

THE 2015 REFUGEE CRISIS THROUGH STATISTICS

**A compilation for politicians, journalists
and other concerned citizens**

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Syrian refugees © Freedom House

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UNHCR: Global displaced population in 2014¹

Global displaced population in 2014: 59.5 million

- 38.2 million internally displaced persons inside their home countries (source: IDMC²)
- 5.1 million Palestinian refugees inside and outside Palestinian territories registered with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
- 1.8 million individuals outside their home countries whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of 2014
- **14.4 million** refugees outside their home countries under UNHCR’s mandate

UNHCR definition of “refugee” (14.4 million) for statistical purposes:

“Refugees include individuals *recognized under the 1951 Convention* relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, individuals granted *complementary forms of protection*, and those enjoying *temporary protection*. The refugee population also includes *persons in refugee-like situations*.”³

“In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in many industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual asylum-seeker recognition.”⁴

¹ UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015.

² Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

³ UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015, p. 56.

⁴ UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015, p. 48, footnote 2.

UNHCR: Top 10 nationalities of refugees in 2014

Source: UNHCR⁵

Country	No. of refugees
1. Syria	3.88 million
2. Afghanistan	2.59 million
3. Somalia	1.11 million
4. Sudan	666,000
5. South Sudan	616,200
6. D.R. Congo	516,800
7. Myanmar/Burma	479,000
8. Central African Rep.	412,000
9. Iraq	369,900
10. Eritrea	363,100

The UNHCR's ranking does not include 5.1 million Palestinian refugees, who are registered with the UN United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). They have been the largest group of refugees for decades.

The numbers above also do not include people internally displaced in these countries (such as 7.6 million displaced Syrians in Syria).

⁵ UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015, pp. 13-15.

UNHCR: Top 10 countries hosting refugees at the end of 2014

Source: UNHCR⁶

Country	No. of refugees
1. Turkey	1.6 million
2. Pakistan	1.5 million
3. Lebanon	1.15 million
4. Iran	982,000
5. Ethiopia	659,500
6. Jordan	654,000
7. Kenya	551,400
8. Chad	452,000
9. Uganda	385,500
10. China	301,000
Others	6.1 million
TOTAL	14.4 million⁷

In 2015, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Turkey has risen to almost 2 million.

UNHCR: Top 10 countries by number of hosted refugees per inhabitants in 2014

Source: UNHCR⁸

Country	No. of refugees/1,000 inhabitants
1. Lebanon	232
2. Jordan	87
3. Nauru	39
4. Chad	34
5. Djibouti	23
6. South Sudan	21
7. Turkey	21
8. Mauritania	19
9. Sweden	15
10. Malta	14

For UNHCR definition of “refugee”, see page 3.

⁶ UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015, pp. 11-12.

⁷ The number does not include 5.1 million Palestinian refugees registered with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

⁸ UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015, p. 15.

UNHCR: Top 10 countries receiving asylum claims in 2014

Source: UNHCR⁹

Country	No. of individual claims	Share
1. Russia	274,700*	17 %
2. Germany	173,100	10 %
3. US	121,200	7 %
4. Turkey	87,800	5 %
5. Sweden	75,100	5 %
6. South Africa	71,900	4 %
7. D.R. Congo	63,700	4 %
8. France	59,000	4 %
9. Hungary	41,400	2 %
10. Uganda	32,400	2 %
TOTAL	1.66 million	100 %

**99 percent of these claims were submitted by Ukrainians. Previously the number of asylum claims in Russia had never exceeded 5,000 per year, according to UNHCR.*

Note: UNHCR data on asylum applications include new applications as well as applications on appeal (against negative decisions in the procedure at earlier instances).

Eurostat data usually includes new and repeat applications (submitted by the same person for a second or more times in the same country after the previous application/s had been rejected with all appeals possibilities exhausted or expired). Eurostat numbers are thus higher. Germany, for example, received a total of 209,815 new and repeat applications in 2014.

⁹ UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015, pp. 28-30.

