

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | DECEMBER 2025

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

LITHUANIA 2024

KEY POINTS

- In 2024, Lithuania restructured key institutions, effective from 2025, establishing the new Reception and Integration Agency to take over third-country nationals' reception from the State Border Guard Service, merging the Personal Document Issuance Centre into the Migration Department, and transferring human trafficking monitoring from the Ministry of the Interior to the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office to enhance oversight and efficiency.
- Lithuania tightened labor migration rules, capping the foreign worker quota at 1.4 % of the population and enforcing stricter controls to prevent abuse. Employers and third-country nationals now face tougher tax compliance, licensing, and business activity requirements, with residence permits subject to revocation for non-compliance. Additional measures included higher salary thresholds, restrictions on job changes, harsher penalties for undeclared work, expanded inspections, and the extension of the Transparent Worker Identification Code in construction, ensuring greater oversight and accountability.
- The restrictive measures on Russian and Belarusian nationals were extended to 2025, with new controls introduced in response to security concerns and the war in Ukraine. Aimed at tightening migration across the Belarusian border, these included enhanced risk assessments, border closures, restrictions on passenger transport, and a cap on permits for Belarusian and Russian carriers.



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

The [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#), adopted on 30 May 2024, and effective from 1

January 2025, established a new government-appointed reception institution responsible for providing social, accommodation, and essential services to third-country nationals. To implement these changes, [the government designated the Reception and Integration Agency](#)

as the official institution, transforming the Refugee Reception Centre into an agency under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour to ensure efficient resource allocation and compliance with public administration regulations. These reforms aimed to create a unified and sustainable reception system, enhancing legal aid transparency and enabling law enforcement to focus on border protection.

On 9 October 2024, the [government approved](#) the **merger of the Personal Document Issuance Centre (ADIC) with the Migration Department**, effective 1 April 2025, to optimise resources, enhance national security, and streamline the issuance and management of personal documents.

The **National Implementation Plan for the European Union Migration and Asylum Pact**, [approved on 10 December 2024](#), aligns Lithuania's migration policies with EU directives, enhances administrative capacity, and modernises information systems to ensure effective migration management and cooperation with EU agencies.



LEGAL MIGRATION

Effective from 1 January 2025, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) **eliminated the labour market test and the shortage occupation list while introducing a strict annual foreign worker quota** that may not exceed 1.4 % of Lithuania's permanent population. Once the quota is reached, residence permits for employment can only be issued to foreign nationals offered salaries above a specified threshold, prioritising highly skilled specialists. These changes aimed to regulate labour immigration, address workforce shortages while preventing low-wage replacement migration, and support Lithuania's transition to a high-value-added economy by attracting skilled talent. The [Minister of Social Security and Labour set the 2025 annual employment quota for third-country nationals at 24 830 workers, or 0.9 % of Lithuania's permanent population.](#)

Effective from 1 July, 2024, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) introduced **stricter requirements for issuing and renewing temporary residence permits for employment** in order to prevent employer abuse, enhance immigration control, and align labour immigration with Lithuania's economic and national security interests. Employers must now ensure full-time employment for foreign workers, verify their qualifications, or commit to paying at least the national average gross monthly wage, and comply with stricter regulatory requirements, including licensing obligations and business operation history. Foreign workers were restricted from changing employers within the first six months of their residence permit, except in cases of employer violations, and multi-employer contracts were limited to a maximum of four employers. Additionally, employers with administrative violations related to

foreign worker employment or migration procedures faced a six-month restriction on submitting hiring commitments.

Effective from 1 August 2024, a **EUR 50 state fee was introduced** for assessing employer commitments in mediation letters for third-country nationals seeking employment-based national visas or temporary residence permits (except lecturers and researchers) to encourage thorough candidate evaluation and reduce the administrative burden on the Migration Department.

Effective from 1 July 2024, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) revoked the right of foreign nationals working in shortage occupations within the quota to be employed during their short-term stay, discontinuing work permit issuance for such cases and ensuring that **employment was only permitted with a temporary residence permit** to prevent document misuse and enhance labour immigration control. Also on this date, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) introduced **new grounds for refusing, revoking, or not renewing temporary residence permits** for third-country nationals who fail to submit required tax declarations or provide false information in their residence applications. Additionally, those who do not comply with tax obligations may face entry bans of up to five years.

Effective from 1 January 2025, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) introduced **new grounds for refusing, revoking, or not renewing temporary residence permits**, including cases where temporary employment agencies were not registered or removed from the State Labour Inspectorate's list. Additional changes limit residence permits when employment quotas are exhausted or when employers have multiple foreign employees in prolonged non-insurable periods, aiming to prevent employment-based immigration abuses. Furthermore, [as of 1 July 2024](#), residence permits could be revoked if an employer lost the necessary licences for licensed activities, preventing foreign nationals from being employed under invalid business operations.

In 2024, Lithuania **strengthened measures against illegal and undeclared work** by increasing fines, expanding the use of the Transparent Worker Identification Code in construction, publishing violators' information, and enhancing enforcement through more inspections, additional inspectors, and an Inter-institutional Cooperation Centre to improve compliance and employer accountability.

Effective from 1 May 2024, [amendments to the Law on Investments](#) introduced a **special subcategory of large-scale projects** addressing urgent national security and defence needs, granting regulatory advantages, including simplified residence permit procedures. Further [amendments, effective from 1 July 2024](#), expanded the criteria for large-scale projects to include capital-intensive investments that created fewer but higher-paid jobs, aligning with Lithuania's strategy to transition to a high

value-added economy while ensuring rapid development of critical defence industries.

Lithuania introduced **stricter border control and migration measures** in response to security concerns related to Russia's war against Ukraine and the activities of Belarusian intelligence services. Key changes included [closing additional border crossings](#), restricting passenger transport from Belarus, and [extending national sanctions on Belarusian and Russian citizens](#) until May 2025.

Additionally, Belarusian travellers underwent [enhanced risk assessments](#) at Lithuania's borders, and [Russian citizens could no longer submit](#) temporary residence permit applications through external service providers.

Effective from 1 July 2024, [amendments to the Law on Health Insurance](#) expanded mandatory health insurance coverage to include spouses, registered partners, and minor family members of Lithuanian citizens, permanent residents, and certain employed foreign nationals with temporary residence permits. This change aimed to improve the integration of highly qualified foreign workers and their families by ensuring equal access to healthcare services.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Effective from 1 January 2025, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) **transfer the responsibility for state-guaranteed legal aid** for asylum seekers from the Minister of the Interior to the Minister of Social Security and Labour, in connection with the establishment of the Reception and Integration Agency.

Effective from 8 June 2024, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) **exempted asylum seekers from the work permit requirement** if they apply during a state of war, emergency, or mass influx and have been registered in Lithuania for 12 months, while also allowing those whose asylum decision was delayed beyond six months through no fault of their own to **engage in self-employment**.

Effective from 1 January 2025, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) granted asylum seekers **the right to material reception conditions** not only when residing in a temporary accommodation facility or being detained by the State Border Guard Service but also when living in a chosen place of residence.

Effective from 8 June 2024, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) introduced a **new ground for terminating the examination of an asylum application** if the asylum seeker left Lithuania without the Migration Department's permission. Also effective from this date, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) set a maximum detention period of six months for asylum seekers, extendable by an additional six months if there was a risk of absconding or a threat to national security or public order, while also **excluding the time spent in detention during asylum**

application review from the overall detention period for return or removal purposes.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND OTHER MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Effective from 28 August 2024, [Government Resolution No. 704](#) **extended temporary protection** in Lithuania until 4 March 2026.

Effective from 23 February 2024, an [amendment to the Government Resolution](#) **extended the exemption from state language proficiency requirements** for third-country nationals provided with temporary protection in Lithuania by one year, allowing them to work without this requirement for a total of three years from the moment they have been provided with temporary protection, to facilitate labour market integration and economic self-sufficiency.

Effective from 15 November 2024, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) **introduced a time limit on the right to free accommodation** for third-country nationals eligible for temporary protection, restricting it to a maximum of six months after their residence permit application is registered, after which they may remain in state or municipal housing only if they cover the costs. Also effective from this date, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) removed the exemption allowing third-country nationals provided with temporary protection to apply for housing rent compensation without **declaring their assets**, ensuring equal treatment under the Law on Support for the Acquisition or Rental of Housing

Effective from 8 Jun 2024, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) introduced a new obligation for third-country nationals eligible for or provided with temporary protection to **inform the Migration Department if they moved abroad**, ensuring timely revocation of temporary protection or termination of pending applications.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Effective from 1 January 2025, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) **transferred the responsibility for establishing procedures to assess asylum seekers' vulnerability** from the Minister of the Interior to the Minister of Social Security and Labour, consolidating reception-related functions within a single institution to ensure a uniform standard of care for vulnerable individuals. On 31 December 2024, the [Minister of Social Security and Labour approved](#) the **procedure for determining the vulnerability of foreign**

nationals, assigning the Reception and Integration Agency the responsibility for assessing the vulnerability of asylum seekers and specifying the reception conditions tailored to the special needs of vulnerable third-country nationals.

Effective from 1 January 2025, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) established a **unified procedure for determining the age of asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors**, regulated by a single legal act issued jointly by the Ministers of Social Security and Labour, the Interior, and Health.

INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

Effective from 12 April 2024, [Order No. A1-281](#) introduced **updates to the Developing the Integration System of Foreigners strategy**, revising support targets, enhancing data monitoring, expanding infrastructure investments for municipalities, and launching a communication campaign to strengthen social cohesion and regional engagement in integration efforts.

Effective from 20 June 2024, [Order No. A1-418](#) established the **framework for appointing integration coordinators in municipalities** to enhance the local-level integration of Lithuanian residents of foreign origin, defining their functions, qualifications, and monitoring procedures while promoting stakeholder collaboration and public awareness initiatives.

CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No developments to report in 2024.

SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN BORDER MANAGEMENT AND VISA POLICIES

On 18 November 2024, [Order No. 4-432](#) of the Head of the State Border Guard Service approved the Regulation on the Identification of Foreigners, setting **procedures for verifying the identity of foreigners** entering or present in Lithuania and defining the conditions for checking personal data in the Common Identity Repository in compliance with EU interoperability regulations.

