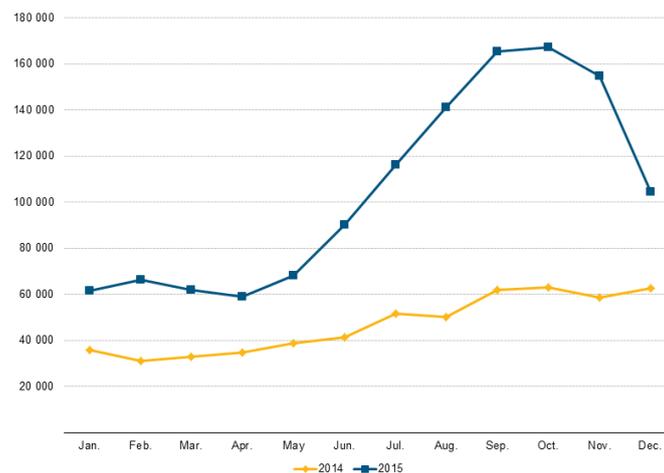


# Asylum quarterly report

Data extracted on 3rd March 2016. Most recent data: Further Eurostat information, Main tables and Database . Planned update of the article: June 2016.

## First time asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: fourth quarter 2015

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.



Source: Eurostat (online data code migr\_asyappctzm)

Figure 1: First time asylum applicants, EU-28, January 2014 – December 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

## Main statistical findings

### Increase in asylum applicants

The number of [first time asylum applicants](#) <sup>12</sup>increased by more than 130 % in the fourth quarter of 2015 compared with the same quarter of 2014 and remained unchanged compared with the third quarter of 2015.

<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.

<sup>2</sup>Editions of this quarterly report until the fourth quarter of 2014 referred to 'Total asylum applicants', whereas this quarterly Statistics Explained article refers to the number of 'First time asylum applicants' only. 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 now possible as all Member States are able to provide it to Eurostat.

Overall, the number of persons seeking asylum from non-EU countries in the EU-28 during the fourth quarter of 2015 reached 426 000. This was 241 600 more than in the same quarter of 2014 (Table 1, Table 2). Out of the 439 100 total asylum applicants (i.e. including repeat applicants), 426 000 (97 %) were first time applicants (Table 2, Table 3).

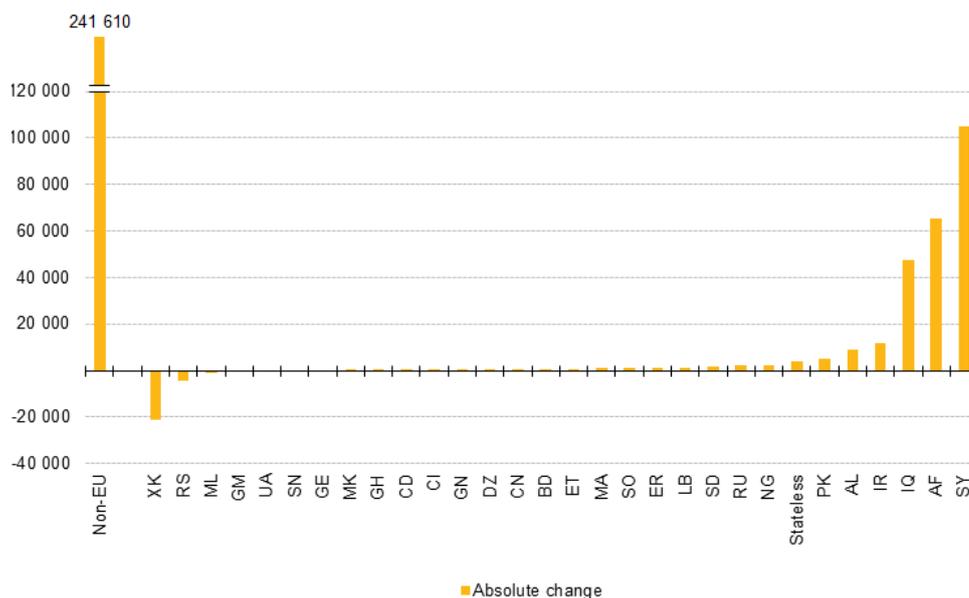


Figure 2: First time asylum applicants by citizenship, EU-28, absolute change between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm), see country codes

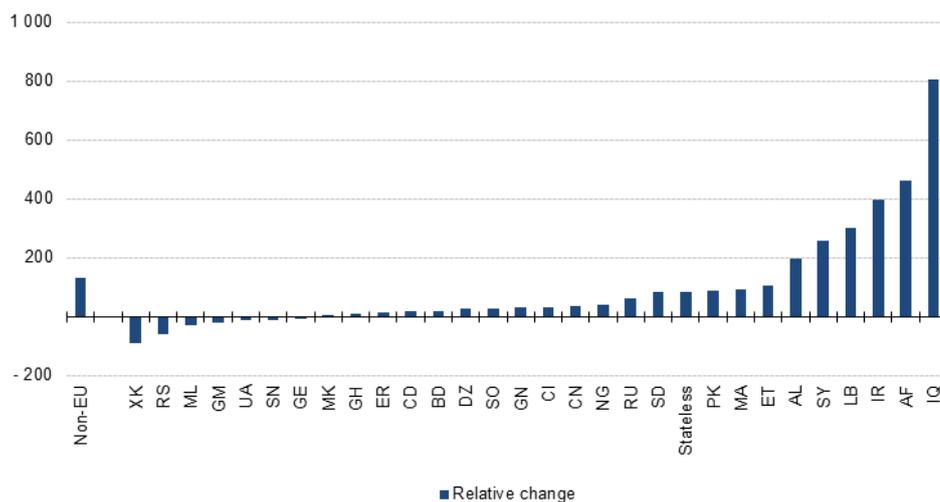


Figure 3: First time asylum applicants by citizenship, EU-28, relative change between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm), see country codes

### Where do they come from?

Citizens of 147 countries sought asylum for the first time in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2015. Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging around 145 100, 79 300 and 53 600 applications respectively (Table 1).

