Asylum quarterly report


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.

Main trends in the number of asylum applicants

The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU-27 increased by 22% in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 and by 11% compared with the third quarter of 2019. As such, the number of persons seeking asylum from non-EU countries in the EU-27 during the fourth quarter of 2019 amounted to 171,300 (Figure 1, Table 2).

The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU-27 accounted for 92% of the total number of asylum applicants (187,200), including repeated applicants, recorded in the fourth quarter of 2019 (Figure 1, Table 2).

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

Citizens of 142 countries, as well as stateless persons, sought asylum for the first time in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2019. Syrian, Afghan and Venezuelan were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging 21,000, 18,900 and 13,700 applications respectively (Table 1).
First time asylum applicants in the EU-27 by citizenship, Q4 2018 – Q4 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Q4 2018</th>
<th>Q1 2019</th>
<th>Q2 2019</th>
<th>Q3 2019</th>
<th>Q4 2019</th>
<th>Absolute change between Q3 2019 and Q4 2019</th>
<th>Change in % between Q4 2018 and Q4 2019</th>
<th>Last 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-EU</td>
<td>140 755</td>
<td>145 500</td>
<td>139 655</td>
<td>154 515</td>
<td>171 325</td>
<td>16 410</td>
<td>30 530</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syria (SV)</td>
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<td>16 830</td>
<td>16 960</td>
<td>20 675</td>
<td>21 010</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>3 875</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>9 755</td>
<td>13 685</td>
<td>18 930</td>
<td>5 240</td>
<td>7 295</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venezuela (VE)</td>
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<td>10 755</td>
<td>10 650</td>
<td>9 635</td>
<td>16 830</td>
<td>4 925</td>
<td>7 775</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia (CO)</td>
<td>3 015</td>
<td>5 720</td>
<td>7 425</td>
<td>7 170</td>
<td>11 500</td>
<td>4 330</td>
<td>8 486</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colombia (EC)</td>
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<td>5 195</td>
<td>4 095</td>
<td>6 105</td>
<td>6 525</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>6 480</td>
<td>6 550</td>
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</tr>
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<td>8 945</td>
<td>5 975</td>
<td>-970</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-14</td>
</tr>
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<td>Nigeria (NG)</td>
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<td>4 170</td>
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<td>-125</td>
<td>-9</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
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<td>2 470</td>
<td>3 335</td>
<td>3 990</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>1 390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran (IR)</td>
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<td>4 310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somalia (SO)</td>
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<td>2 635</td>
<td>3 675</td>
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<tr>
<td>CD (CD)</td>
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<td>1 845</td>
<td>2 140</td>
<td>2 335</td>
<td>2 935</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1 245</td>
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<td>2 490</td>
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<td>2 850</td>
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<td>85</td>
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<td>2 740</td>
<td>2 775</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-1 495</td>
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<td>2 245</td>
<td>2 820</td>
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<td>2 115</td>
<td>1 890</td>
<td>2 130</td>
<td>2 570</td>
<td>440</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 000</td>
<td>2 410</td>
<td>2 630</td>
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<td>500</td>
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<td>2 155</td>
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<td>2 160</td>
<td>2 415</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras (HN)</td>
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<td>1 620</td>
<td>1 650</td>
<td>2 220</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>1 495</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru (PE)</td>
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<td>1 690</td>
<td>1 900</td>
<td>2 160</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>1 335</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory Coast (CI)</td>
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<td>1 915</td>
<td>1 775</td>
<td>1 725</td>
<td>2 065</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>-45</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine (UA)</td>
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<td>2 380</td>
<td>2 200</td>
<td>1 935</td>
<td>1 835</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-425</td>
<td>-5</td>
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<td>Nicaragua (NI)</td>
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<td>1 745</td>
<td>1 345</td>
<td>1 670</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>565</td>
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<td>Moldova (MD)</td>
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<td>600</td>
<td>1 175</td>
<td>1 545</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>China (CN)</td>
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<td>-215</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (EG)</td>
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<td>1 300</td>
<td>1 045</td>
<td>1 285</td>
<td>1 425</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan (SD)</td>
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<td>1 075</td>
<td>1 750</td>
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<td>-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1 695</td>
<td>1 250</td>
<td>1 320</td>
<td>1 375</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>-425</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (non-EU)</td>
<td>26 040</td>
<td>28 015</td>
<td>24 745</td>
<td>27 005</td>
<td>26 875</td>
<td>1 475</td>
<td>2 440</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counties selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q4 2019

