

# Enforcement of immigration legislation statistics

Statistics Explained

*Data extracted: May 2023.  
Planned update: 6 May 2024.*

**" 141 060 non-EU citizens were refused entry into the EU at one of its external borders in 2022, up 1 % compared with 2021. "**

**" 1.08 million non-EU citizens were found to be illegally present in the EU in 2022, up 59 % compared with 2021. "**

**" 422 400 non-EU citizens were ordered to leave the territory of the EU in 2022, up 23 % compared with 2021. "**

**" 77**

**530 non-EU citizens were returned following an order to leave the EU in 2022, up 14 % compared with 2021. "**



**Non-EU citizens subject to immigration law enforcement in 2022 (number) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs), (migr\_eipre), (migr\_eiord1) and (migr\_eirtn1)**

This article presents indicators on the [enforcement of immigration legislation](#) . It provides statistics on: third country or non- [European Union \(EU\) citizens](#) who were refused entry at the external borders of the EU<sup>1</sup>; non-EU citizens who were illegally present on the territory of an [EU Member State](#) ; and non-EU citizens who were ordered to leave the territory of an EU Member State<sup>2</sup>. Each of these indicators can be regarded as an official record of persons subject to the enforcement of EU [immigration](#) legislation, providing a general overview of the outcomes of territorial surveillance and control procedures.

<sup>1</sup>EU aggregates are computed as the sum of the national statistics available for the EU Member States. It is possible that the statistics for the EU involve some double counting of individuals if they are found to be illegally present in more than one Member State.

<sup>2</sup>Statistics on the enforcement of immigration legislation refer to the concept of external borders for all EU Member States and [EFTA](#) countries, even if some of these are not in the [Schengen area](#) . The external borders of the Schengen area do not coincide with the external borders of the EU Member States due to: opt-outs for Ireland from the Schengen area; Bulgaria, Cyprus and Romania are not yet members of the Schengen area; Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are part of the Schengen area but are not members of the EU.

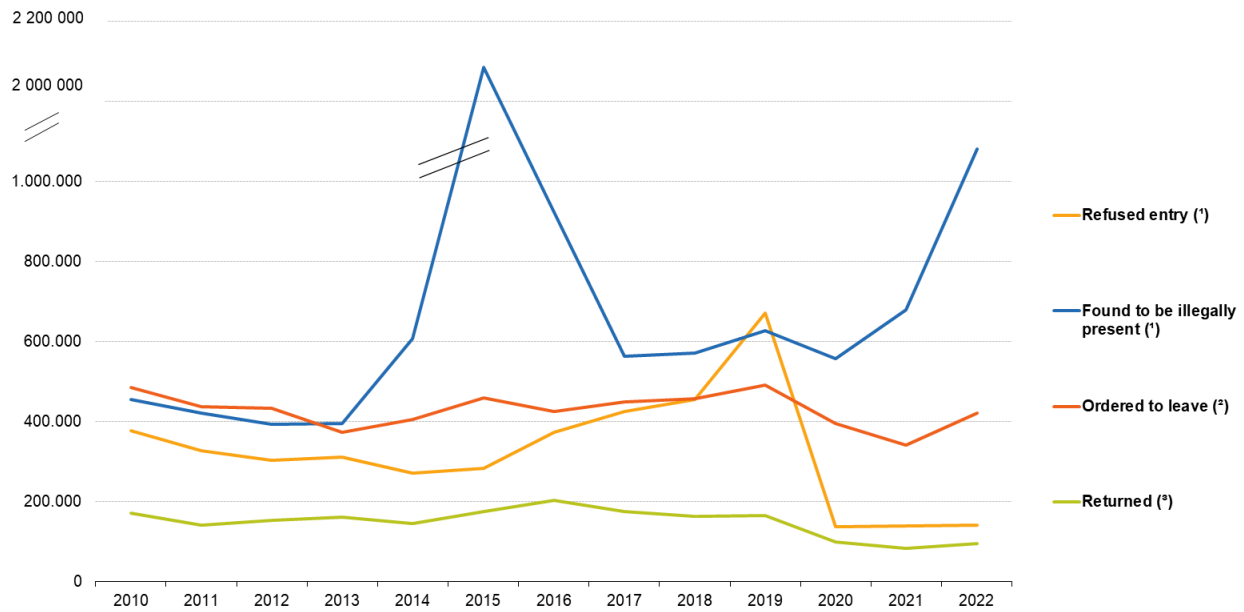
## Latest developments in enforcement statistics

**In 2022, 1.08 million non-EU citizens were found to be illegally present in the EU; up 59 % compared with one year earlier, 2021**

Figure 1 provides an overview of the information available for the EU pertaining to non-EU citizens who were subject to the enforcement of immigration legislation. The situation for individual EU Member States varied, reflecting specific national characteristics, such as national wealth, history and culture, geographical position, type and length of borders, border infrastructure, border control, judicial procedures, national policies and the legal context of irregular migration.

In 2022, 141 060 non-EU citizens were refused entry into the EU territory while 1.08 million were found to be illegally present in one of the EU countries. The number of non-EU citizens issued with an order to leave an EU Member State was 422 400. Following an order to leave, 94 970 non-EU citizens were returned to another country (including other EU Member States), and of this 96 795 were returned outside EU.

**Non-EU citizens subject to the enforcement of immigration legislation in EU Member States, 2010-2022**  
(number)



Note: coverage for the EU changes over time (see footnotes). Data are provided by the Member States since reference year 2008. The y-axis is interrupted.

(\*) 2010-2012: excluding Croatia. The 2022 EU27 aggregate the 2021 data for CZ, LV and RO have been used  
 (²) 2010-2012: excluding Croatia. 2010: excluding Denmark. 2011: excluding Luxembourg. 2014: excluding Austria.  
 (³) 2010-2012: excluding Croatia.  
 Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord, migr\_eirtn, migr\_eiord1 and migr\_eirtn1)

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**Figure 1: Non-EU citizens subject to the enforcement of immigration legislation in EU Member States, 2010-2022 (number)** Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs), (migr\_eipre), (migr\_eiord), (migr\_eirtn), (migr\_eiord1) and (migr\_eirtn1)

**141 060 non-EU citizens refused entry into the EU in 2022: +1 % compared with 2021**

In 2022, some 141 060 non-EU citizens were refused entry into the EU at one of its external borders, up 1 % compared with 139 000 in the previous year, 2021.

The largest number of refusals of entry were reported by Poland (23 330), followed by Hungary (15 780), Croatia (11 800) and Ireland (9 240).

Ukrainian citizens accounted for the largest number of refusals (28 890, 43 % drop compared with 2021). The next largest numbers were recorded for citizens of Albania (15 630) and Russia (10 860). The number of non-EU citizens who were refused entry into the EU stood at 141 055 in 2022; this was up 1 % compared with the number recorded in 2021.

**Illegally present non-EU citizens: +59 % compared with 2021**

In 2022, around 1.08 million non-EU citizens were found to be illegally present in the EU, representing a 59 % increase compared with 2021 (679 730)

Hungary reported the largest number of non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU (222 520), followed by Germany (198 310) and Italy (138 420).

Syrians accounted for the highest number of people found to be illegally present in the EU (175 960). The next highest numbers were recorded for citizens of Afghanistan (119 520) and Morocco (60 215). In addition to that, the number of the non-EU citizens ordered to leave EU Member States: +23 % compared with 2021.

**In 2022, some 422 400 non-EU citizens were ordered to leave the territory of the EU countries, up 23 % compared with the previous year (342 100)**

Among EU countries, France reported the largest number of non-EU citizens ordered to leave its territory (135 650), followed by Croatia (40 525) and Greece (33 500).

The highest number of people ordered to leave a Member State territory was observed among Algerians (33 535), Moroccans (30 510) and Pakistanis (25 280).

#### **Around 94 970 non-EU citizens returned to another country**

In 2022, some 94 970 non-EU citizens returned to another country following an order to leave the territory of a specific EU country.

France reported the largest number of non-EU citizens returned (14 240), followed by Germany (13 130) and Sweden (10 490).

Albanians (9 950) topped the list of non-EU citizens returned to another country, followed by Georgians (8 040) and Syrians (5 590).

### **Non-EU citizens refused entry into the EU**

**In 2022, 16 % of the total number of non-EU citizens who were refused entry into the EU were recorded in Poland**

In 2022, some 141 055 non-EU citizens were refused entry into the EU at one of its external borders. A quarter of the total number of refusals were recorded in Poland 23 331 (16 %) and 15 781 (11 %) were recorded in Hungary (see Table 1).