Effective from 1 March 2024, [the Government closed](#) the Lavoriškės and Raigardas **border crossing points with Belarus**, prohibited pedestrian and cyclist crossings at Medininkai and Šalčininkai, restricted passenger boarding

at Kena, Kybartai, and Vilnius railway border points, and halved permits for regular international bus transport to enhance national security and border protection amid changing geopolitical conditions. The transportation of passengers on non-scheduled international routes by carriers using buses with more than nine seats was prohibited without a permit.

On 30 May 2024, an [amendment to Article 21 of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) allowed third-country nationals outside Lithuania to apply for a national visa through an external service provider, while those lawfully present in Lithuania may apply directly to the Migration Department.¹

Effective from 11 June 2024, in line with the European Commission's delegated regulation, the [Schengen visa application fee](#) was set at EUR 90 for adults and EUR 45 for children under the age of 12 years.

Effective from 4 November 2024, Order No. 4-407 of the Commander of the State Border Guard Service approved Lithuania's Action Plan to implement the recommendations from the 2023 Schengen acquis compliance evaluation.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Effective from 1 February 2025, [amendments to Article 292 of the Criminal Code](#) clarified penalties for the illegal transportation of third-country nationals across Lithuania's border, merging aggravating circumstances into a single provision with increased penalties of up to eight years of imprisonment to enhance legal clarity and enforcement.

On 1 February 2024, the **Interinstitutional Cooperation Centre** commenced its operations to enhance coordination among labour enforcement authorities in detecting and preventing illegal employment, undeclared work, and labour-related violations, utilising interagency data analysis to strengthen oversight and targeted enforcement actions.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Effective from 29 July 2024, [the Minister of the Interior approved the 2024–2026 Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking](#), introducing a more targeted, data-driven, and internationally coordinated approach that enhances institutional cooperation, strengthens victim protection, refines legislative measures, and increases oversight of high-risk groups and online recruitment to align with EU regulations and international recommendations. On 7 November 2024, the Seimas adopted amendments to the Law on the Seimas Ombudsmen (No. XIV-3081), establishing that, effective from 1 January 2025, the responsibility for monitoring

¹ Before the amendment, the law required third-country nationals to submit visa applications to a Lithuanian diplomatic mission or consular post abroad, or, in cases defined by the Minister of the Interior in coordination with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, at a border control post.

human trafficking in Lithuania will be transferred from the Ministry of the Interior to the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office. The Office will act as the National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, ensuring greater independence, transparency, and alignment with international obligations in evaluating and enhancing anti-trafficking measures.

RETURN AND READMISSION

Effective from 30 May 2024, [amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners](#) introduced **limitations**

on the right of third-country nationals to remain in Lithuania while their asylum applications are processed, allowing for the suspension of this right if a subsequent application lacks new essential grounds or if a previous application has been definitively rejected, to prevent misuse of asylum procedures and enforce removal decisions more efficiently.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No developments to report in 2024.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Lithuania on aspects of migration and international protection. It was prepared by Eurostat and it is organised in ten thematic sections, including legal residence, temporary protection, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.

The data presented in the annex regard third-country nationals, which means persons who are not EU citizens, including stateless persons. The data mostly cover the period from 2021 to 2024. Since 2024 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the period 2021-2023 is covered.

Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2025. The data were extracted between 6 to 10 June 2025. The manuscript was completed in June 2025. The Eurostat website is constantly being updated. Therefore, it is likely that fresher data will have become available since the data was extracted for the production of this publication. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the most recent data on [Eurostat's website](#).

For some indicators, data are rounded at the source. Due to this, in some cases, the sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value.

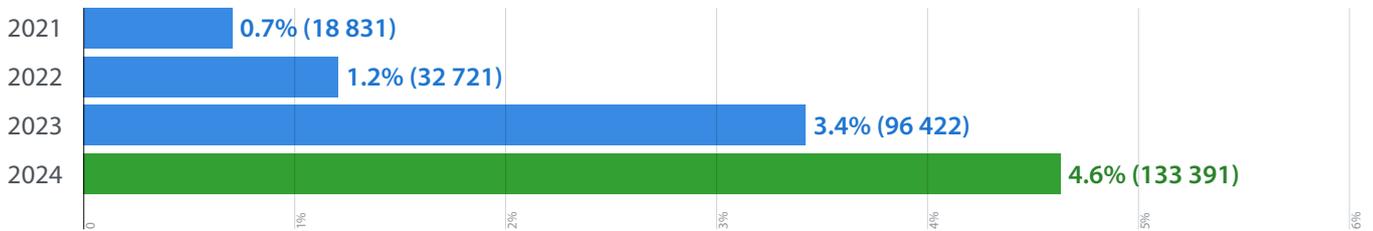
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2021–2024

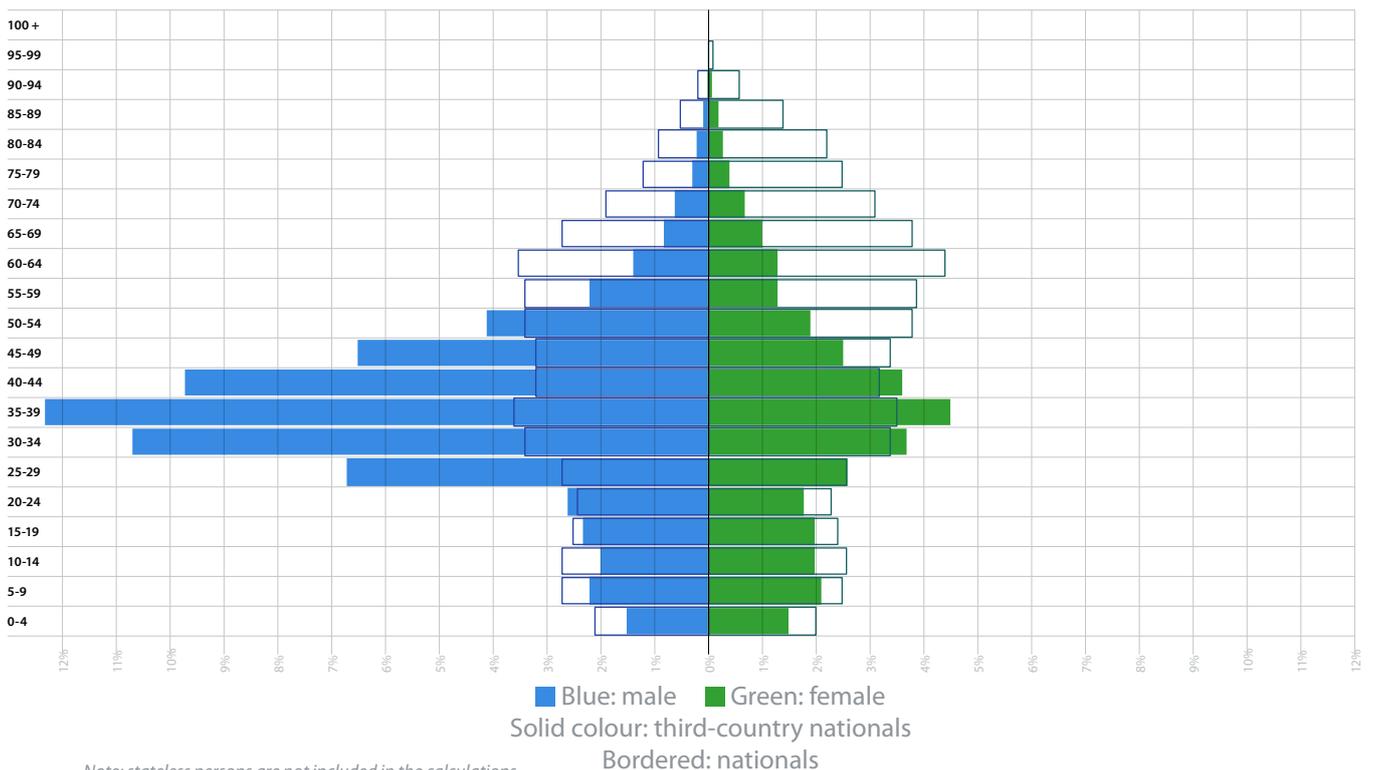
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2024

%

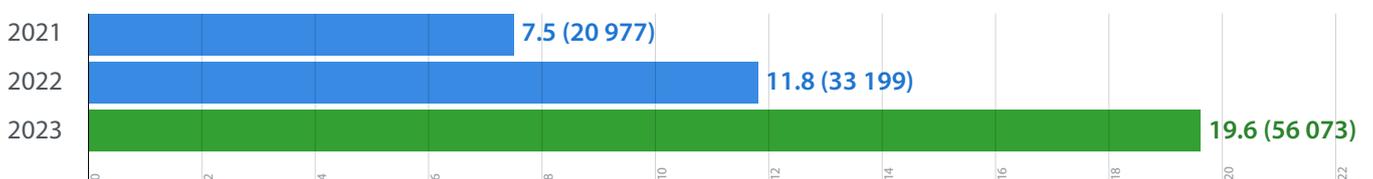


Note: stateless persons are not included in the calculations.

