865	800	820	640	655	585	650	765	770	2 185	16	-29	9 850		
Morocco - (MA)	805	1 235	1 185	985	910	780	630	645	660	610	655	515	675	760	645	2 085	17	-35	8 475		
Ukraine - (UA)	755	765	765	820	885	700	740	800	815	630	790	855	770	600	705	2 075	-9	-9	9 110		
Ghana - (GH)	760	1 215	1 205	880	725	700	610	540	580	405	640	660	665	600	615	1 875	10	-41	7 620		
Armenia - (AM)	750	1 110	1 185	985	680	610	850	585	600	385	375	365	545	560	670	1 775	58	-42	7 215		
Cameroon - (CM)	470	460	480	500	475	430	435	435	465	375	540	545	640	540	475	1 655	13	17	5 860		
Palestine - (PS)	170	190	205	260	250	270	625	310	285	190	220	255	430	535	560	1 525	129	168	4 195		
Haiti - (HT)	645	1 185	720	85	100	250	600	485	420	305	415	555	495	500	450	1 445	13	-43	4 660		
CD - (CD) <sup>1</sup>	435	405	500	495	445	420	490	645	790	500	545	645	465	425	485	1 375	-19	3	6 350		
Stateless - (STLS)	885	960	875	540	520	400	380	315	415	230	480	410	470	480	425	1 375	23	-49	5 065		
Other (non-EU)	12 135	14 885	13 920	10 620	10 170	8 870	8 565	7 950	9 535	7 140	8 140	7 885	8 295	8 255	8 315	24 865	7	-39	103 735		

Countries selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q3 2017

(<sup>1</sup>) CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Table 1: First time asylum applicants in the EU-28 by citizenship, Q3 2016 – Q3 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

	Q3 2016			Q4 2016			Q1 2017			Q2 2017			Q3 2017			Last 12 months								
	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.									
EU-28	114 545	133 285	118 900	78 160	70 285	58 945	54 655	52 335	59 500	44 790	52 500	51 535	54 090	56 110	54 135	164 340	Change in % between Q2 2017 and Q3 2017	10	Change in % between Q3 2016 and Q3 2017	-55	321	Applicants per million population (1) Q3 2017	328	687 045
Belgium	1 035	1 250	1 100	1 290	1 170	1 155	1 150	1 080	1 210	1 080	1 080	1 045	1 170	1 240	1 315	3 725	16	10	10	328	13 995			
Bulgaria	1 505	2 790	2 065	2 550	1 730	795	375	355	505	200	255	230	215	305	365	885	29	-86	-86	124	7 880			
Czech Republic	85	90	115	120	80	75	110	90	95	70	110	90	105	85	95	285	4	-2	-2	27	1 130			
Denmark	395	285	295	340	275	255	220	205	245	235	280	285	300	300	310	915	14	-7	-7	159	3 260			
Germany	76 540	92 105	76 500	32 385	25 890	18 965	16 055	14 950	18 075	13 335	15 095	13 680	15 000	16 630	14 565	46 195	10	-81	-81	558	214 620			
Estonia	10	10	20	20	25	5	25	15	20	30	20	20	10	15	10	35	-51	-15	-15	25	200			
Ireland	160	195	220	185	225	260	165	225	215	170	295	210	175	215	335	730	8	26	26	152	2 675			
Greece	3 940	3 450	5 040	6 160	7 470	6 615	6 260	5 525	4 755	2 610	3 905	4 040	3 980	4 905	5 755	14 640	39	18	18	1 361	61 980			
Spain	1 005	1 220	1 305	1 705	1 905	1 555	2 080	2 270	2 365	1 940	2 725	2 350	2 690	3 190	2 830	8 710	24	147	147	187	27 605			
France	6 075	7 120	6 910	6 980	6 150	7 080	7 000	6 975	7 985	7 155	7 210	6 825	7 685	7 555	6 955	22 195	5	10	10	331	85 560			
Croatia	90	230	360	395	260	175	45	45	55	65	70	65	110	110	60	280	40	-59	-59	68	1 455			
Italy	10 870	11 290	12 295	13 315	13 435	11 020	11 570	11 820	13 510	9 405	11 940	12 805	12 050	10 070	10 390	32 505	-5	-6	-6	537	141 330			
Cyprus	225	215	265	340	405	250	255	355	505	215	250	265	440	275	635	1 350	84	92	92	1 577	4 180			
Latvia	25	30	25	55	60	30	55	45	55	50	20	35	15	20	20	55	-48	-29	-29	29	460			
Lithuania	35	65	40	100	50	15	60	10	30	70	40	60	85	35	20	140	-17	-1	-1	50	570			
Luxembourg	120	195	195	275	165	200	230	225	225	185	195	145	160	180	190	535	2	5	5	904	2 375			
Hungary	1 750	1 260	1 055	1 155	675	580	460	355	265	190	235	225	225	265	225	720	10	-82	-82	73	4 860			
Malta	130	175	165	220	145	110	120	105	160	105	170	140	175	120	125	425	3	-11	-11	960	1 690			
Netherlands	1 530	1 755	1 875	2 035	1 920	1 540	1 245	1 160	1 220	1 025	1 155	1 225	1 395	1 440	1 385	4 215	24	-18	-18	247	16 735			
Austria	2 945	3 110	2 470	2 455	2 190	2 230	2 030	1 845	1 935	1 750	1 910	1 825	1 990	2 295	1 820	6 105	11	-28	-28	696	24 280			
Poland	1 045	765	620	395	390	395	345	300	320	270	210	255	395	225	195	820	12	-66	-66	22	3 695			
Portugal	70	60	70	80	65	60	65	70	115	75	80	105	70	60	100	235	-10	16	16	23	945			
Romania	115	140	190	415	275	290	90	125	410	640	405	280	410	750	685	1 845	39	315	315	94	4 780			
Slovenia	35	120	110	85	185	130	30	30	130	60	190	150	120	145	150	415	4	57	57	200	1 405			
Slovakia	0	20	15	5	20	15	25	20	15	0	10	15	5	10	10	20	-19	-42	-42	4	140			
Finland	335	460	470	310	275	270	235	355	425	400	425	420	440	430	270	1 140	-8	-10	-10	207	4 255			
Sweden	1 525	1 700	1 790	1 880	1 720	1 570	1 545	1 305	1 525	1 250	1 415	2 020	1 980	2 550	2 490	7 015	50	40	40	702	21 245			
United Kingdom	2 935	3 185	3 305	2 920	3 140	3 320	2 815	2 470	3 140	2 195	2 810	2 715	2 680	2 700	2 835	8 215	6	-13	-13	125	33 735			
Iceland	40	65	175	200	255	105	65	70	80	60	80	125	125	150	105	380	42	35	35	1 120	1 420			
Liechtenstein	10	0	10	10	5	10	25	25	15	10	10	15	10	10	0	20	-45	-14	-14	476	140			
Norway	255	290	260	255	225	410	465	305	395	340	405	340	255	230	165	650	-40	-19	-19	124	3 790			
Switzerland	2 360	2 310	2 085	2 005	1 840	1 660	1 490	1 380	1 485	1 225	1 345	1 535	1 555	1 540	1 300	4 400	7	-35	-35	523	18 365			

(1) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2017

Table 2: First time asylum applicants, Q3 2016 – Q3 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

Syrians (64 500 less applicants compared with the third quarter of 2016) contributed most to the overall decrease in first time asylum applicants in absolute terms, followed by Afghans (54 000 less) and Iraqis (25 200 less). In contrast, the number of asylum applicants increased most in absolute terms for citizens of Venezuela (1 500 more), Turkey (1 100 more) and Palestine (1 000 more) (Figure 2, Table 1).

