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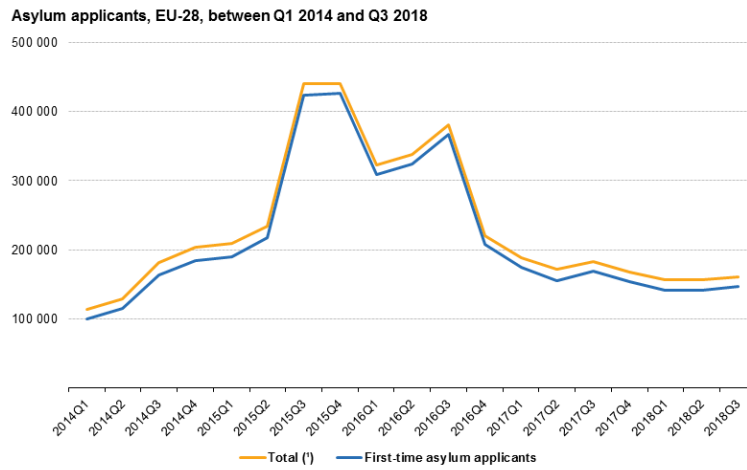
This article describes recent developments in relation to numbers of **asylum applicants** and first instance decisions on **asylum applications** in the **European Union (EU)**. Asylum is a form of international protection given by a state on its territory. It is granted to a person who is unable to 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 numbers of asylum applicants

The number of **first-time asylum applicants**¹ in the EU-28 decreased by 13 % in the third quarter of 2018 compared with the same quarter of 2017 and increased by 4 % compared with the second quarter of 2018. As such, the number of persons seeking asylum from non-EU countries in the **EU-28** during the third quarter of 2018 was 147 000, a number around the levels recorded in 2014, before the peaks of 2015 and 2016 (Figure 1, Table 2).

The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU-28 accounted for 91 % of the total number of asylum applicants (162 000), including repeat applicants, recorded in the third quarter of 2018 (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 repeat applicants i.e. persons applying for asylum more than once in one country and therefore more accurately presents the number of persons applying for international protection in the EU Member States. The use of this indicator is possible as all Member States are able to provide it to Eurostat since 2014.



eurostat 

Figure 1: Asylum applicants, EU-28, Q1 2014 – Q3 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Where do asylum applicants come from?

Citizens of 146 countries sought asylum for the first time in the EU in the third quarter of 2018. Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging 21 200, 11 200 and 10 000 applications respectively (Table 1).

First-time asylum applicants in the EU-28 by citizenship, Q3 2017 – Q3 2018

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Absolute change		Change in %		Last 12 months
						between Q2 2018 and Q3 2018	between Q3 2017 and Q3 2018	between Q2 2018 and Q3 2018	between Q3 2017 and Q3 2018	
Non-EU	169 500	154 400	141 940	141 650	146 860	5 210	-22 640	4	-13	584 855
Syria - (SY)	29 285	23 450	21 200	20 915	21 195	280	-8 090	1	-28	86 760
Afghanistan - (AF)	10 265	9 780	8 160	9 435	11 205	1 770	940	19	9	38 580
Iraq - (IQ)	13 255	12 945	10 865	8 965	10 045	1 080	-3 210	12	-24	42 815
Turkey - (TR)	4 295	4 630	3 745	4 535	7 440	2 905	3 145	64	73	20 345
Iran - (IR)	4 175	4 250	4 260	4 475	6 645	2 170	2 470	48	59	19 630
Pakistan - (PK)	7 405	6 955	5 830	5 575	6 235	665	-1 165	12	-16	24 590
Nigeria - (NG)	10 000	7 510	6 770	6 090	4 820	-1 270	-5 180	-21	-52	25 190
Albania - (AL)	5 990	4 590	4 170	3 955	4 795	840	-1 195	21	-20	17 510
Venezuela - (VE)	2 715	3 625	4 115	7 560	4 425	-3 135	1 715	-41	63	19 730
Georgia - (GE)	2 230	3 615	5 020	3 745	3 720	-25	1 490	-1	67	16 100
Eritrea - (ER)	7 505	4 340	4 255	4 065	3 525	-540	-3 980	-13	-53	16 180
Russia - (RU)	3 465	2 850	2 890	2 850	3 260	410	-200	14	-6	11 855
Guinea - (GN)	4 270	3 485	3 205	2 660	3 185	525	-1 085	20	-25	12 535
Somalia - (SO)	3 260	3 015	2 920	2 840	3 030	190	-230	7	-7	11 805
Sudan - (SD)	2 570	2 240	1 680	1 875	2 785	910	215	49	8	8 580
Bangladesh - (BD)	4 845	4 175	3 745	3 195	2 730	-465	-2 115	-15	-44	13 850
Colombia - (CO)	710	1 050	1 280	3 325	2 370	-950	1 660	-29	233	8 025
Palestine - (PS)	1 525	1 030	1 310	1 425	2 185	755	660	53	43	5 950
Algeria - (DZ)	2 200	2 665	2 550	2 100	2 105	5	-100	0	-4	9 420
Ukraine - (UA)	2 085	2 205	2 095	2 180	2 090	-90	5	-4	0	8 575
Morocco - (MA)	2 100	1 970	1 965	1 805	1 910	100	-190	6	-9	7 650
Ivory Coast - (CI)	3 495	2 775	2 280	2 105	1 900	-205	-1 595	-10	-46	9 065
CD - (CD)	1 400	1 625	1 750	1 650	1 655	5	255	0	18	6 680
China - (CN)	1 260	1 435	1 140	1 250	1 580	325	320	26	26	5 410
India - (IN)	1 190	1 080	1 110	1 330	1 360	30	170	2	14	4 880
Cameroon - (CM)	1 660	1 445	1 265	1 170	1 310	140	-355	12	-21	5 190
Armenia - (AM)	1 820	1 725	1 420	1 040	1 290	250	-530	24	-29	5 475
Egypt - (EG)	1 345	1 045	1 055	1 010	1 160	150	-185	15	-14	4 270
Mali - (ML)	2 660	2 250	1 765	1 515	1 155	-360	-1 505	-24	-57	6 690
Libya - (LY)	1 165	1 385	1 175	1 025	1 105	80	-60	8	-5	4 685
Other (non-EU)	29 365	29 250	26 945	25 985	24 655	-1 325	-4 705	-5	-16	106 840

