

Enlargement countries - statistics on migration, residence permits, citizenship and asylum

Statistics Explained

Data extracted in May 2023.
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" The number of citizens of North Macedonia receiving citizenship in the EU in 2021 was 53 % higher than in 2011, while for citizens of Türkiye the number declined by 45 % . "

" In 2021, 66 896 Turkish citizens were granted first residence permits of an EU Member State, principally in Germany (18 %), Poland (15 %) and the Netherlands (12 %) . "

" The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU from Türkiye was multiplied by 13 between 2015 and 2022, from 3 900 to 49 700 . "

This article is part of an [online publication](#) and provides information on a range of migration, residence permits, citizenship and asylum statistics for the Western Balkans and Türkiye and compares this with the corresponding data for the [European Union \(EU\)](#) . Within this region, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia and Türkiye are candidate countries, while Kosovo* has the status of potential candidate. **Data for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, granted candidate status or European perspective by the European Council in June 2022, are not included in this article** ; Statistics Explained articles on the European Neighbourhood Policy-East countries are available [here](#) . The article starts with an overview of the size of and changes in the [population](#) in each countries of the Western Balkans and Türkiye and examines the two factors of change: [natural change](#) from [births](#) and [deaths](#) on the one hand and [international migration](#) on the other. It then focuses on citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye living within the EU, presenting information for the number having had [residence permits](#) issued to them and their acquisition of [citizenship](#) of an EU Member State. It concludes with information concerning citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye having [applied for asylum](#) in the EU Member States. **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.*

Population change: natural change and net migration

Population change in a given year is the difference between the population size measured on 1 January of the year in question and the size on the same day the following year. It consists of two components: [natural population change](#) and [net migration](#) , plus statistical adjustment. Natural population change is the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths. Net migration figures are calculated by Eurostat by taking the difference between total (overall) population change and natural change: the difference is referred to as net migration plus statistical adjustment. The statistics on net migration plus statistical adjustment are therefore affected by any statistical inaccuracies in the two components (total and natural population change).

Data on the population, natural change, and net migration and statistical adjustment of the Western Balkans and Türkiye, as well as the EU, are shown in Table 1 for the period 2011-2021. To place the data in context, at the beginning of 2021, Türkiye was by far the most populous of the countries, with 83.6 million inhabitants. Montenegro was the smallest in population terms, with 621 thousand inhabitants in 2021. The population of Türkiye was almost 6 times as large as the population of all the Western Balkans combined; 12 times as large as that of the next largest country, Serbia (6.9 million inhabitants), and almost 135 times as large as that of Montenegro. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there were 3.5 million inhabitants in 2019 (most recent data available); in Albania, 2.8 million inhabitants; in North Macedonia, 2.1 million inhabitants and in Kosovo, 1.8 million inhabitants. In comparison, the number of inhabitants was estimated at 447.0 million in the EU in 2021.

Population, natural change and net migration, 2011-2021

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Population, 1st January (thousands)										
EU (*) ^(*)	439 942	440 553	441 258	442 884	443 667	444 803	445 534	446 209	446 559	447 485	447 001
Bosnia and Herzegovina (*)	3 843	3 839	3 836	3 831	3 825	3 516	3 510	3 500	3 492	:	:
Montenegro	620	620	621	622	622	622	622	622	622	622	621
North Macedonia (*)	2 057	2 060	2 062	2 066	2 069	2 071	2 074	2 075	2 077	2 076	2 069
Albania	2 907	2 903	2 898	2 892	2 886	2 876	2 877	2 870	2 862	2 846	2 830
Serbia (*)	7 252	7 217	7 182	7 147	7 114	7 076	7 040	7 001	6 964	6 927	6 872
Türkiye (*)	73 723	74 724	75 627	76 668	77 696	78 741	79 815	80 811	82 004	83 155	83 614
Kosovo* (*) ^(*)	1 794	1 780	1 816	1 821	1 805	1 772	1 784	1 799	1 796	1 782	1 798
	Natural population change (number)										
EU	139 569	-23 691	-115 945	-11 368	-289 489	-154 651	-332 357	-441 372	-484 377	-1 112 594	-1 208 800
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-3 647	-3 620	-4 978	-5 577	:	-6 254	-7 178	-8 277	:	:	:
Montenegro	1 368	1 537	1 558	1 515	1 057	1 105	909	760	628	-196	-2 119
North Macedonia	3 305	3 434	3 930	3 878	2 614	2 585	1 436	1 606	-601	-6 692	-9 868
Albania	14 273	14 603	15 308	15 104	10 297	10 345	8 637	7 130	6 624	470	-3 296
Serbia	-37 337	-35 143	-34 746	-34 786	-38 021	-36 100	-38 828	-37 680	-37 059	-55 158	-74 442
Türkiye	866 045	876 864	910 968	947 383	920 565	887 636	865 274	822 741	747 711	:	:
Kosovo* (*) ^(*)	20 515	20 426	22 192	18 295	16 392	14 921	14 681	13 763	12 368	13 252	:
	Net migration and statistical adjustment (number)										
EU (*) ^(*)	496 404	728 741	1 518 409	792 693	1 425 507	883 362	1 006 484	1 334 967	1 410 329	834 852	870 175
Bosnia and Herzegovina (*)	-271	0	244	0	:	0	-2 255	0	:	:	:
Montenegro	-910	-952	-930	-937	-938	-936	-937	-937	-937	-938	-937
North Macedonia	-795	-934	-455	-475	-508	-161	163	225	-276	-755	-221 826
Albania	-18 626	-19 841	-20 684	-21 702	-20 501	-9 346	-14 904	-15 027	-23 096	-16 684	-32 853
Serbia (*)	2 437	-1	0	2 420	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Türkiye (*) ^(*)	135 236	26 251	129 512	80 657	124 584	186 182	130 380	370 616	403 404	:	:
Kosovo* (*) ^(*)	-34 674	15 159	-17 167	-33 982	-49 732	-2 994	294	-16 603	-25 919	2 821	:

* 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.