## Non-EU citizens refused entry into an EU Member State or an EFTA country, 2015-2022

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Share in the EU total, 2022	Change, 2021-2022
	(number)								(%)	
<b>EU</b>	278.025	318.990	349.150	393.685	670.795	137.840	139.035	141.055	100,0	1,5
Belgium	1.640	1.530	2.440	2.200	2.300	770	1.140	1.720	1,2	50,9
Bulgaria	2.405	2.170	2.870	3.220	4.245	4.685	6.180	7.955	5,6	28,7
Czechia	465	365	230	315	460	440	340	.	.	.
Denmark	125	120	300	325	650	480	640	535	0,4	-16,4
Germany	3.670	3.775	4.250	5.175	6.730	4.210	4.635	5.970	4,2	28,8
Estonia	965	875	1.175	1.635	2.120	500	565	5.465	3,9	867,3
Ireland	3.450	3.950	3.745	4.795	7.455	2.790	3.725	9.240	6,6	148,1
Greece	6.890	18.145	21.175	14.295	7.015	3.145	3.075	5.450	3,9	77,2
Spain	168.345	192.135	203.025	230.540	493.455	3.515	2.290	7.205	5,1	214,6
France	10.860	8.580	10.215	9.515	9.880	4.240	8.210	9.180	6,5	11,8
Croatia	9.355	9.135	10.015	13.240	13.025	14.710	14.190	11.800	8,4	-16,8
Italy	7.425	9.715	11.260	8.245	9.720	4.060	5.760	5.795	4,1	0,6
Cyprus	415	565	1.425	2.025	900	360	440	425	0,3	-3,4
Latvia	875	800	1.065	1.685	1.800	640	855	.	.	.
Lithuania	3.480	4.575	5.180	5.200	6.085	4.555	3.585	5.240	3,7	46,2
Luxembourg	5	10	5	5	5	5	5	10	0,0	100,0
Hungary	11.505	9.905	14.010	15.050	14.240	36.500	34.650	15.780	11,2	-54,5
Malta	400	380	460	405	385	110	265	350	0,2	32,1
Netherlands	2.295	2.700	2.410	2.555	2.900	1.980	3.745	3.070	2,2	-18,0
Austria	560	460	740	400	770	310	555	1.215	0,9	118,9
Poland	30.245	34.485	38.660	53.695	65.425	28.130	26.160	23.330	16,5	-10,8
Portugal	1.280	1.655	2.140	3.760	4.995	1.510	1.150	1.150	0,8	0,0
Romania	4.810	5.390	5.305	7.260	7.640	12.570	11.010	.	.	.
Slovenia	4.410	4.455	3.680	3.535	3.875	4.260	3.905	4.025	2,9	3,1
Slovakia	465	750	1.085	1.755	1.375	435	465	1.110	0,8	138,7
Finland	1.070	950	1.400	1.760	1.775	1.735	1.180	3.985	2,8	237,7
Sweden	615	1.405	880	1.090	1.565	1.200	550	905	0,6	64,5
Iceland	20	25	55	160	25	15	55	55	-	0,0
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0,0
Norway	465	525	385	360	350	125	1975	.	-	.
Switzerland	945	900	1.225	1.205	1.165	1.305	2.100	1.630	-	-22,4

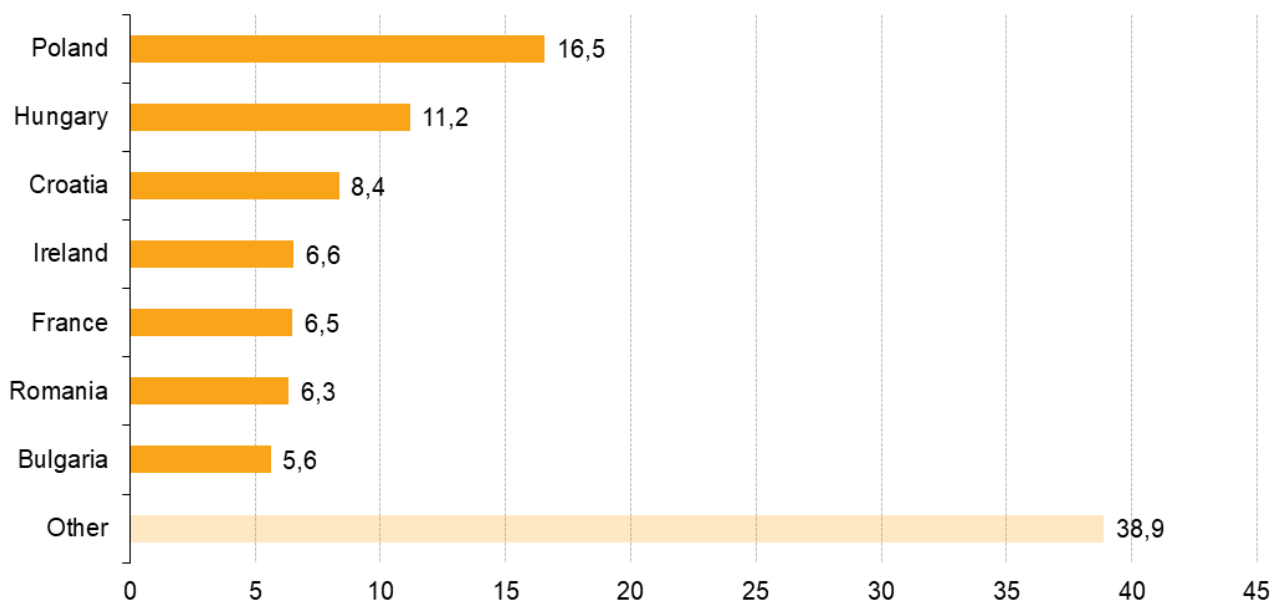
Note: Czechia, Latvia, Romania: 2021 data. As a result, the 2022 EU total is estimated.  
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eirfs)

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**Table 1: Non-EU citizens refused entry into an EU Member State or an EFTA country, 2015-2022 Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs)**

Altogether, the seven EU Member States that recorded the highest numbers of non-EU citizens refused entry into the EU — as shown in Figure 2 — accounted for more than three quarters (61 %) of the total number refused entry into the EU in 2022.

## Share of non-EU citizens refused entry into the EU, 2022 (%)



Note: Czechia, Latvia, Romania: 2021 data. As a result, the 2022 EU total is estimated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eirfs)

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**Figure 2: Share of non-EU citizens refused entry into the EU, 2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs)**

In 2022, the vast majority (62 %) of non-EU citizens who were refused entry into the EU were stopped at external land borders; the share of refusals at air borders was 34 %, while only a small proportion (4 %) of total refusals for entry into the EU were at sea borders. Note that some of the EU Member States are landlocked and hence, by definition, do not have any sea borders, while others have just internal land borders within the [Schengen area](#). The compilation of statistics on refused entry by countries within the Schengen area generally only concerns external borders of the Schengen area, although internal borders may be considered in exceptional cases, such as when a temporary border control is introduced between Schengen members.

These differences in the data analysed by type of border were largely influenced by the high shares of refusals recorded at external land borders — all over 90.0 % — in the following EU Member States with the largest numbers of refusals, namely Estonia, Croatia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.

As regards air borders, Ireland had the highest number of refusals (8 590), followed by Spain (6 550) and Germany (5 970) in 2022.

Italy (2 200) reported the highest numbers of refusals at sea borders for 2022, followed by France (1 235); none of the other Member States recorded in excess of 1 000 refusals at sea borders.