	Q4 2014				Q1 2015			Q2 2015			Q3 2015			Q4 2015			Change in % between Q3 2015 and Q4 2015	Last 12 months		
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.				
Non-EU	62 945	58 690	62 780		61 450	66 150	61 940	59 085	68 090	90 140	116 200	141 250	165 305	167 060	154 605	104 360	426 025	1	131	1 255 640
Syria - (SY)	14 855	13 185	12 375		11 745	8 925	10 285	11 400	13 230	20 845	31 575	48 825	60 815	58 730	51 985	34 415	145 130	3	259	362 775
Afghanistan - (AF)	4 305	4 220	5 555		4 680	4 205	4 380	5 540	8 995	12 975	18 360	19 340	20 505	26 295	33 850	19 110	79 255	36	463	178 230
Iraq - (IQ)	2 040	2 040	1 840		2 315	2 455	3 155	3 570	4 615	6 330	8 090	11 920	25 495	24 665	17 755	11 165	53 585	18	805	121 535
Iran - (IR)	1 090	945	850		840	680	760	1 005	985	1 165	1 390	1 650	2 480	4 675	5 975	3 755	14 405	161	399	25 360
Albania - (AL)	1 295	1 595	1 610		2 165	2 335	3 660	5 470	5 620	6 655	8 960	9 345	8 270	6 280	4 340	2 830	13 450	-49	199	65 935
Pakistan - (PK)	2 130	1 875	1 720		1 735	1 690	1 920	2 230	2 690	3 960	6 655	9 370	5 320	3 930	3 890	3 015	10 835	-49	89	46 400
Stateless	1 960	1 525	1 270		875	530	405	545	845	1 265	1 410	1 610	2 640	3 690	3 510	1 620	8 815	56	85	18 940
Eritrea - (ER)	3 265	2 275	1 490		1 375	930	1 045	1 570	3 595	4 210	4 255	4 385	3 580	4 360	2 175	1 615	8 150	-33	16	33 095
Nigeria - (NG)	2 355	1 665	1 710		1 470	1 455	1 385	1 465	2 180	2 580	3 675	3 610	4 075	3 380	2 760	1 890	8 025	-29	40	29 915
Russia - (RU)	1 220	1 125	1 160		1 095	1 115	1 045	1 095	1 090	1 465	1 475	1 900	2 365	2 295	1 830	1 615	5 740	0	64	18 385
Bangladesh - (BD)	1 760	1 140	1 115		835	705	825	745	935	1 145	1 930	3 560	2 195	1 830	1 590	1 395	4 815	-37	20	17 695
Ukraine - (UA)	2 170	1 820	1 440		1 345	1 800	1 980	2 025	1 665	2 085	1 770	1 470	1 925	1 715	1 695	1 345	4 755	-8	-12	20 830
Somalia - (SO)	1 305	1 095	1 070		1 095	1 185	1 310	1 365	2 085	2 030	2 105	1 915	2 035	1 885	1 550	1 040	4 455	-26	28	19 575
Sudan - (SD)	720	530	515		370	365	450	425	650	915	1 770	1 470	1 270	1 205	835	1 185	3 225	-28	82	10 910
Gambia - (GM)	1 345	1 005	1 180		1 055	1 040	1 025	800	915	1 025	1 140	1 200	1 205	1 360	850	600	2 805	-21	-21	12 205
Kosovo - (XK)	3 540	7 495	13 075		13 850	22 470	12 550	5 320	2 690	2 260	1 995	1 365	1 640	1 110	760	870	2 740	-45	-89	66 885
Serbia - (RS)	2 320	2 380	2 310		2 345	2 135	2 015	1 725	1 655	1 630	1 775	1 610	1 505	1 130	1 005	565	2 700	-45	-61	19 090
MK - (MK)	705	695	530		650	670	910	710	850	1 195	1 495	1 050	990	880	770	370	2 020	-43	5	10 545
Mali - (ML)	1 315	865	645		600	620	790	520	620	600	755	815	970	840	745	435	2 020	-21	-28	8 315
Algeria - (DZ)	615	510	470		475	480	630	665	760	875	540	620	555	725	660	630	2 015	17	26	7 620
Morocco - (MA)	365	320	310		355	320	405	425	425	470	335	350	430	455	685	780	1 915	72	92	5 430
Senegal - (SN)	730	695	605		680	800	805	665	665	685	900	955	945	775	575	430	1 780	-37	-12	8 880
Georgia - (GE)	720	590	565		545	455	525	530	510	710	505	425	640	585	640	500	1 720	10	-8	6 560
Ethiopia - (ET)	320	280	225		285	180	200	265	430	720	610	555	545	680	545	455	1 685	-2	104	5 475
Lebanon - (LB)	175	115	115		130	125	115	130	90	140	110	110	240	460	735	455	1 655	259	302	2 840
China - (CN)	485	320	400		395	460	430	425	455	535	400	430	535	705	545	375	1 630	19	35	5 695
CD - (CD)	470	395	485		405	460	430	475	415	500	490	445	530	550	500	525	1 575	8	17	5 720
Guinea - (GH)	445	345	380		325	340	460	400	375	460	535	445	595	615	475	455	1 540	-3	31	5 480
Ghana - (GH)	540	470	355		275	230	270	260	405	415	685	650	895	675	505	305	1 490	-33	9	5 570
Ivory Coast - (CI)	375	375	290		285	350	430	430	415	520	565	540	670	555	440	380	1 375	-22	33	5 575
Other (non-EU)	8 015	6 800	7 105		6 860	6 625	7 355	6 895	7 240	9 785	9 940	9 300	9 450	10 050	10 440	10 225	30 720	7	40	104 170

Countries selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q4 2015  
Kosovo - see methodological notes; MK - the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia; CD - Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Table 1: First time asylum applicants in the EU-28 by citizenship, Q4 2014 – Q4 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