(:) not available

(*) 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021: break in times series. 2018-2021: estimates.

(*) 2021: provisional.

(*) 2019: provisional. 2016: break in series. Population data for Bosnia and Herzegovina has been revised based on the 2013 census results which was released in June 2016.

(*) Population data for North Macedonia has been revised based on the 2021 census results which was released on 30 March 2022. 2013 to 2017: estimates.

(*) 2011: break in time series.

(*) 2019: break in times series, estimates.

(*) 2012-2017 and 2021: estimates.

(*) 2020: provisional.

(*) 2018: provisional.

(*) 2018-2019: break in times series, estimates.

(*) 2012-2017 and 2020: estimates. 2020: provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo_gind)

Table 1: Population, natural change and net migration, 2011-2021 Source: Eurostat (demo_gind)

Changes in the number of inhabitants over the period 2011-2021 showed different trends among the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The population of Türkiye grew by an annual average of 1.3 %, while the number of inhabitants in North Macedonia grew by an annual average of 0.1 %. The population in Montenegro and Kosovo remained almost constant (annual average growth of 0.01 % and 0.02 %). Elsewhere among the Western Balkans and Türkiye, the population declined by an annual average of -0.3 % in Albania; -0.5 % in Serbia; and -1.2 % in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2011-2019). In the EU, the population grew on average by 0.2 % annually over the period 2011-2021.

Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were the only countries of Western Balkans and Türkiye that had a negative natural population change during the whole period 2011-2021 (or for which data is available), meaning that they had a higher number of deaths than births. The annual average natural population change for Serbia 2011-2021 was -0.7 %. It cannot be calculated for Bosnia and Herzegovina due to missing observations. For the other countries of the Western Balkans and Türkiye, the annual average natural population change over the period 2011-2021 was: North Macedonia, 0.03 %; Montenegro, 0.1 %; Albania 0.3 %; Kosovo 1.0 % (2011-2020) and Türkiye 1.3 % (2011-2019). The EU has seen a decline in the natural population since 2012; its annual average natural rate of change over 2011-2021 was -0.1 %.

Net migration and statistical adjustment trends also differed among the Western Balkans and Türkiye over the period 2011-2021. Note that the annual averages for net migration plus those for natural population change may not add up to the total population change due to rounding. Türkiye recorded an increase due to migration (and statistical adjustment) in each year, leading to an annual average growth of 0.3 % over the period 2011-2019. North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania recorded a population decrease due to net migration and statistical adjustment in every year from 2011 to 2021, except in 2017 and 2018 in North Macedonia; annual average changes due to migration and statistical adjustment over the period 2011-2021 for these three countries were -0.2 % for Montenegro, -0.8 % for Albania and -1.2 % for North Macedonia. Kosovo recorded a negative value for net

migration and statistical adjustment most years, with positive values in 2012 and 2017. Its annual average over 2011-2020 was -1.1 %. The net migration of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia is difficult to estimate as the values are reported as zero for several years. The EU had a consistently positive figure for net migration and an annual average increase in population due to net migration and statistical adjustment over 2011-2021 of 0.3 %.

Residence permits

Some of the people who emigrate from Western Balkans and Türkiye move to EU Member States and are issued with residence permits. Statistics are compiled by the EU on both flows and stocks of residence permits.

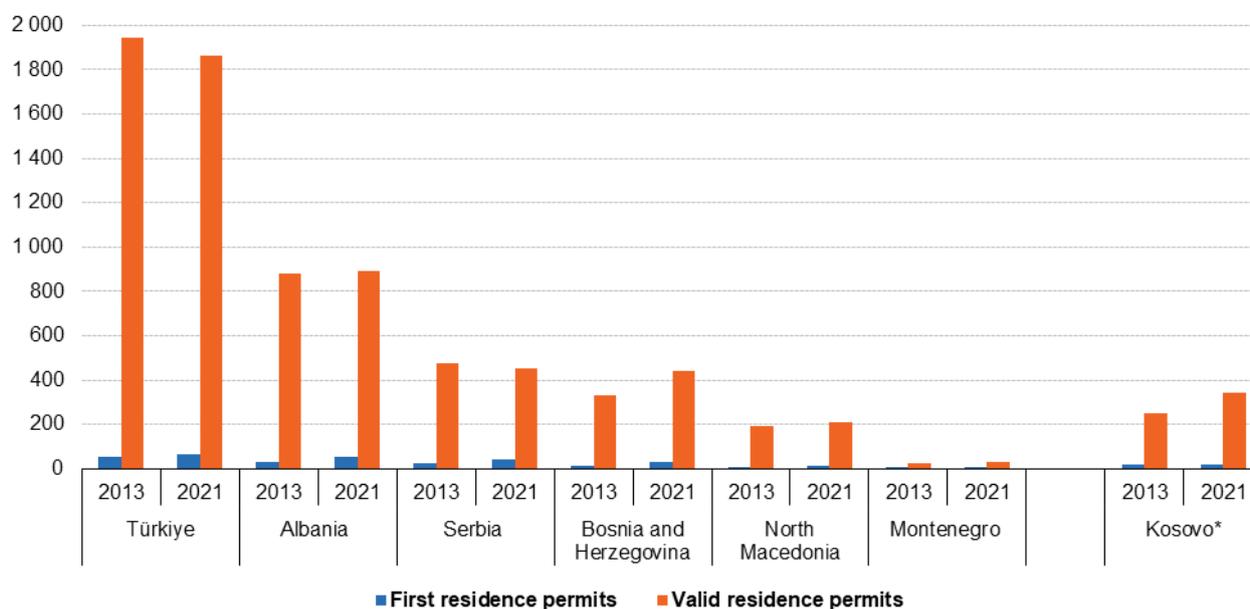
Statistics are compiled on the number of new residents in the Member States who have been issued with their first residence permit during a calendar year. In general, this figure excludes renewals of existing permits, but a residence permit is also considered to be a first permit if the time gap between the expiry of an old permit and the start of validity of the new permit issued for the same reason is at least six months. This concept represents the 'flow' of persons establishing residency.