Countries selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q3 2018

(¹) CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

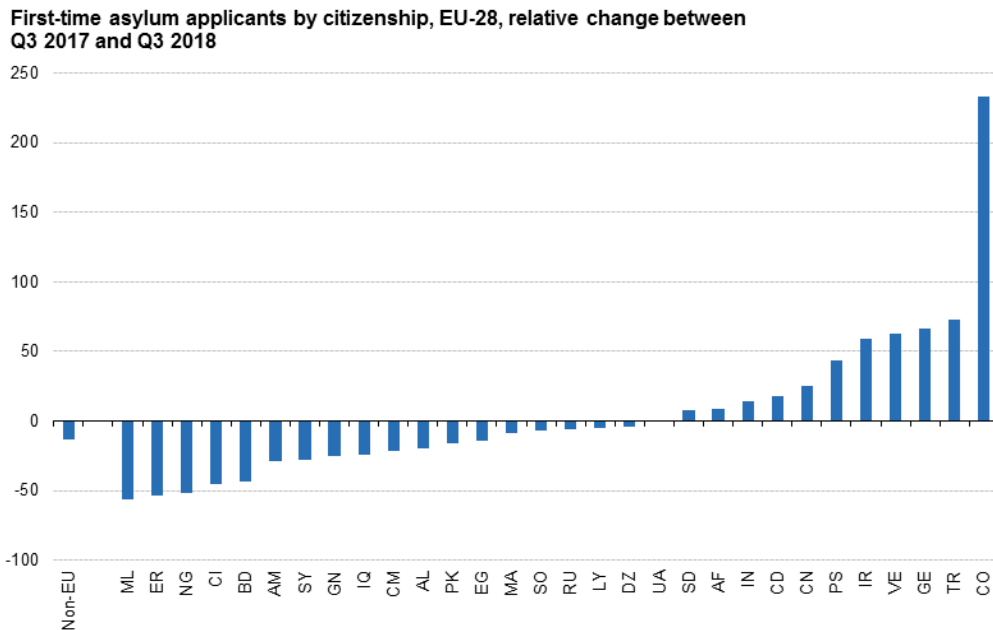


Table 1: First-time asylum applicants in the EU-28 by citizenship, Q3 2017 – Q3 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Syrians (8 100 fewer applicants compared with the third quarter of 2017) contributed most to the overall decrease in first-time asylum applicants in absolute terms, followed by Nigerians (5 200 fewer) and Eritreans (4 000 fewer). In contrast, the number of asylum applicants increased most in absolute terms for citizens of Turkey (3 100 more), Iran (2 500 more) and Venezuela (1 700 more) (Table 1).

The most substantial relative decrease in the number of asylum applicants in the EU in the third quarter of 2018 compared with the same quarter of 2017 was recorded for Malians (57 % less), Eritreans (53 % less) and Nigerians (52 % less). In contrast, Colombia (about two times more), Turkey (73 % more), Georgia (67 % more), Venezuela (63 % more) and Iran (59 % more) were the countries of citizenships which mostly increased

in relative terms in the third quarter of 2018, compared with the same quarter of 2017 (Figure 2, Table 1).



Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)



Figure 2: First-time asylum applicants by citizenship, EU-28, relative change between Q3 2017 and Q3 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm), see country codes

Where do asylum applicants go to?

The highest number of first-time asylum applicants in the third quarter of 2018 was registered in Germany (with 42 000 first-time applicants, or 29 % of all applicants in the EU Member States), followed by France (27 200, or 19 %), Greece (16 700, or 11 %), Spain (12 700, or 9 %), United Kingdom (9 600, or 7 %) and Italy (9 000, or 6 %). These six Member States together account for 80 % of all first-time applicants in the EU-28 (Table 2).