	Q4 2014			Q1 2015			Q2 2015			Q3 2015			Q4 2015			Change in % between Q3 2015 and Q4 2015	Change in % between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015	Applicants per million population (*) Q4 2015	Last 12 months	
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
EU-28	62 945	58 690	62 780	61 450	66 150	61 940	59 085	68 090	90 140	116 200	141 250	165 305	167 060	154 605	104 360	1	131	840	1 255 640	
Belgium	1 540	1 145	1 405	1 210	1 070	1 160	1 110	1 615	2 315	3 130	5 160	6 360	5 525	5 530	4 810	8	288	1 410	38 990	
Bulgaria	1 400	1 355	1 480	1 055	1 025	1 110	1 120	1 325	1 605	1 850	1 435	2 060	3 530	2 395	1 660	42	79	1 055	20 185	
Czech Republic	100	70	110	95	90	170	105	85	85	75	85	100	115	115	110	29	20	30	1 235	
Denmark	1 840	1 105	755	630	425	450	545	870	1 075	1 030	1 810	2 680	3 625	5 020	2 665	105	205	1 995	20 825	
Germany	19 225	19 030	17 055	22 905	24 065	29 995	25 830	25 105	34 075	36 505	36 305	44 480	58 125	57 685	46 725	39	194	2 000	441 800	
Estonia	25	10	5	5	15	30	30	10	25	20	10	45	20	10	10	-46	-9	30	225	
Ireland	130	155	170	215	200	210	265	255	335	290	330	405	265	290	210	-25	69	165	3 270	
Greece	745	580	790	925	895	790	855	1 005	1 000	1 065	880	940	845	1 000	1 160	4	42	275	11 370	
Spain	720	630	600	835	850	1 220	1 330	1 055	1 290	1 145	1 030	1 405	1 470	1 740	1 225	24	127	95	14 600	
France	5 580	4 555	5 380	4 025	5 135	5 610	5 175	4 355	5 150	5 330	5 240	7 070	7 735	7 145	8 595	33	51	355	70 570	
Croatia	40	25	15	10	15	15	10	5	5	10	5	20	20	15	10	35	-43	10	140	
Italy	8 890	6 785	5 610	4 740	5 075	5 430	4 500	5 130	5 265	8 510	8 775	11 105	10 365	8 270	6 075	-13	16	405	83 245	
Cyprus	185	140	120	155	125	150	145	120	135	155	120	330	235	245	190	9	50	790	2 105	
Latvia	30	15	30	15	15	15	25	30	50	30	20	45	70	10	5	85	-9	40	330	
Lithuania	30	65	65	15	25	5	25	25	10	35	30	20	35	20	25	80	-6	30	275	
Luxembourg	125	110	85	85	95	85	70	85	95	90	165	365	375	425	430	97	288	2 185	2 360	
Hungary	5 250	8 885	13 790	11 655	16 405	4 750	6 485	9 800	16 385	30 870	46 720	30 495	490	195	175	865	-99	90	174 435	
Malta	125	75	115	65	160	120	105	160	115	140	115	170	230	190	130	28	74	1 270	1 695	
Netherlands	1 900	1 250	1 225	890	735	805	1 135	2 250	2 925	2 980	5 325	6 425	9 965	6 225	3 375	33	347	1 160	43 035	
Austria	2 975	3 540	4 050	3 875	3 060	2 770	3 715	6 190	7 485	8 555	8 500	10 545	12 015	11 655	7 135	12	192	3 590	85 505	
Poland	600	535	520	485	470	485	540	525	700	985	1 235	1 490	1 260	1 095	985	-10	102	90	10 255	
Portugal	40	60	40	40	80	60	80	80	90	70	75	70	70	65	50	180	-17	29	20	830
Romania	185	80	95	100	75	160	205	85	85	85	110	75	90	85	65	240	-11	34	10	1 225
Slovenia	25	30	35	15	10	20	15	10	15	10	20	40	20	45	35	100	41	13	50	260
Slovakia	25	30	35	15	10	25	5	20	5	5	5	5	5	15	160	180	959	100	35	270
Finland	405	310	385	305	310	345	335	510	760	1 455	2 865	10 805	6 985	5 690	1 785	-4	1 211	2 640	32 150	
Sweden	7 545	5 515	6 310	4 340	3 515	3 560	3 405	4 850	6 045	7 515	11 270	23 735	38 535	36 075	13 275	107	354	9 015	156 110	
United Kingdom	3 255	2 615	2 505	2 740	2 200	2 395	1 920	2 525	3 025	4 260	3 600	4 010	5 040	3 360	3 295	-1	40	180	38 370	
Iceland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Liechtenstein	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Norway	1 010	825	730	560	480	480	520	1 160	1 075	1 335	2 295	4 885	8 570	8 105	1 005	108	589	3 425	30 470	
Switzerland	2 215	1 545	1 375	1 450	1 300	1 375	1 270	2 070	3 665	3 785	3 785	4 410	4 635	5 555	4 760	25	191	1 815	38 060	

(\*) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2015  
.. data are not available

Table 2: First time asylum applicants, Q4 2014 – Q4 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

Syrians (104 700 more applicants compared to the fourth quarter of 2014) added most to the overall increase in first time asylum applicants in absolute terms, followed by Afghanis (65 200 more) and Iraqis (47 700 more). In a contrast case are asylum applicants from Kosovo (21 400 less) and Russia (4 300 less) which have notably decreased (Figure 2, Table 1).

Asylum applicants from Iraq (9 times more) recorded the most substantial relative increase in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2015 compared to the same quarter of 2014 followed by Afghanis (nearly 6 times more), Iranians (almost 5 times more), Lebanese (4 times more), Syrians (nearly 4 times more) and Albanians (3 times more) (Figure 3, Table 1).

Of the 145 100 Syrians who applied for the first time for asylum in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2015 60% were registered in Germany (86 300) and nearly 20% in Sweden (25 500). Of the 79 300 Afghanis seeking asylum protection for the first time in the EU during the fourth quarter of 2015, nearly 75% applied in three Member States, Sweden (31 400), Germany (14 600) and Austria (12 400). Syrians were the main citizenship of asylum seekers in 7 EU Member States (Table 4, Table 5).

	Q4 2014			Q1 2015			Q2 2015			Q3 2015			Q4 2015			Change in % between Q3 2015 and Q4 2015	Change in % between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015	Applicants per million population (1) Q4 2015	Last 12 months
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.				
EU-28	69 195	64 860	69 180	67 960	72 555	68 455	64 760	72 960	95 710	122 370	146 990	170 710	171 785	158 595	108 710	0	116	865	1 321 560
Belgium	2 275	1 895	2 205	1 715	1 640	1 745	1 620	2 095	2 880	3 590	5 585	6 830	6 020	5 725	5 220	6	166	1 505	44 660
Bulgaria	1 430	1 380	1 500	1 070	1 045	1 110	1 130	1 345	1 630	1 870	1 445	2 075	3 545	2 415	1 695	42	78	1 065	20 365
Czech Republic	120	90	130	125	115	195	130	110	105	100	105	125	130	135	140	23	19	40	1 515
Denmark	1 855	1 115	765	640	440	460	555	880	1 090	1 035	1 815	2 690	3 635	5 030	2 670	104	203	2 000	20 935
Germany	22 250	22 500	20 370	26 875	27 695	33 865	28 720	27 595	37 030	39 825	39 480	47 185	60 355	59 615	48 270	33	158	2 070	476 510
Estonia	30	10	10	5	15	30	30	10	25	20	10	45	20	10	10	-44	-18	30	230
Ireland	130	155	170	215	200	210	265	255	335	290	330	405	265	290	210	-26	68	165	3 275
Greece	890	670	955	1 065	1 015	915	980	1 145	1 120	1 235	1 050	1 155	1 045	1 170	1 315	3	40	325	13 205
Spain	730	640	610	840	860	1 240	1 345	1 065	1 305	1 170	1 045	1 425	1 490	1 765	1 230	23	126	95	14 780
France	6 110	4 945	5 835	4 440	5 630	6 090	5 650	4 745	5 600	5 735	5 580	7 370	8 060	7 370	9 485	33	48	375	75 750
Croatia	45	30	25	25	25	15	15	10	10	10	10	25	25	20	15	36	-39	15	210
Italy	8 980	6 865	5 660	4 785	5 140	5 505	4 590	5 180	5 335	8 610	8 825	11 195	10 440	8 365	6 115	-13	16	410	84 085
Cyprus	205	150	140	165	140	165	165	135	150	165	125	350	240	260	205	10	42	830	2 285
Latvia	30	15	30	15	15	15	25	35	50	30	20	45	70	10	5	-9	11	40	330
Lithuania	35	70	75	30	30	15	25	25	10	35	35	25	35	25	30	-8	-54	30	315
Luxembourg	130	120	85	90	95	105	80	95	105	115	190	380	385	425	440	84	275	2 225	2 505
Hungary	5 425	9 130	14 075	11 925	16 695	4 925	6 690	9 970	16 580	31 285	47 085	30 795	615	325	230	-99	-96	120	177 135
Malta	135	80	120	95	170	130	115	180	120	145	130	175	235	195	160	33	76	1 380	1 845
Netherlands	2 245	1 450	1 455	1 055	955	990	1 320	2 370	3 060	3 140	5 470	6 620	10 120	6 360	3 515	31	288	1 185	44 970
Austria	3 155	3 690	4 200	4 030	3 255	2 920	4 040	6 390	7 675	8 790	8 795	10 780	12 275	11 930	7 280	11	185	3 670	88 160
Poland	815	680	645	610	600	630	750	680	860	1 145	1 375	1 690	1 430	1 270	1 145	-9	80	100	12 190
Portugal	40	60	40	40	80	60	80	80	90	70	75	70	70	65	75	-6	46	20	850
Romania	195	80	100	105	80	165	210	90	85	90	110	80	90	85	65	-13	-36	10	1 260
Slovenia	40	15	40	15	15	25	15	15	15	10	20	40	25	45	35	47	12	50	275
Slovakia	30	40	45	15	10	35	10	25	10	10	10	10	15	15	160	533	65	35	330
Finland	410	325	405	305	325	355	340	515	770	1 480	2 890	10 815	7 005	5 715	1 830	-4	1 178	2 660	32 345
Sweden	8 175	5 995	6 945	4 890	4 045	4 105	3 915	5 375	6 610	8 060	11 725	24 260	39 055	36 585	13 830	103	324	9 180	162 450
United Kingdom	3 290	2 655	2 550	2 770	2 230	2 430	1 950	2 555	3 055	4 305	3 645	4 055	5 095	3 385	3 320	-2	39	180	38 800
Iceland	25	5	35	15	15	10	15	5	20	20	45	60	55	45	35	5	116	415	345
Liechtenstein	5	5	10	5	0	10	5	15	20	10	10	35	20	10	15	-20	144	1 180	150
Norway	1 045	870	770	595	530	535	580	1 225	1 145	1 395	2 330	4 935	8 660	8 155	1 030	106	566	3 455	31 110
Switzerland	2 380	1 675	1 510	1 560	1 415	1 490	1 375	2 195	3 800	3 895	3 890	4 540	4 745	5 680	4 865	24	175	1 855	39 445