The number of persons with valid residence permits at the end of each year is a measure of the stock of all people with residence permits. It is not limited to first residence permits. Figure 1 summarises both statistics: the number of people with residence permits is inevitably much greater than the number of first residence permits.

More than 236 thousand citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye were issued with first residence permits in 2021 by EU Member States, an increase of 56 % compared with 2013 (151 thousand first residence permits). The citizens from Türkiye represented 28 % of the citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye issued with first residence permits by EU Member States in 2021; 23 % were citizens from Albania; 19 % were Serbians; 14 % were citizens from Bosnia and Herzegovina; 9 % were citizens from Kosovo; 6 % were citizens from North Macedonia; and 1 % from Montenegro.

Citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye to whom first residence permits were issued and those with valid residence permits within the EU, 2013 and 2021

(thousand)



* 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.

Note: countries are ranked based on valid residence permits in 2021. 2021: 2020 data used when 2021 data not available for some EU Member States.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_resfirst and migr_resvalid)

eurostat

Figure 1: Citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye to whom first residence permits were issued and those with valid residence permits within the EU, 2011 and 2021 (thousand) Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst) and (migr_resvalid)

Comparing the situation in 2021 with that in 2013, the number of citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye issued with first residence permits had risen everywhere. The number of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina who received first residence permits more than doubled (+106 %) between 2013 and 2021; the number of Serbians and Albanians having received a first permit in 2021 almost doubled (+85 % and +83 %, respectively compared with 2013); while for citizens of North Macedonia, the number increased by a half (+54 %). Citizens of Montenegro and Türkiye received 35 % and 26 %, respectively, more first residence permits in 2021 than in 2013. Kosovar had received more first permit in 2021 than in 2013 by a small amount (+18 %).

As of the end of 2021, there were 4.2 million citizens of the Western Balkans and Türkiye with valid permits to reside in the EU Member States. This was 3 % more than at the end of 2013. Around two fifths, 44 %, of the citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye who held valid permits at the end of 2021 were held by citizens of Türkiye; more than one fifth, 21 % by Albanians; 11 % by citizens of Serbia closely followed by citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina with 10 %; 8 % by citizens of Kosovo; 5 % by those of North Macedonia; and less than 1 % by those of Montenegro.

Comparing the situation at the end of 2021 with that at the end of 2013, the number of Serbian and Turkish citizens holding valid permits had fallen by 5 % and 4 % respectively, while the number of citizens of remaining Western Balkans countries holding valid permits had risen. Albanians holding valid residence permits increased by 2 % between 2013 and 2021. Citizens of North Macedonia holding valid EU residence permits at the end of 2021 increased in number by 12 % compared with 2013; and those of Montenegro by 22 %. The number of citizens from Bosnia and Herzegovina holding valid residence permits at the end of 2021 was 32 % higher than at the end of 2013, while for citizens of Kosovo the number increased by +36 %.

Among the citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye issued with first residence permits in 2021, 42 % were for family reasons, down from 55 % in 2013; 34 % were for employment, up from 14 % in 2013; 8 % for education, down from 13 % in 2013; and 16 % for other reasons, having been 18 % in 2013. These include international protection, residence without the right to work, for example pensioners, or people in the intermediate stages of a

regularisation process. Figure 2 presents the corresponding numbers by country.