UNHCR: Top 10 industrialised countries receiving asylum claims in 2014
(out of 44 industrialised countries)
(Source: UNCHR¹⁰)

Country	No. of claims received	Share of claims submitted in industrialised countries
1. Germany	173,070	20 %
2. US	121,160	14 %
3. Turkey*	87,820	10 %
4. Sweden	75,090	9 %
5. Italy	63,660	7 %
6. France	59,030	7 %
7. Hungary	41,370	5 %
8. United Kingdom	31,260	4 %
9. Austria	28,060	3 %
10. Netherlands	23,850	3 %
Others:		
15. Canada	13,450	2 %
19. Australia	8,960	1 %
22. Japan	5,000	0.6 %
24. South Korea	2,900	0.3 %
39. New Zealand	290	0 %
TOTAL	866,020	100 %

* *This number does not include Syrians in Turkey who are under a specific temporary protection regime. It is the number of claims that UNHCR received, not the national authorities, who are in the process of setting up a new domestic asylum system.*

Note: UNHCR numbers are new applications. As a result, they are lower than Eurostat numbers which generally also include repeat applications (submitted by the same person for a second or more times in the same country after the previous application/s had been rejected with all appeals possibilities exhausted or expired). For example, Germany received a total of 209,815 applications in 2014 (this is the number that Eurostat would cite), out of which 173,070 were new applications.

¹⁰ UNHCR, [Asylum Trends 2014. Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries](#), updated as of 14 March 2015.

UNHCR: Asylum recognition rates in the top 10 industrialised countries in 2013
(Source: UNHCR¹¹)

Country	Claims received	Decisions made or files closed for other reasons	Refugee status or complementary protection status	Recognition rate (status divided by decisions)
1. Germany	109,580	80,978	20,128	25 %
2. USA	88,360	65,478	21,171	32 %
3. France	60,100	85,071	11,383	13 %
4. Sweden	54,260	58,817	26,817	46 %
5. Turkey*	44,810	17,950	14,160	79 %
6. UK	29,190	33,523	10,629	32 %
7. Italy	27,830	23,567	14,392	61 %
8. Australia	24,320	11,121	5,035	45 %
9. Switzerland	19,440	31,050	7,173	23 %
10. Hungary	18,570	15,859	356	2 %
<u>Selected others:</u>				
Canada	10,380	20,633	7,817	38 %
Japan	10,260	3,799	158	4 %
South Korea	1,570	1,089	63	6 %
New Zealand	290	444	123	28 %
TOTAL	612,730	882,197	286,555	32 %

* In Turkey, UNHCR conducted refugee status determination in 2013.

Note: The UNHCR numbers are based on decisions *at every instance* made on new applications. So, the UNHCR figures also include the outcomes of appeals. For countries that have two or more levels of appeal, it can happen that the same person appears twice or more times.

¹¹ UNHCR, Statistical Yearbook 2013, [Annex](#).

EU: Detections of illegal border crossings into the EU 2007-2015, by year

The Greek-Turkish borders have been for years one of the main gateways to the EU for asylum seekers and other migrants who intend to reach the EU by illegally crossing borders. Between 2010 and mid-2012, the land route was the preferred way. In 2013, the total number of detections of illegal border crossings fell to 12,600 at all Greek-Turkish borders following a series of measures at the land border and in Greece. However, pressure started rising at the Greek-Turkish sea border to reach record numbers in 2014.

Please note that virtually all illegal border crossings are detected.

Detections of illegal border crossings into the EU via Turkey–Greece 2007-2015 (Sources: Frontex and Hellenic Police¹²)

Border	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 Jan-Aug
Greek-Turkish land border	16,800	14,500	8,800	47,100	55,000	30,400	1,100	1,900	1,100
Greek-Turkish sea border	16,800	30,100	27,700	5,200	1,000	3,700	11,400	43,500	244,900
Total Greek-Turkish borders	33,600	44,600	36,500	52,300	56,000	34,100	12,600	45,400	246,000
All detections at EU external borders	n.a.	159,100	104,600	104,000	141,100	72,400	107,400	282,700	540,000

¹² For Fronex, see Annual and Quarterly Risk Analyses under [Publications](#). For Hellenic Police, see [Statistical data on migration](#).