The most substantial relative decrease of the number of asylum applicants in the EU in the third quarter of 2017 compared with the same quarter of 2016 recorded for Afghans (-80 % less), Syrians, Iranians and Iraqis (each dropped by around -70 % less). In contrast, Palestine (nearly 3 times more) and Venezuela (2 times more) were the countries of citizenships which mostly increased in relative terms in the third quarter of 2017, compared with the same quarter of 2016 (Figure 3, Table 1).

Of the 26 600 Syrians who applied for the first time for asylum in the EU in the third quarter of 2017 40 % were registered in Germany (11 000) and 16 % in Greece (4 200). Similarly, 44 % of Iraqis (5 500) and 34 % of Afghans (3 400) applied for asylum in Germany. Syrians were the main citizenship of asylum seekers in 12 EU Member States (Table 4, Table 5).



	Q3 2016			Q4 2016			Q1 2017			Q2 2017			Q3 2017			Last 12 months				
	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.					
EU-28	119 120	138 290	123 440	82 695	74 800	63 045	59 000	56 750	64 440	48 660	56 840	55 645	58 245	60 475	58 430	177 150	10	-53	346	739 025
Belgium	1 275	1 665	1 420	1 665	1 525	1 555	1 455	1 415	1 615	1 420	1 435	1 395	1 530	1 595	1 660	4 780	13	10	421	18 255
Bulgaria	1 545	2 815	2 075	2 570	1 755	815	420	385	530	225	270	250	235	315	375	925	24	-86	130	8 145
Czech Republic	110	125	130	145	100	105	130	105	120	95	140	120	140	120	110	375	6	3	35	1 430
Denmark	400	295	305	350	285	260	225	215	250	240	290	305	310	305	315	930	12	-7	162	3 360
Germany	78 665	94 350	78 425	34 270	27 745	20 550	17 940	16 550	20 110	14 830	16 625	15 225	16 830	18 635	16 505	51 970	11	-79	628	235 815
Estonia	15	10	20	25	25	5	25	20	20	30	20	20	10	15	10	35	-51	-24	26	215
Ireland	165	195	220	185	225	260	165	225	215	170	295	215	180	220	335	730	8	26	153	2 685
Greece	4 010	3 530	5 125	6 270	7 625	6 715	6 345	5 640	4 880	2 705	4 075	4 200	4 120	5 055	5 910	15 080	37	19	1 402	63 535
Spain	1 025	1 225	1 320	1 760	1 935	1 565	2 125	2 325	2 415	1 980	2 780	2 430	2 760	3 260	2 890	8 905	24	150	191	28 225
France	6 625	7 690	7 485	7 445	6 680	7 550	7 510	7 550	8 725	7 815	7 975	7 515	8 280	8 090	7 495	23 865	2	9	356	92 635
Croatia	95	230	365	400	265	190	45	65	60	70	95	70	115	110	70	295	29	-57	71	1 560
Italy	11 060	11 455	12 460	13 495	13 615	11 195	11 715	12 020	13 700	9 560	12 120	13 010	12 275	10 255	10 585	33 110	-5	-5	546	143 540
Cyprus	230	220	275	355	405	260	260	360	515	230	255	275	455	285	645	1 385	81	91	1 619	4 300
Latvia	25	30	25	55	60	30	60	45	55	50	20	35	15	20	20	55	-48	-29	29	470
Lithuania	40	65	40	100	55	15	15	15	30	70	45	60	85	35	25	145	-18	1	51	550
Luxembourg	140	200	205	285	175	205	240	245	235	195	210	145	170	195	200	565	3	3	953	2 490
Hungary	1 865	1 400	1 120	1 200	730	630	535	435	320	205	245	235	240	275	235	745	8	-83	76	5 280
Malta	155	190	175	240	165	125	135	150	175	120	175	160	185	140	145	475	4	-9	1 074	1 925
Netherlands	1 690	1 905	1 995	2 170	2 070	1 700	1 420	1 320	1 405	1 185	1 330	1 410	1 600	1 610	1 565	4 775	22	-15	280	18 780
Austria	3 125	3 315	2 640	2 635	2 415	2 470	2 215	2 080	2 175	1 910	2 130	1 970	2 135	2 465	1 980	6 580	10	-28	750	26 580
Poland	1 185	940	850	680	635	615	555	570	540	425	435	450	395	430	355	1 180	-10	-60	31	6 080
Portugal	95	60	175	165	115	120	225	220	210	165	185	120	80	75	160	315	-33	-5	30	1 835
Romania	115	140	195	420	280	290	95	135	415	655	405	290	425	755	695	1 875	38	315	95	4 860
Slovenia	40	120	115	90	190	140	35	30	130	60	190	155	120	145	155	420	3	53	204	1 445
Slovakia	5	20	15	10	20	20	25	20	15	0	10	20	5	10	10	25	-17	-45	4	155
Finland	360	475	510	335	315	310	260	380	470	440	480	465	520	490	355	1 365	-1	1	248	4 820
Sweden	2 105	2 365	2 395	2 425	2 220	1 985	1 975	1 740	1 930	1 575	1 770	2 340	2 305	2 830	2 760	7 895	39	15	790	25 855
United Kingdom	2 965	3 245	3 355	2 955	3 175	3 365	2 840	2 510	3 180	2 225	2 840	2 760	2 730	2 745	2 875	8 350	7	-13	127	34 200
Iceland	40	70	175	200	255	115	65	70	85	60	80	130	125	155	105	385	41	34	1 132	1 445
Liechtenstein	10	0	10	10	5	10	25	25	15	10	10	15	10	10	0	20	-42	-10	502	140
Norway	265	305	280	280	235	420	480	320	410	360	420	355	260	240	185	685	-39	-19	131	3 965
Switzerland	2 470	2 435	2 175	2 090	1 960	1 760	1 585	1 500	1 625	1 300	1 445	1 630	1 685	1 680	1 405	4 770	9	-33	567	19 670