(1) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2015

Table 3: Asylum applicants (including first time asylum applicants), Q4 2014 – Q4 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

		EU-28		# (%)				
		Syria	145 130	34				
		Afghanistan	79 255	19				
		Iraq	53 585	13				
		Iran	14 405	3				
		Albania	13 450	3				
		Other	120 205	28				
BELGIUM		# (%)		BULGARIA		# (%)		
Afghanistan	5 555	35	Iraq	3 540	47	CZECH REPUBLIC		
Syria	4 750	30	Afghanistan	2 905	38	Ukraine	135	40
Iraq	2 225	14	Syria	920	12	Syria	60	18
Somalia	375	2	Pakistan	150	2	China	25	7
Iran	300	2	Iran	30	0	Iraq	15	4
Other	2 660	17	Other	40	1	Vietnam	15	4
DENMARK		# (%)		GERMANY		# (%)		
Syria	4 220	37	Syria	86 330	53	ESTONIA		
Iran	2 240	20	Afghanistan	14 585	9	Ukraine	15	33
Afghanistan	1 680	15	Iraq	13 900	9	Iraq	5	11
Stateless	1 130	10	Albania	9 475	6	Cameroon	5	11
Iraq	995	9	Eritrea	3 390	2	Nigeria	5	11
Other	1 040	9	Other	34 860	21	Georgia	5	11
IRELAND		# (%)		GREECE		# (%)		
Pakistan	235	31	Syria	685	23	SPAIN		
Nigeria	60	8	Pakistan	445	15	Syria	1 330	30
Bangladesh	55	7	Albania	435	14	Ukraine	1 085	24
Albania	45	6	Iraq	335	11	Venezuela	335	8
Afghanistan	40	5	Afghanistan	185	6	Algeria	285	6
Other	330	43	Other	925	31	Palestine	255	6
FRANCE		# (%)		CROATIA		# (%)		
Sudan	2 250	10	Kosovo	5	11	ITALY		
Syria	1 825	8	Cameroon	5	11	Nigeria	5 575	23
Afghanistan	1 655	7	Syria	5	11	Pakistan	4 545	18
Bangladesh	1 625	7	Afghanistan	5	11	Gambia	1 680	7
Albania	1 295	6	Turkey	5	11	Bangladesh	1 635	7
Other	14 820	63	Other	20	44	Senegal	1 415	6
CYPRUS		# (%)		LATVIA		# (%)		
Syria	300	45	Iraq	60	67	LITHUANIA		
Palestine	75	11	Vietnam	10	11	Ukraine	15	19
Pakistan	55	8	Pakistan	5	6	Afghanistan	15	19
Vietnam	35	5	Russia	5	6	Russia	10	13
India	30	4	Ukraine	5	6	Georgia	10	13
Other	175	26	Other	5	6	Azerbaijan	10	13
LUXEMBOURG		# (%)		HUNGARY		# (%)		
Iraq	410	33	Afghanistan	260	30	MALTA		
Syria	385	31	Syria	160	18	Libya	220	40
Afghanistan	190	15	Iraq	145	17	Syria	215	39
Iran	45	4	Turkey	60	7	Eritrea	25	5
Albania	40	3	Pakistan	50	6	Ukraine	20	4
Other	160	13	Other	190	22	Somalia	15	3
NETHERLANDS		# (%)		AUSTRIA		# (%)		
Syria	8 530	44	Afghanistan	12 360	40	POLAND		
Iraq	2 165	11	Syria	8 145	26	Russia	2 625	78
Afghanistan	1 950	10	Iraq	4 320	14	Tajikistan	240	7
Eritrea	1 510	8	Iran	2 125	7	Ukraine	200	6
Iran	1 510	8	Stateless	605	2	Armenia	70	2
Other	3 900	20	Other	3 245	11	Kyrgyzstan	35	1
PORTUGAL		# (%)		ROMANIA		# (%)		
Ukraine	35	19	Syria	75	32	SLOVENIA		
Mali	30	17	Afghanistan	30	13	Afghanistan	25	24
Pakistan	15	8	Iraq	20	9	Pakistan	20	19
Syria	10	6	Bangladesh	20	9	Syria	10	10
Guinea	10	6	Pakistan	10	4	Kosovo	10	10
Other	80	44	Other	80	34	Iran	10	10
SLOVAKIA		# (%)		FINLAND		# (%)		
Iraq	150	83	Iraq	8 105	56	SWEDEN		
Afghanistan	10	6	Afghanistan	4 300	30	Afghanistan	31 420	36
India	5	3	Syria	490	3	Syria	25 505	29
Pakistan	5	3	Iran	460	3	Iraq	14 900	17
Other	10	6	Somalia	205	1	Stateless	3 660	4
UNITED KINGDOM		# (%)		NORWAY		# (%)		
Iran	1 570	13	Syria	6 075	34	Iran	3 370	4
Iraq	1 295	11	Afghanistan	4 905	28	Other	9 030	10
Syria	975	8	Iraq	2 225	13	ICELAND		
Afghanistan	910	8	Iran	1 110	6	Albania	35	26
Eritrea	885	8	Stateless	665	4	Iraq	20	15
Other	6 060	52	Other	2 700	15	Afghanistan	15	11
LIECHTENSTEIN		# (%)				MK		
						Stateless	10	7
						Other	40	30
						SWITZERLAND		
						Afghanistan	5 895	39
						Syria	2 385	16
						Iraq	1 545	10
						Eritrea	1 010	7
						Sri Lanka	645	4
						Other	3 470	23