## Non-EU citizens refused entry into an EU Member State or an EFTA country, by type of border, 2022

	Total refusals (number)	Refused at the land border		Refused at the air border		Refused at the sea border	
		(number)	(% of total refusals)	(number)	(% of total refusals)	(number)	(% of total refusals)
<b>EU</b>	141.055	87.735	62,2	48.280	34,2	5.040	3,6
Belgium	1.720	–	–	1.720	100,0	0	0,0
Bulgaria	7.955	7.124	89,6	785	9,9	45	0,6
Czechia (*)	340	–	–	340	100,0	–	–
Denmark	535	–	–	520	97,2	15	2,8
Germany	5.970	–	–	5.970	100,0	0	0,0
Estonia	5.465	5.344	97,8	120	2,2	5	0,1
Ireland	9.240	234	2,5	8.590	93,0	420	4,5
Greece	5.450	4.207	77,2	950	17,4	295	5,4
Spain	7.205	210	2,9	6.550	90,9	445	6,2
France	9.180	2.141	23,3	5.805	63,2	1.235	13,5
Croatia	11.800	10.686	90,6	1.065	9,0	50	0,4
Italy	5.795	0	0,0	3.775	65,1	2.020	34,9
Cyprus	425	–	–	425	100,0	0	0,0
Latvia (*)	855	167	19,5	670	78,4	15	1,8
Lithuania	5.240	4.842	92,4	390	7,4	5	0,1
Luxembourg	10	–	–	10	100,0	–	–
Hungary	15.780	15.247	96,6	535	3,4	–	–
Malta	350	–	–	350	100,0	0	0,0
Netherlands	3.070	–	–	2.790	90,9	285	9,3
Austria	1.215	639	52,6	575	47,3	–	–
Poland	23.330	21.001	90,0	2.325	10,0	5	0,0
Portugal (*)	1.150	–	–	1.150	100,0	0	0,0
Romania	8.945	7.380	82,5	1.385	15,5	180	2,0
Slovenia	4.025	3.934	97,7	90	2,2	0	0,0
Slovakia	1.110	1.053	94,9	55	5,0	–	–
Finland	3.985	3.526	88,5	460	11,5	0	0,0
Sweden	905	0	0,0	890	98,3	20	2,2
Liechtenstein	0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0
Norway (*)	1.975	425	21,5	1.515	76,7	30	1,5
Switzerland	1.630	0	0,0	1.630	100,0	0	0,0

(\*) 2021 data

Note: – = not applicable; sea borders for landlocked countries; land borders for countries in the Schengen area that just have borders with other countries within the Schengen area. Czechia, Latvia, Portugal: 2021 data. As a result, the 2022 EU total is estimated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eirfs)

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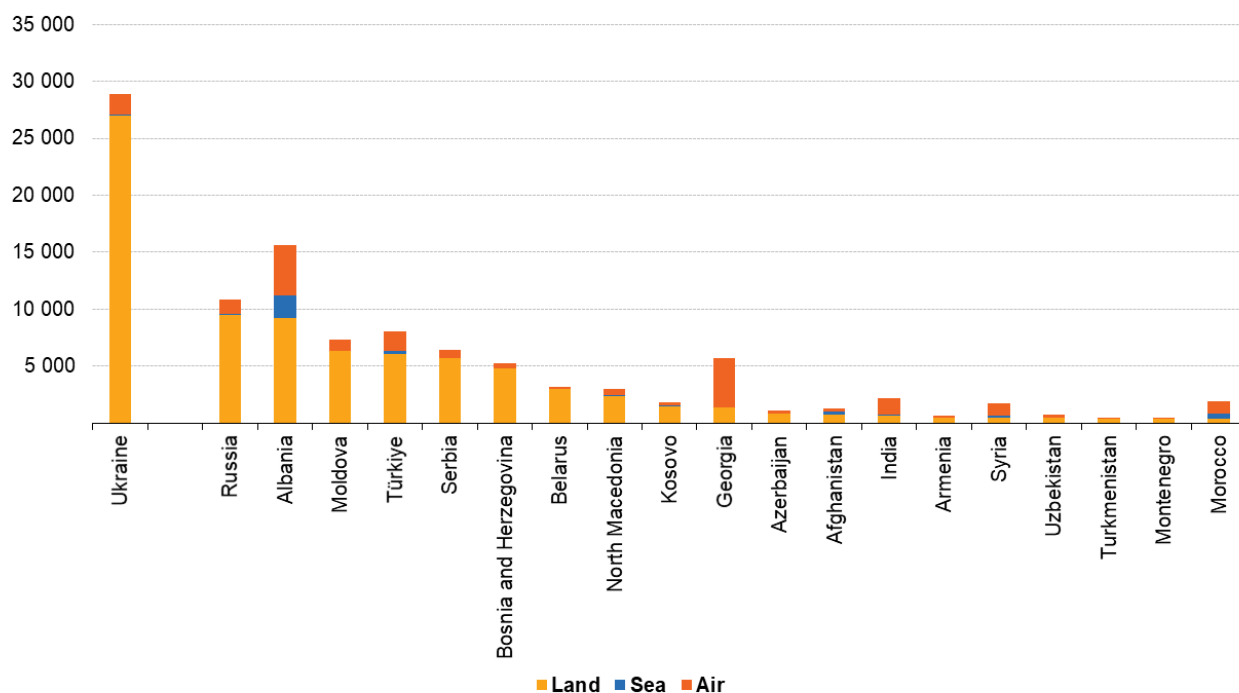
**Table 2: Non-EU citizens refused entry into an EU Member State or an EFTA country, by type of border, 2022**  
Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs)

### The highest number of citizens refused entry into the EU in 2022 was for Ukrainians

Figure 3 shows the most common origins of citizens refused entry into the EU in 2022, with the data analysed according to the type of border that they were trying to cross. The information presented is dominated by the high number of Ukrainian citizens being refused entry into the EU at land borders (26 984), while the total number of Ukrainians refused entry into the EU (by any means) was 28 890. The next highest numbers of refusals were recorded for citizens of Albania (15 630) and Russia (10 860). Ukrainian citizens who were refused entry into the EU mainly tried to cross land borders with Hungary and Poland and to a lesser extent with Romania. The majority of the Albanian citizens were refused entry at Croatian, Hungarian or Greek land borders, or at Italian sea and air borders. The majority of Moldovans were refused entry at Romanian, Hungarian or Polish land borders.



### Top 20 countries of citizenship of non-EU citizens refused entry into the EU, by type of border, 2022



Note: Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Sweden, not applicable for land borders. Czechia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Austria and Slovakia, not applicable for sea borders. Different scales are used for the two parts of the figure. Czechia, Latvia, Portugal: 2021 data, as a result, the 2022 EU total is estimated.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

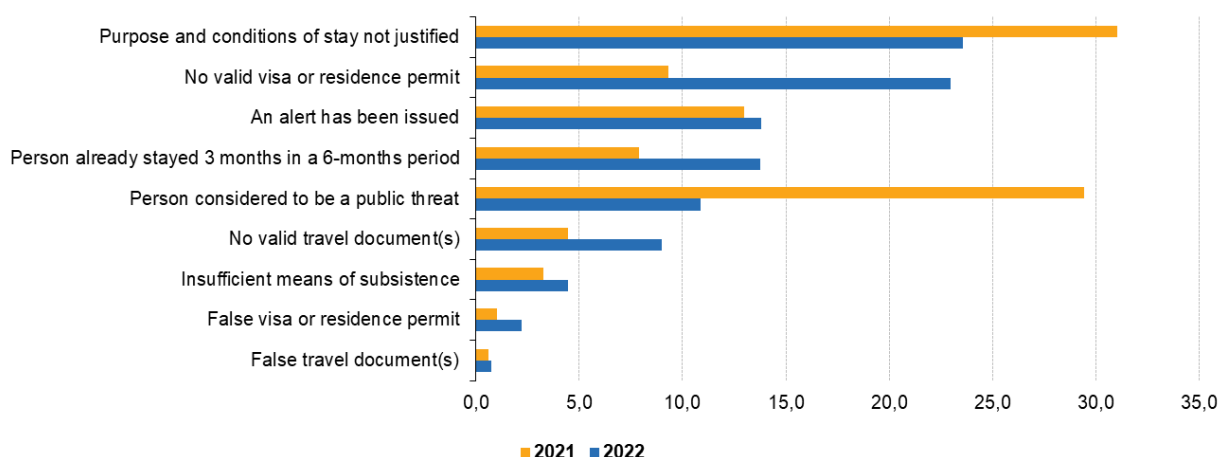
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eirfs)

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**Figure 3: Top 20 countries of citizenship of non-EU citizens refused entry into the EU, by type of border, 2022 (number) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs)**

Looking at the reasons for entry refusal — which are based on the [Schengen Borders Code](#) — in 2022, the main reasons for refusals at border were: i) Purpose and conditions of stay not justified and ii) No valid visa or residence permit; each of these reasons accounted for 23 % of the total.