Source: Eurostat ([demo_poppctz](#))

First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2021–2023

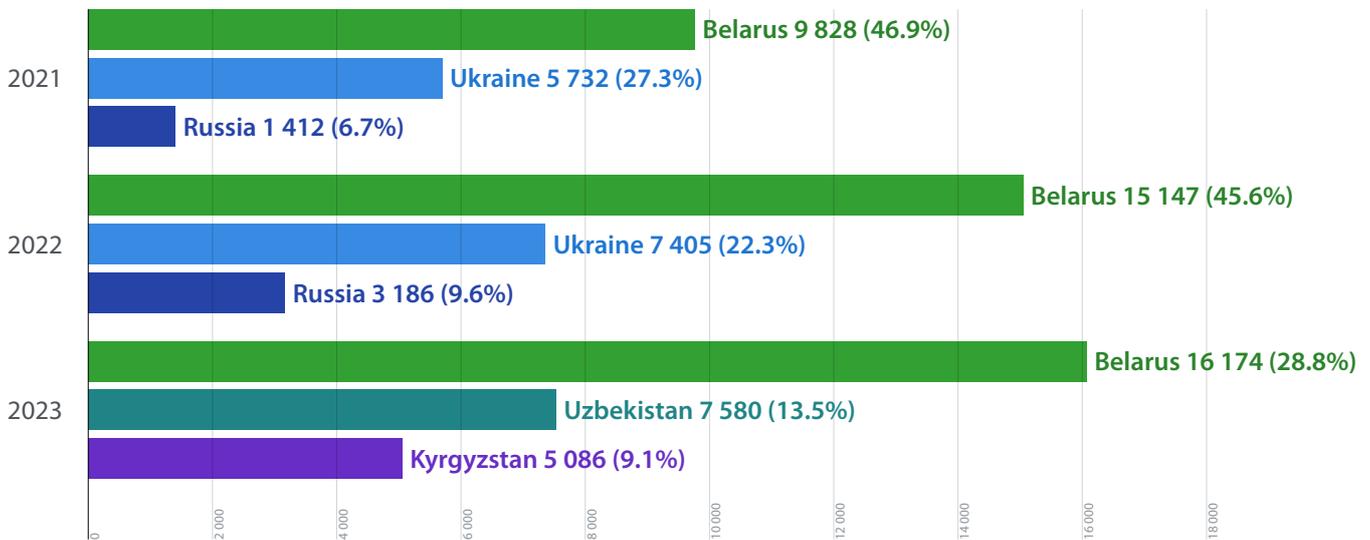
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [demo_gind](#) and [migr_respop](#))

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2021–2023

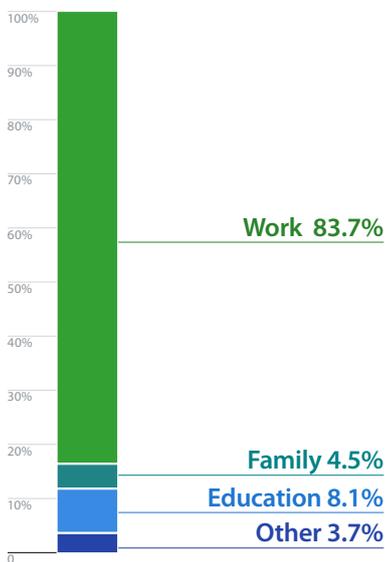
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



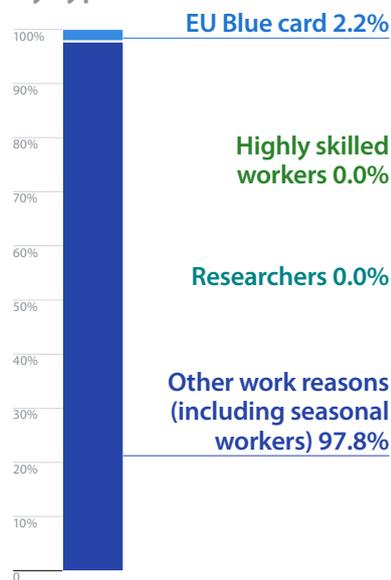
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#))

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2023

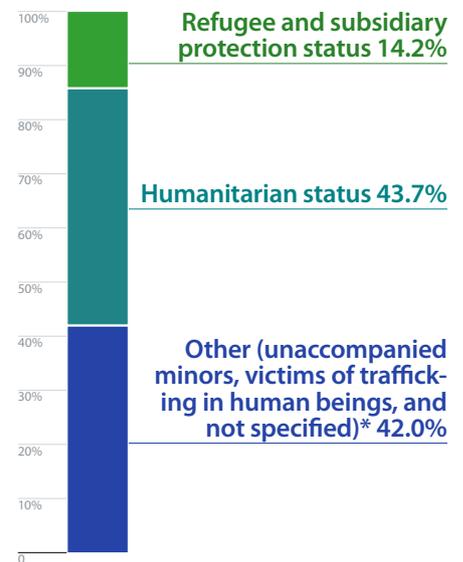
All permits, by reason



Work reason, by type



Other reason, by detailed reason



* The list of categories covered may differ from country to country.

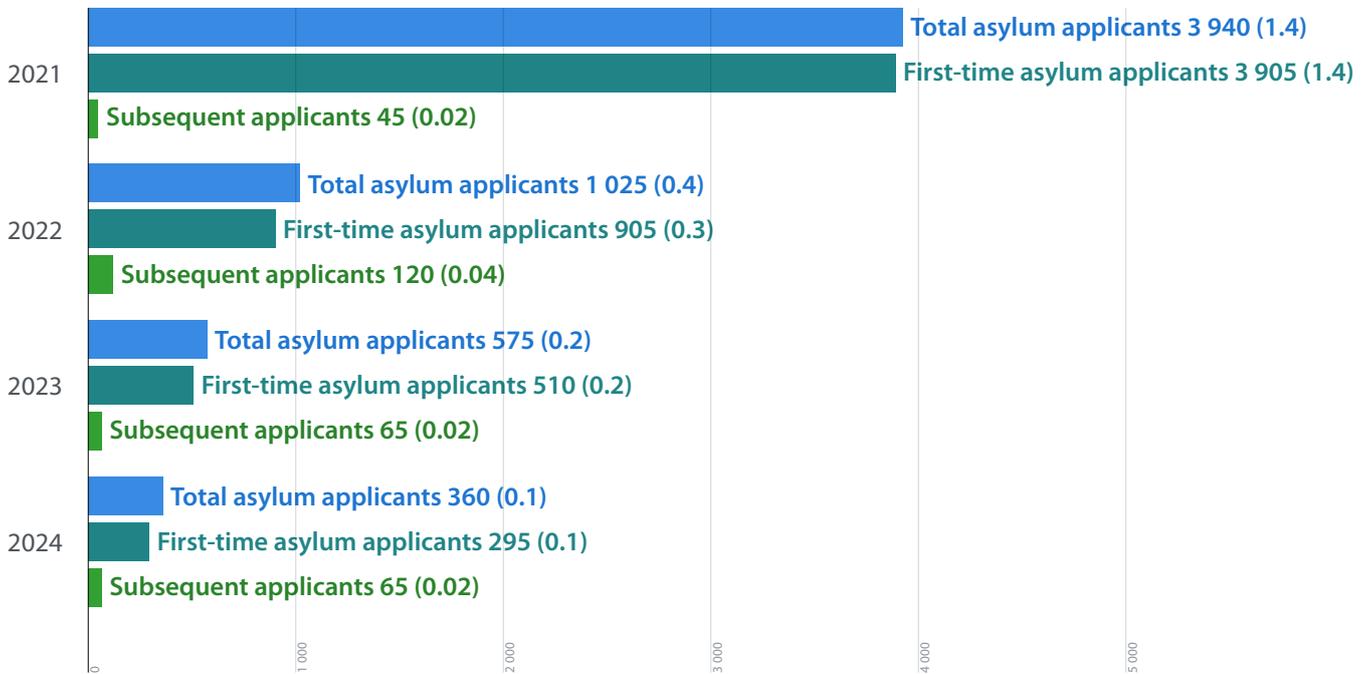
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [migr_resfpc](#), [migr_resocc](#) and [migr_resoth](#))



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2021–2024

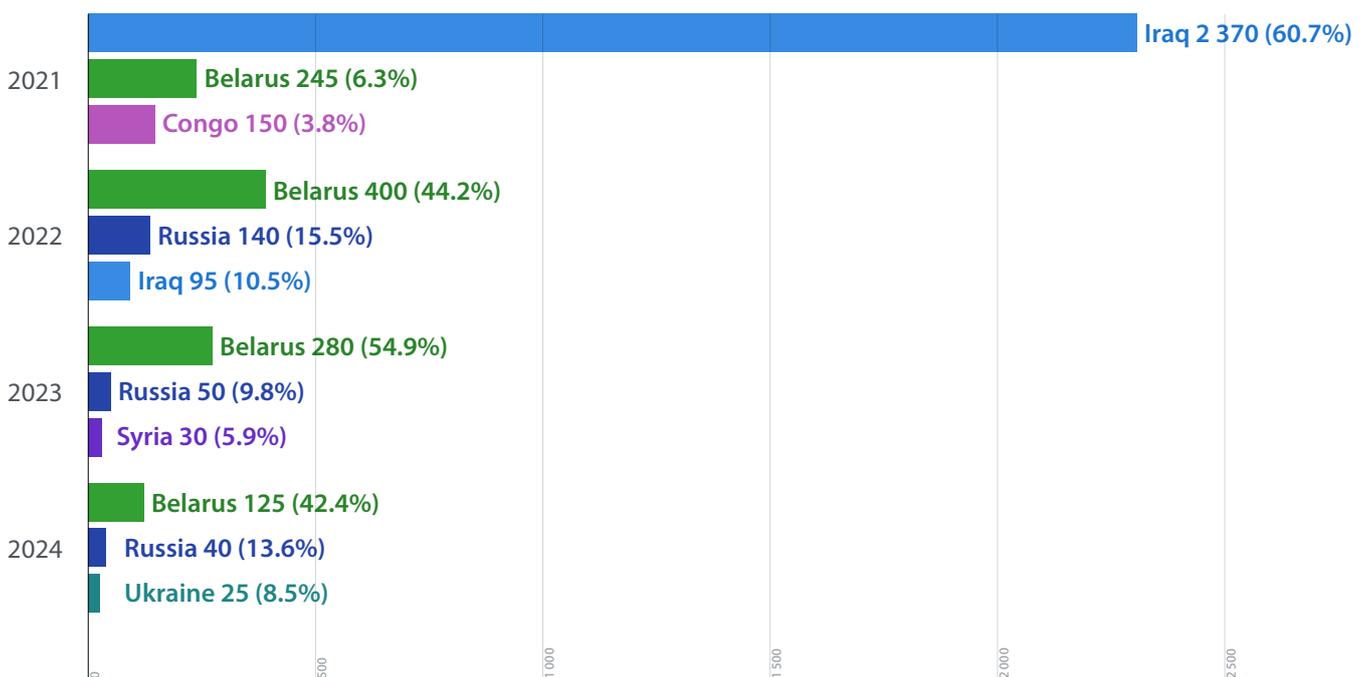
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#), [demo_gind](#) and [migr_asyapp1mp](#))