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q4 2015 in the EU-28;

# Absolute number of asylum applications

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

Kosovo – see methodological notes; MK – The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Table 4 : Five main citizenships of first time asylum applicants, 4th quarter 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

			NON-EU		# (%)			
			Germany	162 540	38			
			Sweden	87 885	21			
			Austria	30 805	7			
			Italy	24 710	6			
			France	23 475	6			
			Other	96 615	23			
SYRIA - (SY)			AFGHANISTAN - (AF)		IRAQ - (IQ)			
					# (%)			
Germany	86 330	59	Sweden	31 420	40	Sweden	14 900	28
Sweden	25 505	18	Germany	14 585	18	Germany	13 900	26
Netherlands	8 530	6	Austria	12 360	16	Finland	8 105	15
Austria	8 145	6	Belgium	5 555	7	Austria	4 320	8
Belgium	4 750	3	Finland	4 300	5	Bulgaria	3 540	7
Other	11 870	8	Other	11 040	14	Other	8 820	16
IRAN - (IR)			ALBANIA - (AL)		PAKISTAN - (PK)			
					# (%)			
Sweden	3 370	23	Germany	9 475	70	Italy	4 545	42
Germany	2 445	17	France	1 295	10	Germany	3 080	28
Denmark	2 240	16	Sweden	575	4	United Kingdom	865	8
Austria	2 125	15	Netherlands	575	4	France	695	6
United Kingdom	1 570	11	United Kingdom	495	4	Greece	445	4
Other	2 650	18	Other	1 035	8	Other	1 210	11
STATELESS			ERITREA - (ER)		NIGERIA - (NG)			
					# (%)			
Sweden	3 660	42	Germany	3 390	42	Italy	5 575	69
Germany	1 755	20	Netherlands	1 510	19	Germany	680	8
Netherlands	1 245	14	Sweden	1 125	14	France	550	7
Denmark	1 130	13	United Kingdom	885	11	United Kingdom	385	5
Austria	605	7	Italy	440	5	Austria	370	5
Other	420	5	Other	800	10	Other	470	6
RUSSIA			BANGLADESH - (BD)		UKRAINE - (UA)			
					# (%)			
Poland	2 625	46	Italy	1 635	34	Spain	1 085	23
Germany	1 440	25	France	1 625	34	Italy	1 075	23
France	800	14	United Kingdom	475	10	Germany	960	20
Austria	345	6	Germany	360	7	France	365	8
Belgium	160	3	Sweden	195	4	Netherlands	310	7
Other	375	7	Other	520	11	Other	955	20
SOMALIA - (SO)			SUDAN - (SD)		GAMBIA - (GM)			
					# (%)			
Sweden	1 450	33	France	2 250	70	Italy	1 680	60
Germany	945	21	United Kingdom	555	17	Germany	820	29
France	495	11	Germany	185	6	Sweden	65	2
Belgium	375	8	Sweden	105	3	Austria	60	2
Austria	355	8	Netherlands	35	1	France	50	2
Other	830	19	Other	90	3	Other	130	5
KOSOVO - (XK)			SERBIA - (RS)		MK - (MK)			
					# (%)			
Germany	1 715	63	Germany	2 145	79	Germany	1 725	85
France	355	13	Netherlands	225	8	Sweden	85	4
Sweden	155	6	Sweden	125	5	France	75	4
Netherlands	135	5	France	65	2	Austria	55	3
Italy	120	4	Italy	45	2	Netherlands	35	2
Other	255	9	Other	100	4	Other	50	2
MALI - (ML)			ALGERIA - (DZ)		MOROCCO - (MA)			
					# (%)			
Italy	1 200	59	France	750	37	Germany	510	27
France	615	30	Germany	400	20	Austria	375	20
Germany	90	4	Spain	285	14	Sweden	270	14
Spain	50	2	Austria	195	10	Italy	245	13
Portugal	30	1	Sweden	110	5	Spain	155	8
Other	40	2	Other	270	13	Other	360	19
SENEGAL - (SN)			GEORGIA - (GE)		ETHIOPIA - (ET)			
					# (%)			
Italy	1 415	80	Germany	580	34	Germany	695	41
France	165	9	France	350	20	Sweden	560	33
Germany	85	5	Sweden	245	14	France	145	9
Belgium	40	2	Greece	120	7	United Kingdom	135	8
Austria	20	1	Austria	120	7	Italy	40	2
Other	50	3	Other	305	18	Other	110	7
LEBANON - (LB)			CHINA - (CN)		CD - (CD)			
					# (%)			
Germany	695	42	France	845	52	France	1 160	74
Sweden	470	28	Italy	190	12	Belgium	240	15
Austria	130	8	United Kingdom	175	11	United Kingdom	45	3
Belgium	100	6	Germany	120	7	Italy	30	2
Netherlands	50	3	Austria	80	5	Greece	15	1
Other	210	13	Other	220	13	Other	85	5
GUINEA - (GN)			GHANA - (GH)		IVORY COAST - (CI)			
					# (%)			
France	625	41	Italy	1 185	79	Italy	695	50
Italy	505	33	Germany	165	11	France	445	32
Belgium	185	12	United Kingdom	60	4	Germany	140	10
Germany	120	8	Sweden	15	1	Belgium	25	2
Netherlands	25	2	Austria	15	1	Spain	20	1
Other	80	5	Other	55	4	Other	55	4

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q4 2015 in the EU-28

# Absolute number of asylum applications

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

Kosovo – see methodological notes; CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the; MK – The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Table 5 :Thirty main citizenships of first time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 28, 4th quarter 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm)

## Main destination countries

The highest number of first time asylum applicants in the fourth quarter of 2015 was registered in Germany (with over 162 500 applicants, or 38% of total applicants in the EU Member States), followed by Sweden (87 900, or 21%), Austria (30 800, or 7%) and Italy and France (both with over 23 500, or 6% each). These 5 Member States together account for more than 75% of all first time applicants in the EU-28 (Table 2).