(<sup>1</sup>) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2017

Table 3: Asylum applicants (including first time asylum applicants), Q3 2016 – Q3 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

			EU-28		# (%)	
			Syria	26 600	16	
			Iraq	12 525	8	
			Afghanistan	9 900	6	
			Nigeria	9 850	6	
			Pakistan	7 350	4	
			Other	98 115	60	
BELGIUM			BULGARIA		# (%)	
			Iraq	405	46	
			Syria	225	26	
			Afghanistan	155	18	
			Pakistan	40	5	
			Iran	10	1	
			Other	45	5	
DENMARK			GERMANY		# (%)	
			Syria	11 040	24	
			Iraq	5 520	12	
			Afghanistan	3 350	7	
			Turkey	2 380	5	
			Nigeria	2 005	4	
			Other	21 895	47	
IRELAND			GREECE		# (%)	
			Syria	4 225	29	
			Pakistan	2 355	16	
			Iraq	1 920	13	
			Afghanistan	1 800	12	
			Turkey	705	5	
			Other	3 630	25	
FRANCE			CROATIA		# (%)	
			Pakistan	55	19	
			Algeria	45	16	
			Afghanistan	35	12	
			Syria	30	11	
			Turkey	20	7	
			Other	100	35	
CYPRUS			LATVIA		# (%)	
			Russia	20	33	
			Vietnam	10	17	
			Ukraine	5	8	
			Syria	5	8	
			Afghanistan	5	8	
			Other	15	25	
LUXEMBOURG			HUNGARY		# (%)	
			Afghanistan	330	46	
			Iraq	190	26	
			Syria	155	22	
			Iran	20	3	
			Palestine	5	1	
			Other	20	3	
NETHERLANDS			AUSTRIA		# (%)	
			Syria	1 845	30	
			Afghanistan	945	15	
			Pakistan	535	9	
			Iraq	420	7	
			Russia	275	5	
			Other	2 085	34	
PORTUGAL			ROMANIA		# (%)	
			Iraq	1 185	64	
			Syria	310	17	
			Afghanistan	110	6	
			Iran	80	4	
			Somalia	20	1	
			Other	135	7	
SLOVAKIA			FINLAND		# (%)	
			Iraq	270	24	
			Syria	190	17	
			Russia	150	13	
			Eritrea	65	6	
			Afghanistan	60	5	
			Other	405	36	
			Other			15 75
UNITED KINGDOM			NORWAY		# (%)	
			Syria	155	24	
			Eritrea	65	10	
			Turkey	40	6	
			Afghanistan	35	5	
			Stateless	30	5	
			Other	320	50	
			Other			10 50
LIECHTENSTEIN			CZECH REPUBLIC		# (%)	
			Ukraine	60	21	
			Azerbaijan	40	14	
			Armenia	35	12	
			Georgia	25	9	
			Syria	20	7	
			Other	105	37	
SWITZERLAND			ESTONIA		# (%)	
			Russia	10	29	
			Iraq	5	14	
			Venezuela	5	14	
			Syria	5	14	
			Other			10 29
SPAIN			ITALY		# (%)	
			Nigeria	6 280	19	
			Eritrea	3 470	11	
			Bangladesh	3 045	9	
			Pakistan	2 030	6	
			Ivory Coast	1 980	6	
			Other	15 705	48	
LITHUANIA			MALTA		# (%)	
			Syria	135	32	
			Russia	100	24	
			Armenia	95	23	
			Tajikistan	20	5	
			Eritrea	10	2	
			Other	60	14	
POLAND			SLOVENIA		# (%)	
			Afghanistan	195	47	
			Algeria	50	12	
			Turkey	40	10	
			Pakistan	30	7	
			Morocco	20	5	
			Other	80	19	
SWEDEN			ICELAND		# (%)	
			Georgia	195	51	
			Albania	65	17	
			Iraq	20	5	
			Somalia	10	3	
			Iran	10	3	
			Other	85	22	
GERMANY			NETHERLANDS		# (%)	
			Eritrea	785	18	
			Syria	350	8	
			Afghanistan	310	7	
			Somalia	280	6	
			Turkey	220	5	
			Other	2 455	56	

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q3 2017 in the EU-28;

# Absolute number of asylum applications

% Percentage shares are calculated on rounded figures and may not add up to totals

CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Table 4 : Five main citizenships of first time asylum applicants, 3rd quarter 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