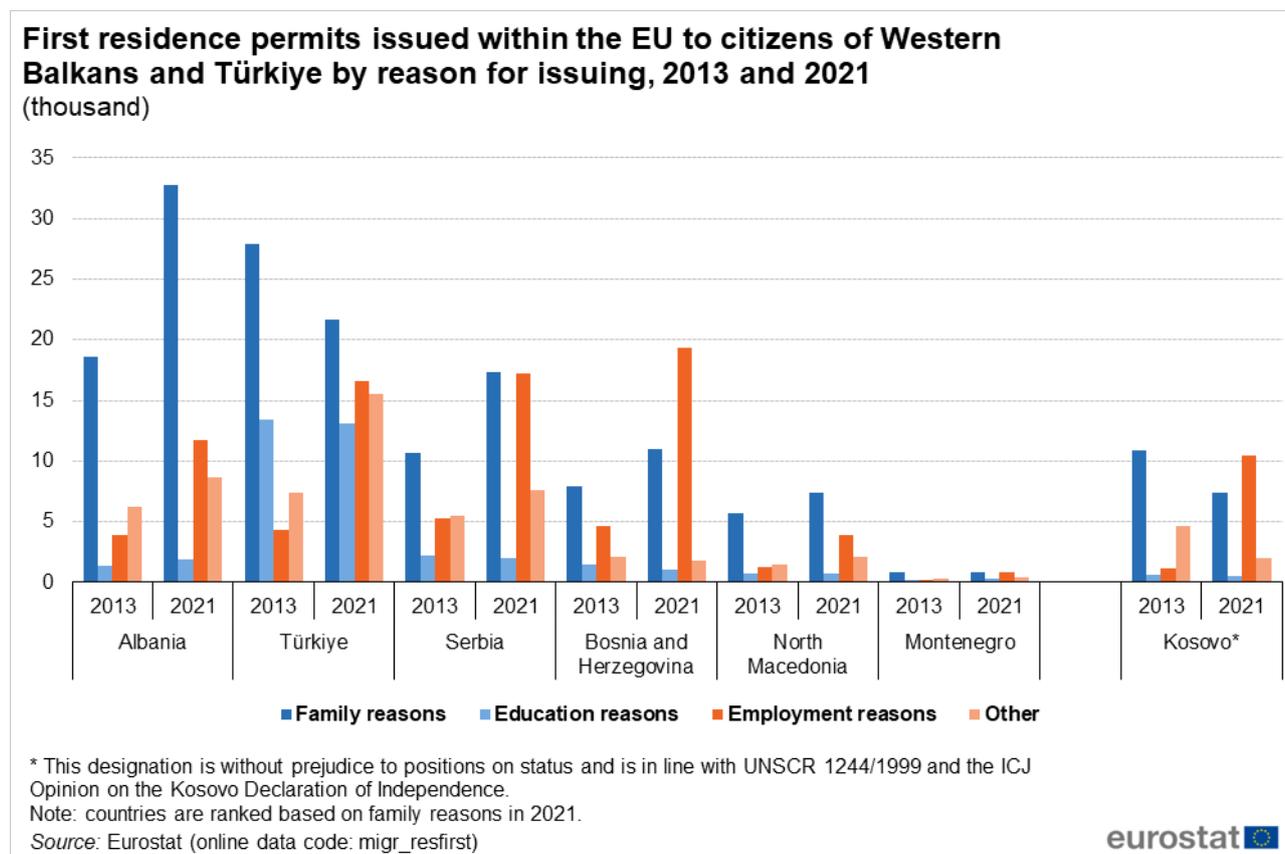


Figure 2: First residence permits issued within the EU to citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye by reason for issuing, 2013 and 2021 (thousand) Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

The reasons for which first permits were issued in 2021 varied among the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The most common reason was family for citizens of Albania, accounting for 59 % of the total; those of North Macedonia, 52 %; Serbia, 39 %; Montenegro, 35 %; and Türkiye, 32 %. More people were issued with first permits for employment reasons than for other specified reasons for citizens from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 58 % of the total, for citizens from Kosovo, 51 %; and for Montenegrins, 35 %.

Table 2 shows the numbers of first residence permits issued to citizens of the Western Balkans and Türkiye by the EU Member States issuing the largest number of these permits in 2021.

First residence permits issued by EU Member States to citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye, 2021

	Total number	Top three EU Member States									Other EU Member States	
		First			Second			Third			Number	Share of EU (%)
		Name	Number	Share of EU (%)	Name	Number	Share of EU (%)	Name	Number	Share of EU (%)		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	33 147	Slovenia	11 705	35.3	Croatia	9 385	28.3	Germany	5 043	15.2	7 014	21.2
Montenegro	2 264	Germany	616	27.2	Croatia	372	16.4	Slovenia	213	9.4	1 063	47.0
North Macedonia	14 181	Germany	3 832	27.0	Italy	2 306	16.3	Slovenia	1 684	11.9	6 359	44.8
Albania	55 067	Italy	29 732	54.0	Greece	10 201	18.5	Germany	4 492	8.2	10 642	19.3
Serbia	44 078	Germany	16 824	38.2	Croatia	4 893	11.1	Austria	3 806	8.6	18 555	42.1
Türkiye	66 896	Germany	12 247	18.3	Poland	10 001	15.0	Netherlands	8 336	12.5	36 312	54.3
Kosovo *	20 360	Slovenia	7 058	34.7	Croatia	3 275	16.1	Italy	2 356	11.6	7 671	37.7

* 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_resfirst)

Table 2: First residence permits issued by EU Member States to citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye, 2021 Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

Germany issued the largest numbers of first residence permits for citizens of four of the Western Balkans and Türkiye in 2021, the three exceptions being for citizens of Albania who were more likely to have received a first residence permit from Italy; and for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, who received more permits from Slovenia. Germany was the third country to issue first residence permits for Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. More than half of Albanians received their permit from Italy. Germany, Croatia and Slovenia were the top three EU Member states issuing first resident permits to two Western Balkans countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina (79 % of the EU total) and Montenegro (53 %). Citizens of North Macedonia received 55 % of their EU first residence permits from Germany, Italy and Slovenia. Albanian citizens received 81 % of their EU first residence permits from Italy, Greece and Germany. Serbian citizens received 58 % of their EU first residence permits from Germany, Croatia and Austria. Turkish citizens received 46 % of their EU first residence permits from Germany, Poland and the Netherlands. Kosovar citizens received 62 % of their EU first residence permits from Slovenia, Croatia and Italy.