## Grounds to refuse entry of non-EU citizens into EU Member States, 2021 and 2022 (%)



Note: classification by grounds of entry refusal from the Schengen border code. Czechia, Latvia, Portugal: 2021 data, as a result, the 2022 EU total is estimated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eirfs)

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**Figure 4: Grounds to refuse entry of non-EU citizens into EU Member States, 2021 and 2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs)**

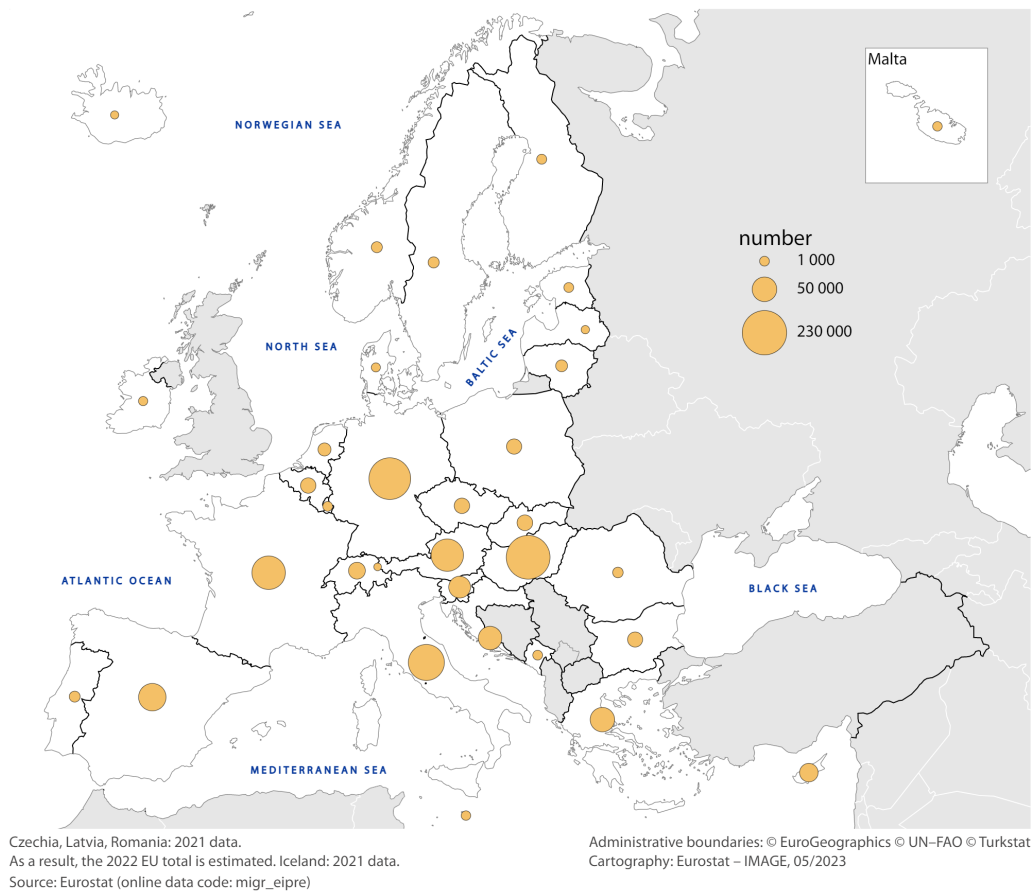
Ukrainian citizens accounted for the largest number of refusals in the EU (28 890, 43 % drop compared with 2021). Notably the main reasons for refusing entry to the EU to the Ukrainians were the reasons 'Persons already stayed 3 months in a 6-months period' (27 % of the total refusals of Ukrainians in the EU), 'No valid visa or residence permit' (21 %) and 'Purpose and conditions of stay not justified' (20 %). The next largest numbers were recorded for citizens of Albania (15 630) and Russia (10 860).

### Non-EU citizens found to be illegally present

In 2022, 1 081 200 non-EU citizens were found to be illegally present in the EU.

Hungary reported the largest number of non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in 2022 (222 520), followed by Germany (198 310) and Italy (138 420); these three Member States together accounted for 52 % of all non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU. At the other end of the range, five Member States — Malta, Ireland, Denmark and Latvia — each recorded less than 1 000 non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in 2022 (see Map 1).

## Non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU or EFTA countries, 2022



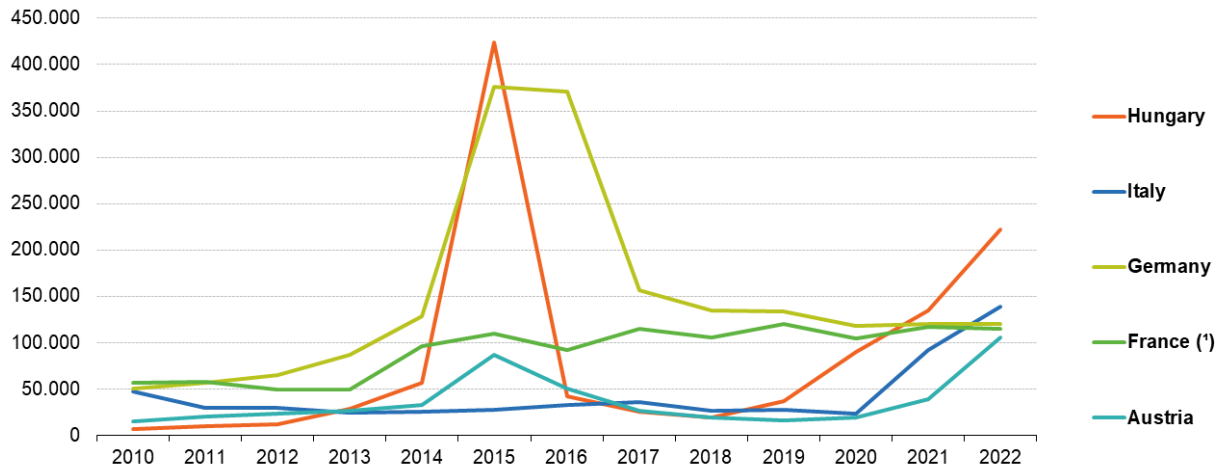
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**Map 1: Non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU Member States or EFTA countries, 2022 (number) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eipre)**

Figure 5 looks in more detail at the five EU Member States (Hungary, Italy, Germany, France and Austria) which — during the period 2010-2022 — reported the highest (cumulative) number of persons who were found to be illegally present.

## Non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the five most affected EU Member States, 2010-2022

(number)



Note: the selection of these five EU Member States is based on the cumulative number of persons for the entire period covering 2010-2022. 2010-2012: excluding Croatia.

(\*) 2014: break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eipre)

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**Figure 5: Non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the five most affected EU Member States, 2010-2022 (number)** Source: Eurostat (migr\_eipre)

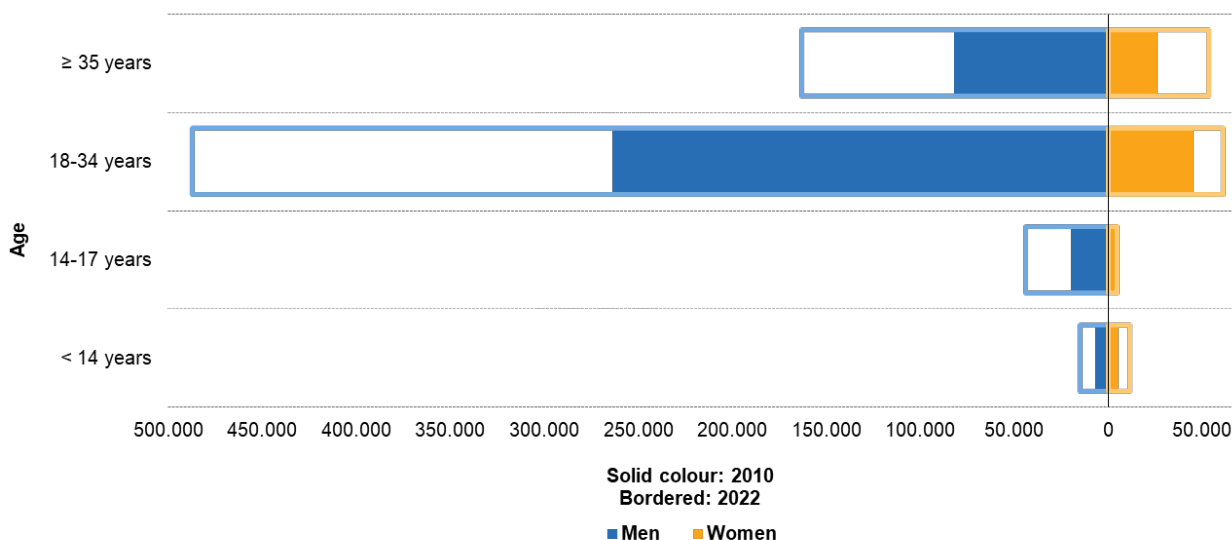
### Non-EU citizens found to be illegally present — by sex and age

Irregular migration was predominantly a male issue, as shown by the information presented in Figure 3. An analysis by sex of the number of non-EU citizens who were found to be illegally present in the EU indicates that 85 % of the total recorded number in 2022 concerned men. This proportion is higher than the corresponding share recorded in 2010, when men accounted for 82 % of all illegally present persons; note the data for the EU aggregate in 2010 exclude information for Croatia.