		NON-EU		# (%)	
		Germany	46 195	28	
		Italy	32 505	20	
		France	22 195	14	
		Greece	14 640	9	
		Spain	8 710	5	
		Other	40 090	24	
SYRIA - (SY)		# (%)			
Germany	11 040	41			
Greece	4 225	16			
Sweden	2 025	8			
Austria	1 845	7			
Spain	1 825	7			
Other	5 645	21			
NIGERIA - (NG)		# (%)			
Italy	6 280	64			
Germany	2 005	20			
France	585	6			
United Kingdom	360	4			
Austria	255	3			
Other	365	4			
ALBANIA - (AL)		# (%)			
France	3 070	52			
Germany	880	15			
Greece	705	12			
United Kingdom	415	7			
Sweden	240	4			
Other	585	10			
GUINEA		# (%)			
Italy	1 865	44			
France	990	24			
Germany	855	20			
Belgium	215	5			
Spain	130	3			
Other	150	4			
RUSSIA - (RU)		# (%)			
Germany	1 330	39			
France	545	16			
Poland	535	16			
Austria	275	8			
Finland	150	4			
Other	580	17			
VENEZUELA - (VE)		# (%)			
Spain	2 250	83			
Italy	145	5			
France	75	3			
Belgium	65	2			
Germany	55	2			
Other	125	5			
SENEGAL - (SN)		# (%)			
Italy	1 835	78			
France	255	11			
Spain	120	5			
Germany	45	2			
Belgium	40	2			
Other	50	2			
MOROCCO - (MA)		# (%)			
Germany	495	24			
Italy	465	22			
Netherlands	270	13			
Spain	170	8			
Sweden	140	7			
Other	545	26			
ARMENIA - (AM)		# (%)			
Germany	915	52			
France	510	29			
Austria	65	4			
Sweden	50	3			
Belgium	40	2			
Other	195	11			
HAITI - (HT)		# (%)			
France	1 435	99			
United Kingdom	5	0			
Other	5	0			
IRAQ - (IQ)		# (%)			
Germany	5 520	44			
Greece	1 920	15			
Romania	1 185	9			
United Kingdom	725	6			
France	490	4			
Other	2 685	21			
PAKISTAN - (PK)		# (%)			
Greece	2 355	32			
Italy	2 030	28			
Germany	895	12			
United Kingdom	725	10			
Austria	535	7			
Other	810	11			
BANGLADESH - (BD)		# (%)			
Italy	3 045	63			
France	610	13			
United Kingdom	485	10			
Greece	385	8			
Germany	95	2			
Other	220	5			
IRAN - (IR)		# (%)			
Germany	1 920	47			
United Kingdom	780	19			
Greece	290	7			
Sweden	275	7			
Austria	265	6			
Other	595	14			
SOMALIA - (SO)		# (%)			
Germany	1 735	55			
Italy	410	13			
France	285	9			
Austria	150	5			
Sweden	135	4			
Other	440	14			
MALI - (ML)		# (%)			
Italy	1 955	73			
France	475	18			
Germany	110	4			
Spain	75	3			
Greece	10	0			
Other	35	1			
GEORGIA - (GE)		# (%)			
Germany	625	28			
France	450	20			
Greece	270	12			
Sweden	200	9			
Italy	135	6			
Other	545	24			
UKRAINE - (UA)		# (%)			
Italy	570	28			
Spain	435	21			
Germany	210	10			
Austria	185	9			
France	140	7			
Other	530	26			
CAMEROON - (CM)		# (%)			
Italy	560	34			
Spain	315	19			
Germany	295	18			
France	140	8			
Greece	105	6			
Other	240	15			
CD - (CD)		# (%)			
France	750	55			
Belgium	155	11			
Germany	100	7			
Greece	90	7			
United Kingdom	60	4			
Other	220	16			
AFGHANISTAN - (AF)		# (%)			
Germany	3 350	34			
Greece	1 800	18			
France	1 455	15			
Austria	945	10			
United Kingdom	560	6			
Other	1 790	18			
ERITREA - (ER)		# (%)			
Italy	3 470	48			
Germany	1 735	24			
Sweden	645	9			
Netherlands	380	5			
France	255	3			
Other	815	11			
TURKEY - (TR)		# (%)			
Germany	2 380	56			
Greece	705	17			
France	265	6			
Sweden	200	5			
United Kingdom	145	3			
Other	545	13			
IVORY COAST - (CI)		# (%)			
Italy	1 980	57			
France	990	28			
Germany	300	9			
Spain	105	3			
Belgium	50	1			
Other	55	2			
GAMBIA - (GM)		# (%)			
Italy	1 905	70			
Germany	565	21			
Netherlands	65	2			
France	40	1			
Austria	30	1			
Other	110	4			
SUDAN - (SD)		# (%)			
France	1 085	42			
Germany	545	21			
United Kingdom	535	21			
Italy	155	6			
Netherlands	100	4			
Other	145	6			
ALGERIA - (DZ)		# (%)			
France	650	30			
Spain	440	20			
Germany	390	18			
Netherlands	205	9			
Greece	110	5			
Other	395	18			
GHANA - (GH)		# (%)			
Italy	1 460	76			
Germany	265	14			
United Kingdom	60	3			
Belgium	15	1			
Greece	15	1			
Other	95	5			
PALESTINE - (PS)		# (%)			
Spain	535	35			
Belgium	330	22			
Greece	310	20			
Sweden	90	6			
United Kingdom	75	5			
Other	190	12			
STATELESS - (STLS)		# (%)			
Sweden	400	29			
Germany	315	23			
Greece	210	15			
Austria	175	13			
France	85	6			
Other	185	14			

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q3 2017 in the EU-28

# Absolute number of asylum applications

% Percentage shares are calculated on rounded figures and may not add up to totals

CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Table 5 :Thirty main citizenships of first time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 28, 3rd quarter 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

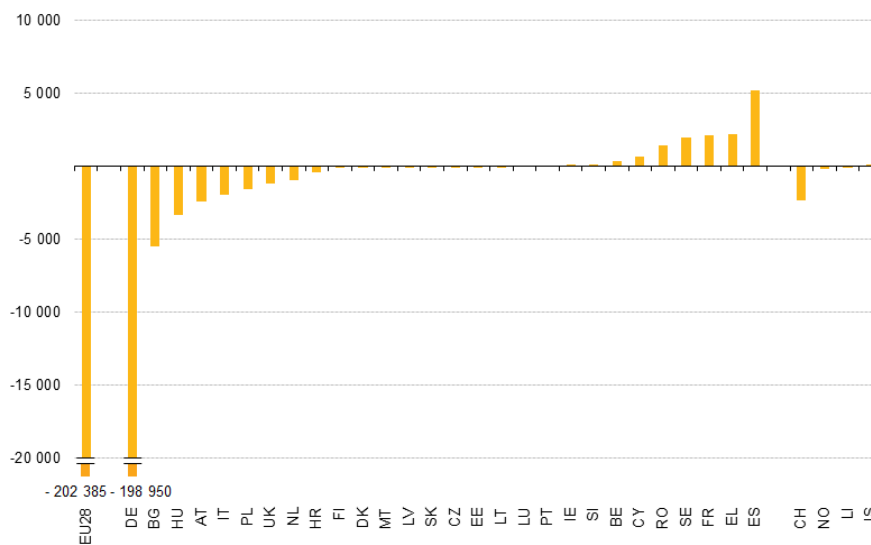


## Main destination countries

The highest number of first time asylum applicants in the third quarter of 2017 was registered in Germany (with over 46 000 first time applicants, or 28 % of all applicants in the EU Member States), followed by Italy (32 500, or 20%), France (22 200, or 14%), Greece (14 600, or 9%) and Spain (8 700, or 5%). These 5 Member States together account for 76 % of all first time applicants in the EU-28 (Table 2).

Trends in number of asylum applicants vary from country to country in the third quarter of 2017. Germany (with -199 000 less applicants) was the country with the largest absolute decrease in the number of first time applicants. In contrast, in Spain the number of asylum seekers has increased by 5 200 more, in Greece by 2 200 and in France and Sweden by 2 000 more each in the third quarter of 2017 compared with the same quarter of 2016 (Figures 4 and 5).

In relative terms, Bulgaria, Hungary and Germany have recorded the largest relative decreases of first time asylum seekers (more than -80 % less each) in the third quarter of 2017 compared with the same quarter of 2016. In contrast, Romania has recorded the largest relative increase of first time asylum seekers (4 times more) in the third quarter of 2017 compared with the same quarter of 2016.