Asylum applicants, Q3 2017 – Q3 2018

	Q3 2017		Q4 2017		Q1 2018		Q2 2018		Q3 2018		First-time asylum applicants			last 12 months			
	First-time asylum applicants	Total asylum applicants	First-time asylum applicants	Total asylum applicants	First-time asylum applicants	Total asylum applicants	First-time asylum applicants	Total asylum applicants	First-time asylum applicants	Total asylum applicants	absolute change between Q2 2018 and Q3 2018	change in %			per million population (1) Q3 2018		
												between Q2 2018 and Q3 2018	between Q3 2017 and Q3 2018				
EU-28	169 500	183 120	154 400	168 230	141 940	156 700	141 650	156 260	146 860	161 500	91	5 210	-22 640	4	-13	286	584 855
Belgium	3 725	4 780	3 660	4 830	4 000	5 260	3 610	4 855	5 565	6 635	84	1 950	1 835	54	49	487	16 840
Bulgaria	885	925	665	690	295	310	260	280	800	820	98	540	-80	206	-9	114	2 020
Czechia	285	375	280	365	300	385	295	385	360	430	84	65	75	23	26	34	1 230
Denmark	915	930	740	760	740	775	690	715	360	400	98	260	40	38	4	165	3 125
Germany	50 560	57 115	45 920	52 245	44 945	51 515	38 715	44 240	41 970	47 920	88	3 255	-8 590	8	-17	507	171 555
Estonia	35	35	25	25	10	10	15	15	50	50	100	35	15	257	52	38	100
Ireland	730	730	905	920	975	980	670	675	990	990	100	320	260	48	36	204	3 540
Greece	14 600	15 050	15 280	15 770	12 965	13 345	16 340	16 835	16 670	17 200	97	330	2 070	2	14	1 552	61 250
Spain	8 710	8 905	8 000	8 155	8 755	8 965	16 175	16 565	12 670	12 970	98	-3 505	3 960	-22	45	272	45 605
France	22 305	23 965	25 745	27 700	25 255	27 195	26 080	28 790	27 210	29 245	93	1 125	4 905	4	22	405	104 290
Croatia	280	295	255	280	215	245	140	165	185	215	86	45	-95	31	-34	45	795
Italy	32 505	33 110	22 990	23 615	17 825	18 755	13 670	15 005	8 970	10 060	89	-4 700	-23 535	-34	-72	148	63 455
Cyprus	1 350	1 385	1 285	1 320	1 325	1 385	1 430	1 455	2 145	2 175	99	715	800	50	59	2 484	6 190
Latvia	55	55	35	35	50	50	30	30	55	55	100	25	0	80	-4	28	170
Lithuania	140	145	110	120	40	50	90	95	140	145	97	50	0	54	1	51	385
Luxembourg	535	565	585	605	445	465	425	455	660	690	96	235	125	56	23	1 093	2 115
Hungary	720	745	660	665	280	290	145	160	105	105	100	-40	-610	-28	-85	11	1 195
Malta	425	475	395	445	395	410	425	475	545	560	97	125	125	29	29	1 150	1 760
Netherlands	4 350	4 930	3 945	4 500	4 205	4 860	4 355	5 030	6 215	7 405	84	1 860	1 865	43	43	362	18 720
Austria	6 215	6 720	4 855	5 335	3 420	3 980	2 645	3 105	2 765	3 310	84	125	-3 450	5	-55	314	13 690
Poland	820	1 180	485	890	585	1 045	780	1 065	760	970	78	-20	-60	-3	-7	20	2 605
Portugal	235	315	270	315	245	270	215	220	375	395	95	160	140	76	60	36	1 100
Romania	1 845	1 875	900	945	355	415	450	480	570	635	90	120	-1 275	27	-69	29	2 275
Slovenia	415	420	435	455	510	525	895	905	905	925	98	5	490	1	118	437	2 745
Slovakia	20	25	45	50	45	50	45	55	30	30	100	-15	10	-37	38	5	165
Finland	1 140	1 365	925	1 135	765	1 000	710	900	770	1 235	62	60	-370	8	-32	140	3 170
Sweden	7 255	8 135	5 815	6 780	4 425	5 485	4 000	4 870	4 845	5 645	86	845	-2 410	21	-33	479	19 085
United Kingdom	8 455	8 570	9 175	9 285	8 575	8 675	8 345	8 435	9 585	9 710	99	1 245	1 130	15	13	145	35 680
Iceland	380	385	200	210	130	135	160	180	190	200	99	30	-185	19	-49	551	685
Liechtenstein	20	20	30	30	50	60	45	55	35	35	100	-10	15	-26	94	918	160
Norway	650	685	445	490	435	690	645	840	925	950	97	280	270	43	42	174	2 450
Switzerland	4 400	4 770	3 760	4 150	3 615	4 020	3 310	3 740	3 230	3 650	88	-85	-1 175	-3	-27	381	13 915

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

(1) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2018

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Table 2: Asylum applicants, Q2 2017 – Q2 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Trends in the number of asylum applicants varied from country to country in the third quarter of 2018 compared with the same quarter of 2017 (Table 2). Italy (with 23 500 fewer applicants) was the country with the largest absolute decrease in the number of first-time applicants, followed by Germany (8 600 fewer applicants). In contrast, in France the number of asylum seekers has increased by 4 900 and in Spain by 4 000 in the third quarter of 2018 compared with the same quarter of 2017.

In relative terms, Hungary (85 % less), Italy and Romania (about 70 % less each) recorded the largest relative decreases of first-time asylum seekers. Among the countries with more than 10 000 applicants in the third quarter of 2018, only Germany recorded a relative decrease (17 % less) in the third quarter of 2018 compared with the same quarter of 2017. In contrast, Slovenia has recorded the largest relative increase of first-time asylum seekers (118 % more) in the third quarter of 2018 compared with the same quarter of 2017 (Figure 3).

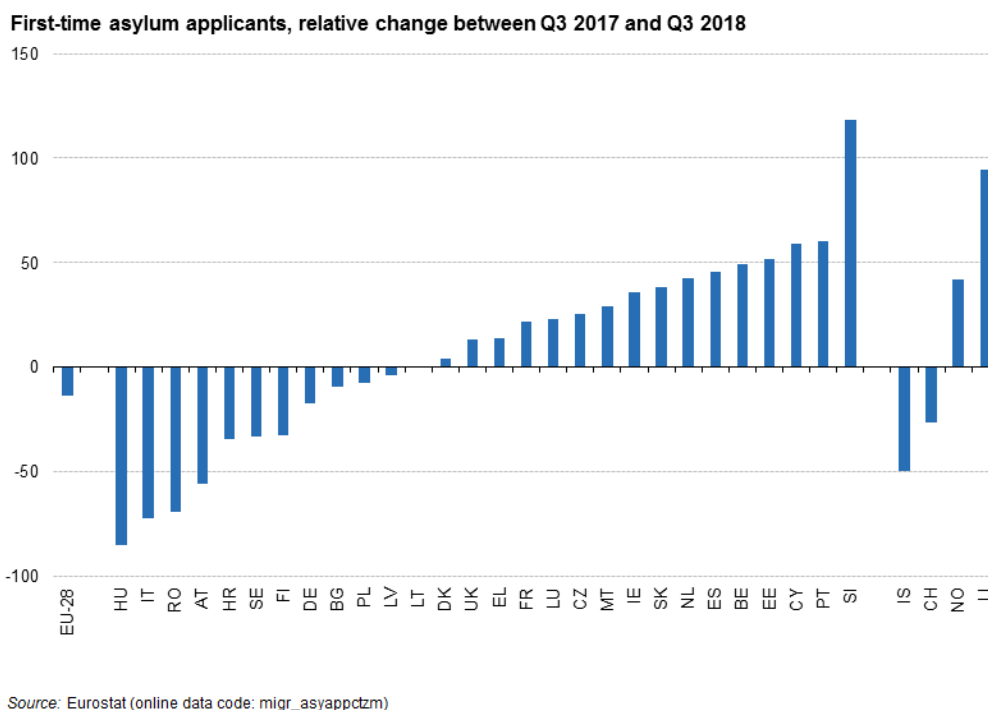


Figure 3: First-time asylum applicants, relative change between Q3 2017 and Q3 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm), see country codes

Syrian was the main citizenship of asylum seekers in seven EU Member States (Table 3). Of the 21 200 Syrians who applied for the first time for asylum in the EU in the third quarter of 2018, 56 % were registered in Germany (11 800) and 12 % in Greece (2 600). 28 % of Afghans (3 100) applied for asylum in Greece and 42 % of Iraqis (4 200) in Germany (Table 4).