EU: Arrivals and deaths in the Mediterranean 2015
(Source: IOM¹³)

1 Jan.–12 Oct. 2015

Route	Country of arrival	Arrivals	Deaths
Central Med. route	Italy	136,408	2,814
	Malta	105	
Eastern Med. route	Greece	453,912	264
Western Med. and Western African routes	Spain	3,007	25
		593,432	3,103

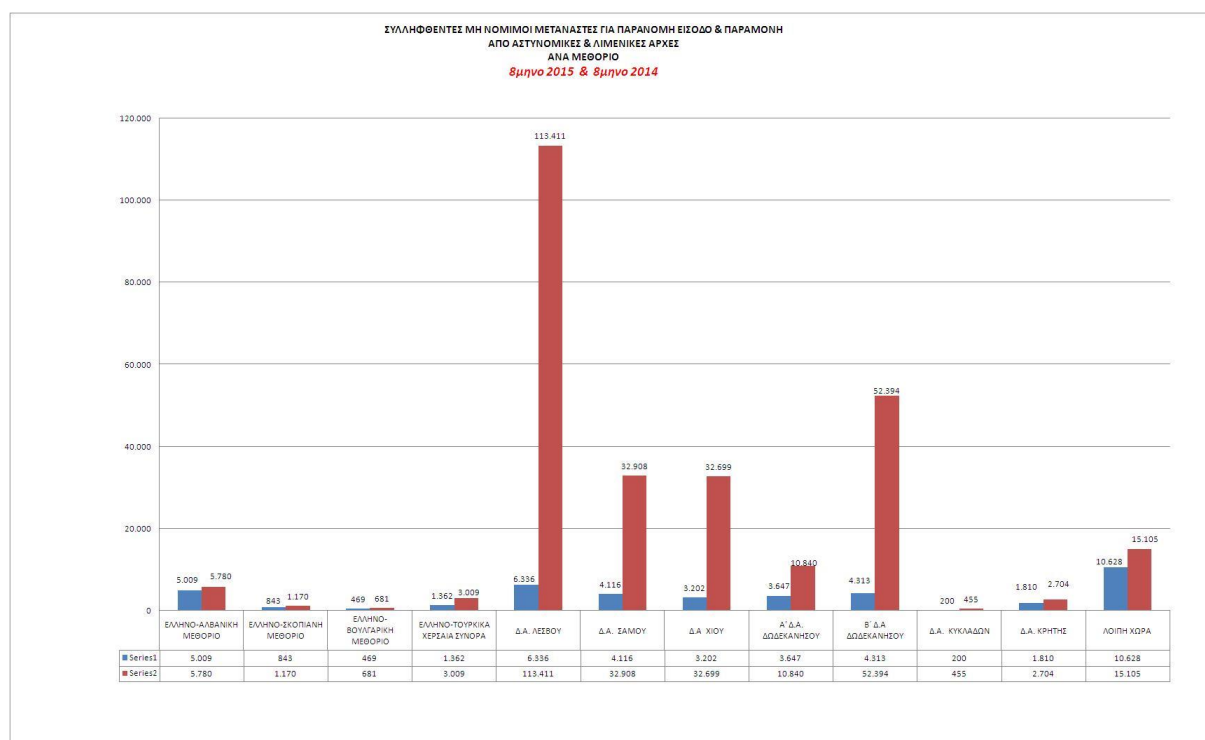
The number of arrivals in Italy is an IOM estimate.

Data for Greece is derived by the new and updated data collected by IOM Regional Staff in Greece and Greek authorities (1/1/2015 – 11/10/2015). Numbers are not the actual daily arrivals but the number of migrants who have officially been recorded by the Greek authorities after their arrival.

¹³ IOM, Missing Migrants Project, [Mediterranean Arrivals Near Record 600,000](#), 13 October 2015.

Greece: Arrivals on Greek islands between Jan. and Aug. 2015 (Source: Hellenic Police¹⁴)

This following table from the Hellenic Police shows the number of arriving migrants detected by Greek authorities by location. The red columns are Jan-Aug 2015, and the blue ones Jan-Aug 2014.