(*) CD = Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Table 1: First-time asylum applicants in the EU-27, 30 main citizenships, Q4 2018 – Q4 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Colombians (8 500 more applicants compared with the fourth quarter of 2018) contributed most to the overall increase in first-time asylum applicants in absolute terms, followed by Venezuelans (7 800 more) and Afghans (7 300 more). By contrast, the number of asylum applicants decreased most in absolute terms for citizens of Iran (2 600 fewer), Iraq (2 100 fewer), Albania (1 700 fewer), Georgia (1 600 fewer) and Guinea (1 500 fewer). (Table 1).

The countries of citizenship which increased most in relative terms in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 were Peru (310 % more), Colombia (281 % more), Honduras (201 % more), Venezuela (132 % more) and El Salvador (106 % more). By contrast, the most substantial relative decrease in the number of asylum applicants in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 was...
Where do asylum applicants go to?

The highest number of first-time asylum applicants in the fourth quarter of 2019 was registered in Spain (with 35,400 first-time applicants, or 21% of all first-time applicants in the EU Member States), followed by France (32,800, or 19%), Germany (31,600, or 18%) and Greece (28,000, or 16%). These four Member States together account for almost three quarters of all first-time applicants in the EU-27 (Table 2).
Table 2: Asylum applicants, Q4 2018 – Q4 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Q4 2018</th>
<th>Q1 2019</th>
<th>Q2 2019</th>
<th>Q3 2019</th>
<th>Q4 2019</th>
<th>Share of first-time applicants (%)</th>
<th>Last 12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU-27</td>
<td>140,795</td>
<td>155,370</td>
<td>146,590</td>
<td>163,815</td>
<td>130,855</td>
<td>154,915</td>
<td>169,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>4,050</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td>1,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czechia</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<td>865</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>35,290</td>
<td>41,795</td>
<td>38,510</td>
<td>47,655</td>
<td>33,150</td>
<td>38,510</td>
<td>42,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td>1,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>19,070</td>
<td>19,590</td>
<td>19,620</td>
<td>16,480</td>
<td>12,230</td>
<td>13,960</td>
<td>17,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>9,650</td>
<td>11,235</td>
<td>9,650</td>
<td>10,640</td>
<td>8,496</td>
<td>10,455</td>
<td>8,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>2,705</td>
<td>2,745</td>
<td>2,560</td>
<td>3,015</td>
<td>3,576</td>
<td>3,910</td>
<td>2,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
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<td>685</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,330</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6,246</td>
<td>5,180</td>
<td>5,980</td>
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<td>2,750</td>
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<td>966</td>
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<td>875</td>
<td>895</td>
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<tr>
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<td>405</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>375</td>
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<td>440</td>
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<tr>
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<td>595</td>
<td>585</td>
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<td>1,215</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
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<td>520</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>1,116</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>1,135</td>
<td>755</td>
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<td>4,775</td>
<td>5,480</td>
<td>4,635</td>
<td>5,376</td>
<td>4,725</td>
<td>5,485</td>
<td>7,900</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>11,680</td>
<td>11,255</td>
<td>11,566</td>
<td>10,485</td>
<td>10,555</td>
<td>11,580</td>
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<td>260</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>585</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>450</td>
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<td>3,745</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>3,665</td>
<td>2,950</td>
<td>3,335</td>
<td>3,250</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Total asylum applicants include first-time asylum applicants and repeated applicants.