**Figure 4: First time asylum applicants, absolute change between Q3 2016 and Q3 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm), see country codes**

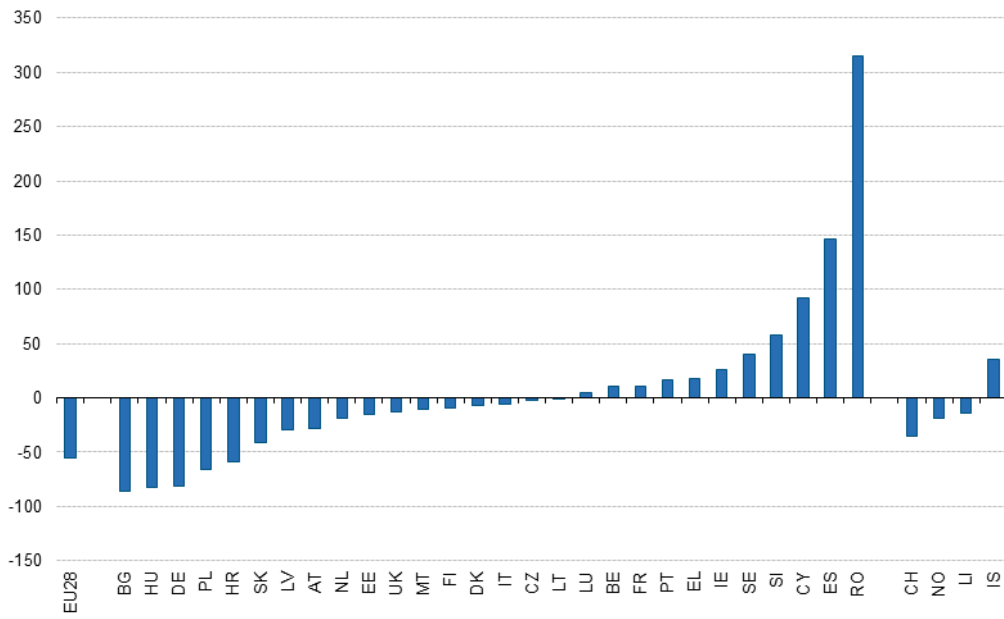


Figure 5: First time asylum applicants, relative change between Q3 2016 and Q3 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm), see country codes

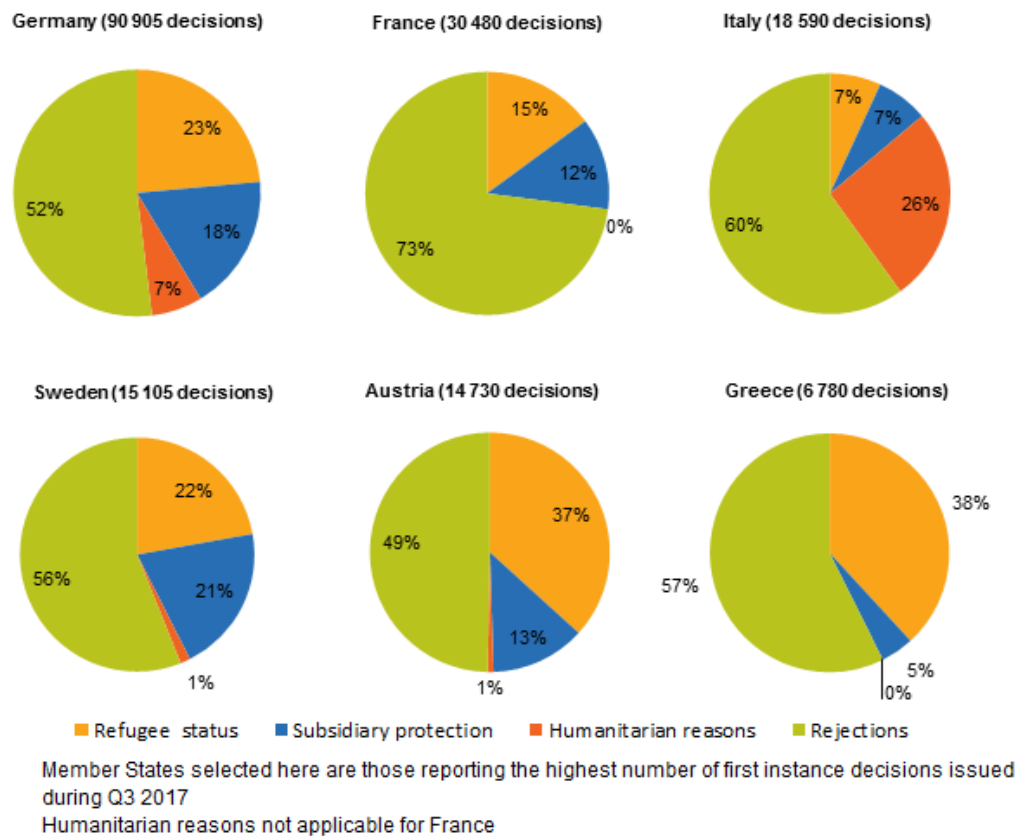
Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rate of registered first time applicants during the third quarter of 2017 was recorded in Cyprus (1 577 first time applicants per million inhabitants) and Greece (1 361), followed by Malta (960) and Luxembourg (904). In contrast, the lowest rates were observed in Slovakia (4 applicants per million inhabitants), Poland (22), Portugal (23), Estonia (25), the Czech Republic (27) and Latvia (29). In the third quarter 2017, there were in total 321 first time asylum applicants per million inhabitants in the EU as a whole. (Table 2).

## Decisions on asylum applications

202 700 first instance decisions<sup>2</sup> were made by the national authorities of EU Member States during the third quarter of 2017. Among them, 43 % were positive (i.e. granting a type of protection status) (Table 6).

Germany issued by far the most total first instance decisions<sup>3</sup> during the third quarter of 2017 (90 900 decisions), followed by France (30 500), Italy (18 600), Sweden (15 100), Austria (14 700) and Greece (6 800) (Figure 6, Table 6).