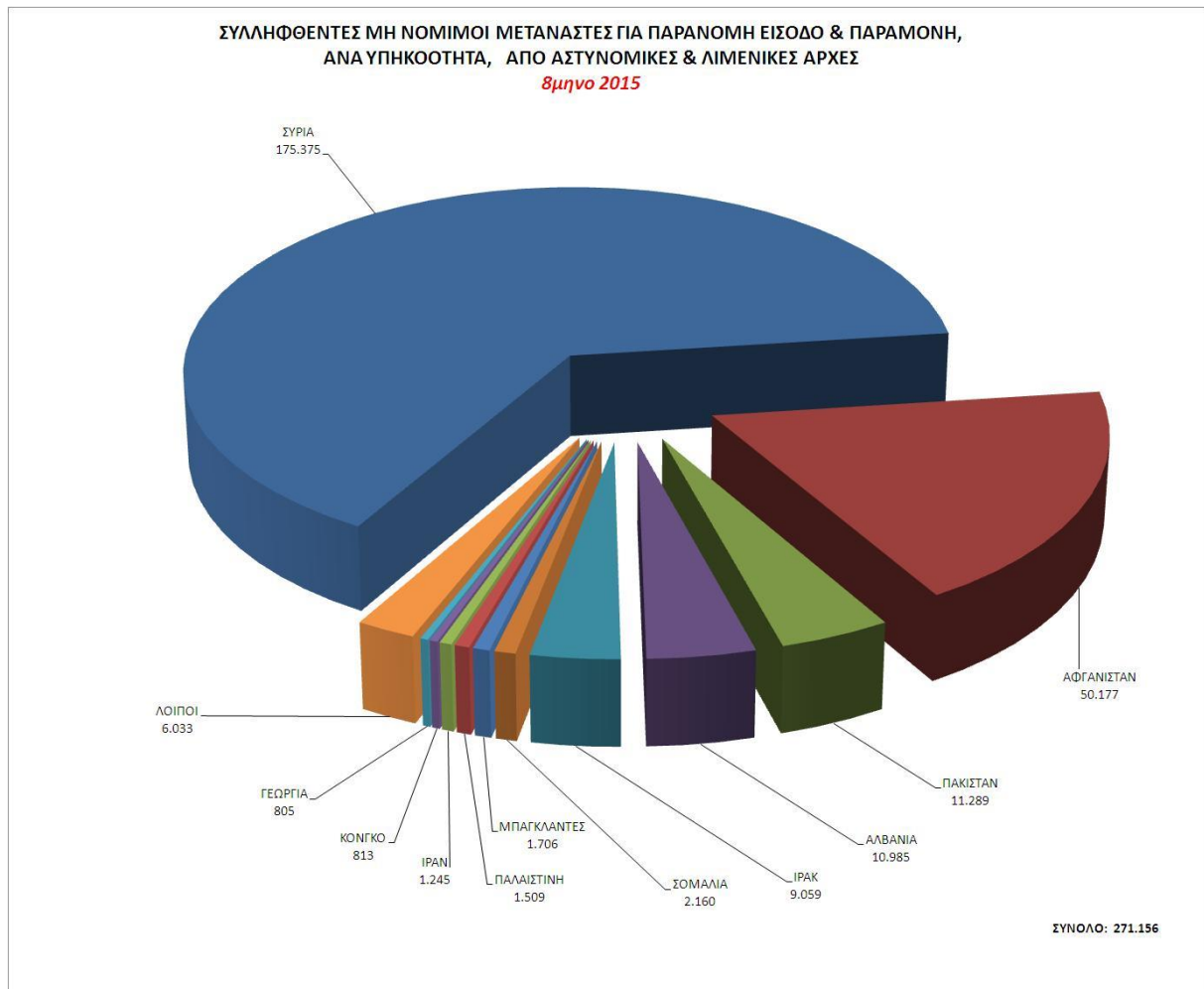


Arrivals on Greek islands Jan.-August 2015:

Island of Lesbos:	113,411
Dodecanese islands B:	52,396
Island of Samos:	32,908
Island of Chios:	32,699
Dodecanese islands A:	10,840
Island of Crete:	2,704
Cyclades islands:	455

¹⁴ Hellenic Police, [Irregular migrants, apprehended at the border by police and port authorities for illegal entry or stay](#), Comparison 2013 – 2014.