Trends in number of asylum applicants vary from country to country in the fourth quarter of 2015. Finland with nearly 13 400 more first time asylum applicants saw its number of asylum seekers jumping notably by 13 times compared to the same quarter of 2014, while Norway recorded 7 times more asylum seekers (or 15 100 more). In contrast Hungary has recorded a decrease of 27 000 less first time asylum applicants in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Germany (107 200 applicants more) continued to record increasing numbers of asylum applicants, followed by Sweden (68 500 more applicants, or 4 times more), while Austria (20 200 more applicants, or 3 times more) and the Netherlands (15 200 more applicants, or 4 times more) were the countries with the third and fourth largest absolute increase in the number of asylum seekers in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2015 respectively (Figures 4 and 5).

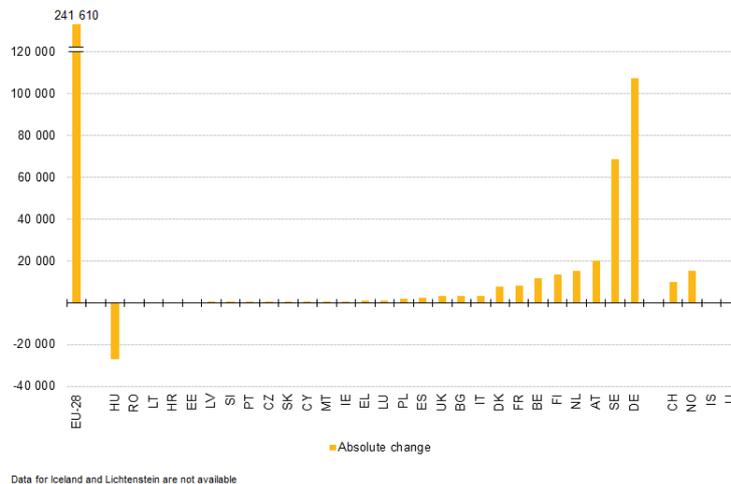


Figure 4: First time asylum applicants, absolute change between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm), see country codes

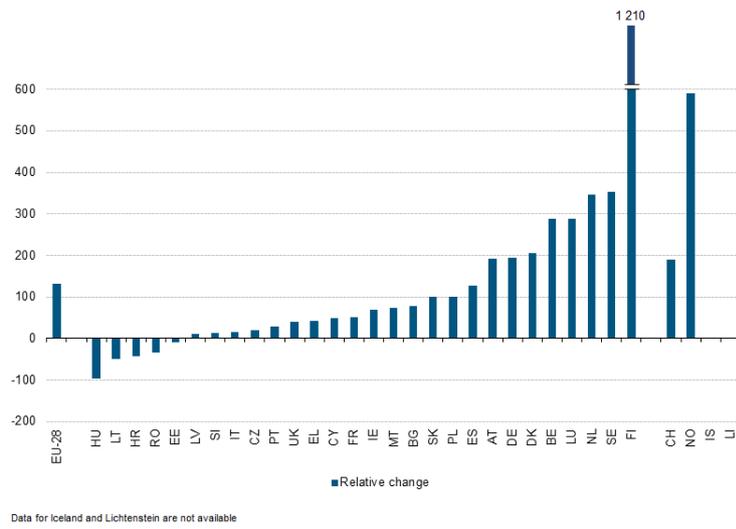


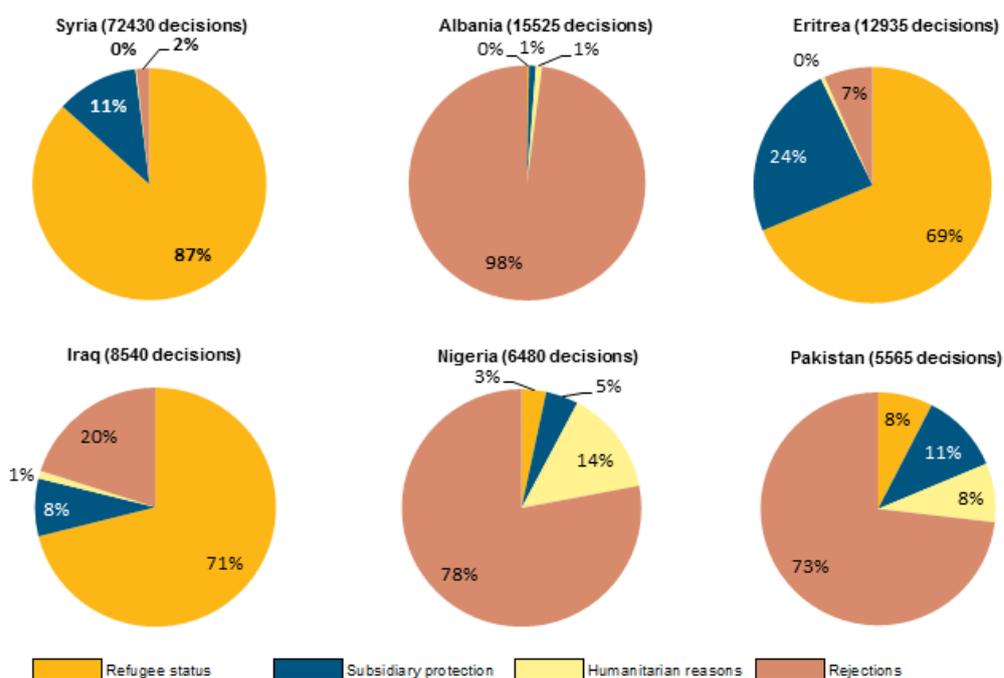
Figure 5: First time asylumapplicants, relative change between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasyappctzm), see country codes

## Decisions on asylum applications

198 600 first instance decisions<sup>3</sup>) were made by the national authorities of EU Member States during the fourth quarter of 2015. Among them, nearly 60% were positive (i.e. granting a type of protection status) (Table 6).

Germany, Italy, France and Sweden issued the most total first instance decisions<sup>4</sup> during the fourth quarter of 2015 (100 500, 27 300, 21 700 and 14 900 respectively) (Figure 7. Table 6).

Most decisions were issued to Syrians (72 400) followed by Albanians (15 500) and Eritreans (12 900) (Table 7).