**In 2022, young men aged 18-34 years accounted for almost half of all non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU**

In 2022, 60 % non-EU citizens who were found to be illegally present in the EU were young males aged 18 or over. The group of men 18 and 34 years represented 45 % of the total, followed by men aged 35 years and over (23 %) and women aged 18 or over (11 %).

## Non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU, by sex and age, 2010 and 2022 (number)



Note: 2010 excludes Croatia. Data not shown for unknown age and sex categories. Czechia, Latvia, Romania: 2021 data. As a result, the 2022 EU total is estimated.  
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eipre)



**Figure 6: Non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU, by sex and age, 2010 and 2022 (number)**  
Source: Eurostat (migr\_eipre)

A simple analysis by age (for both sexes combined) of the situation in 2022 reveals that persons aged 18-34 years accounted for half of the total number of non-EU citizens who were found to be illegally present in the EU (51 %), while one out of five persons found to be illegally present were aged 35 years or over. Around 7 % were children aged 17 years or under; in absolute numbers, there were 75 060 children aged 17 years or under who were non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU in 2022.

### In 2022, Syrian citizens accounted for the highest number of non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU

Syrians accounted for the highest number of people found to be illegally present in the EU in 2022 at 175 960, almost double than in 2021 when 90 390 were recorded (an increase of 95 %). The next highest numbers in 2022 were recorded for citizens of Afghanistan (119 515) and Morocco (60 215).

## Top 20 countries of citizenship of non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU, 2015-2022

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Share in the EU total, 2021	Change, 2020-2021
	(number)								(%)	(%)
<b>Total</b>	2 085 465	924 035	563 825	572 195	627 900	557 455	681 205	1 081 200	100,0	22,2
<b>Syria</b>	856 485	211 875	38 960	31 025	40 210	45 680	90 390	175 960	16,3	94,7
<b>Afghanistan</b>	406 025	148 640	33 120	30 320	56 200	34 125	60 475	119 515	11,1	97,6
<b>Morocco</b>	41 515	39 210	37 835	38 525	41 535	41 220	35 605	60 215	5,6	69,1
<b>Tunisia</b>	13 315	11 680	15 845	13 310	13 545	14 065	32 015	56 765	5,3	77,3
<b>Algeria</b>	18 795	23 145	24 390	26 735	30 545	38 465	38 125	54 410	5,0	42,7
<b>Moldova</b>	4 040	7 615	8 730	11 195	16 480	24 610	40 870	45 310	4,2	10,9
<b>Türkiye</b>	9 515	9 220	12 110	20 130	22 080	15 165	18 800	45 300	4,2	141,0
<b>India</b>	7 940	8 200	8 680	8 490	8 845	6 320	7 930	45 205	4,2	470,1
<b>Pakistan</b>	73 640	40 410	28 030	21 985	24 925	20 055	23 295	40 530	3,7	74,0
<b>Albania</b>	46 395	32 350	36 415	31 230	33 285	30 870	34 150	38 145	3,5	11,7
<b>Iraq</b>	182 440	88 975	33 180	35 870	31 810	17 780	27 600	32 800	3,0	18,8
<b>Egypt</b>	6 575	7 495	6 405	6 075	6 520	5 790	15 390	30 860	2,9	100,5
<b>Ukraine</b>	23 375	29 405	33 240	37 115	41 350	50 415	36 305	30 380	2,8	-16,3
<b>Bangladesh</b>	17 125	6 870	4 975	6 210	9 370	8 510	17 875	29 170	2,7	63,2
<b>Georgia</b>	5 275	5 060	5 600	9 045	11 575	10 165	11 480	21 355	2,0	86,0
<b>Iran</b>	41 790	30 020	11 285	15 910	17 290	9 315	13 280	13 325	1,2	0,3
<b>Serbia</b>	12 830	10 200	13 905	12 310	12 955	16 355	14 090	13 120	1,2	-6,9
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	3 815	4 810	7 755	7 695	6 960	4 055	7 150	11 765	1,1	64,5
<b>Nigeria</b>	14 580	16 390	15 120	14 460	13 650	7 995	8 885	10 990	1,0	23,7
<b>Burundi</b>	95	70	75	70	45	60	60	10 455	1,0	17 325,0

Note: the selection of the top 20 countries is based on the cumulative number of persons for the entire period covering 2015-2021 (subject to data availability).

Czechia, Latvia, Romania: 2021 data. As a result, the 2022 EU total is estimated.

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eipre)

eurostat 

**Table 3: Top 20 countries of citizenship of non-EU citizens found to be illegally present in the EU, 2015-2022**  
Source: Eurostat (migr\_eipre)

## Non-EU citizens ordered to leave the EU

In 2022, the total number of non-EU citizens ordered to leave the EU stood at 422 400, 23 % more than 2021. Disparities in migration policies, administrative, statistical and legal acts, as well as judicial procedures contribute to some of the differences observed between EU Member States, with any changes in these factors potentially influencing the resulting statistics.

## Non-EU citizens ordered to leave the territory of an EU Member State or an EFTA country, 2015-2022

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Share in the EU total, 2022	Change, 2021-2022
	(number)								(%)	
<b>EU</b>	458 625	426 255	450 390	456 660	491 195	396 435	340 520	420 310	100,0	23,4
Belgium	31 045	33 020	32 235	24 160	22 010	20 320	19 105	19 275	4,6	0,9
Bulgaria	20 810	14 120	2 600	1 305	1 245	1 225	1 370	4 255	1,0	210,6
Czechia	4 510	3 760	6 090	3 445	8 955	7 955	6 675	8 090	1,9	21,2
Denmark	3 925	3 050	3 185	4 155	3 920	2 235	2 355	2 230	0,5	-5,3
Germany	54 080	70 005	97 165	52 930	47 530	36 330	31 515	32 865	7,8	4,3
Estonia	590	505	645	875	1 190	1 235	1 160	1 170	0,3	0,9
Ireland	875	1 355	1 105	1 385	2 535	795	160	630	0,1	293,8
Greece	104 575	33 790	45 765	58 325	78 880	38 540	28 815	33 500	8,0	16,3
Spain	33 495	27 845	27 340	59 255	37 890	50 285	7 800	10 805	2,6	38,5
France	79 950	81 000	84 675	105 560	123 845	108 395	125 450	135 645	32,3	8,1
Croatia	3 910	4 730	4 400	6 350	15 510	23 135	15 135	40 525	9,6	167,8
Italy	27 305	32 365	36 240	27 070	26 900	22 785	11 095	28 185	6,7	154,0
Cyprus	2 250	1 575	1 850	1 595	1 300	3 030	15 895	16 965	4,0	6,7
Latvia	1 190	1 450	1 350	1 540	1 615	1 015	890	2 000	0,5	124,7
Lithuania	1 870	1 740	2 080	2 475	2 320	1 905	4 710	3 190	0,8	-32,3
Luxembourg	700	655	915	850	1 070	1 050	725	885	0,2	22,1
Hungary	11 750	10 765	8 730	8 650	3 235	4 505	4 505	2 500	0,6	-44,5
Malta	575	415	470	515	620	590	695	770	0,2	10,8
Netherlands	19 015	25 310	20 750	17 935	25 435	21 100	17 300	15 740	3,7	-9,0
Austria	9 910	11 850	8 850	10 690	13 960	9 165	10 455	24 755	5,9	136,8
Poland	13 635	20 010	24 825	29 375	29 305	10 970	10 330	7 635	1,8	-26,1
Portugal	5 080	6 200	5 760	4 590	5 980	3 200	1 670	2 190	0,5	31,1
Romania	1 930	2 070	1 975	2 080	3 325	2 415	2 615	4 895	1,2	87,2
Slovenia	1 025	1 375	1 220	1 290	2 060	1 610	1 365	1 675	0,4	22,7
Slovakia	1 575	1 735	2 375	2 500	1 905	865	1 020	1 445	0,3	41,7
Finland	4 905	17 975	7 255	5 435	7 395	5 425	3 245	3 405	0,8	4,9
Sweden	18 150	17 585	20 525	22 310	21 260	16 350	14 470	14 890	3,5	2,9
Iceland	:	:	:	:	95	:	:	:	:	:
Liechtenstein	15	15	:	20	15	:	65	20	0,0	-69,2
Norway	13 705	15 380	9 795	:	:	3 780	7 130	3 560	0,8	-50,1
Switzerland	3 730	3 420	3 260	3 170	3 100	2 420	5 270	5 430	1,3	3,0