Greece: Nationalities of migrants detected in Greece between Jan. and Aug. 2015
 (Source: Hellenic Police¹⁵)



The three largest groups:

Syrians	175,375
Afghans	50,177
Pakistanis	11,289

¹⁵ Hellenic Police, [Irregular migrants apprehended for illegal entry or stay by nationality.](#)

Greece: Nationalities of migrants detected in Greece 2010 to 2015, by year
(Compilation by ESI based on data from the Hellenic Police¹⁶)

	2015 (Jan-Aug)	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Syria	175,375	32,520	8,517	7,927	1,522	n.a.
Afghanistan	50,177	12,901	6,412	16,584	28,528	28,299
Pakistan	11,289	3,621	3,982	11,136	19,975	8,830
Albania*	10,985	16,751	15,389	10,602	11,733	50,175
Iraq	9,059	1,023	700	2,212	2,863	4,968
Somalia	2,160	1,876	1,004	1,765	2,238	6,525
Bangladesh	1,706	1,164	1,524	7,863	5,416	3,264
Palestine	1,509	622	469	1,718	2,065	7,561
Iran	1,245	n.a.	317	692	n.a.	1,133
Congo	813	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Georgia	805	838	568	n.a.	n.a.	1,456
Eritrea	n.a.	1,019	726	923	1,172	1,628
Egypt	n.a.	619	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Morocco	n.a.	n.a.	442	2,207	3,405	1,645
Algeria	n.a.	n.a.	443	4,606	5,398	7,336
Tunisia	n.a.	n.a.	95	n.a.	1,095	n.a.
Other	6,033	4,209	3,268	n.a.	n.a.	9,704
TOTAL	271,156	77,163				

* Albanians are mostly circular migrants – they come for work, often seasonal, and then go back to Albania. The numbers dropped after 2010 because the EU abolished the short-stay visa requirement for Albanians in December 2010.

¹⁶ Hellenic Police, see [Statistical data on migration](#).

EU: Asylum claims & recognition rates in the EU 2008 to 2015, by year
(Source: Eurostat¹⁷)

Year	Claims received	Decisions made	Recognition rate
2008	226,000	213,925	27 %
2009	265,000	230,815	27 %
2010	261,000	222,410	25 %
2011	310,000	237,390	25 %
2012	336,000	288,505	32 %
2013	436,000	323,290	33 %
2014	626,820	357,445	45 %
Jan-June 2015	449,105	239,715	46 %

2015 will set a record in asylum claims in the EU, surpassing the previous record of 692,000 claims in 1992 in the EU15.¹⁸

The recognition rate has been rising due to the increasing number of asylum seekers who qualify for protection, primarily Syrians.

Note: The claims include both new and repeat claims ((submitted by the same person for a second or more times after the previous application/s had been rejected with all appeals possibilities exhausted or expired).

The recognition rate covers refugee status in line with the Refugee Convention, subsidiary protection and different forms of humanitarian protection, which is not granted due to persecution or the threat of serious harm, but for humanitarian reasons. See explanation of the terms in the Annex.

¹⁷ [Eurostat interactive database](#), Asylum and new asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex, Annual aggregated data (rounded), code [migr_asyappctza]; Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex, Monthly data (rounded), code [migr_asyappctzm]; First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex, Annual aggregated data (rounded), code [migr_asydcfstq]; and First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex, Quarterly data (rounded), code [migr_asydcfstq].

¹⁸ Eurostat, Statistics Explained, [Asylum Statistics](#).

EU: Asylum claims in the EU 2008 to 2014, by country and year
(Source: Eurostat¹⁹)

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
EU28	627,780	432,055	336,015	309,820	260,835	266,395	226,330
Germany	202,815	126,995	77,650	53,345	48,590	33,035	26,945
Sweden	81,325	54,365	43,945	29,710	31,940	24,260	24,875
Italy	64,625	26,620	17,350	40,355	10,050	17,670	30,145
France	64,310	66,265	61,455	57,335	52,725	47,625	41,845
Hungary	42,775	18,900	2,155	1,695	2,105	4,670	3,175
UK	33,010	30,820	28,895	26,940	24,365	31,695	:
Austria	28,065	17,520	17,450	14,455	11,060	15,815	12,750
Netherlands	24,535	13,095	13,100	14,600	15,100	16,140	15,255
Belgium	22,850	21,215	28,285	32,270	26,560	22,955	15,940
Denmark	14,715	7,230	6,075	3,985	5,100	3,775	2,375
Bulgaria	11,080	7,145	1,385	890	1,025	855	745
Greece	9,435	8,225	9,575	9,310	10,275	15,925	19,885
Poland	8,025	15,245	10,755	6,890	6,540	10,595	8,515
Spain	5,615	4,495	2,565	3,420	2,745	3,005	4,515
Finland	3,625	3,220	3,115	2,975	3,675	5,700	3,770
Cyprus	1,745	1,255	1,635	1,770	2,875	3,200	3,920
Romania	1,545	1,495	2,510	1,720	885	965	1,180
Ireland	1,450	945	955	1,290	1,940	2,690	3,865
Malta	1,350	2,245	2,080	1,890	175	2,385	2,605
Czech Rep.	1,155	710	755	755	790	1,245	1,650
Luxembourg	1,150	1,070	2,055	2,155	785	485	455
Croatia	450	1,080	:	:	:	:	:
Portugal	445	505	295	275	160	140	160
Lithuania	440	400	645	525	495	450	520
Slovenia	385	270	305	360	245	200	260
Latvia	375	195	205	340	65	60	55
Slovakia	330	440	730	490	540	820	905
Estonia	155	95	75	65	35	40	15