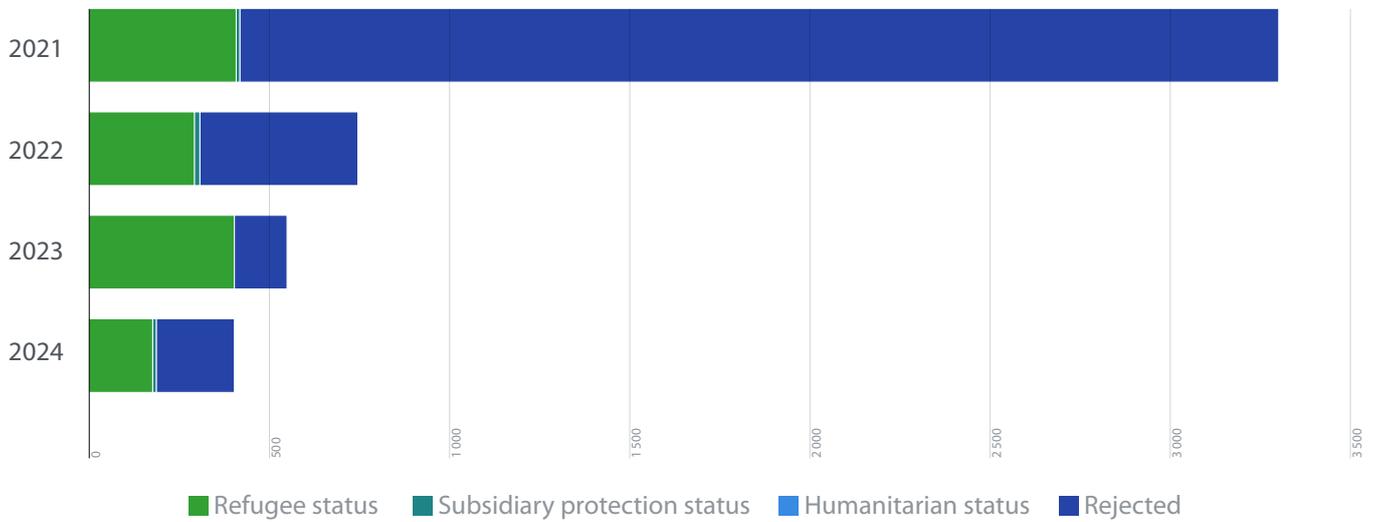
Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#))

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2021-2024



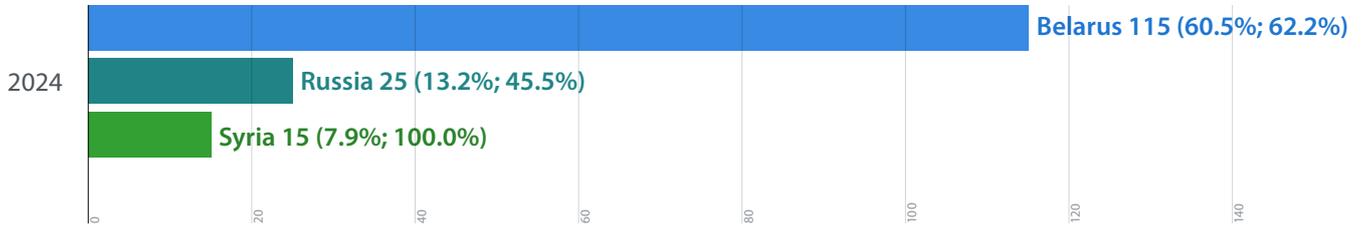
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	405 (12.4%)	10 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)	2 860 (87.2%)
2022	290 (39.0%)	15 (2.0%)	0 (0.0%)	435 (58.9%)
2023	400 (73.6%)	0 (0.2%)	0 (0.0%)	145 (26.2%)
2024	175 (43.8%)	10 (3.0%)	0 (0.0%)	215 (53.2%)

Note: the shares are calculated using unrounded figures.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfsta](#) and [migr_asydec1pc](#))

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance by outcome, 2024

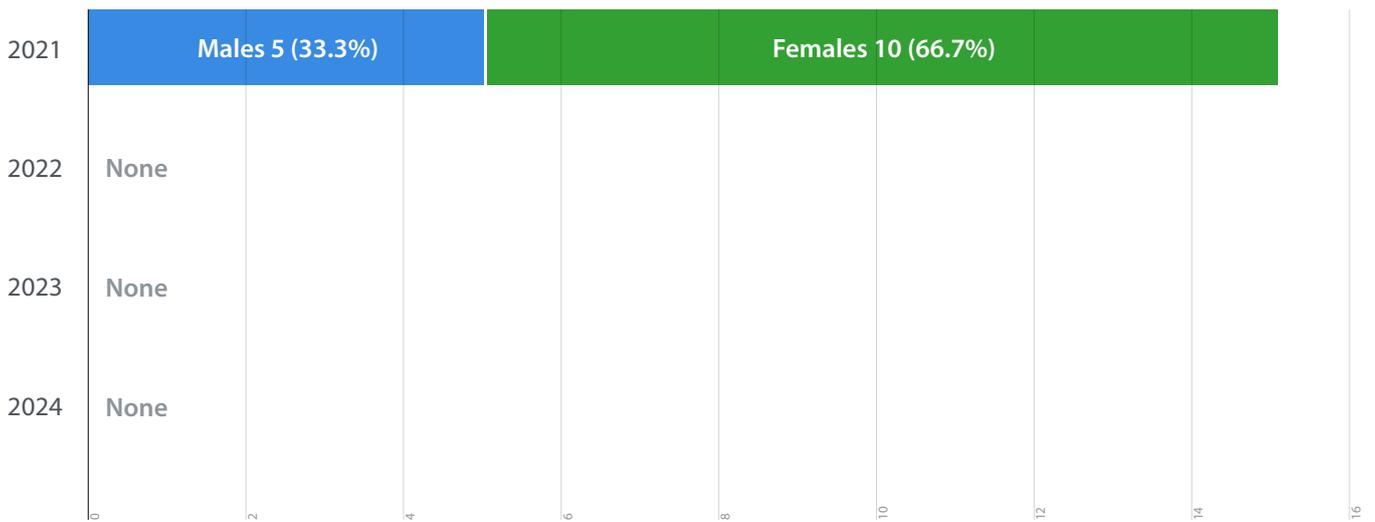
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#))

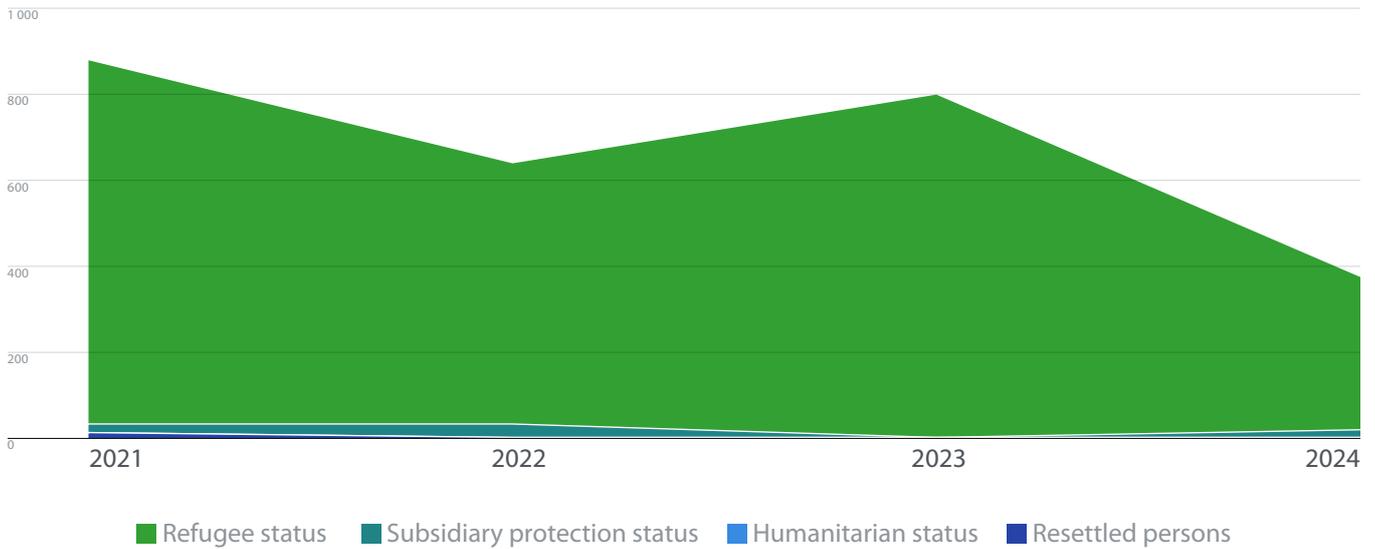
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyresa](#))

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2021–2024



Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2021	845	20	0	15
2022	605	35	0	0
2023	800	0	0	0
2024	355	20	0	0

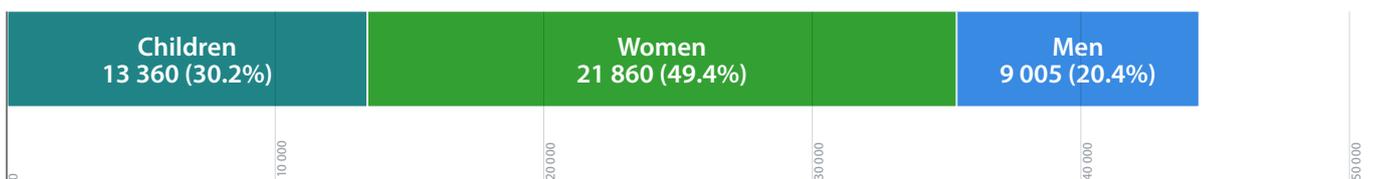
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#), [migr_asydcfina](#) and [migr_asyresa](#))