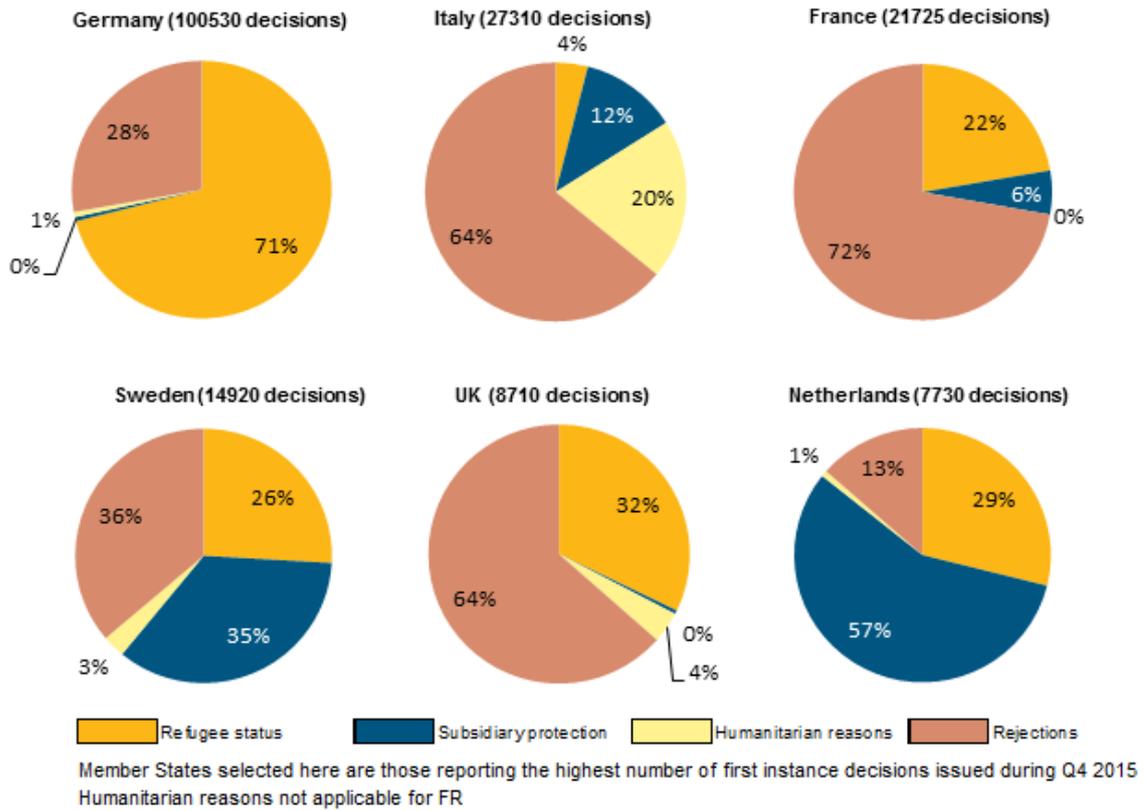


Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q4 2015  
Data for Austria are not available

**Figure 6 : First instance decisions in the EU-28 by outcome, selected citizenships, 4th quarter 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)**

<sup>3</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>4</sup>Total decisions equal to positive decisions plus negative decisions.



**Figure 7 : First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 4th quarter 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)**

Syrians have received by far the highest number of protection statuses in the EU Member States, including protection based on national legislations (71 100 positive first instance decisions, or 98% rate of recognition<sup>5</sup>), followed by Eritreans (12 100, or 93%) and Iraqis (6 800, or 80%).

Of the 15 500 first instance decisions issued to Albanians only 300 were positive (or 2% rate of recognition), while of the 4 800 issued to Kosovans only 200 were positive (or 4% respectively) (Figure 6, Table 7).

<sup>5</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>	<b>198 550</b>	<b>117 420</b>	<b>92 620</b>	<b>17 740</b>	<b>7 055</b>	<b>81 130</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>56</b>
Belgium	5 265	3 145	2 580	565	-	2 120	60	60
Bulgaria	820	745	580	165	-	75	91	91
Czech Republic	330	95	15	70	10	235	28	26
Denmark	3 055	2 350	1 770	555	25	700	77	76
Germany	100 530	72 610	71 420	520	670	27 920	72	72
Estonia	70	20	5	15	0	50	31	31
Ireland	410	220	45	180	-	190	54	54
Greece	2 235	630	575	60	0	1 600	28	28
Spain	1 015	385	45	335	0	635	38	38
France	21 725	6 045	4 840	1 200	-	15 685	28	28
Croatia	45	5	5	0	0	40	14	14
Italy	27 310	9 820	1 090	3 290	5 440	17 490	36	16
Cyprus	485	370	55	310	0	115	76	76
Latvia	30	5	5	5	-	25	23	23
Lithuania	55	35	5	30	0	25	58	58
Luxembourg	195	65	65	0	-	125	35	35
Hungary	940	160	40	120	0	785	17	17
Malta	500	455	75	345	30	45	91	85
Netherlands	7 730	6 685	2 230	4 395	60	1 045	86	86
Austria	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Poland	655	85	35	35	15	565	13	11
Portugal	105	40	0	40	-	65	37	37
Romania	285	120	55	65	0	165	42	42
Slovenia	55	10	10	0	-	45	17	17
Slovakia	5	0	0	0	0	5	17	17
Finland	1 065	615	405	170	40	455	57	54
Sweden	14 920	9 520	3 865	5 230	425	5 400	64	61
United Kingdom	8 710	3 180	2 800	40	340	5 525	37	33
Iceland	90	25	15	10	5	65	28	25
Liechtenstein	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Norway	3 095	1 625	1 460	130	35	1 470	53	51
Switzerland	5 420	2 670	1 305	460	905	2 750	49	33

- Not applicable

Data for AT are not available; EU aggregates and other indicators are based on data available

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, 4th quarter 2015 - 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>198 550</b>	<b>117 420</b>	<b>92 620</b>	<b>17 740</b>	<b>7 055</b>	<b>81 130</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>56</b>
Syria - (SY)	72 430	71 130	62 785	8 240	105	1 300	98	98
Albania - (AL)	15 525	315	40	145	130	15 210	2	1
Eritrea - (ER)	12 935	12 080	8 885	3 120	70	855	93	93
Iraq - (IQ)	8 540	6 825	6 070	665	90	1 715	80	79
Nigeria - (NG)	6 480	1 425	215	285	925	5 055	22	8
Pakistan - (PK)	5 565	1 490	420	620	455	4 075	27	19
Afghanistan - (AF)	5 490	3 150	1 235	1 420	490	2 340	57	48
Kosovo - (XK)	4 760	185	85	60	45	4 575	4	3
Serbia - (RS)	4 425	90	65	5	25	4 335	2	2
Bangladesh - (BD)	3 705	610	125	35	450	3 095	16	4
Mali - (ML)	3 435	980	90	355	535	2 455	28	13
Gambia - (GM)	3 400	975	120	70	790	2 420	29	6
Ukraine - (UA)	3 020	1 020	100	340	580	2 000	34	15
Stateless	2 900	2 625	2 370	200	60	275	91	89
Sudan - (SD)	2 835	1 610	1 500	105	5	1 225	57	57
Russia - (RU)	2 690	600	465	85	45	2 090	22	21
Senegal - (SN)	2 440	530	80	45	405	1 910	22	5
Somalia - (SO)	2 370	1 405	665	675	65	965	59	56
MK - (MK)	2 095	35	20	5	10	2 065	2	1
Iran - (IR)	1 940	1 075	995	35	50	865	55	53
Guinea - (GN)	1 695	635	405	55	175	1 065	37	27
BA - (BA)	1 605	55	20	0	35	1 550	3	1
CD - (CD)	1 565	390	310	50	25	1 180	25	23
Sri Lanka - (LK)	1 565	420	375	30	20	1 145	27	26
Ivory Coast - (CI)	1 370	405	85	100	220	965	30	14
China - (CN)	1 310	460	445	5	10	850	35	34
Haiti - (HT)	1 280	35	25	10	0	1 245	3	3
Ghana - (GH)	1 260	315	25	10	280	945	25	3
Georgia - (GE)	1 255	80	40	25	20	1 175	7	5
Algeria - (DZ)	1 060	65	45	15	5	995	6	6
<b>Other non-EU</b>	<b>17 595</b>	<b>6 395</b>	<b>4 530</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>11 195</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>

Data for AT are not available

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q4 2015.