(*) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2019

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)
Trends in the number of asylum applicants varied from country to country in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 (Table 2). Germany (with 4,700 fewer applicants) was the country with the largest absolute decrease in the number of first-time applicants, followed by Bulgaria (700 fewer applicants).

By contrast, in Spain the number of asylum seekers increased by 20,300 and in Greece by 9,000 in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018.

In relative terms, Bulgaria (65 % fewer), Denmark, Czechia (both 20 % fewer) and Luxembourg (19 % fewer) recorded the largest relative decreases in first-time asylum seekers. Among the countries with more than 10,000 applicants in the fourth quarter of 2019, only Germany recorded relative decreases (13 % fewer) in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018. By contrast, Croatia (276 % more), Spain (134 % more), Romania (104 % more) and Malta (101 % more) recorded the largest relative increases of first-time asylum seekers in the fourth quarter of 2019 compared with the same quarter of 2018 (Figure 3).

Figure 3: First-time asylum applicants, relative change between Q4 2018 and Q4 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm), see country codes

Syrian was the main citizenship of asylum seekers in eight EU Member States, Afghan in four, while Venezuelan, although among the top 3, was the main citizenship in only one EU Member State, namely Spain (Table 3). Of the 21,000 Syrians who applied for the first time for asylum in the EU in the fourth quarter of 2019, 41 % were registered in Germany (8,700) while 90 % of 13,700 Venezuelans applied for asylum in Spain (12,300). Of the 18,900 Afghans, 60 % (11,400) applied for the first time for asylum in Greece. (Table 4).
Table 3: Five main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants, 4th quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4: Thirty main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 27, 4th quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-EU</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TURKEY (TR)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GERGIA (GE)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GUINEA (GN)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALBANIA (AL)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AFGHANISTAN (AF)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RUSSIA (RU)</strong></td>
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<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>ALGERIA (DZ)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HONDURAS (HN)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>UKRAINE (UA)</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>CHINA (CN)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MALI (ML)</strong></td>
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<td>Malta</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citations: selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q4 2019 in the EU-27
# Absolute number of asylum applications
% Percentage shares are calculated on rounded figures and may not add up to totals
CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)
Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rate of registered first-time applicants during the fourth quarter of 2019 was recorded in Cyprus (3 728 first-time applicants per million population), followed by Malta (2 725) and Greece (2 613). By contrast, the lowest rates were observed in Hungary (8 applicants per million population), Slovakia (9 applicants per million population) and Estonia (13 applicants per million population). In total in the EU as a whole, there were 383 first-time asylum applicants per million population in the fourth quarter of 2019 (Table 2).

Decisions on asylum applications

During the fourth quarter of 2019, 145 600 first instance decisions were made by the national authorities of EU Member States. Among them, 42 % were positive (i.e. granting a type of protection status) (Table 5).

---

2 Data on first instance decisions relate to decisions on applications granted to all asylum applicants i.e. first-time asylum applicants and repeated asylum applicants.
Germany issued the most total first instance decisions during the fourth quarter of 2019 (32,400 decisions), followed by Spain (30,500), France (28,000), Italy (22,300), Greece (8,800) and Sweden (5,700) (Figure 4). These six Member States counted together 88% of all first instance decisions issued in the EU-27. For more detailed information about the distribution of decision outcomes please refer to Table 6.

Table 5: First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 4th quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcsfstd)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EU-27</th>
<th>Total decisions</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Refugee status</th>
<th>Of which of which</th>
<th>Subsidiary protection</th>
<th>Humanitarian reasons</th>
<th>Rejected</th>
<th>Rate of recognition, % of which</th>
<th>Refugee and subsidiary protection status</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>145,570</td>
<td>61,435</td>
<td>28,235</td>
<td>12,940</td>
<td>22,555</td>
<td>84,135</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
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<td>135</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
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<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>275</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>165</td>
<td>215</td>
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<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>9,950</td>
<td>4,205</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4,265</td>
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<td>7,500</td>
<td>9,055</td>
<td>20,300</td>
<td>8,560</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,440</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>4,145</td>
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<td>1,105</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>78</td>
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<td>1,275</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Not applicable

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

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcsfstd)
First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 4th quarter 2019

Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q4 2019
Humanitarian reasons not applicable for France
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)

Figure 4: First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 4th quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)
Most first instance decisions in the EU-27 were issued to Venezuelans (21,400), followed by Syrians (15,900) and Afghans (8,700) (Table 7, Figure 5).