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

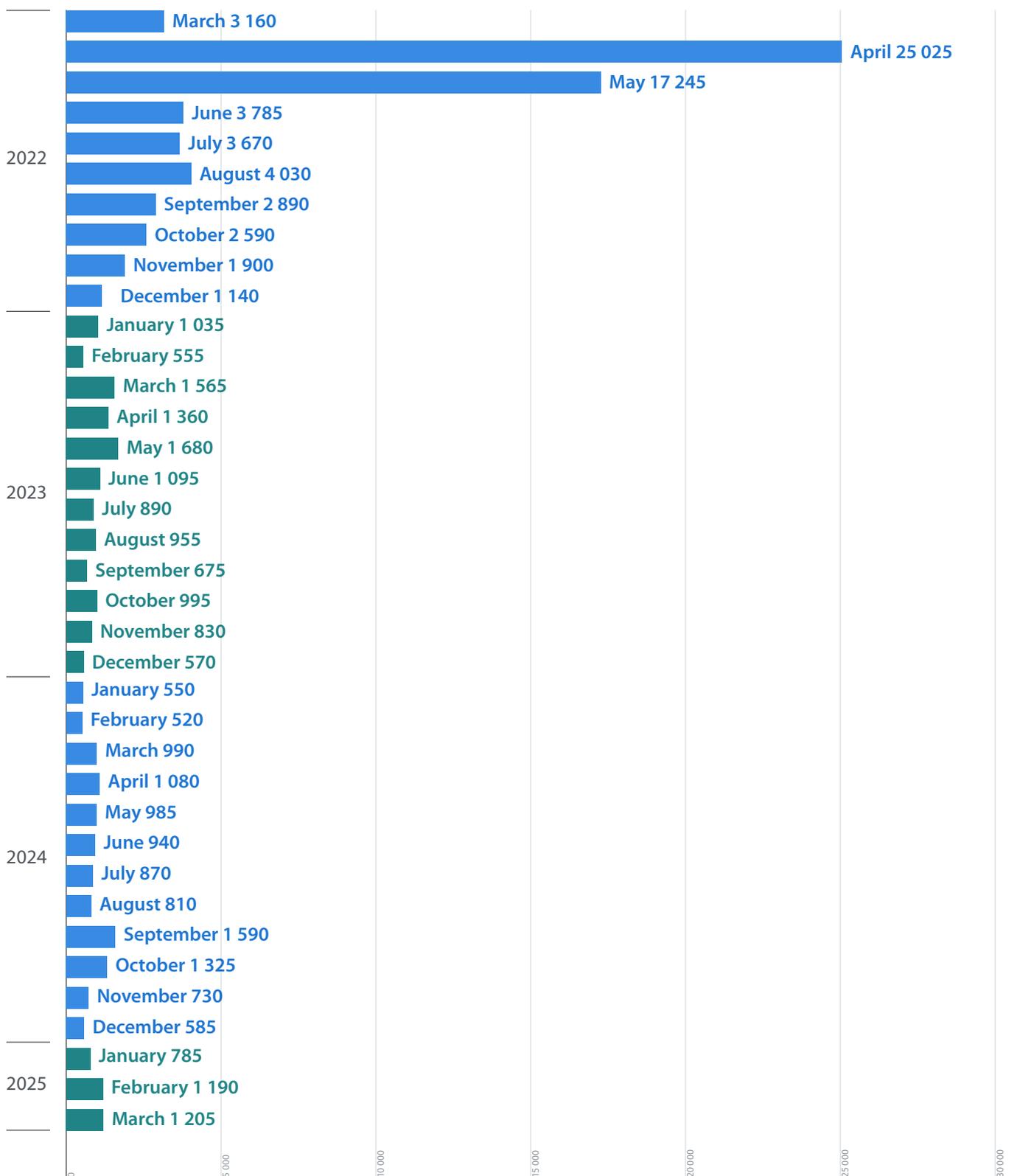
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2025

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



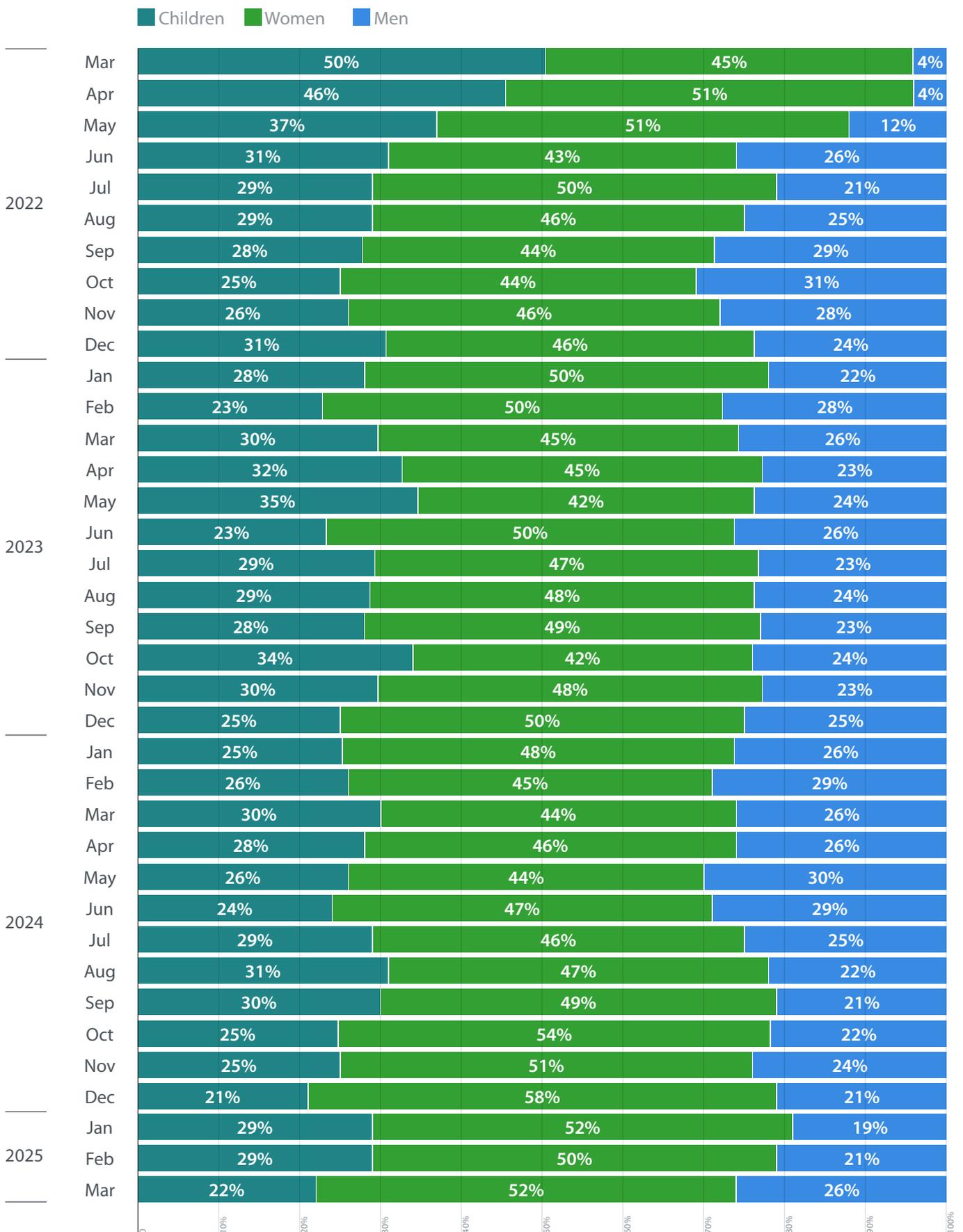
Source: Eurostat ([migr_asytpsm](#))

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2025



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asypfm](#))

Decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion by main population groups, March 2022-March 2025

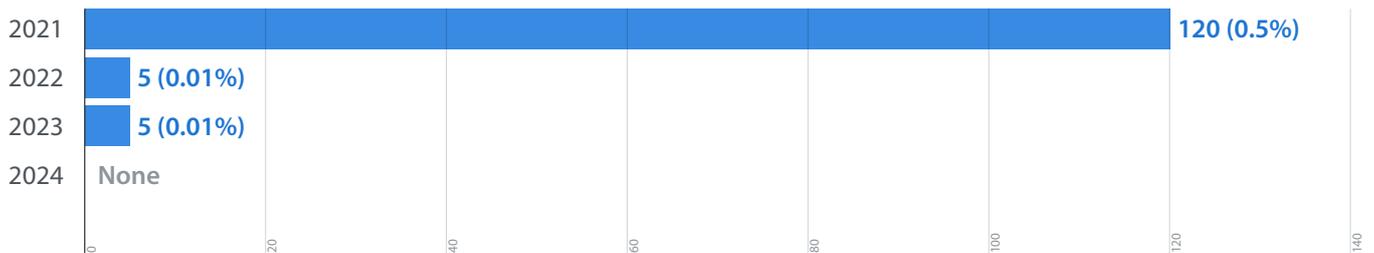




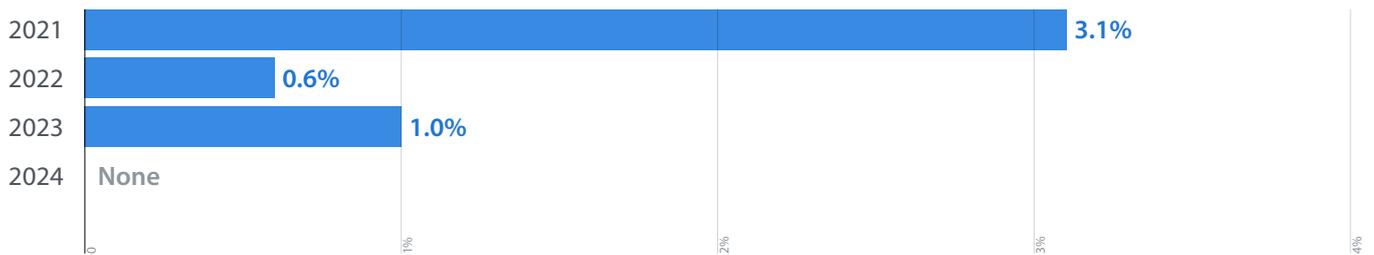
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2021–2024