Five main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants, 3rd quarter 2018

		EU-28		# (%)	
		Syria	21 195	14	
		Afghanistan	11 205	8	
		Iraq	10 045	7	
		Turkey	7 440	5	
		Iran	6 645	5	
		Other	90 335	62	
BELGIUM		# (%)			
		Syria	845	15	
		Palestine	775	14	
		Afghanistan	400	7	
		Iraq	365	7	
		Turkey	355	6	
		Other	2 825	51	
DENMARK		# (%)			
		Syria	200	21	
		Georgia	140	15	
		Eritrea	130	14	
		Iran	75	8	
		Stateless	50	5	
		Other	365	38	
IRELAND		# (%)			
		Albania	120	12	
		Georgia	115	12	
		Zimbabwe	90	9	
		Pakistan	85	9	
		Nigeria	65	7	
		Other	515	52	
FRANCE		# (%)			
		Afghanistan	2 950	11	
		Albania	1 835	7	
		Guinea	1 660	6	
		Sudan	1 540	6	
		Georgia	1 425	5	
		Other	17 795	65	
CYPRUS		# (%)			
		Syria	610	28	
		India	235	11	
		Bangladesh	175	8	
		Iraq	160	7	
		Pakistan	140	7	
		Other	830	39	
LUXEMBOURG		# (%)			
		Eritrea	170	26	
		Syria	65	10	
		Afghanistan	60	9	
		Iraq	55	8	
		Georgia	40	6	
		Other	265	40	
NETHERLANDS		# (%)			
		Syria	965	16	
		Iran	685	11	
		Turkey	460	7	
		Eritrea	350	6	
		Albania	345	6	
		Other	3 405	55	
PORTUGAL		# (%)			
		Angola	65	18	
		CD	40	11	
		Ukraine	35	9	
		Guinea	25	7	
		Pakistan	20	5	
		Other	185	50	
SLOVAKIA		# (%)			
		Afghanistan	15	50	
		Iraq	5	17	
		Azerbaijan	5	17	
		Other	5	17	
UNITED KINGDOM		# (%)			
		Iran	1 075	11	
		Iraq	900	9	
		Eritrea	645	7	
		Albania	635	7	
		Pakistan	625	7	
		Other	5 705	60	
LIECHTENSTEIN		# (%)			
		Belarus	10	25	
		Somalia	5	13	
		Georgia	5	13	
		Afghanistan	5	13	
		China	5	13	
		Other	10	25	
BULGARIA		# (%)			
		Afghanistan	340	43	
		Iraq	295	37	
		Syria	90	11	
		Pakistan	40	5	
		Iran	10	1	
		Other	25	3	
GERMANY		# (%)			
		Syria	11 830	28	
		Iraq	4 210	10	
		Turkey	3 455	8	
		Iran	3 090	7	
		Afghanistan	2 560	6	
		Other	16 825	40	
GREECE		# (%)			
		Afghanistan	3 120	19	
		Syria	2 575	15	
		Iraq	1 990	12	
		Pakistan	1 975	12	
		Turkey	1 940	12	
		Other	5 070	30	
CROATIA		# (%)			
		Iran	50	27	
		Afghanistan	45	24	
		Algeria	25	14	
		Iraq	15	8	
		Syria	15	8	
		Other	35	19	
LATVIA		# (%)			
		Iraq	15	25	
		Russia	15	25	
		Vietnam	5	8	
		Egypt	5	8	
		Syria	5	8	
		Other	15	25	
HUNGARY		# (%)			
		Iraq	45	41	
		Afghanistan	40	36	
		Iran	5	5	
		Ethiopia	5	5	
		Pakistan	5	5	
		Other	10	9	
AUSTRIA		# (%)			
		Syria	755	27	
		Afghanistan	400	14	
		Iran	330	12	
		Russia	185	7	
		Iraq	155	6	
		Other	940	34	
ROMANIA		# (%)			
		Iraq	325	57	
		Syria	90	16	
		Bangladesh	35	6	
		India	25	4	
		Iran	20	4	
		Other	75	13	
FINLAND		# (%)			
		Turkey	140	18	
		Russia	135	18	
		Iran	80	10	
		Iraq	60	8	
		Syria	30	4	
		Other	325	42	
CZECHIA		# (%)			
		Ukraine	70	20	
		Cuba	55	15	
		Georgia	35	10	
		Vietnam	25	7	
		Uzbekistan	25	7	
		Other	145	41	
ESTONIA		# (%)			
		Egypt	10	22	
		Ukraine	5	11	
		Russia	5	11	
		Bangladesh	5	11	
		Pakistan	5	11	
		Other	15	33	
SPAIN		# (%)			
		Venezuela	3 755	30	
		Colombia	2 025	16	
		Syria	1 015	8	
		Palestine	665	5	
		Honduras	565	4	
		Other	4 645	37	
ITALY		# (%)			
		Pakistan	1 550	17	
		Nigeria	735	8	
		Bangladesh	615	7	
		Ukraine	480	5	
		El Salvador	460	5	
		Other	5 130	57	
LITHUANIA		# (%)			
		Iraq	35	24	
		Tajikistan	30	21	
		Afghanistan	20	14	
		Russia	20	14	
		Turkey	10	7	
		Other	30	21	
MALTA		# (%)			
		Bangladesh	110	20	
		Syria	110	20	
		Libya	85	16	
		Somalia	65	12	
		Sudan	40	7	
		Other	135	25	
POLAND		# (%)			
		Russia	470	62	
		Ukraine	90	12	
		Tajikistan	40	5	
		Iraq	20	3	
		Egypt	15	2	
		Other	120	16	
SLOVENIA		# (%)			
		Pakistan	290	32	
		Afghanistan	200	22	
		Algeria	75	8	
		Iran	60	7	
		Syria	55	6	
		Other	225	25	
SWEDEN		# (%)			
		Syria	805	17	
		Iran	325	7	
		Iraq	320	7	
		Stateless	225	5	
		Eritrea	165	3	
		Other	3 005	62	
ICELAND		# (%)			
		Albania	20	11	
		Iraq	20	11	
		Syria	20	11	
		Afghanistan	20	11	
		Somalia	15	8	
		Other	95	50	
SWITZERLAND		# (%)			
		Eritrea	550	17	
		Syria	310	10	
		Afghanistan	305	9	
		Turkey	305	9	
		Iran	180	6	
		Other	1 580	49	