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eiord and migr\_eiord1)

eurostat 

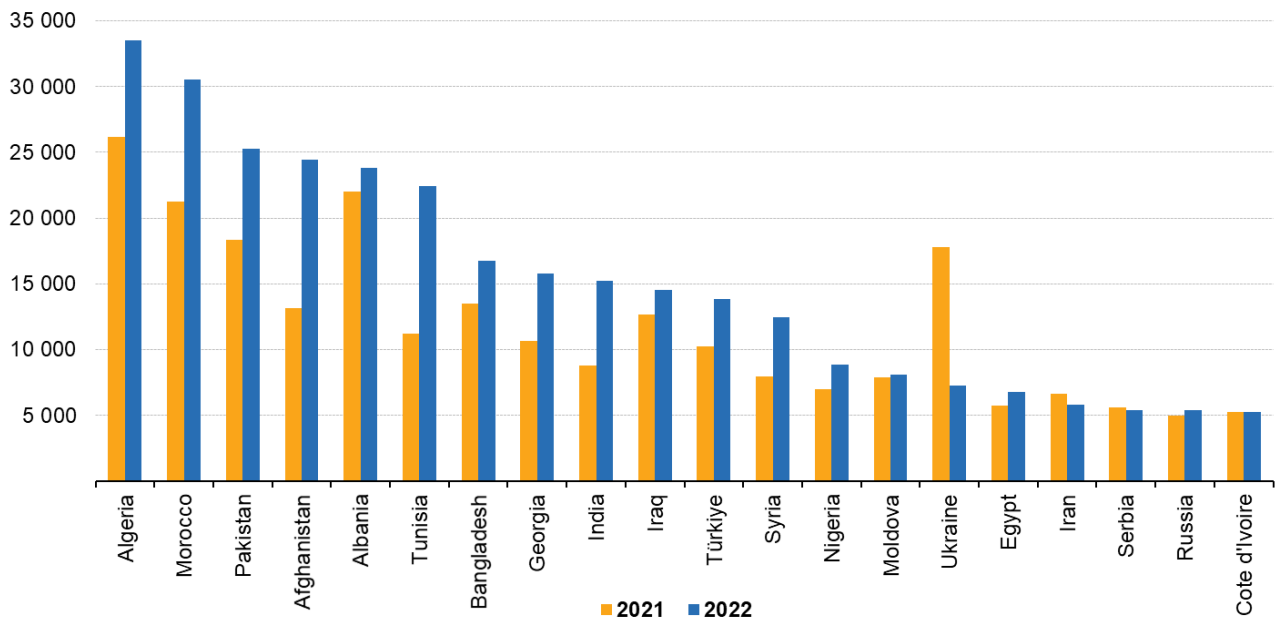
**Table 4: Non-EU citizens ordered to leave the territory of an EU Member State or an EFTA country, 2015-2022**  
Source: Eurostat (migr\_eiord) and (migr\_eiord1)

Of the 422 400 persons ordered to leave EU Member States in 2022, 32 % were ordered to leave France, far more than from any other Member State. The next highest shares were recorded for Croatia (10 %) and Greece (8 %) — see Table 4.

Figure 7 presents information on non-EU citizens who, in 2021 and 2022, were issued with an order to leave an EU Member State. In 2022, the highest number of people ordered to leave an EU Member State territory was observed among Algerians (33 535), Moroccans (35 510) and the people from Pakistan (25 280).

## Top 20 countries of citizenship of non-EU citizens ordered to leave the EU, 2021 and 2022

(number)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eiord and migr\_eiord1)

eurostat 

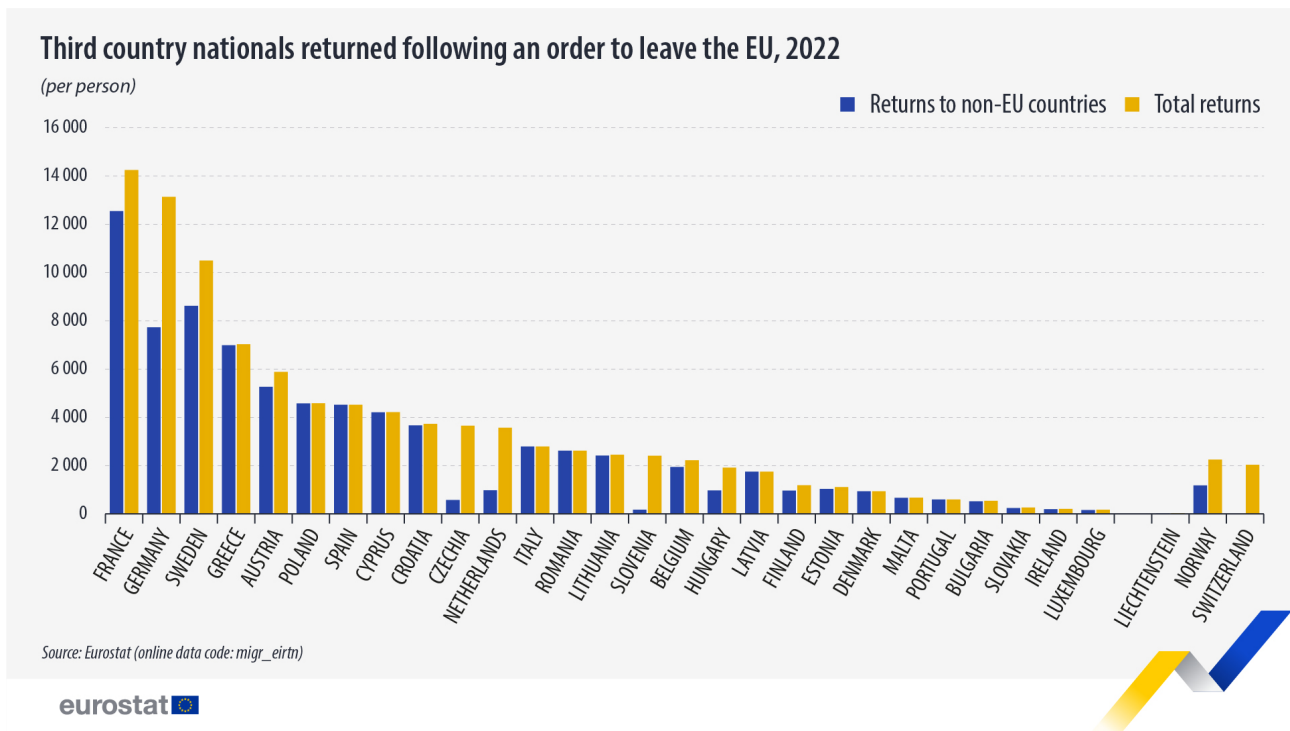
Figure 7: Top 20 countries of citizenship of non-EU citizens ordered to leave the EU, 2020 and 2022 (number)

Source: Eurostat (migr\_eiord) and (migr\_eiord1)