¹⁹ [Eurostat Interactive Database](#), Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex, Annual aggregated data (rounded), code [migr_asyappctza].

EU: Asylum claims in the EU Jan.-July 2015, by country and month
(Source: Eurostat²⁰)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	TOTALS
EU28	66,140	71,000	66,700	63,195	71,390	94,205	118,975	551,605
Germany	25,035	26,085	32,055	27,175	25,990	35,445	37,530	209,315
Hungary	11,925	16,695	4,925	6,690	9,970	16,580	31,285	98,070
Italy	4,785	5,140	5,505	4,590	5,180	5,335	8,610	39,145
France	4,440	5,630	6,090	5,650	4,745	5,600	5,735	37,890
Austria	4,030	3,255	2,925	4,040	6,395	7,680	8,790	37,115
Sweden	4,895	4,050	4,120	3,920	5,375	6,625	8,070	37,055
UK	2,785	2,255	2,455	1,960	2,575	3,075	4,325	19,430
Belgium	1,715	1,640	1,755	1,625	2,095	2,895	3,600	15,325
Netherlands	1,050	970	990	1,275	2,375	3,085	3,160	12,905
Bulgaria	1,070	1,045	1,110	1,130	1,345	1,630	1,870	9,200
Greece	1,065	1,015	915	980	1,145	1,120	1,235	7,475
Spain	840	860	1,240	1,345	1,065	1,305	:	6,655
Poland	610	600	630	750	680	860	1,145	5,275
Denmark	640	445	465	560	880	1,090	1,040	5,120
Finland	305	325	355	340	515	770	1,480	4,090
Ireland	215	200	210	265	255	335	290	1,770
Cyprus	165	140	165	165	135	150	165	1,085
Malta	95	170	130	115	180	120	145	955
Czech Rep.	125	115	195	130	110	105	100	880
Romania	105	80	165	210	90	85	90	825
Luxembourg	90	95	105	80	95	105	115	685
Portugal	40	80	60	80	80	90	70	500
Latvia	15	15	15	25	35	50	30	185
Lithuania	30	30	15	25	25	10	35	170
Estonia	5	15	30	30	10	25	20	135
Slovakia	15	10	35	10	25	10	15	120
Croatia	25	25	15	15	10	10	15	115
Slovenia	15	15	25	15	15	15	10	110

²⁰

[Eurostat Interactive Database](#), Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex, Monthly data (rounded), code [migr_asyappctzm].

EU: Top 28 nationalities claiming asylum in the EU in 2014 and their recognition rates
(Source: Eurostat²¹)

Country	No. of claims submitted	No of claims decided	Recognition rate
1. Syria	122,790	69,815	95%
2. Afghanistan	41,305	17,855	63%
3. Kosovo	37,875	13,220	7%
4. Eritrea	36,990	15,900	89%
5. Serbia	30,810	22,085	2%
6. Pakistan	22,120	15,810	27%
7. Iraq	21,330	10,590	71%
8. Nigeria	19,950	9,785	30%
9. Russia	19,685	12,360	25%
10. Somalia	16,910	9,425	68%
11. Albania	16,805	13,390	7%
12. Ukraine	14,040	2,985	22%
13. Mali	12,905	6,370	38%
14. Bangladesh	11,650	7,370	10%
15. Gambia	11,515	4,355	35%
16. Iran	10,890	8,690	60%
17. Bosnia and H.	10,675	7,210	5%
18. Macedonia	10,330	8,195	1%
19. Georgia	8,555	6,145	6%
20. D.R. Congo	7,085	7,415	21%
21. Algeria	6,700	2,955	8%
22. Senegal	6,435	3,065	34%
23. Guinea	6,265	5,040	36%
24. Sudan	6,225	3,745	47%
25. Armenia	5,670	3,900	12%
26. Sri Lanka	5,316	5,110	32%
27. China	5,200	5,110	24%
28. Turkey	5,165	4,590	22%
All claims in the EU	626,820	359,795	45%

Note: The claims include both new and repeat claims ((submitted by the same person for a second or more times after the previous application/s had been rejected with all appeals possibilities exhausted or expired).