Table 3 shows the numbers of citizens of the Western Balkans and Türkiye holding residence permits by the EU Member States issuing the largest number of these permits in 2021.

Valid residence permits issued by EU Member States to citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye, 2021

	Total number	Top three EU Member States									Other EU Member States	
		First			Second			Third			Number	Share of EU (%)
		Name	Number	Share of EU (%)	Name	Number	Share of EU (%)	Name	Number	Share of EU (%)		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	441 250	Germany	168 397	38.2	Austria	93 903	21.3	Slovenia	93 666	21.2	85 284	19.3
Montenegro	30 456	Germany	17 783	58.4	Luxembourg	2 940	9.7	Italy	2 148	7.1	7 585	24.9
North Macedonia	212 614	Germany	85 831	40.4	Italy	55 042	25.9	Austria	22 015	10.4	49 726	23.4
Albania	895 100	Greece	404 574	45.2	Italy	396 883	44.3	Germany	42 423	4.7	51 220	5.7
Serbia	452 327	Germany	171 715	38.0	Austria	106 181	23.5	Italy	38 587	8.5	135 844	30.0
Türkiye (*)	1 864 319	Germany	1 265 387	67.9	France	219 239	11.8	Austria	108 481	5.8	271 212	14.5
Kosovo *	343 804	Germany	190 056	55.3	Italy	44 565	13.0	Slovenia	32 340	9.4	76 843	22.4

* 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.

(*) France: provisional

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_resvalid)

Table 3: Valid residence permits issued by EU Member States to citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye, 2021 Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst) and (migr_resvalid)

For six of the Western Balkans and Türkiye, the largest number of their citizens holding valid residence permits at the end of 2021 was recorded in Germany, the exception being for citizens of Albania who were more likely to hold a valid residence permit from Greece or Italy. More than half of EU residence permits to citizens of Türkiye (68 % of the EU total), Montenegro (58 %) and Kosovo (55 %), valid at the end of 2021, were provided by Germany. In addition to Italy being close to be the largest provider of residence permits valid at the end of 2021 to Albanians, at 44 % of the total (against 45 % for Greece), Italy was also the second largest EU provider of these residence permits to citizens of North Macedonia (26 %) and Kosovars (13 %); and the third largest EU provider to citizens of Serbia (9 %) and Montenegro (7 %).

Greece, Italy and Germany together accounted for 94 % of Albanians holding valid residence permits in the EU at the end of 2021, the highest share accounted for by the top three Member States recorded by any of the Western Balkans and Türkiye. Turkish citizens holding valid permits from Germany, France and Austria at the end of 2021 accounted for 86 % of all Turkish citizens holding EU residence permits at that time. Germany, Austria and Slovenia accounted for 81 % of all valid residence permits in the EU for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of 2021.

Acquisition of citizenship

Citizenship of an EU Member State brings new rights and opportunities, such as the rights to move, live and work freely within the EU.

In 2021, 84 thousand citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State (Figure 3). Albanians made up 38.5 % of all citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye who acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State in that year; while 30.7 % were citizens of Türkiye, 9.6 % were citizens of Serbia; 8.4 % were from Kosovo; 6.3 % were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina; 5.8 % were from North Macedonia; and 0.8 % were citizens of Montenegro.