## Returns of non-EU citizens

In 2022, 94 970 non-EU citizens were returned to another country





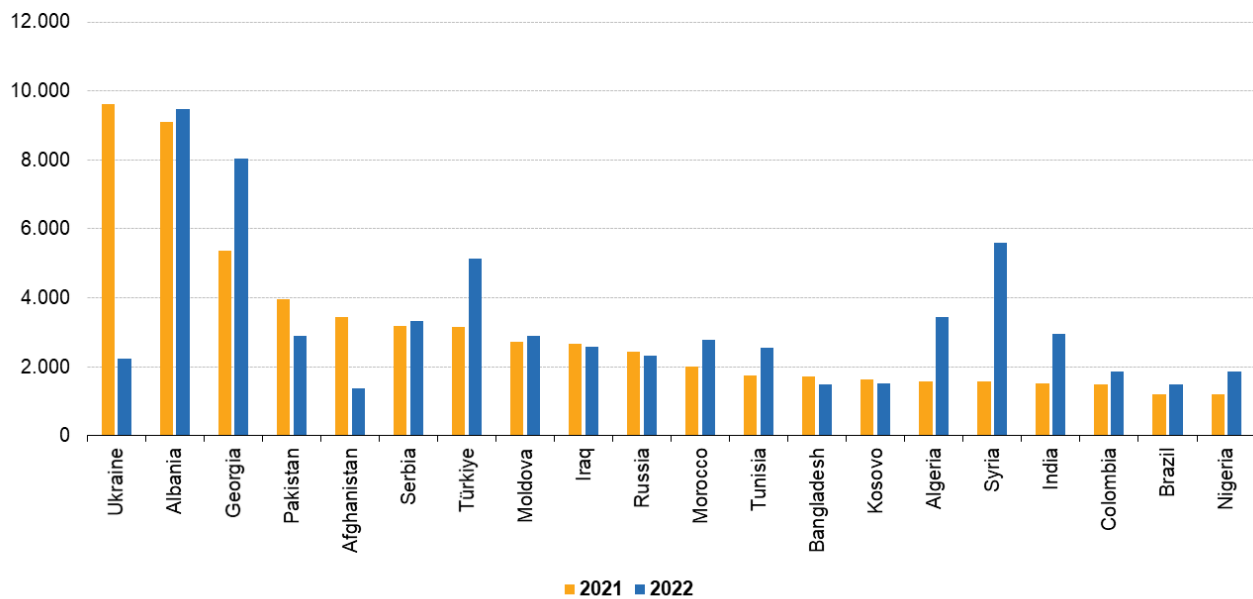
**Figure 8: Third country nationals returned following an order to leave the EU, 2022 (number) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirtn)**

In 2022, 94 970 non-EU citizens who received an order to leave an EU Member State were returned to another country.

Albanians (9 465) and people of Georgia (8 030) topped the list of non-EU citizens returned to another country in 2022, followed by Syrians (5 585) and people of Türkiye (5 135).

A comparison between 2021 and 2022 shows the largest absolute decrease in the total number of citizens returned (among the selected countries) was for citizens of Ukraine (7 365 fewer) and Afghanistan (2 085 fewer) — see Figure 9.

## Top 20 countries of citizenship of non-EU citizens returned, 2021 and 2022



\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eirtn and migr\_eirtn1)

eurostat 

**Figure 9: Top 20 countries of citizenship of non-EU citizens returned, 2020 and 2022 (number) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirtn) and (migr\_eirtn1)**

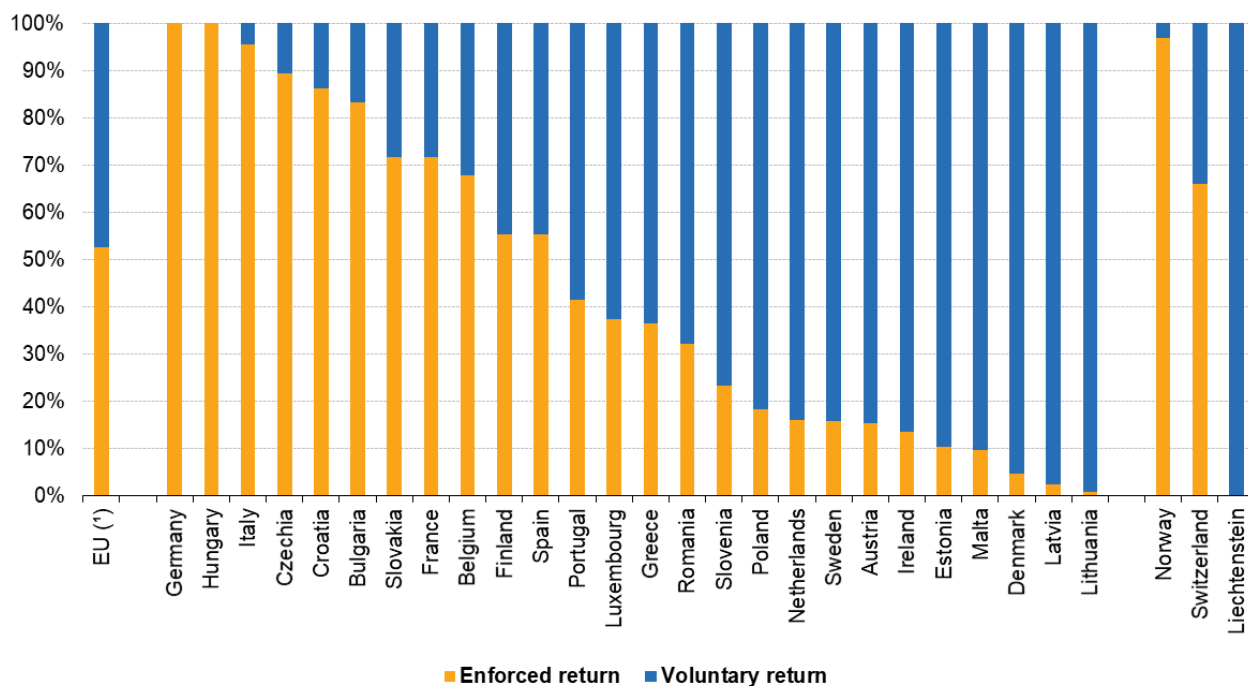
### Types of returns and assistance received

In recent years, there has been an increase in demand for more detailed information on the enforcement of immigration legislation. This has resulted from increased interest/awareness concerning developments of new statistics on returns (including the collection of statistics on returns by type of return and assistance received). Mandatory data collection on additional statistics in the area was launched since reference year 2021. See the methodological note on derogations that were granted to EU Member States in the 'Data sources' chapter of this article.

Figure 10 provides information on the type of return. Based on the information that is available for 26 Member States, 47 % of returns concerned people who left the territory voluntarily, while 53 % were enforced returns.

In 2022, there was much variation in the proportion of returns accounted for by voluntary and forced returns in each of the EU Member States. More than 85 % of all returns were in Italy, Czechia and Croatia were forced, while in Germany and Hungary all were forced returns. On the end of the ranking, forced returns accounted for less than 10 % of all returns from Denmark, Latvia and Lithuania (for these three countries, voluntary returns represented more than 90 %).

## Non-EU citizens returned outside the EU or EFTA country, by type of return, 2022 (%)



Note: The graph presents Member States for which information by type of return is available. See the methodological note on derogations in the 'Data sources' chapter of this article.  
 (\*) Based on available data for EU Member States.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eirtn1)

eurostat

**Figure 10: Non-EU citizens returned outside the EU or EFTA country, by type of return, 2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirtn1)**

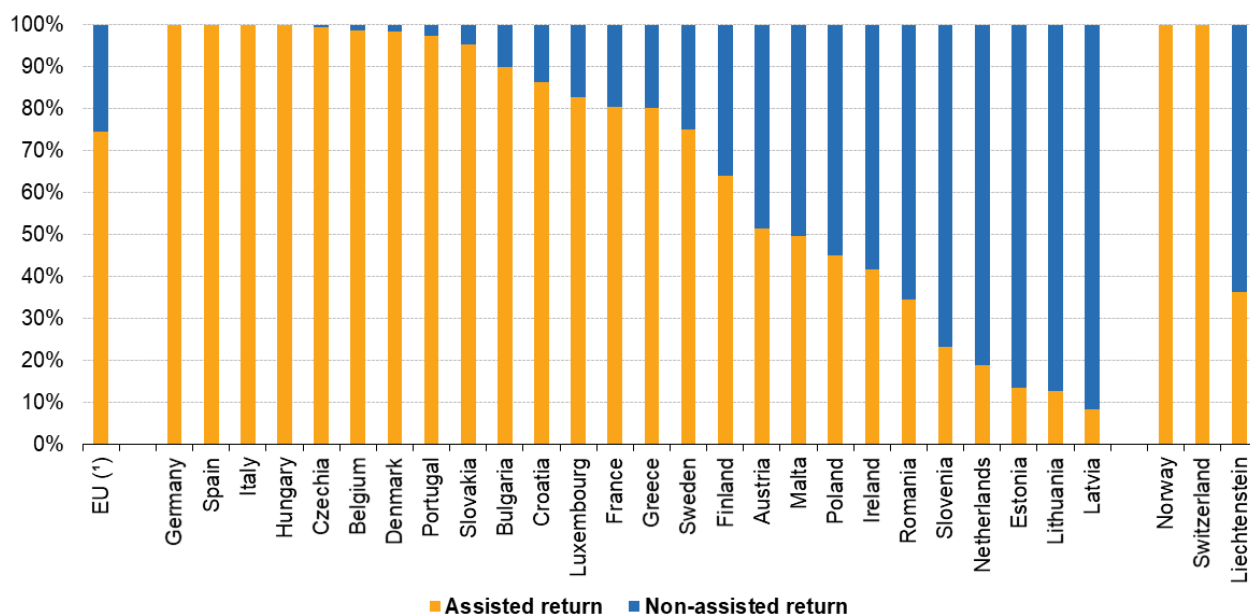
Figure 11 shows information on types of assistance received by non-EU citizens to facilitate their return. Some return programmes funded by the EU, national or international organisations provide reintegration support for returnees. This may include administrative, logistical and/or financial support to migrants who return to their country of origin.