Venezuelans received the highest number of decisions granting protection status in the EU Member States, including protection based on national legislations (20,900 positive first instance decisions, or 98 % rate of recognition) (Table 7).

For more detailed information on decision outcomes please refer to Table 8.

---

Table 6: First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 4th quarter 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refugee status</th>
<th>Subsidiary protection</th>
<th>Humanitarian reasons</th>
<th>Rejections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany (12,368 decisions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>3,800 Afghanistan</td>
<td>495 Iraq</td>
<td>1,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1,465 Iraq</td>
<td>155 Iraq</td>
<td>1,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>965 Ethiopia</td>
<td>145 Nigeria</td>
<td>70 Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,765 Other</td>
<td>550 Other</td>
<td>425 Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (27,995 decisions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>425 Afghanistan</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>365 Syria</td>
<td>226</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>362 Algeria</td>
<td>130</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3,965 Other</td>
<td>220</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece (8,000 decisions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>1,465 Afghanistan</td>
<td>820</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>453 Iraq</td>
<td>210</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>415 Somalia</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>945 Other</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (17,865 decisions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>1,161 Syria</td>
<td>680 Afghanistan</td>
<td>150 Iraq</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>615 Ethiopia</td>
<td>275 Turkey</td>
<td>130 Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>415 Afghanistan</td>
<td>250 Syria</td>
<td>90 Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2,475 Other</td>
<td>845 Other</td>
<td>240 Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain (20,646 decisions)</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>140 Syria</td>
<td>675 Venezuela</td>
<td>29,279 Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>110 Palestine</td>
<td>59 Honduras</td>
<td>10 El Salvador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>100 Somali</td>
<td>45 El Salvador</td>
<td>5 Nicaragua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>445 Other</td>
<td>130 Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy (22,335 decisions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>175 Syria</td>
<td>320 Pakistan</td>
<td>35 Iran</td>
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<td>Iran</td>
<td>125 Yemen</td>
<td>60 Afghanistan</td>
<td>10 Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>75 Ethiopia</td>
<td>26 Syria</td>
<td>18 Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>675 Other</td>
<td>60 Other</td>
<td>50 Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden (5,065 decisions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-28 (124,020 decisions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>7,810 Syria</td>
<td>5,265 Venezuela</td>
<td>29,255 Pakistan</td>
</tr>
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<td>Turkey</td>
<td>2,266 Afghanistan</td>
<td>2,262 Afghanistan</td>
<td>605 Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1,465 Iraq</td>
<td>675 Iraq</td>
<td>220 Albania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14,136 Other</td>
<td>4,165 Other</td>
<td>1,395 Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q4 2019.

- Humanitarian reasons are not applicable for France, while for Greece no decisions on humanitarian protection were issued in Q4 2019.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydfstq)

---

4Rate 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 for calculations instead of the presented rounded numbers. Rates of recognition for humanitarian status are not shown, but are part of the 'Total recognition rate'.