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q3 2018 in the EU-28

Absolute number of asylum applications

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

CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Table 3: Five main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants, 3rd quarter 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Thirty main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 28, 3rd quarter 2018

			NON-EU		# (%)			
			Germany	41 970	29			
			France	27 210	19			
			Greece	16 670	11			
			Spain	12 670	9			
			United Kingdom	9 585	7			
			Other	38 755	26			
SYRIA - (SY)			AFGHANISTAN - (AF)		IRAQ - (IQ)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)	#	(%)	
Germany	11 830	56	Greece	3 120	28	Germany	4 210	42
Greece	2 575	12	France	2 950	26	Greece	1 990	20
Spain	1 015	5	Germany	2 560	23	United Kingdom	900	9
Netherlands	965	5	United Kingdom	585	5	France	560	6
Belgium	845	4	Austria	400	4	Belgium	365	4
Other	3 965	19	Other	1 595	14	Other	2 015	20
TURKEY - (TR)			IRAN - (IR)		PAKISTAN - (PK)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
Germany	3 455	46	Germany	3 090	47	Greece	1 975	32
Greece	1 940	26	United Kingdom	1 075	16	Italy	1 550	25
Netherlands	460	6	Netherlands	685	10	United Kingdom	625	10
France	415	6	Greece	375	6	France	570	9
Belgium	355	5	Austria	330	5	Germany	520	8
Other	810	11	Other	1 090	16	Other	995	16
NIGERIA - (NG)			ALBANIA - (AL)		VENEZUELA - (VE)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
Germany	2 400	50	France	1 835	38	Spain	3 755	85
France	765	16	Greece	830	17	Italy	240	5
Italy	735	15	United Kingdom	635	13	France	130	3
United Kingdom	295	6	Germany	455	9	Germany	95	2
Netherlands	155	3	Netherlands	345	7	Belgium	80	2
Other	475	10	Other	695	14	Other	130	3
GEORGIA			ERITREA - (ER)		RUSSIA - (RU)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	1 425	38	Germany	1 075	30	Germany	1 180	36
Germany	530	14	United Kingdom	645	18	France	620	19
Greece	390	11	France	460	13	Poland	470	14
Italy	275	7	Netherlands	350	10	Austria	185	6
Spain	200	5	Belgium	245	7	Belgium	140	4
Other	900	24	Other	755	21	Other	665	20
GUINEA - (GN)			SOMALIA - (SO)		SUDAN - (SD)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	1 660	52	Germany	1 245	41	France	1 540	55
Germany	675	21	France	720	24	United Kingdom	540	19
Belgium	305	10	Greece	290	10	Germany	205	7
Italy	195	6	Austria	130	4	Netherlands	120	4
Spain	160	5	Sweden	130	4	Belgium	85	3
Other	190	6	Other	505	17	Other	300	11
BANGLADESH - (BD)			COLOMBIA - (CO)		PALESTINE - (PS)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	805	29	Spain	2 025	85	Belgium	775	36
Italy	615	22	Italy	120	5	Spain	665	31
Greece	405	15	Sweden	65	3	Greece	395	18
United Kingdom	335	12	France	65	3	Sweden	95	4
Cyprus	175	6	Belgium	35	1	France	75	3
Other	400	15	Other	60	3	Other	175	8
ALGERIA - (DZ)			UKRAINE - (UA)		MOROCCO - (MA)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	610	29	Italy	480	23	Spain	470	25
Netherlands	335	16	Spain	430	21	Italy	375	20
Spain	325	15	Germany	295	14	Germany	270	14
Germany	280	13	France	200	10	Netherlands	255	13
Greece	195	9	Netherlands	115	6	France	170	9
Other	360	17	Other	570	27	Other	370	19
IVORY COAST - (CI)			CD - (CD)		CHINA - (CN)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
France	1 245	65	France	875	53	France	710	40
Italy	255	13	Greece	450	27	United Kingdom	320	18
Germany	190	10	Belgium	105	6	Germany	150	8
Spain	105	6	Germany	55	3	Greece	120	7
Belgium	45	2	Portugal	40	2	Italy	90	5
Other	65	3	Other	130	8	Other	400	22
INDIA - (IN)			CAMEROON - (CM)		ARMENIA - (AM)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
United Kingdom	410	30	Greece	360	27	France	655	51
Cyprus	235	17	France	255	19	Germany	380	30
Germany	230	17	Germany	230	18	Spain	65	5
Italy	190	14	Belgium	100	8	Italy	30	2
France	70	5	Cyprus	90	7	Belgium	30	2
Other	225	17	Other	275	21	Other	125	10
EGYPT - (EG)			MALI - (ML)		LIBYA - (LY)			
	#	(%)		#	(%)		#	(%)
Greece	245	16	France	630	55	United Kingdom	260	24
Germany	185	12	Italy	265	23	France	220	20
Italy	140	9	Spain	140	12	Germany	205	19
France	125	8	Germany	60	5	Netherlands	105	10
Cyprus	110	7	Belgium	15	1	Malta	85	8
Other	730	48	Other	45	4	Other	225	20

Citizenships selected here are those with the highest number of asylum applicants registered during Q3 2018 in the EU-28

Absolute number of asylum applications

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

CD - Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctzm)

Table 4: Thirty main citizenships of first-time asylum applicants by destination country in the EU 28, 3rd quarter 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm)

Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rate of registered first-time applicants during the third quarter of 2018 was recorded in Cyprus (2 484 first-time applicants per million population) and Greece (1 552), followed by Malta (1 150) and Luxembourg (1 093). In contrast, the lowest rates were observed in Slovakia (5 applicants per million population), Hungary (11) and Poland (20). In the third quarter 2018, there were in total 286 first-time asylum applicants per million population in the EU as a whole (Table 2).