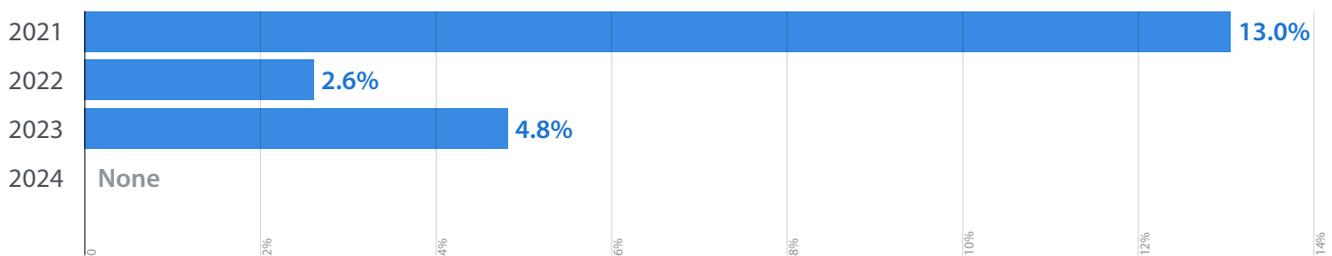
Number of first-time asylum applicants (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



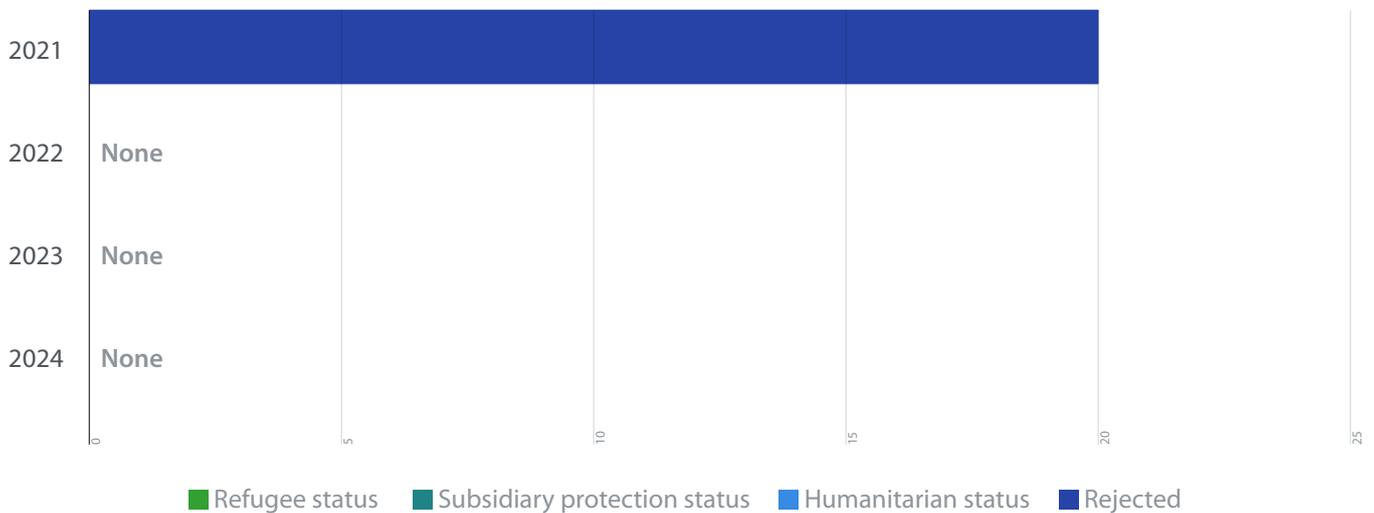
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyumacta](#) and [migr_asyappctza](#))

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



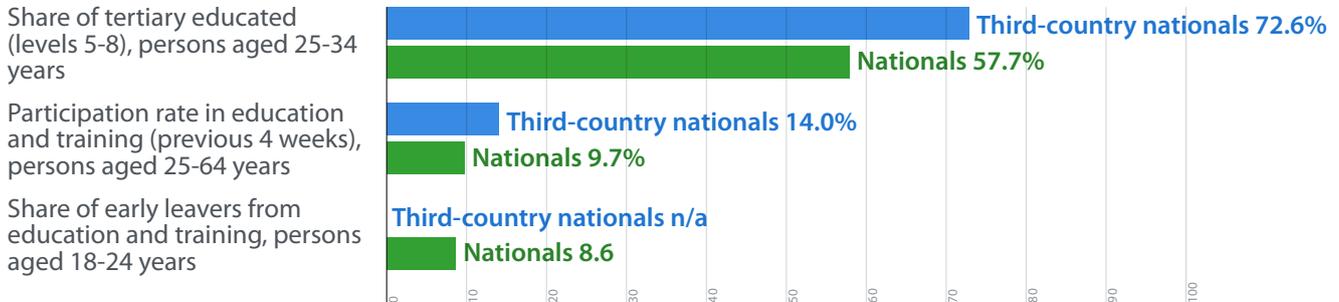
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	20 (100.0%)
2022	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyumdcfa](#))

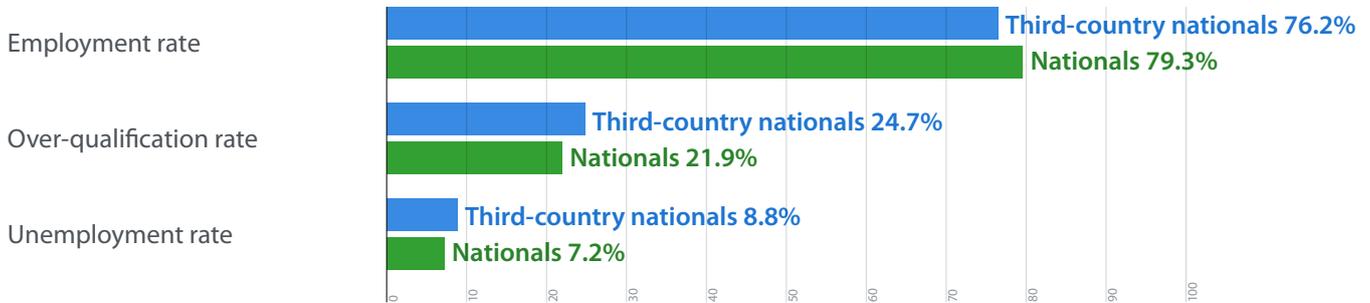
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2024

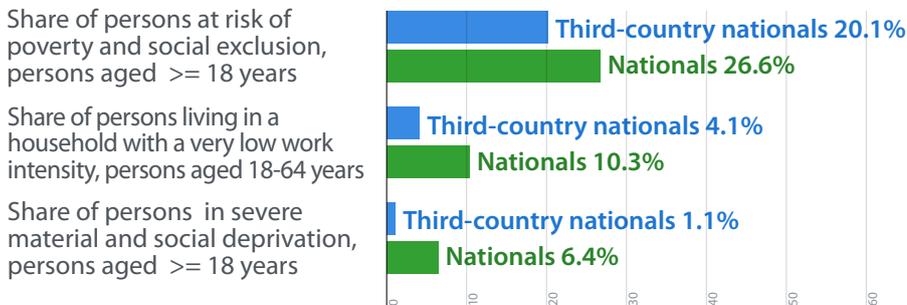
Education



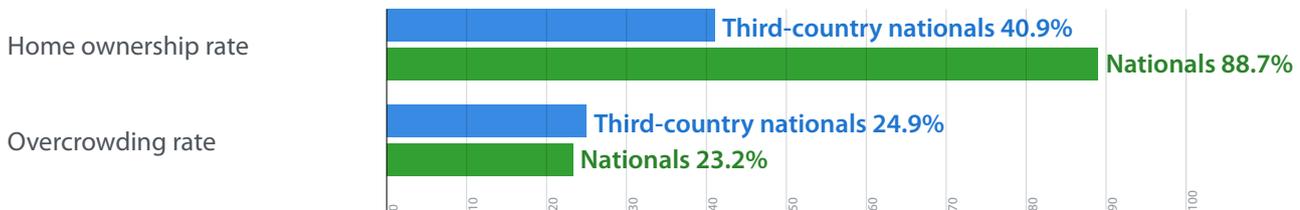
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years