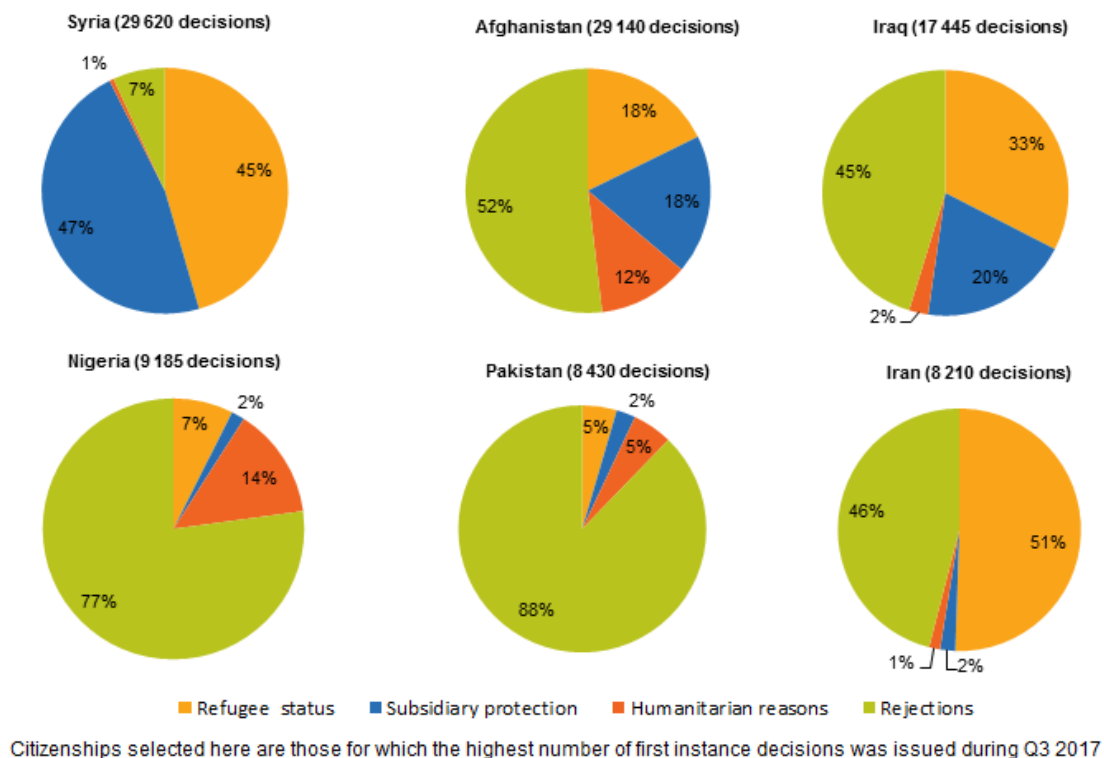
Most first instance decisions in the EU-28 were issued to Syrians (29 600), followed by Afghans (29 100) and Iraqis (17 400) (Table 7).



**Figure 6 : First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 3rd quarter 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)**

<sup>2</sup>Data on first instance decisions relate to decisions on applications granted to all asylum applicants i.e. First time asylum applicants and Repeat asylum applicants.

<sup>3</sup>Total decisions equal to positive decisions plus negative decisions.



**Figure 7 : First instance decisions in the EU-28 by outcome, selected citizenships, 3rd quarter 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)**

Syrians received the highest number of decisions granting protection status in the EU Member States, including protection based on national legislations (27 600 positive first instance decisions, or 93% rate of recognition<sup>4</sup>), followed by Afghans (14 000, or 48 %) and Iraqis (9 600, or 55 %).

In contrast, of the approximately 2 000 first instance decisions issued to citizens of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia only 30 were positive (or 2% rate of recognition), while of the 2 300 issued to Serbians only 60 were positive (or 3 %). Similarly, the rate of recognition was low for citizens of Haiti (3 %), Georgia (4 %) and Algeria (8 %) (Figure 7, Table 7).

<sup>4</sup>Rate of recognition is the share of (first instance) positive decisions in the total number of decisions at first instance. In this report, the exact number of decisions has been used instead of the presented rounded numbers. Rates of recognition for humanitarian status are not shown, but are part of the 'Total recognition rate'.

	Total decisions	Of which					Rate of recognition, %	
		Positive	of which			Rejected	Total	of which Refugee and subsidiary protection status
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons			
<b>EU-28</b>	202 725	87 485	45 265	30 490	11 735	115 240	43	37
Belgium	5 730	2 860	2 225	635	-	2 870	50	50
Bulgaria	900	445	245	205	-	450	50	50
Czech Republic	330	35	5	30	0	295	11	11
Denmark	1 100	440	190	240	10	660	40	39
Germany	90 905	43 680	21 405	16 205	6 070	47 225	48	41
Estonia	25	10	0	10	0	15	44	44
Ireland	235	230	225	0	-	5	98	98
Greece	6 780	2 890	2 590	305	0	3 890	43	43
Spain	2 475	550	60	485	0	1 930	22	22
France	30 480	8 260	4 540	3 720	-	22 220	27	27
Croatia	110	40	35	5	0	70	37	37
Italy	18 590	7 450	1 280	1 295	4 875	11 145	40	14
Cyprus	645	250	70	180	0	390	39	39
Latvia	85	55	10	50	-	25	67	67
Lithuania	100	75	65	10	0	25	73	73
Luxembourg	440	345	330	15	-	95	78	78
Hungary	745	545	30	455	60	200	73	65
Malta	215	185	25	160	0	30	86	85
Netherlands	3 580	1 695	595	990	110	1 885	47	44
Austria	14 730	7 405	5 415	1 880	115	7 320	50	50
Poland	435	100	20	80	0	335	23	23
Portugal	185	105	15	90	-	80	57	57
Romania	620	365	270	95	0	255	59	59
Slovenia	50	35	35	5	-	10	76	76
Slovakia	10	5	0	0	5	5	38	0
Finland	1 540	755	540	145	75	780	49	44
Sweden	15 105	6 635	3 350	3 080	210	8 465	44	43
United Kingdom	6 600	2 040	1 705	125	210	4 555	31	28
Iceland	95	20	20	0	0	75	21	21
Liechtenstein	10	5	0	5	0	0	88	88
Norway	965	675	590	20	65	290	70	63
Switzerland	3 940	3 550	1 550	275	1 720	395	90	46

: data are not available

- Not applicable

Rate of recognition is the share of (first instance) positive decisions in the total number of decisions at first instance. In this calculation, the exact number of decisions has been used instead of the rounded numbers presented in this table. Rates of recognition for humanitarian status are not shown in this table, but are part of the total recognition rate.

Table 6 : First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 3rd quarter 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)