Decisions on asylum applications

During the third quarter of 2018, 133 200 first instance decisions² were made by the national authorities of EU Member States. Among them, 37 % were positive (i.e. granting a type of protection status) (Table 5).

First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 3rd quarter 2018

	Total decisions	Of which					Rate of recognition, %	
		Positive	of which			Rejected	Total	Refugee and subsidiary protection status
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons			
EU-28	133 190	49 065	28 250	13 600	7 215	84 125	37	31
Belgium	3 740	1 740	1 405	335	-	2 000	47	47
Bulgaria	535	175	65	110	-	360	33	33
Czechia	320	25	5	25	0	295	8	8
Denmark	670	340	200	25	115	330	51	33
Germany	37 615	16 185	9 320	5 255	1 615	21 430	43	39
Estonia	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Ireland	180	120	50	15	50	12	66	38
Greece	8 605	3 950	3 210	740	0	4 660	46	46
Spain	3 400	630	165	465	0	2 770	19	19
France	27 535	7 850	5 155	2 695	-	19 685	29	29
Croatia	95	40	35	5	0	55	42	42
Italy	24 390	7 270	1 630	960	4 680	17 120	30	11
Cyprus	800	540	105	435	0	260	67	67
Latvia	30	5	5	0	-	25	14	14
Lithuania	65	30	20	10	0	35	48	48
Luxembourg	365	245	235	10	-	120	67	67
Hungary	155	25	10	15	0	130	17	17
Malta	370	135	40	95	5	235	37	36
Netherlands	2 345	940	480	365	100	1 400	40	36
Austria	7 325	3 450	2 555	690	205	3 875	47	44
Poland	805	90	30	55	5	715	11	11
Portugal	175	55	0	55	-	120	30	30
Romania	275	125	45	80	0	150	46	46
Slovenia	50	40	40	0	-	10	76	76
Slovakia	15	5	0	5	0	10	38	23
Finland	1 145	645	465	105	75	505	56	50
Sweden	5 305	1 795	950	720	125	3 510	34	31
United Kingdom	6 865	2 615	2 045	335	235	4 250	38	35
Iceland	100	30	25	5	0	70	31	31
Liechtenstein	15	0	0	0	0	15	7	7
Norway	415	260	240	10	10	155	63	60
Switzerland	4 350	3 895	1 540	305	2 050	455	90	42

- 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_asydqstq)

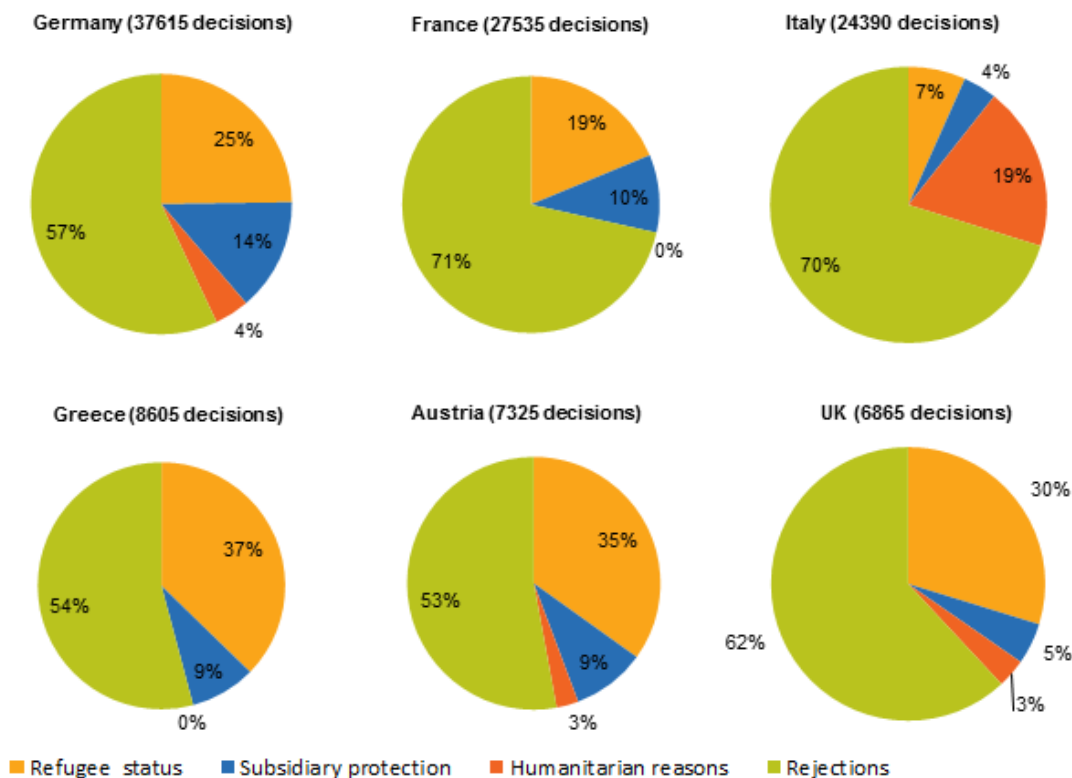
eurostat 

Table 5: First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 3rd quarter 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydqstq)

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

Germany issued by far the most total first instance decisions³during the third quarter of 2018 (37 600 decisions), followed by France (27 500), Italy (24 400), Greece (8 600), Austria (7 300) and United Kingdom (6 900) (Figure 4). For more detailed information about the distribution of decisions outcomes please refer to Table 6.