The recognition rate is the rate of claims recognised by the asylum authority (first instance). It does not include the outcomes of possible appeals. At first instance, it covers the granting of refugee status in line with the Refugee Convention, of subsidiary protection, and of different forms of humanitarian protection. The latter is not granted due to persecution or the threat of serious harm, but for humanitarian reasons. See explanation of the terms in the Annex.

²¹ Eurostat, [Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications: 2014](#), Data in Focus 3/2015, March 2015.

EU: Recognition rate for Syrian asylum claims in the EU in 2014, by country
(Source: Eurostat²²)

	Recognition rate	Decisions made	Positive decisions
Sweden	100 %	16,325	16,295
Bulgaria	100 %	6,420	6,405
Cyprus	100 %	930	930
Poland	100 %	130	130
Ireland	100 %	25	25
Latvia	100 %	20	20
Slovenia	100 %	10	10
Spain	99 %	1,175	1,160
Malta	99 %	365	360
Denmark	96 %	4,130	3,985
France	96 %	2,040	1,950
Belgium	96 %	1,745	1,675
Germany	94 %	25,490	23,860
Netherlands	91 %	5,950	5,440
UK	89 %	1,610	1,425
Luxembourg	89 %	45	40
Czech Rep.	88 %	85	75
Finland	87 %	115	100
Romania	77 %	600	460
Hungary	69 %	260	180
Italy	64 %	490	315
Greece	60 %	980	590
Estonia	50 %	10	5
Slovakia	43 %	35	15
Croatia	0 %	5	0
Portugal	0 %	5	0
Lithuania	na	0	0
Austria	na	na	na
EU28	95 %	68,985	65,450

Note: The recognition rate is the rate of claims recognised by the asylum authority (first instance). It does not include the outcomes of possible appeals. The recognition rate covers the granting of refugee status in line with the Refugee Convention, of subsidiary protection, and of different forms of humanitarian protection. The latter is not granted due to persecution or the threat of serious harm, but for humanitarian reasons. See explanation of the terms in the Annex.

²² [Eurostat interactive database](#), First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex, Annual aggregated data (rounded), code [migr_asydcfst].

EU: Refugees resettled in the EU 2008-2014, by country and year
(Source: Eurostat²³)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTALS
EU28	4,885	7,400	5,060	4,090	4,930	4,840	6,525	37,730
Sweden	1,865	1,890	1,790	1,620	1,680	1,820	2,045	12,710
UK	640	945	720	455	1,040	965	785	5,550
Finland	750	725	545	585	730	675	1,090	5,100
Germany	0	2,070	525	145	305	280	280	3,605
Netherlands	695	370	430	540	430	310	790	3,565
Denmark	565	450	495	515	470	515	345	3,355
France	195	520	360	130	100	90	450	1,845
Ireland	100	190	20	45	50	85	95	585
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	390	390
Italy	70	160	55	0	0	0	0	285
Belgium	:	45	:	25	0	100	35	205
Spain	:	:	:	:	80	0	125	205
Portugal	10	0	35	30	15	0	15	105
Romania	0	0	40	0	0	0	40	80
Czech Rep.	:	0	40	0	25	0	0	65
Luxembourg	:	30	5	0	0	0	30	65
Hungary	0	0	:	0	0	0	10	10
Lithuania	:	:	:	0	5	0	0	5
Bulgaria	:	:	:	:	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greece	:	:	:	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	:	:	:	:	:	0	0	0
Cyprus	0	:	0	:	:	0	0	0
Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	:	:	:	:	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Since 2013, Germany and its federal states have run special Humanitarian Admission Programmes (HAPs) for Syrian refugees under which 13,523 people were resettled in 2014. Germany does not consider the HAPs to be resettlement programmes, which is why they do not appear in these statistics.²⁴

²³ [Eurostat interactive database](#), Resettled persons by age, sex and citizenship, Annual data (rounded), code [migr_asyresa].