	Total decisions	Of which					Rate of recognition, %	
		Positive	of which			Rejected	Total	of which Refugee and subsidiary protection status
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons			
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>202 725</b>	<b>87 485</b>	<b>45 265</b>	<b>30 490</b>	<b>11 735</b>	<b>115 240</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>
Syria - (SY)	29 620	27 595	13 485	13 945	165	2 025	93	93
Afghanistan - (AF)	29 140	14 025	5 160	5 375	3 495	15 110	48	36
Iraq - (IQ)	17 445	9 555	5 680	3 435	440	7 890	55	52
Nigeria - (NG)	9 185	2 100	680	150	1 265	7 085	23	9
Pakistan - (PK)	8 430	1 035	380	210	440	7 395	12	7
Iran - (IR)	8 210	4 435	4 150	165	120	3 775	54	53
Albania - (AL)	7 875	420	100	270	50	7 455	5	5
Eritrea - (ER)	6 060	5 610	3 330	2 110	170	450	93	90
Somalia - (SO)	5 420	3 485	1 660	1 405	415	1 935	64	57
Russia - (RU)	4 615	945	645	170	130	3 670	20	18
Turkey - (TR)	4 045	1 270	1 120	55	95	2 775	31	29
Bangladesh - (BD)	3 825	675	160	45	470	3 150	18	5
Gambia - (GM)	3 560	755	95	25	635	2 805	21	3
Guinea - (GN)	3 525	1 045	495	90	460	2 480	30	17
Ukraine - (UA)	2 930	505	55	170	275	2 430	17	8
Ethiopia - (ET)	2 605	835	580	60	195	1 770	32	25
Kosovo - (XK)	2 580	215	75	85	55	2 365	8	6
Armenia - (AM)	2 500	275	75	105	90	2 225	11	7
Ivory Coast - (CI)	2 470	600	185	50	365	1 865	24	10
Sudan - (SD)	2 390	1 470	1 200	245	25	920	61	60
Serbia - (RS)	2 260	60	35	15	10	2 200	3	2
Stateless - (STLS)	2 220	1 580	1 260	280	40	640	71	69
Haiti - (HT)	2 165	70	40	35	0	2 095	3	3
Algeria - (DZ)	2 095	165	75	65	25	1 935	8	7
Georgia - (GE)	2 075	85	30	20	35	1 985	4	2
MK - (MK)	2 010	30	15	5	10	1 975	2	1
CD - (CD)	1 975	515	410	55	45	1 465	26	24
Senegal - (SN)	1 840	445	75	10	360	1 395	24	5
Morocco - (MA)	1 685	195	90	20	85	1 490	12	7
Mali - (ML)	1 670	585	120	145	320	1 085	35	16
<b>Other non-EU</b>	<b>26 300</b>	<b>6 910</b>	<b>3 795</b>	<b>1 675</b>	<b>1 440</b>	<b>19 390</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q3 2017. Rate of recognition is the share of (first instance) positive decisions in the total number of decisions at first instance. In this calculation, the exact number of decisions has been used instead of the rounded numbers presented in this table. Rates of recognition for humanitarian status are not shown in this table, but are part of the total recognition rate. Kosovo – see methodological notes; CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the; MK – The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**Table 7 : First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants granted decisions in the EU-28, 3rd quarter 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)**

First instance decisions					First instance decisions										
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections		Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections							
<b>GERMANY (90 905 decisions)</b>					<b>FRANCE (30 480 decisions)</b>										
Syria	6 785	Syria	9 185	Afghanistan	3 205	Afghanistan	5 945	Sudan	770	Afghanistan	1 625	-	Albania	4 225	
Iraq	3 425	Iraq	2 125	Nigeria	445	Iraq	3 295	Iraq	350	Syria	840	-	Haiti	2 090	
Iran	2 480	Eritrea	1 710	Somalia	385	Pakistan	2 490	Syria	310	Albania	265	-	Kosovo	1 025	
Other	8 715	Other	3 185	Other	2 035	Other	35 500	Other	3 105	Other	995	-	Other	14 880	
<b>ITALY (18 590 decisions)</b>					<b>SWEDEN (15 105 decisions)</b>										
Nigeria	210	Somalia	275	Nigeria	790	Nigeria	3 010	Afghanistan	1 115	Syria	1 660	Afghanistan	110	Afghanistan	4 150
Somalia	200	Afghanistan	245	Gambia	590	Pakistan	1 445	Eritrea	450	Afghanistan	1 000	Palestine	25	Iraq	1 360
Iraq	115	Iraq	180	Bangladesh	445	Bangladesh	945	Iraq	380	Iraq	270	Stateless	20	Iran	310
Other	755	Other	595	Other	3 050	Other	5 745	Other	1 400	Other	150	Other	60	Other	2 650
<b>AUSTRIA (14 730 decisions)</b>					<b>GREECE (6 780 decisions)</b>										
Syria	3 025	Afghanistan	830	Afghanistan	30	Afghanistan	2 870	Syria	1 175	Iraq	145	-	Pakistan	1 605	
Afghanistan	780	Syria	395	Russia	20	Iraq	1 040	Afghanistan	380	Afghanistan	120	-	Albania	485	
Iran	430	Iraq	295	Ukraine	5	Nigeria	450	Iraq	370	Yemen	10	-	Syria	290	
Other	1 175	Other	360	Other	60	Other	2 960	Other	665	Other	30	-	Other	1 510	
<b>OTHER (73 365 decisions)</b>					<b>EU-28 (202 725 decisions)</b>										
Syria	2 900	Syria	2 630	Afghanistan	85	Afghanistan	22 080	Syria	16 850	Syria	20 475	Afghanistan	8 885	Afghanistan	27 205
Iraq	985	Afghanistan	895	Iran	50	Iraq	10 070	Iraq	9 920	Afghanistan	7 135	Nigeria	1 740	Iraq	13 150
Afghanistan	855	Eritrea	400	Iraq	45	Nigeria	6 520	Afghanistan	8 915	Iraq	5 400	Gambia	680	Nigeria	10 545
Other	3 175	Other	1 120	Other	75	Other	64 425	Other	26 925	Other	11 740	Other	7 525	Other	98 605

Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q3 2017. Humanitarian reasons are not applicable for FR. Kosovo – see methodological notes

**Table 8 : First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 3rd quarter 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)**

First instance decisions				
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections	
<b>SYRIA - SY (29 620 decisions)</b>				
Germany	6 785	Germany	9 185	Germany
Austria	3 025	Sweden	1 660	Sweden
Greece	1 175	France	840	Netherlands
Other	2 500	Other	2 265	Other
<b>IRAQ - IQ (17 445 decisions)</b>				
Germany	3 425	Germany	2 125	Germany
Sweden	380	Austria	295	UK
Greece	370	Sweden	270	Italy
Other	1 510	Other	745	Other
<b>PAKISTAN - PK (8 430 decisions)</b>				
UK	95	Italy	165	Italy
Germany	85	France	20	Germany
Italy	65	Germany	15	UK
Other	135	Other	45	Other
<b>OTHER (100 700 decisions)</b>				
Germany	6 315	Germany	3 925	Italy
France	3 495	France	1 130	Germany
Sweden	1 260	Italy	640	UK
Other	4 660	Other	1 515	Other

First instance decisions				
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections	
<b>AFGHANISTAN - AF (29 140 decisions)</b>				
Germany	1 960	France	1 625	Germany
Sweden	1 115	Sweden	1 000	Sweden
Austria	780	Austria	830	Hungary
Other	1 300	Other	1 920	Other
<b>NIGERIA - NG (9 185 decisions)</b>				
Germany	355	Italy	55	Italy
Italy	210	Germany	50	Germany
France	65	France	40	UK
Other	50	Other	10	Other
<b>IRAN - IR (8 210 decisions)</b>				
Germany	2 480	Germany	120	Germany
Austria	430	Austria	20	Netherlands
UK	400	Sweden	5	UK
Other	835	Other	25	Other
<b>NON-EU (202 725 decisions)</b>				
Germany	21 405	Germany	16 205	Germany
Austria	5 415	France	3 720	Italy
France	4 540	Sweden	3 080	UK
Other	13 905	Other	7 485	Other

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q3 2017

**Table 9 : First instance decisions by destination country and outcome in the EU-28, selected citizenships of asylum applicants, 3rd quarter 2017 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)**

## Data sources and availability

The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States and EFTA countries. Data on asylum applications are collected monthly while data on first instance decisions are collected quarterly. Data are based entirely on relevant administrative sources.