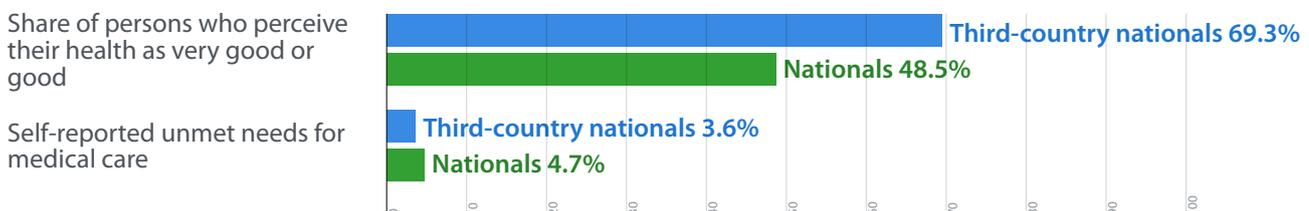
Social inclusion



Housing, persons aged >= 18 years



Health, persons aged >= 16 years

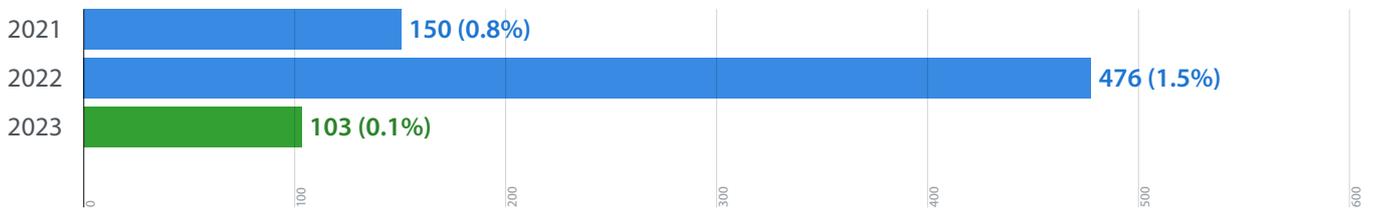




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2021–2023

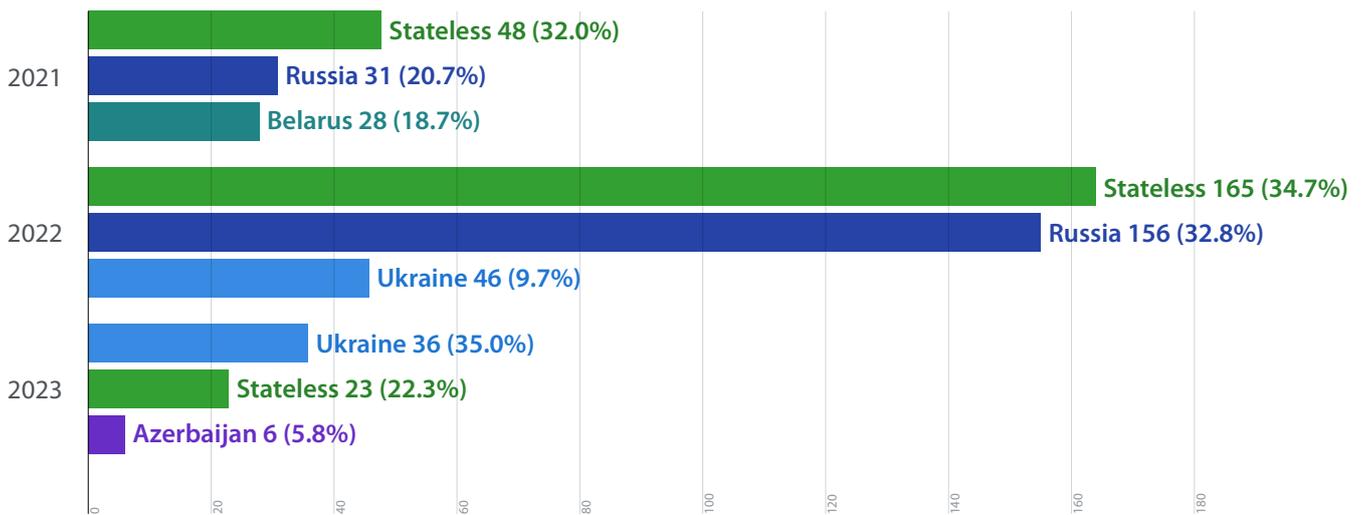
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#) and [migr_pop1ctz](#))

Top 3 countries of non-EU citizens acquiring citizenship, 2021-2023

Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_acq](#))

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_pop1ctz](#))

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued within the Schengen Area)

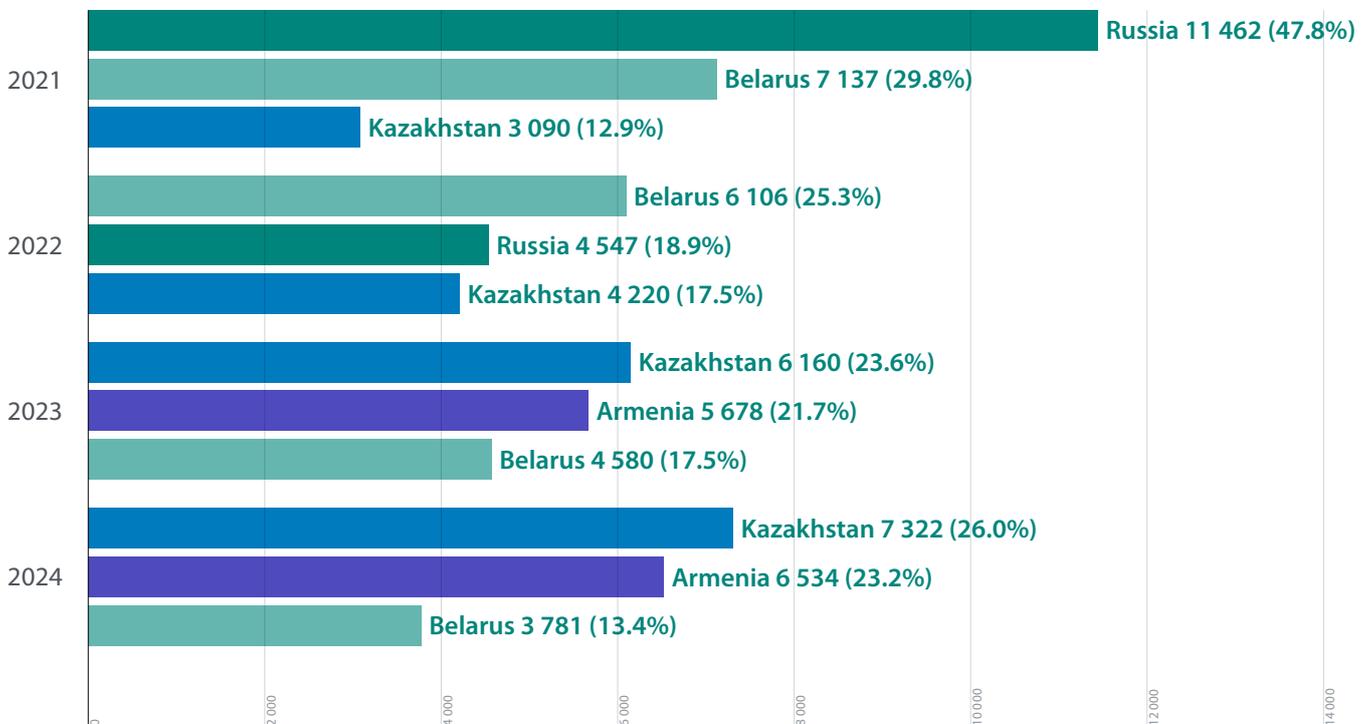


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: [Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs](#)

Top 3 consulate countries where the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2021–2024

Number of uniform short-stay visas issued (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued in consulate countries)



Note: the consulate country might not be the same as the country of citizenship of the visa applicant.

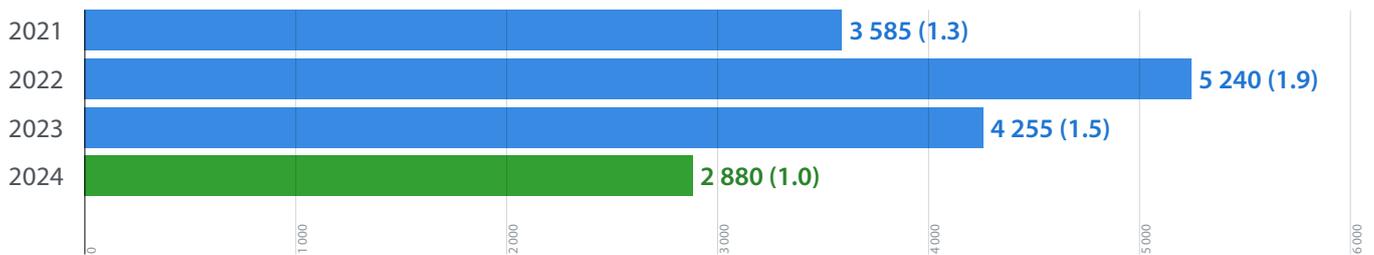
Source: [Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs](#)

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

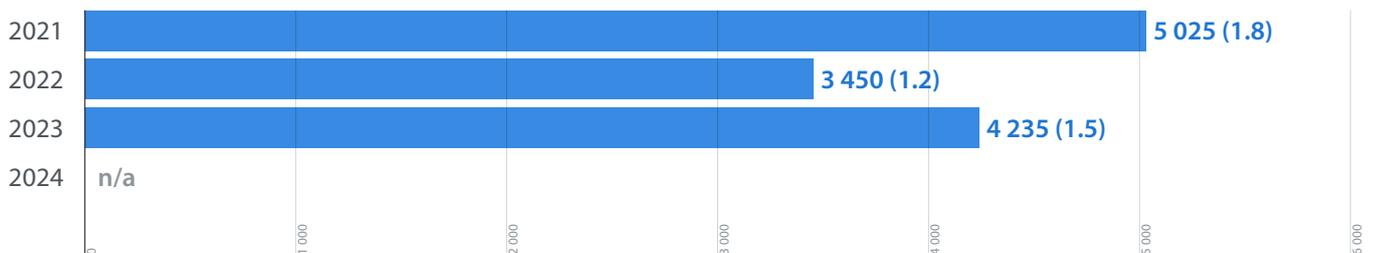
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2021–2024

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

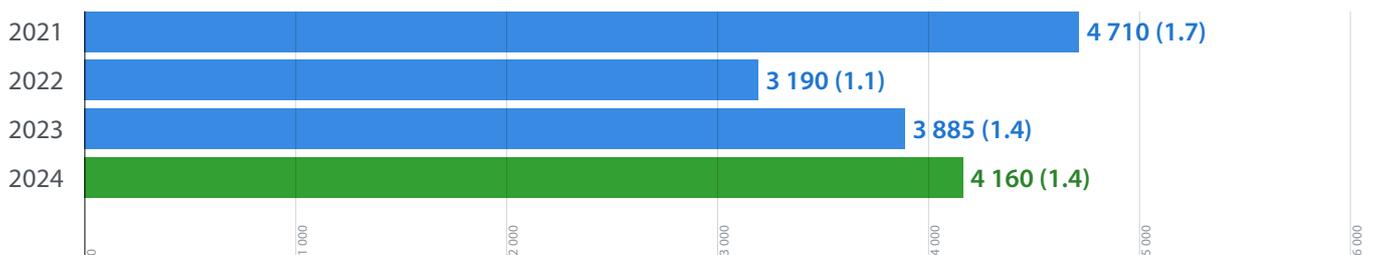
Persons refused entry



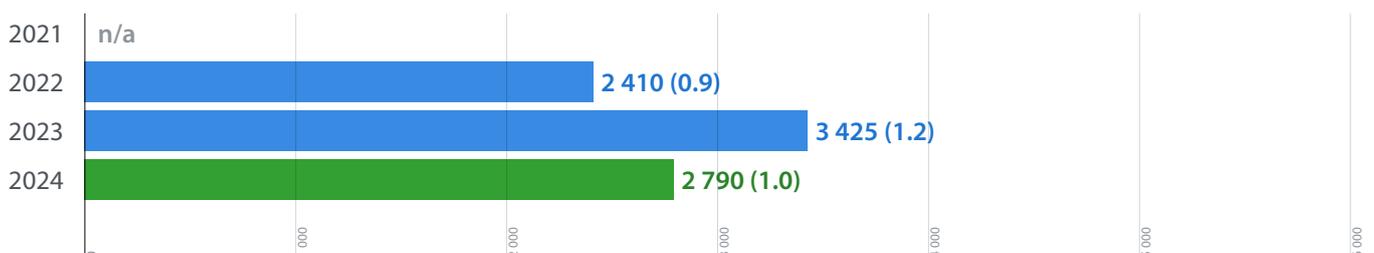
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