In 2022, across the 26 EU Member States for which data are available, 75 % were assisted returns and 25 % were non-assisted returns.

As was the case for voluntary and forced returns, there was a wide degree of variation between the EU Member States regarding whether assistance was given or not to non-EU citizens leaving the EU Member States in 2022. In Germany, Spain, Italy and Hungary all non-EU citizens were assisted in their return, while the majority of non-EU citizens leaving the Netherlands, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia were not assisted (for these four countries, assisted returns represented less than 20%).

## Non-EU citizens who left the EU or EFTA country, by type of assistance received, 2022

(%)



Note: The graph presents Member States for which information by type of assistance received is available.

See the methodological note on derogations in the 'Data sources' chapter of this article.

(\*) Based on available data for EU Member States.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr\_eirtn1)

eurostat

Figure 11: Non-EU citizens who left the EU or EFTA country, by type of assistance received, 2022 (%) Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirtn1)

### Source data for tables and graphs

- [Enforcement of immigration legislation statistics: tables and figures](#)

### Data sources

Statistics on the enforcement of immigration legislation are based on administrative data provided by national authorities in line with the requirements of [Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#) concerning statistics on migration and international protection. The compilation of these statistics draws on the terms used by the Schengen Borders Code, an EU code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders ( [Regulation \(EU\) No 2016/399](#) ); for more information on the Schengen area, see [here](#) .

Statistics on the enforcement of immigration legislation exclude outgoing asylum seekers who are transferred from one EU Member State to another under the mechanism established by the Dublin Regulation ( [Regulation \(EC\) No 1560/2003](#) and [Regulation \(EU\) No 604/2013](#) ); these cases are covered by [Dublin statistics](#) .

Note that the data for the number of non-EU citizens presented in the text of this article have been rounded to the nearest one hundred, for ease of reading and comprehension: more precise values (rounded to the nearest five) are shown in the tables and figures. Due to the rounding, various totals (such as for the EU) may not necessarily match the sum of the values for their components (such as the sum of values for the EU Member States).

In relation to the statistics presented in this article the following **derogations** were granted to Member States based on [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2021/431 of 10 March 2021](#) :

- 1) For data on Persons found to be illegally present:

- Transmission of the disaggregations by grounds for apprehension and by place of apprehension:

Belgium, Lithuania and Portugal for the reference year 2021

Czechia, Spain, France, Cyprus, Romania and Sweden for the reference years 2021-2023

2) For the data on Persons returned following an order to leave:

- Transmission of the disaggregations by the assistance received

Czechia for the reference years 2021-2023

- Transmission of the disaggregations by the country of destination

The Netherlands for the reference years 2021-2022

- Transmission of the disaggregations by the type of return and assistance received and by the country of destination

Lithuania for the reference year 2021

Spain, Cyprus and Sweden for the reference years 2021-2023

3) For the data on Persons ordered to leave and Persons returned following an order to leave:

- Transmission of the disaggregation by unaccompanied minors

Belgium, Lithuania and Portugal for the reference year 2021

Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Romania for the reference years 2021-2023

**Tables in this article use the following notation:**

Value <i>italics</i>	data value is forecasted, provisional or estimated and is therefore likely to change;
:	not available, confidential or unreliable value;
—	not applicable.

## Context

The enforcement of migration law refers to two main issues: controlling the EU's external borders and the management of unauthorised non-EU citizens found on the territory of an EU Member State. Coordination between EU Member States regarding border controls has increased significantly over the last decade. The most noteworthy developments concern [Regulation \(EU\) No 2016/399](#) establishing a Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (the Schengen Borders Code); and [Regulation \(EU\) No 2016/1624](#) on the European Border and Coast Guard, which also amended Regulation (EU) No 2016/399 and repealed Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004.

Regarding the management of irregular migrant populations, the so-called [Return Directive \(2008/115/EC\)](#) came into force at the end of 2010 establishing common standards for returning non-EU citizens illegally staying in the EU. The directive provides for clear, transparent, common and fair rules for return and removal, the use of coercive measures, detention and re-entry, while respecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the persons concerned.

In addition, [Regulation \(EU\) No 1052/2013](#) established the [European border surveillance system \(EUROSUR\)](#). This provides 'a common framework for the exchange of information and for the cooperation between EU Member

States and FRONTEX'. The aim of this system is to improve situational awareness and to increase reaction capabilities at external borders of the EU for the purpose of detecting, preventing and combating illegal immigration and cross-border crime, while contributing to ensuring the protection and saving of migrant lives.

As regards measuring the enforcement of immigration legislation, the progress made so far on collecting harmonised data results from the adoption of [Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#), in particular Articles 5 and 7. This regulation aims to support evidence-based decision-making, providing specifications concerning the data that should be submitted by EU Member States on the number of non-EU citizens refused entry at the EU's external borders, the number of non-EU citizens apprehended for being illegally present in the EU, and the number of non-EU citizens who were removed from the EU as a result of their presence being unauthorised. Irregular migration remains a phenomenon difficult to quantify, especially during times when an effective and humane 'returns policy' is considered by many to form an essential part of migration policy.

## Other articles

- [All articles on managed migration](#)
- [Enforcement of immigration legislation statistics introduced](#)
- [Annual asylum statistics](#)
- [Asylum applications - monthly statistics](#)
- [Asylum quarterly report](#)
- [Statistics on countries responsible for asylum applications \(Dublin Regulation\)](#)

## Database

- [Managed migration \(migr\\_man\)](#), see:

### Enforcement of Immigration Legislation (migr\_eil)

Third country nationals refused entry at the external borders - annual data (rounded) (migr\_eirfs)

Third country nationals found to be illegally present - annual data (rounded) (migr\_eipre)

Third country nationals ordered to leave - annual data (rounded) (migr\_eiord)

Third country nationals ordered to leave by citizenship, age and sex - quarterly data (rounded) (migr\_eiord1)

Third-country unaccompanied minors ordered to leave, by citizenship, age and sex of the minor – quarterly data (rounded) (migr\_eiord2)

Third country nationals returned following an order to leave - annual data (rounded) (migr\_eirtn)

Third-country nationals returned following an order to leave, by type of return, citizenship, country of destination, age and sex – quarterly data (migr\_eirtn1)

Third-country unaccompanied minors returned following an order to leave, by type of return, citizenship, country of destination, age and sex of the minor – quarterly data (rounded) (migr\_eirtn2)

Third-country nationals who have left the territory by type of return and citizenship (migr\_eirt\_vol)

Third-country nationals who have left the territory by type of assistance received and citizenship (migr\_eirt\_ass)

Third-country nationals who have left the territory to a third country by type of agreement procedure and citizenship (migr\_eirt\_agr)

Third-country nationals who have left the territory to a third country by destination country and citizenship (migr\_eirt\_des)

## Dedicated section

- [Managed migration](#)

## Methodology

- [Enforcement of Immigration Legislation](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr\_eil\_esms)

## Legislation

- [Communication COM\(2004\) 412 final of 4 June 2004: Study on the links between legal and illegal migration](#)
- [Communication \(COM\(2018\) 250 final of 14 March 2018: Progress report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration](#)
- [Directive 2008/115/EC on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals](#)
- [Summaries of EU legislation: returning illegal immigrants — common standards and procedures](#)
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection \(Articles 5 and 7\)](#)
- [Summaries of EU legislation: migration statistics](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) No 1052/2013 for the establishment of the European Border Surveillance System \(Eurosur\)](#)
- [Summaries of EU legislation: European border surveillance system \(Eurosur\)](#)
- [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders \(Schengen Borders Code\)](#)
- [Summaries of EU legislation: rules on crossing EU borders](#)

## External links

- [Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs \(HOME\)](#)
- [European Migration Network \(EMN\)](#)
- [European Migration Network — Annual reports on migration and asylum](#)
- [Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography](#)