Apart from statistics on first asylum applicants, these data are supplied in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection. All data presented in this publication are rounded to the nearest 5, and are provisional (except as otherwise stated) and may be a subject to change.

- Country abbreviations: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), the United Kingdom (UK), Iceland (IS), Lichtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

## Context

The Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) is responsible for developing EU policies on asylum.

The 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees (as amended by the 1967 New York Protocol) has, for over 60 years, defined who is a refugee, and laid down a common approach towards refugees that has been one of the cornerstones for the development of a common asylum system within the EU.

Since 1999, the EU has worked towards creating a common European asylum regime in accordance with the Geneva Convention and other applicable international instruments. A number of directives in this area have been developed. The four main legal instruments on asylum — all recently recast — are:

- the Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU on standards for the qualification of non-EU nationals and stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection;
- the Asylum Procedures Directive 2013/32/EU on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection;
- the Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection;

- the [Dublin Regulation \(EU\) No 604/2013](#) establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or stateless person.

The Hague programme was adopted by heads of state and government on 5 November 2004. It puts forward the idea of a common European asylum system (CEAS), in particular, it raises the challenge to establish common procedures and uniform status for those granted asylum or subsidiary protection. The European Commission's [policy plan on asylum](#) (COM(2008) 360 final) was presented in June 2008 which included three pillars to underpin the development of the CEAS:

- bringing more harmonisation to standards of protection by further aligning the EU Member States' asylum legislation;
- effective and well-supported practical cooperation;
- increased solidarity and sense of responsibility among EU Member States, and between the EU and non-member countries.

With this in mind, in 2009 the European Commission made a proposal to establish a European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The EASO supports EU Member States in their efforts to implement a more consistent and fair asylum policy. It also provides technical and operational support to EU Member States facing particular pressures (in other words, those EU Member States receiving large numbers of asylum applicants). The EASO became fully operational in June 2011 and has worked to increase its capacity, activity and influence, working with the European Commission and the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#) (UNHCR).

In May 2010, the European Commission presented an [action plan for unaccompanied minors](#) (COM(2010) 213 final), who are regarded as the most exposed and vulnerable victims of migration. This plan aims to set-up a coordinated approach and commits all EU Member States to grant high standards of reception, protection and integration for unaccompanied minors. As a complement to this action plan, the European Migration Network has produced a comprehensive [EU study on reception policies, as well as return and integration arrangements for unaccompanied minors](#) .

In December 2011, the European Commission adopted a Communication on ' [Enhanced intra-EU solidarity in the field of asylum](#) ' (COM(2011) 835 final). This provided proposals to reinforce practical, technical and financial cooperation, moving towards a better allocation of responsibilities and improved governance of the asylum system in the EU, namely through:

- introducing an evaluation and early warning mechanism to detect and address emerging problems;
- making the supporting role of the EASO more effective;
- increasing the amount of funds available and making these more flexible, taking into account significant fluctuations in the number of asylum seekers;
- developing and encouraging the relocation of beneficiaries of international protection between different EU Member States.

## See also

- [Asylum statistics](#)
- [Dublin statistics on countries responsible for asylum application](#)
- [Statistics on enforcement of immigration legislation](#)
- [Residence permits statistics](#)

## Further Eurostat information

### Publications

#### News releases

- [1.2 million first time asylum seekers registered in 2016](#)
- [Number of first time asylum seekers slightly up to almost 306 000 in the second quarter of 2016](#)

- Number of first time asylum seekers down to fewer than 290 000 in the first quarter of 2016
- Record number of over 1.2 million first time asylum seekers registered in 2015
- More than 410 000 first time asylum seekers registered in the third quarter of 2015
- Over 210 000 first time asylum seekers in the EU in the second quarter of 2015
- 185 000 first time asylum seekers in the EU in the first quarter of 2015

### Data in focus

- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: 2014
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: third quarter 2014
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: second quarter 2014
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: first quarter 2014
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: 2013
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: third quarter 2013
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: second quarter 2013
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: first quarter 2013
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: 2012
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: third quarter 2012
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: second quarter 2012
- Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: first quarter 2012

### Main tables

- Asylum and managed migration , see:

Asylum and new asylum applicants - monthly data

Persons subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month - monthly data

Asylum and new asylum applicants - annual aggregated data

First instance decisions on applications by type of decision - annual aggregated data

Final decisions on applications - annual data

Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors - annual data

Resettled persons - annual data

### Database

- Asylum and managed migration , see:

Applications (migrasyapp)

Asylum applicants by citizenship till 2007 Annual data (rounded) (migrasyctz)

First time asylum applicants by citizenship till December 2007 Monthly data (rounded) (migrasyctzm)

Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) (migrasyappctza)

Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Monthly data (rounded) (migrasyappctzm)

Persons subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex - Monthly data (rounded) (migrasypenctzm)

Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) (migrasywitha)

- Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex - Monthly data (rounded) (migrasy-withm)
- Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) (migrasyunaa)
- Decisions on applications and resettlement (migrasydec)
  - Decisions on asylum applications by citizenship till 2007 Annual data (rounded) (migrasydctzy)
  - Decisions on asylum applications by citizenship till December 2007 Monthly data (rounded) (migrasydctzm)
  - First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) (migrasydcfsta)
  - First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Quarterly data (rounded) (migrasydcftq)
  - Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision by type of status withdrawn and by citizenship Annual aggregated data (rounded) (migrasywitfsta)
  - Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision by type of status withdrawn and by citizenship Quarterly data (rounded) (migrasywitfstq)
  - Final decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) (migrasydcfina)
  - Decisions withdrawing status granted as final decision by type of status withdrawn Annual data (rounded) (asywitfina)
  - Resettled persons by age, sex and citizenship Annual data (rounded) (migrasyresa)

## Dedicated section

- [Asylum and managed migration](#)

## Methodology / Metadata

- [Applications \(migrasyapp\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — migrasyappesms)
- [Decisions on applications and resettlement \(migrasydec\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — migrasydecesms)

## External links

- [European Commission - DG Migration and Home Affairs - Asylum](#)
- [European Asylum Support Office - EASO](#)
- [European Migration Network - EMN](#)
- [UNHCR - Statistics](#)