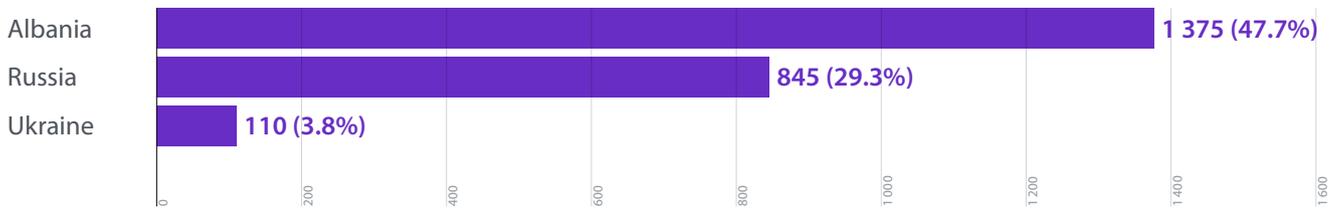


Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#), [migr_eirtn](#), [migr_eilpop](#) and [demo_gind](#))

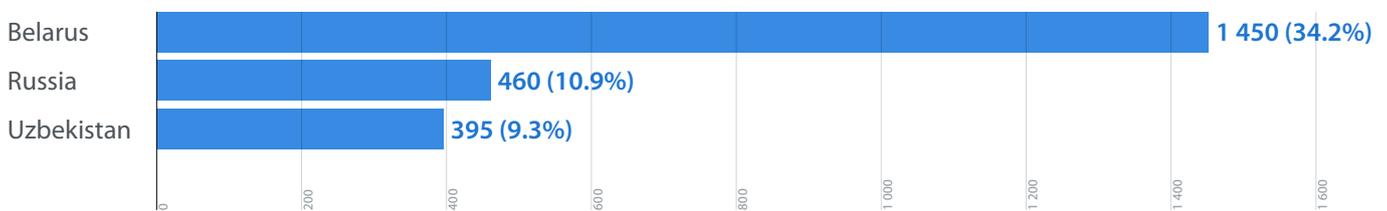
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2024

Absolute number (and the share in the respective total)

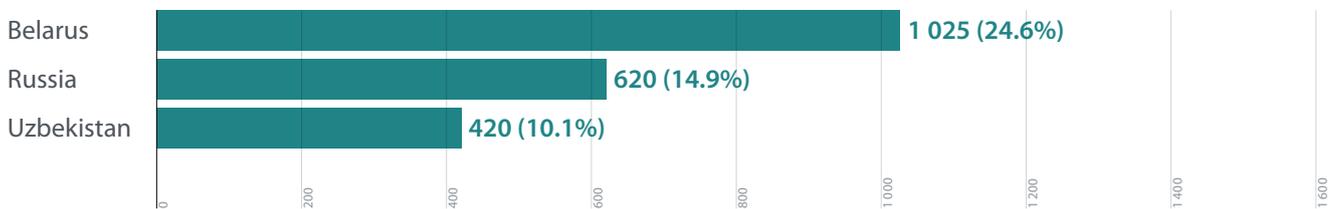
Persons refused entry



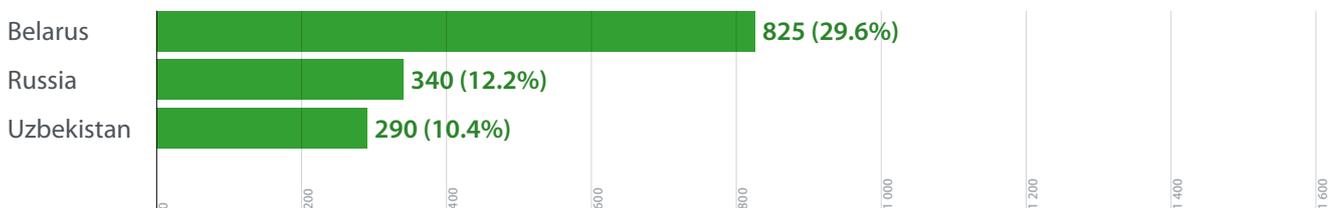
Persons found to be illegally present, 2023*



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country



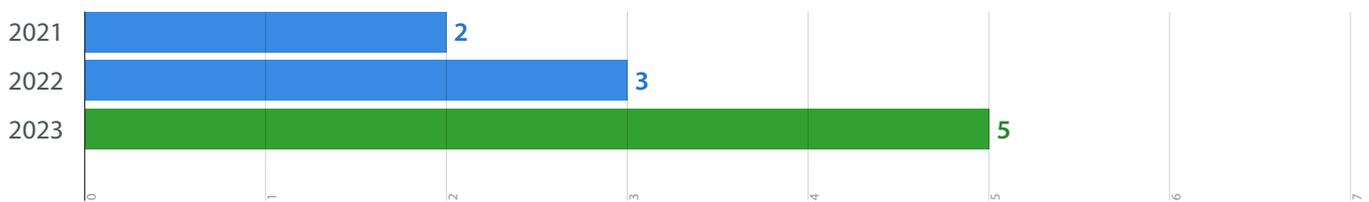
* 2024 data not available.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirfs](#), [migr_eipre](#), [migr_eiord](#) and [migr_eirtn](#))



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2021-2023



Source: Eurostat ([crim_thb_vctz](#))

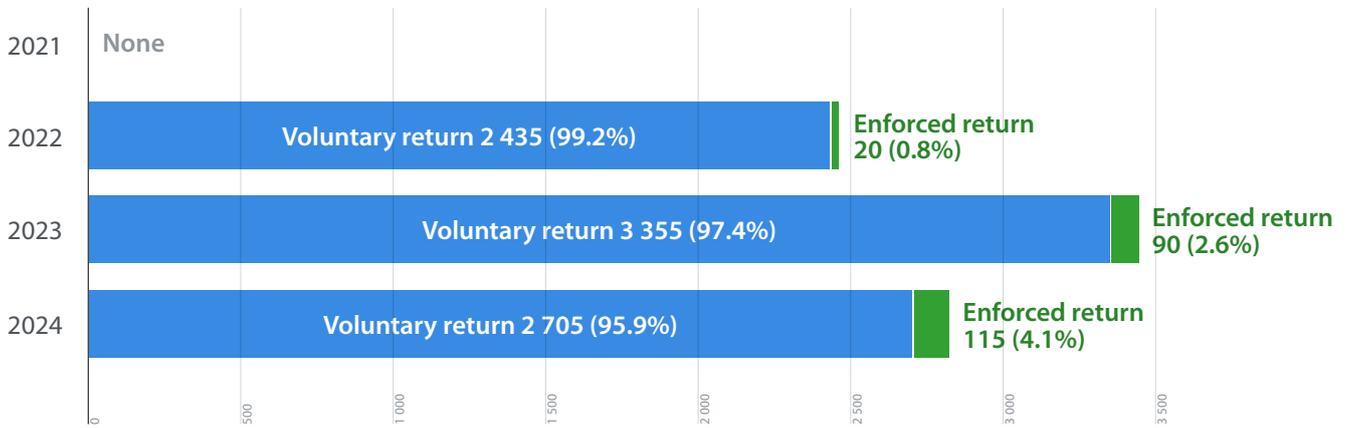
Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2021–2023



Source: Eurostat ([migr_resoth](#))

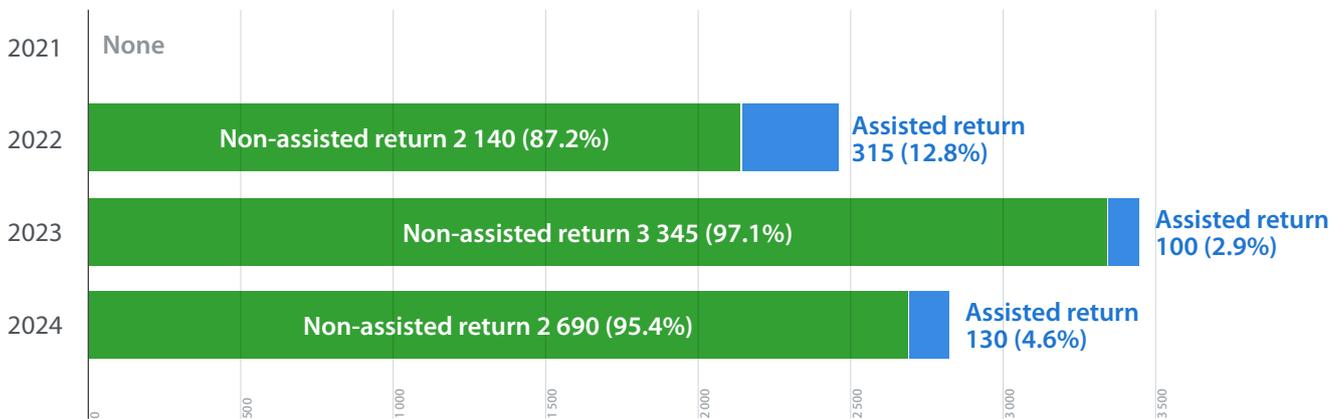
RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2024 Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirtn1](#))

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2024 Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_eirtn1](#))