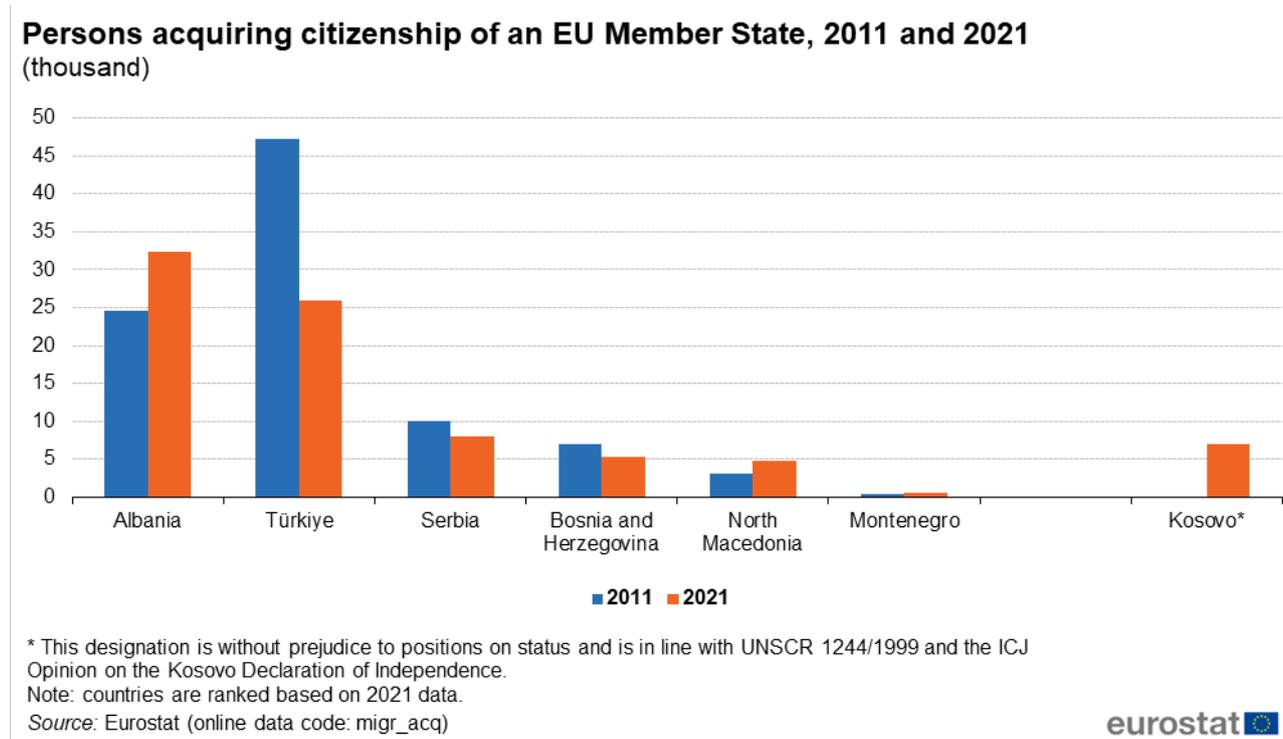


Figure 3: Persons acquiring citizenship of an EU Member State, 2011 and 2021 (thousand) Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

The number of citizens from North Macedonia acquiring the citizenship of an EU Member State more than doubled from 2011 to 2021 (+53 %), while the number of citizens from Montenegro and Albania acquiring EU Member State citizenship increased by 47 % and 31 %, respectively. In contrast, a decrease of 20 % in the number of citizens from Serbia acquiring EU citizenship was recorded in 2021 compared with 2011. The number of people acquiring citizenship of an EU Member State in 2021 was also lower than in 2011 for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, down 24 %, and for citizens of Türkiye, down 45 %. There was no comparable data for Kosovo in 2011.

Asylum applicants and first instance decisions in the EU

This section describes recent developments in relation to the number of [asylum applicants](#) in the EU from citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye as well as decisions on [applications for international protection](#).

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.

An asylum applicant or asylum seeker is recorded in statistics as a person who has applied for international protection during the reference period or having been included in such an application as a family member. A [first time asylum applicant](#) for international protection in the statistics published by Eurostat is a person who has applied for international protection for the first time in an EU Member State. The term 'first time' implies no time limits and therefore a person can be recorded as a first time applicant only if he or she had never applied for international protection in the reporting country in the past, irrespective of whether or not he or she is found to have applied in another EU Member State. An individual may apply for international protection in more than one Member State in a given reference year. Consequently, the EU total may include such multiple applications by a single person.

Data for each Member State refer to the number of persons applying for asylum for the first time in that Member State. The EU total is calculated as the sum of data for the EU Member States. Figure 4 shows first time asylum applicants to EU countries by citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye for the years 2015 and 2022. The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU in 2022 who were citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye was 70.2 thousand. This was 60 % lower than in 2015.

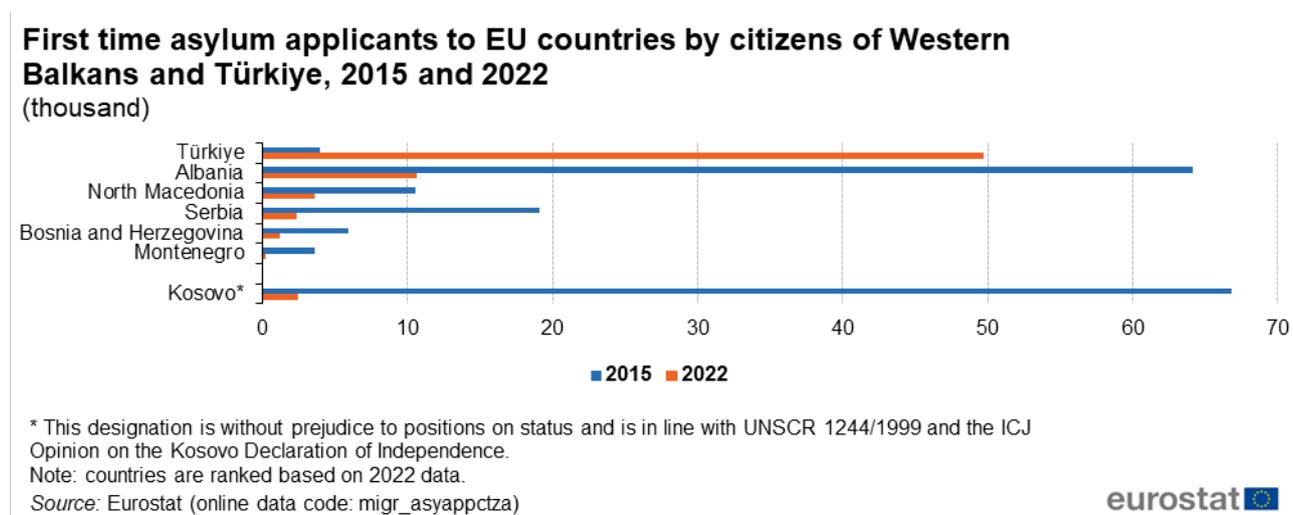


Figure 4: First time asylum applicants to EU countries by citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye, 2015 and 2022 (thousand) Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

Comparing the situation in 2022 with that in 2015, the number of first time asylum applicants in the EU from Kosovo fell by 96 %, from Montenegro by 94 %, from Serbia by 88 %, from Albania by 83 %. First time asylum applications by citizens from Bosnia and Herzegovina fell by 79 % and from those of North Macedonia by 66 %. In contrast, the number of applicants from citizens of Türkiye was almost multiplied by 13 (+1167 %) compared with 2015.