First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 3rd quarter 2018



Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q3 2018

Humanitarian reasons not applicable for France

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Figure 4: First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States, 3rd quarter 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

³Total decisions equal to positive decisions plus negative decisions.

First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 3rd quarter 2018

First instance decisions							
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections				
GERMANY (37 615 decisions)							
Syria	4 755	Syria	4 000	Afghanistan	660	Iraq	2 300
Iraq	1 055	Eritrea	450	Iraq	250	Syria	1 645
Turkey	645	Afghanistan	160	Somalia	130	Afghanistan	1 620
Other	2 865	Other	640	Other	575	Other	15 865
ITALY (24 390 decisions)							
Nigeria	365	Mali	130	Nigeria	730	Nigeria	4 170
Somalia	135	Iraq	130	Bangladesh	520	Bangladesh	1 790
Pakistan	135	Somalia	125	Gambia	495	Pakistan	1 690
Other	1 000	Other	570	Other	2 940	Other	9 470
AUSTRIA (7 325 decisions)							
Syria	1 065	Afghanistan	320	Afghanistan	80	Afghanistan	1 255
Afghanistan	505	Iraq	110	Russia	30	Iraq	705
Iran	330	Syria	110	Iraq	25	Iran	475
Other	665	Other	150	Other	75	Other	1 440
OTHER (42 280 decisions)							
Syria	910	Syria	1 770	Syria	110	Iraq	3 680
Afghanistan	475	Afghanistan	390	Iraq	55	Afghanistan	2 990
Iraq	470	Iraq	170	Turkey	55	Syria	1 980
Other	2 485	Other	600	Other	255	Other	25 885
FRANCE (27 535 decisions)							
Sudan	630	Afghanistan	980	-	-	Albania	1 895
CD	345	Syria	330	-	-	Georgia	1 430
Eritrea	315	Albania	230	-	-	Guinea	935
Other	3 865	Other	1 160	-	-	Other	15 430
GREECE (8 605 decisions)							
Syria	1 575	Iraq	400	-	-	Pakistan	1 670
Iraq	595	Afghanistan	260	-	-	Albania	790
Afghanistan	420	Yemen	25	-	-	Iraq	490
Other	620	Other	55	-	-	Other	1 710
UNITED KINGDOM (6 865 decisions)							
Iran	325	Libya	260	Iraq	45	Iraq	560
Eritrea	195	Iraq	15	Nigeria	30	Pakistan	390
Afghanistan	185	Afghanistan	10	Afghanistan	25	Iran	325
Other	1 340	Other	50	Other	135	Other	2 975
EU-28 (133 190 decisions)							
Syria	8 820	Syria	6 205	Nigeria	905	Nigeria	7 015
Iraq	2 710	Afghanistan	2 245	Afghanistan	815	Iraq	5 625
Afghanistan	2 220	Iraq	965	Bangladesh	530	Pakistan	5 580
Other	14 505	Other	4 185	Other	4 965	Other	65 905

Member States selected here are those reporting the highest number of first instance decisions issued during Q3 2018
 Humanitarian reasons are not applicable for FR
 CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Table 6: First instance decisions by citizenship and outcome, selected Member States, 3rd quarter 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

Most first instance decisions in the EU-28 were issued to Syrians (17 600), followed by Afghans (10 800) and Iraqis (9 700) (Table 7, Figure 5).

Syrians received the highest number of decisions granting protection status in the EU Member States, including protection based on national legislations (15 185 positive first instance decisions, or 87 % rate of recognition⁴), followed by Afghans (5 280, or 49 %). In contrast, of the 1 365 first instance decisions issued to citizens of Serbia only 90 were positive (or 7 % rate of recognition), and of the 1 515 issued to Algerians only 105 were positive (or 7 % rate of recognition); a recognition rate of 7 % was also observed for citizens of Georgia (of the 2 965 first instance decisions issued 200 were positive) (Table 7).

For more detailed information by decisions outcomes please refer to Table 8.

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

First instance decisions by outcome and recognition rates, 30 main citizenships of asylum applicants granted decisions in the EU-28, 3rd quarter 2018

	Total decisions	Of which					Rate of recognition, %	
		Positive	of which			Rejected	Total	of which Refugee and subsidiary protection status
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons			
Non-EU	133 190	49 065	28 250	13 600	7 215	84 125	37	31
Syria - (SY)	17 550	15 185	8 820	6 205	160	2 365	87	86
Afghanistan - (AF)	10 770	5 280	2 220	2 245	815	5 490	49	41
Iraq - (IQ)	9 725	4 100	2 710	965	425	5 625	42	38
Nigeria - (NG)	8 545	1 530	555	70	905	7 015	18	7
Pakistan - (PK)	6 510	935	380	200	350	5 580	14	9
Albania - (AL)	4 540	395	105	230	60	4 145	9	7
Iran - (IR)	4 350	1 735	1 585	80	75	2 615	40	38
Bangladesh - (BD)	4 105	730	145	55	530	3 375	18	5
Guinea - (GN)	3 330	840	460	70	310	2 485	25	16
Russia - (RU)	3 250	800	620	110	70	2 450	25	22
Turkey - (TR)	3 210	1 435	1 305	30	100	1 780	45	42
Somalia - (SO)	3 120	1 490	830	510	145	1 635	48	43
Ivory Coast - (CI)	3 045	650	300	70	280	2 395	21	12
Georgia - (GE)	2 965	200	60	60	80	2 765	7	4
Ukraine - (UA)	2 730	315	80	85	150	2 415	12	6
Eritrea - (ER)	2 620	2 085	1 470	540	80	535	80	77
Gambia - (GM)	2 365	600	75	5	515	1 765	25	4
Mali - (ML)	2 340	600	165	135	295	1 745	26	13
Senegal - (SN)	2 290	415	80	10	330	1 870	18	4
Sudan - (SD)	1 860	1 110	895	200	15	755	60	59
CD - (CD)	1 725	550	465	60	25	1 175	32	30
Algeria - (DZ)	1 515	105	55	40	10	1 410	7	6
Serbia - (RS)	1 365	90	70	10	10	1 275	7	6
Morocco - (MA)	1 320	170	65	20	90	1 150	13	6
Ghana - (GH)	1 270	250	25	5	220	1 020	20	2
Armenia - (AM)	1 195	135	50	50	35	1 060	11	8
China - (CN)	1 180	470	460	0	10	710	40	39
Cameroon - (CM)	1 080	310	185	35	90	770	29	20
Kosovo - (XK)	1 070	215	100	105	10	855	20	20
Sri Lanka - (LK)	1 025	310	240	40	30	710	30	28
Other non-EU	21 220	6 025	3 675	1 350	1 000	15 195	28	24