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 7 : First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants granted decisions in the EU-28, 4th quarter 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)**

First instance decisions						
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections	
<b>GERMANY (100 530 decisions)</b>						
Syria	56 435	Iraq	140	Afghanistan	280	Albania 12 195
Eritrea	5 980	Afghanistan	105	Syria	80	Serbia 3 885
Iraq	4 730	Somalia	100	Somalia	35	Kosovo 3 120
Other	4 275	Other	180	Other	270	Other 8 720
<b>FRANCE (21 725 decisions)</b>						
Iraq	610	Syria	285	-	-	Haiti 1 240
Sudan	550	CF	195	-	-	Russia 1 180
Syria	490	Afghanistan	125	-	-	Albania 970
Other	3 195	Other	620	-	-	Other 12 290
<b>UNITED KINGDOM (8 710 decisions)</b>						
Sudan	860	Eritrea	20	Albania	90	Pakistan 630
Syria	390	-	-	Afghanistan	50	Albania 435
Iran	295	-	-	Eritrea	45	Iraq 430
Other	1 260	Other	20	Other	150	Other 4 030
<b>OTHER (45 540 decisions)</b>						
Syria	3 310	Syria	1 775	Ukraine	25	Albania 12 930
Eritrea	785	Iraq	255	Montenegro	15	Serbia 4 000
Iraq	515	Somalia	220	Russia	15	Kosovo 3 390
Other	1 765	Other	810	Other	70	Other 15 660

First instance decisions						
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections	
<b>ITALY (27 310 decisions)</b>						
Pakistan	160	Afghanistan	860	Nigeria	875	Nigeria 3 720
Nigeria	120	Pakistan	595	Gambia	785	Gambia 2 245
Afghanistan	90	Mali	350	Ukraine	545	Mali 1 875
Other	725	Other	1 485	Other	3 235	Other 9 650
<b>SWEDEN (14 920 decisions)</b>						
Eritrea	1 635	Syria	4 795	Afghanistan	130	Afghanistan 910
Stateless	950	Stateless	125	Palestine	70	Albania 635
Syria	450	Eritrea	115	Stateless	55	Iraq 630
Other	830	Other	200	Other	170	Other 3 225
<b>NETHERLANDS (7 730 decisions)</b>						
Syria	1 635	Eritrea	2 820	Eritrea	10	Albania 195
Stateless	345	Syria	1 370	Iran	10	Ukraine 125
Afghanistan	40	Iraq	65	Iraq	10	Afghanistan 75
Other	215	Other	135	Other	30	Other 655
<b>EU-28 * (198 550 decisions)</b>						
Syria	62 785	Syria	8 240	Nigeria	925	Albania 15 210
Eritrea	8 885	Eritrea	3 120	Gambia	790	Nigeria 5 055
Iraq	6 070	Afghanistan	1 420	Ukraine	580	Kosovo 4 575
Other	14 885	Other	4 960	Other	4 760	Other 56 295

Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q4 2015

Humanitarian reasons are not applicable for FR

\* Data for Austria are not available; EU aggregates are based on available data

CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the; MK - The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; CF - Central African Republic; BA - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Table 8 : First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 4th quarter 2015 - Source: Eurostat (migrasydcfstq)

First instance decisions						
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections	
<b>SYRIA - SY (72 430 decisions)</b>						
Germany	56 435	Sweden	4 795	Germany	80	Germany 380
Netherlands	1 635	Netherlands	1 370	Czech Republic	5	Sweden 345
Denmark	1 070	Denmark	410	Denmark	5	Italy 225
Other	3 645	Other	1 660	Other	15	Other 350
<b>ERITREA - ER (12 935 decisions)</b>						
Germany	5 980	Netherlands	2 820	UK	45	UK 355
Sweden	1 635	Sweden	115	Netherlands	10	France 195
Denmark	510	Germany	50	Germany	5	Sweden 105
Other	765	Other	135	Other	5	Other 200
<b>NIGERIA - NG (6 480 decisions)</b>						
Italy	120	Italy	260	Italy	875	Italy 3 720
France	45	France	15	UK	35	France 595
UK	25	Netherlands	5	Germany	10	UK 360
Other	30	Other	5	Other	5	Other 375
<b>OTHER (77 070 decisions)</b>						
Germany	4 225	Italy	2 225	Italy	4 090	Germany 14 625
France	3 485	France	745	Germany	515	France 13 395
UK	1 960	Germany	305	Sweden	385	Italy 11 665
Other	4 535	Other	1 390	Other	280	Other 13 235

First instance decisions						
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections	
<b>ALBANIA - AL (15 525 decisions)</b>						
France	20	France	120	UK	90	Germany 12 195
Belgium	10	Germany	15	Italy	25	France 970
Italy	5	Italy	5	Germany	20	Sweden 635
Other	5	Other	0	Other	0	Other 1 405
<b>IRAQ - IQ (8 540 decisions)</b>						
Germany	4 730	Germany	140	Sweden	35	Sweden 630
France	610	Italy	125	Germany	30	UK 430
Belgium	235	Finland	80	UK	10	Belgium 210
Other	495	Other	320	Other	15	Other 445
<b>PAKISTAN - PK (6 480 decisions)</b>						
Italy	160	Italy	595	Italy	440	Italy 1 730
UK	125	Ireland	10	UK	10	UK 630
France	40	France	5	Germany	5	France 475
Other	95	Other	5	Other	0	Other 1 235
<b>NON-EU (198 550 decisions)</b>						
Germany	71 420	Sweden	5 230	Italy	5 440	Germany 27 920
France	4 840	Netherlands	4 395	Germany	670	Italy 17 490
Sweden	3 865	Italy	3 290	Sweden	425	France 15 685
Other	12 495	Other	4 825	Other	525	Other 20 035

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q4 2015

Data for AT are not available

Table 9 : First instance decisions by destination country and outcome in the EU-28, selected citizenships of asylum applicants, 4th quarter 2015 - 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

- [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 \(rounded\) \(migrasyopenctzm\)](#)
- [Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data \(rounded\) \(migrasywitha\)](#)
- [Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex - Monthly data \(rounded\) \(migrasywithm\)](#)
- [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](#)