Of the citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye who were first time asylum applicants in the EU in 2022, 71 % were Turkish citizens and 15 % were Albanians. The share for citizens of North Macedonia was 5 %; Serbia and Kosovo, 3 % each; Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2 %; and Montenegro less than 1 %.

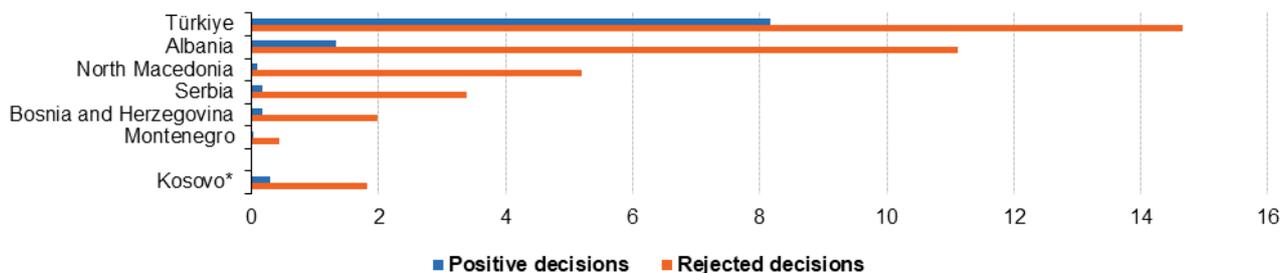
Data on first instance decisions on asylum applications are shown in Figure 5. Some applications rejected at first instance may subsequently be accepted in a [final decision](#) after an appeal or review.

In 2022, 48.8 thousand first instance decisions on asylum applications from citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye were made in the EU Member States. Of these applications, 79 % were rejected. The largest number of first instance decisions was issued for applications from Turkish and Albanian citizens, 47 % and 26 %, respectively,

of the total number of applications in the EU from citizens of the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The share of first instance decisions for applications from citizens of North Macedonia was 11 %; from Serbia 7 %; from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo 4 % for each; and from Montenegro 1 %.

First instance decisions by EU countries on applications for asylum from citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye, 2022

(thousand)



* 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.

Note: countries are ranked based on rejected decisions.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asycfsta)

eurostat

Figure 5: First instance decisions by EU countries on applications for asylum from citizens of Western Balkans and Türkiye, 2022 (thousand) Source: Eurostat (migr_asycfsta)

The proportion of positive first instance decisions was 21 % over the whole region. Applications from Turkish citizens resulted in positive decisions in 36 % of the cases. Concerning Kosovo citizens, 14 % of their applications had a positive decision. As a consequence of the high proportion of positive first instance decisions, applications from Turkish citizens accounted for 80 % of all positive first instance decisions on applications from citizens of the Western Balkans and Türkiye.

Source data for tables and figures (MS Excel)

- [Enlargement countries — Migration, residence, citizenship and asylum: tables and figures](#)

Data sources

Eurostat provides a wide range of demographic data, including statistics on populations at national and regional level, as well as for various demographic factors influencing the size, the structure and the specific characteristics of these populations. The population data presented in this article were collected from enlargement countries alongside Eurostat's regular collection of population data from EU Member States and EFTA countries. The data on residence permits, the acquisition of citizenship, asylum and first instance decisions form part of a regular collection of data from Member States and EFTA countries.

Eurostat collects data in its demography data collection exercise in relation to the population as of 1 January each year. The recommended definition is the 'usual resident population' and represents the number of inhabitants of a given area on 1 January of the year in question (or, in some cases, on 31 December of the previous year).

Population data for Bosnia and Herzegovina has been revised based on the 2013 census results which was released in June 2016. A break appears in the time series as the revision has not been done backwards.

Population data for North Macedonia has been revised based on the 2021 census results which was released on 30 March 2022. A break appears in the time series as the revision has not been done backwards.

Data related to residence permits are generally based on administrative sources. Commission Regulation (EU) No 216/2010 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, as regards the definitions of categories

of the reasons for the residence permits provides the list and definition of reasons for permits being issued.

It should be noted that certain methodological aspects are not fully harmonised between the reporting countries due to different legal or information technology systems. See a general [article on first residence permits](#) for more information.

Since 2008 data on acquisitions of citizenship have been collected by Eurostat under the provisions of [Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#) on migration statistics. Citizenship is the particular legal bond between an individual and his or her State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to the national legislation. International law does not provide detailed rules, but it recognises the competence of every state in cases like: spouses of citizens, minors adopted by citizens, descendants of citizens born abroad returning to the country of origin of their ancestors. Countries differ considerably in terms of the conditions to be fulfilled to acquire citizenship: in general, a period of legally registered residence is required, combined with other factors such as evidence of social and economic integration and knowledge of national languages. Different conditions may apply for persons who were born in the country concerned (*jus soli*), or who have parents or other relatives with that country's citizenship (*jus sanguinis*). Detailed information on the different modes of acquisition of citizenship in force in different countries can be found at the [Global Citizenship Observatory \(GLOBALCIT\)](#).

Equally, data related to asylum have also been provided to Eurostat since 2008, again under the provisions of Regulation (EC) 862/2007. Data are provided with a monthly frequency for asylum application statistics and a quarterly frequency for first instance decisions; data are also collected with an annual frequency for final decisions based on appeal or review, resettlement and unaccompanied minors. These statistics are based on administrative sources and are supplied to Eurostat by statistical authorities, home office ministries/ministries of the interior or related immigration agencies.

First instance decisions are decisions granted by the respective authority acting as a first instance of the administrative/judicial asylum procedure in the receiving country.