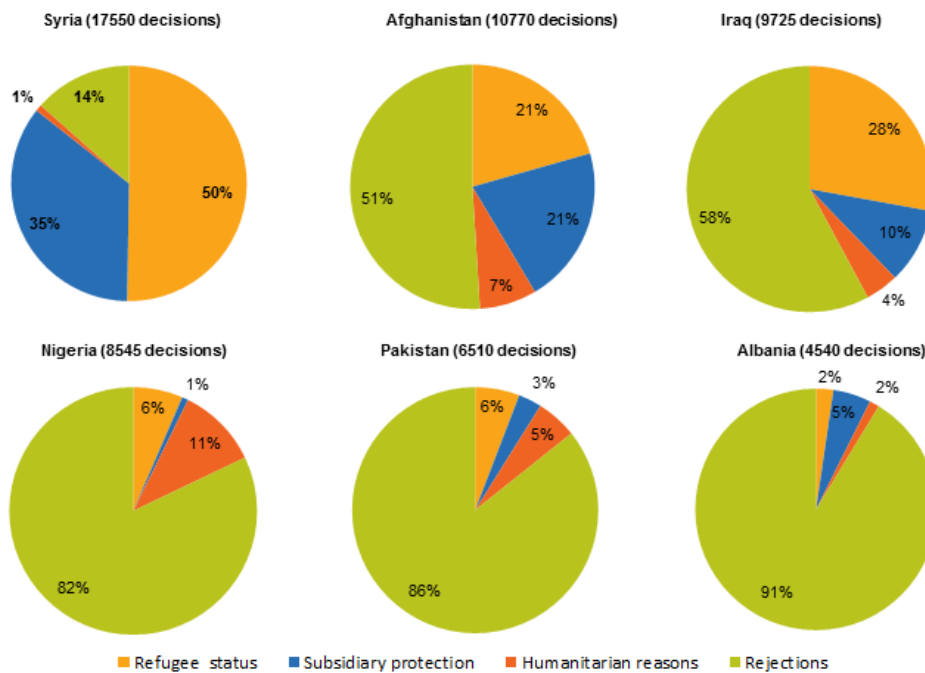
Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q3 2018. Rate of recognition is the share of (first instance) positive decisions in the total number of decisions at first instance. In this calculation, the exact number of decisions has been 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; Kosovo – see methodological notes

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-28, 3rd quarter 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

First instance decisions in the EU-28 by outcome, selected citizenships, 3rd quarter 2018



Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q3 2018

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Figure 5: First instance decisions in the EU-28 by outcome, selected citizenships, 3rd quarter 2018 - Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfstq)

First instance decisions by destination country and outcome in the EU-28, selected citizenships of asylum applicants, 3rd quarter 2018

First instance decisions			
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections
SYRIA - SY (17 550 decisions)			
Germany	4 755	Germany	4 000
Greece	1 575	Sweden	520
Austria	1 065	Cyprus	410
Other	1 425	Other	1 275
IRAQ - IQ (9 725 decisions)			
Germany	1 055	Greece	400
Greece	595	Italy	130
Finland	225	Germany	120
Other	830	Other	315
PAKISTAN - PK (6 510 decisions)			
Italy	135	Italy	170
UK	120	France	15
Greece	35	Greece	5
Other	95	Other	30
OTHER (75 545 decisions)			
France	4 385	France	1 115
Germany	2 950	Germany	940
UK	1 440	Italy	505
Other	4 685	Other	1 120

First instance decisions			
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections
AFGHANISTAN - AF (10 770 decisions)			
Austria	505	France	980
Germany	425	Austria	320
Greece	420	Greece	260
Other	870	Other	685
NIGERIA - NG (8 545 decisions)			
Italy	365	Germany	30
Germany	95	Italy	20
France	45	France	15
Other	55	Other	5
ALBANIA - AL (4 540 decisions)			
France	70	France	230
Belgium	15	Germany	0
Italy	10	Italy	0
Other	10	Other	0
NON-EU (133 190 decisions)			
Germany	9 320	Germany	5 255
France	5 155	France	2 695
Greece	3 210	Italy	960
Other	10 570	Other	4 690

Citizenships selected here are those for which the highest number of first instance decisions was issued during Q3 2018

Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asydcfstq)



Table 8: First instance decisions by destination country and outcome in the EU-28, selected citizenships of asylum applicants, 3rd quarter 2018 - Source: Eurostat (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), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), the United Kingdom (UK), Iceland (IS), Lichtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

Context

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

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

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

- the [Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU](#) on standards for the qualification of non-EU nationals and stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection;
- the [Asylum Procedures Directive 2013/32/EU](#) on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection;
- the [Reception Conditions Directive 2013/33/EU](#) laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection;
- the [Dublin Regulation \(EU\) No 604/2013](#) establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or stateless person.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other articles

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

Publications

- [All publications on asylum and managed migration](#)
- [All publications on migrant integration](#)

Main tables

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

[Asylum and new asylum applicants - monthly data \(tps00189\)](#)

[Persons subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month - monthly data \(tps00190\)](#)

[Asylum and new asylum applicants - annual aggregated data \(tps00191\)](#)

[First instance decisions on applications by type of decision - annual aggregated data \(tps00192\)](#)

[Final decisions on applications - annual data \(tps00193\)](#)

[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_asytpenctzm)
- 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_asywitfsta)
 - Decisions withdrawing status granted at first instance decision by type of status withdrawn and by citizenship Quarterly data (rounded) (migr_asywitfstq)
 - 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)

External links

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