---

Table 6: First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 4th quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydfstq)
First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants granted decisions in the EU-27, 4th quarter 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>Total decisions</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Refugee status</th>
<th>Subsidiary protection</th>
<th>Humanitarian reasons</th>
<th>Rejected</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Refugee and subsidiary protection status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela - (VE)</td>
<td>21 415</td>
<td>20 890</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>20 295</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria - (SY)</td>
<td>16 870</td>
<td>15 235</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>5 265</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>2 035</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan - (AF)</td>
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<td>4 685</td>
<td>1 465</td>
<td>2 835</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>4 080</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>Iraq - (IQ)</td>
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<td>1 905</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>3 765</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>765</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>5 035</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>3 535</td>
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<td>Turkey - (TR)</td>
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<td>2 550</td>
<td>2 390</td>
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<td>135</td>
<td>2 065</td>
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<td>Albania - (AL)</td>
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<td>135</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4 155</td>
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<td>4 030</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh - (BD)</td>
<td>3 885</td>
<td>250</td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3 035</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guinea - (GN)</td>
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</table>

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q4 2019.
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.
CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)

Table 7: First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants granted decisions in the EU-27, 4th quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)
First instance decisions in the EU-27 by outcome, selected citizenships, 4th quarter 2019

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q4 2019

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)

Figure 5: First instance decisions in the EU-27 by outcome, selected citizenships, 4th quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)
Table 8: First instance decisions by destination country and outcome in the EU-28, selected citizenships of asylum applicants, 4th quarter 2019 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refugee status</th>
<th>Subsidiary protection</th>
<th>Humanitarian reasons</th>
<th>Rejections</th>
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<td><strong>UKRO-EU (150 decisions)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>THE OUT (150 decisions)</strong></td>
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</table>

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q4 2019
Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)

Data sources

The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the interior and justice ministries 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 subject to change.

- Country abbreviations: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czechia (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.

Other articles
• Asylum statistics
• Dublin statistics on countries responsible for asylum application
• Enforcement of immigration legislation statistics
• Residence permits - statistics on first permits issued during the year

Publications
• All publications on asylum and managed migration
• All publications on migrant integration
Main tables

- Asylum and managed migration, see:

  Asylum and managed migration, see:
  - Asylum and new asylum applicants - monthly data (tps00189)
  - Asylum and managed migration, see:
  - Asylum and new asylum applicants - annual aggregated data (tps00191)
  - First instance decisions on applications by type of decision - annual aggregated data (tps00192)
  - Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors - annual data (tps00194)
  - Resettled persons - annual data (tps00195)

Database

- Asylum and managed migration, see:

  Applications (migr_asyapp)
  - Asylum applicants by citizenship till 2007 Annual data (rounded) (migr_asyctz)
  - First time asylum applicants by citizenship till December 2007 Monthly data (rounded) (migr_asyctzm)
  - Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) (migr_asyappctza)
  - Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Monthly data (rounded) (migr_asyappctzm)
  - Persons subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex - Monthly data (rounded) (migr_asypenctzm)
  - Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) (migr_asywitha)
  - Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex - Monthly data (rounded) (migr_asywithm)
  - Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) (migr_asyunaa)

Decisions on applications and resettlement (migr_asydec)

  Decisions on asylum applications by citizenship till 2007 Annual data (rounded) (migr_asydctzy)
  - Decisions on asylum applications by citizenship till December 2007 Monthly data (rounded) (migr_asydctzm)
  - First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) (migr_asydcfsta)
  - First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Quarterly data (rounded) (migr_asydcftq)
  - Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision by type of status withdrawn and by citizenship Annual aggregated data (rounded) (migr_asywiftsta)
  - Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision by type of status withdrawn and by citizenship Quarterly data (rounded) (migr_asywiftstq)
  - Final decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) (migr_asydcfina)
  - 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) (migr_asyresa)

Dedicated section

- Asylum and managed migration

Data visualisations

- Asylum statistics
Methodology

- Applications (migr_asyapp) (ESMS metadata file — migr_asyapp_esms)
- Decisions on applications and resettlement (migr_asydec) (ESMS metadata file — migr_asydec_esms)

Legislation

- 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 (Summary)
- the Asylum Procedures Directive 2013/32/EU on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (Summary)
- the Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (Summary)
- 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

External links

- European Commission - DG Migration and Home Affairs - Asylum
- European Asylum Support Office - EASO
- European Migration Network - EMN
- UNHCR - Statistics