The United Nations publishes estimates on migration which can be found on their [website](#).

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.

Context

Statistics on population change and the structure of population are increasingly used to support policymaking and provide an opportunity to monitor demographic behaviour within an economic, social and cultural context. Indeed, the EU's population is ageing as consistently low birth rates and higher life expectancy transform the shape of its [age pyramid](#).

Migration policies within the EU are built upon solidarity and responsibility, taking account of the contribution that immigrants make to the EU's economic development and performance. Within the [European Commission](#), the [Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs](#) is responsible for immigration policy. EU policy measures on legal immigration cover the conditions of entry and residence for certain categories of immigrants, such as highly qualified workers subject to the 'EU Blue Card Directive', students and researchers, as well as family reunification and long-term residents: see [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) for more information.

In May 2013, the European Commission published the [EU Citizenship Report 2013](#) (COM(2013) 269 final). The report noted that EU citizenship brings new rights and opportunities. Moving and living freely within the EU is the right most closely associated with EU citizenship. Given modern technology and the fact that it is now easier to travel, freedom of movement allows EU citizens to expand their horizons beyond national borders, to leave their country for shorter or longer periods, to come and go between EU Member States to work, study and train, to travel for business or for leisure, or to shop across borders. Free movement potentially increases social and cultural

interactions within the EU and closer bonds between EU citizens. In addition, it may generate mutual economic benefits for businesses and consumers.

The 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees (as amended by the 1967 New York Protocol) has, for around 70 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. More information is available in an [article on asylum statistics](#) .

Information concerning the current statistical legislation on population, migration and asylum statistics can be found here:

- [Population and housing censuses](#)
- [Demography, population and stock & balance](#)
- [Migration](#)
- [Asylum](#)

Eurostat has the responsibility to monitor that statistical production of the Western Balkans and Türkiye complies with the EU acquis in the field of statistics. To do so, Eurostat supports the national statistical offices and other producers of official statistics through a range of initiatives, such as pilot surveys, training courses, traineeships, study visits, workshops and seminars, and participation in meetings within the [European Statistical System \(ESS\)](#) . The ultimate goal is the provision of harmonised, high-quality data that conforms to European and international standards.

Additional information on statistical cooperation with the enlargement countries is provided [here](#) .

See also

- **Online publications**
 - [Enlargement countries — statistical overview](#) — online publication
 - [Statistical cooperation](#) — online publication
- **Articles**
 - [Acquisition of citizenship statistics](#)
 - [Asylum applications - annual statistics](#)
 - [Population and population change statistics](#)
 - [Residence permits — statistics on first permits issued during the year](#)
 - [Residence permits — statistics on stock of valid permits at the end of the year](#)

Publications

- **Statistical books/pocketbooks**

[Key figures on enlargement countries](#) — 2019 edition

[Key figures on enlargement countries](#) — 2017 edition

[Key figures on the enlargement countries](#) — 2014 edition

- **Factsheets**

[Basic figures on the candidate countries and potential candidates — Factsheets](#) — 2023 edition

[Basic figures on Western Balkans and Türkiye — Factsheets — 2022 edition](#)

[Basic figures on enlargement countries — Factsheets — 2021 edition](#)

- **Leaflets**

[Basic figures on enlargement countries — 2020 edition](#)

[Basic figures on enlargement countries — 2019 edition](#)

[Basic figures on enlargement countries — 2018 edition](#)

[Basic figures on enlargement countries — 2016 edition](#)

[Enlargement countries — Demographic statistics — 2015 edition](#)

[Key figures on the enlargement countries — Population and social conditions — 2013 edition](#)

Database

- [Demography and migration \(demo\)](#) , see:

Population change - Demographic balance and crude rates at national level (demo_gind)

Acquisition and loss of citizenship (migr_acqn)

Acquisition of citizenship by age group, sex and former citizenship (migr_acq)

- [Asylum and managed migration \(migr\)](#) , see:

Asylum and Dublin statistics (migr_asy)

Applications (migr_asyapp)

Decisions on applications and resettlement (migr_asydec)

Residence permits (migr_res)

Residence permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resval)

Dedicated section

- [Enlargement countries](#)
- [Population and demography](#)
- [Migration and asylum](#)

Methodology / Metadata

- [Acquisition and loss of citizenship \(migr_acqn\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_acqn_esms)
- [Applications \(migr_asyapp\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_asyapp_esms)
- [Decisions on applications and resettlement \(migr_asydec\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_asydec_esms)
- [Population change - Demographic balance and crude rates at national level \(demo_gind\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — demo_gind_esms)
- [Residence permits \(migr_res\)](#) (ESMS metadata file — migr_res_esms)

Legislation

- [Regulation \(EU\) No 216/2010](#) of 15 March 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, as regards the definitions of categories of the reasons for the residence permits
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#) of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers
- [Summaries of EU legislation: Migration statistics](#)
- [\(COM\(2013\) 269 final\)](#) Citizenship Report 2013 EU citizens: your rights, your future.

External links

- [European Commission — European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations](#)
- [European Commission — Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs — Demographic developments and projections](#)
- [European Commission — Migration and Home Affairs](#)
 - [European Commission — DG Migration and Home Affairs — Common European asylum system](#)
 - * [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#)
 - [European Migration Network — EMN](#)
- [European Asylum Support Office — EASO](#)
- [UN — International migrant stock](#)
- [UNHCR — Figures at a Glance](#)

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https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Enlargement_countries_-_statistics_on_migration,_residence_permits,_citizenship_and_asylum