²⁴ UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015, p. 22, footnote 27. For more information about these programmes, see Pro Asyl, [Informationen zu den Aufnahmeprogrammen für syrische Flüchtlinge](#), updated on 6 October 2015.

On refugee resettlement

As one of the durable solutions for highly vulnerable refugees, UNHCR pursues their relocation to countries that offer them permanent resettlement and integration. Currently 27 countries participate globally in the UNHCR-facilitated resettlement programme. In 2014, 105,200 refugees were admitted. The EU share of 6,525 resettled persons accounted for only 16 percent.

The top six countries admitting resettled refugees in 2014 were:

1. US	73,000
2. Canada	12,300
3. Australia	11,600
4. Sweden	2,000
5. Norway	1,300
6. Finland	1,100

Among the resettled refugees were 25,800 Iraqis; 17,900 citizens of Myanmar/Burma; 11,900 Somalis; 8,200 Bhutanese; 7,100 citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and 6,400 Syrians.

Over the past decade (2005-2014), UNHCR has succeeded in resettling 900,000 refugees, which is almost the same number as during the previous 1995-2004 decade (923,000 refugees). UNHCR has many more candidates for resettlement, but adjusts its requests to available offers. It continues to advocate for more countries to offer resettlement places, and for more places to be offered.²⁵

In July 2015, EU member states agreed to increase the number of refugees they resettle from UNHCR to 18,415 over two years, and to share them between 27 member states (all member states except Hungary).²⁶ For this, they will receive financial support from the EU budget. While the commitment represents an annual increase by more than 40 percent, in absolute numbers it is just an additional 2,680 people per year. (In addition the four Schengen-associated countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland have pledged to resettle 4,090 people during this period, with Norway alone offering 3,500 places.)

Several German federal states will continue their Humanitarian Admission Programmes (HAP) for Syrian refugees outside this scheme, while the federal HAP is running out in 2015. Two other EU countries have announced national measures outside this scheme: the UK intends to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees until the end of the current UK Parliament in 2020, and Ireland has committed to accept 2,900 people through UNHCR or from other EU countries.²⁷

²⁵ All information and data on resettlement until here is from UNHCR, [Global Trends. Forced Displacement in 2014](#), updated as of 12 May 2015, pp. 22-23.

²⁶ Council of the EU, Conclusions of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on resettling through multilateral and national schemes 20,000 persons in clear need of international protection, 22 July 2015.

²⁷ European Commission Communication, [Managing the refugee crisis: immediate operational, budgetary and legal measures under the European Agenda on Migration](#), 29 September 2015, p. 4, footnote 2.

Annex: Terminology concerning international protection in the EU

Refugee status (in response to persecution) is the highest form of international protection. Under EU asylum legislation, which is based on the 1951 UN Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, EU member states are committed to offering refugee status to foreign nationals that have "a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group" in their home country".²⁸

Subsidiary protection (in response to risks of serious harm) is accorded to people who face "risks of serious harm" in their home countries, but who do not meet the UN definition of refugee. The relevant EU Directive defines "serious harm" as "(a) death penalty or execution; or (b) torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of an applicant in the country of origin; or (c) serious and individual threat to a civilian's life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict."²⁹

Humanitarian shelter: Some asylum seekers are allowed to remain in an EU country "for reasons not due to a need for international protection, but on a discretionary basis on compassionate or humanitarian grounds"³⁰. As it is at the discretion of EU member states to grant this status, it is regulated by national legislation. Most often it is offered to people with medical problems that cannot be treated in their home country. Eurostat does not have complete data on it since not all member states offer this type of protection or because it is granted by authorities other than the asylum authorities.³¹

At first instance, asylum claims are decided by administrative bodies, that is the asylum authorities. Some EU countries offer the possibility of an administrative review if a rejected asylum seeker wishes to pursue it. All rejected asylum seekers also have a right of appeal before a court, so this is the next instance. In some EU countries, this is the final instance, while others offer the possibility of one or more appeal against the first court decision, depending on their judicial systems.

²⁸ [Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted.](#)

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ There is no data on humanitarian protection from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal and Slovenia.