

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 % |
| | | |
| <u>Others:</u> | | |
| 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 |

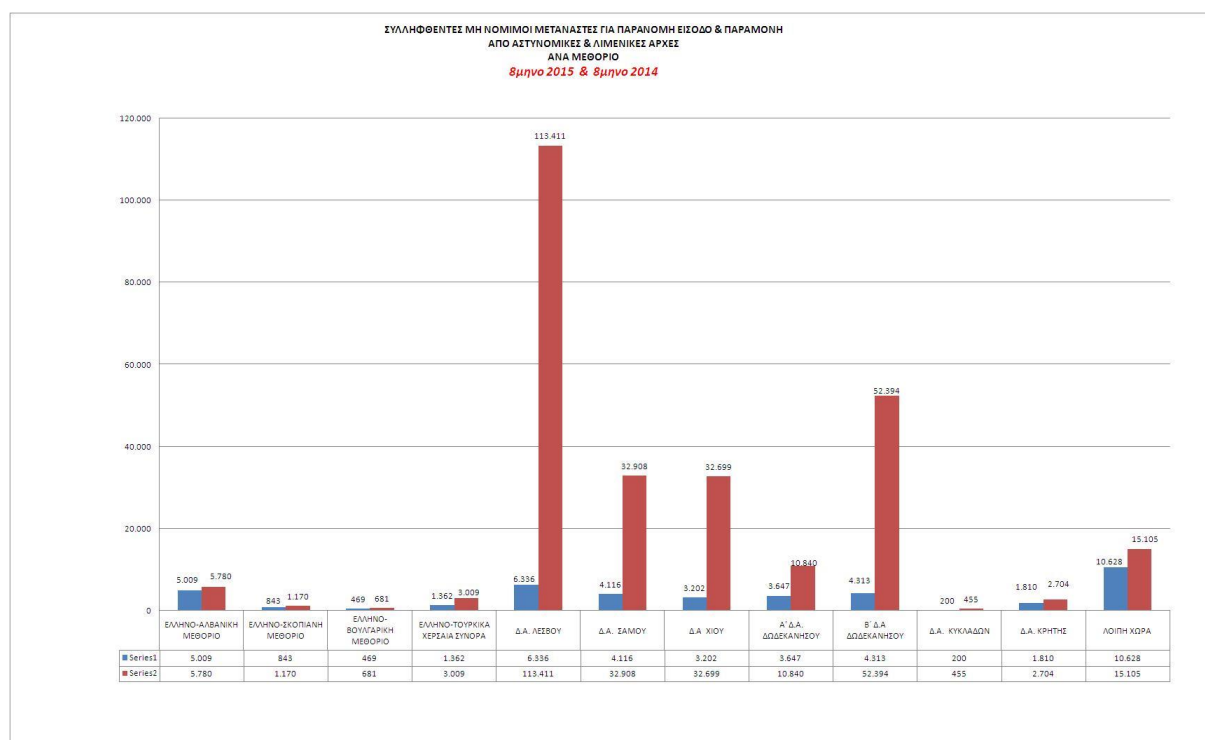
The number of arrivals in Italy is an IOM estimate.

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.

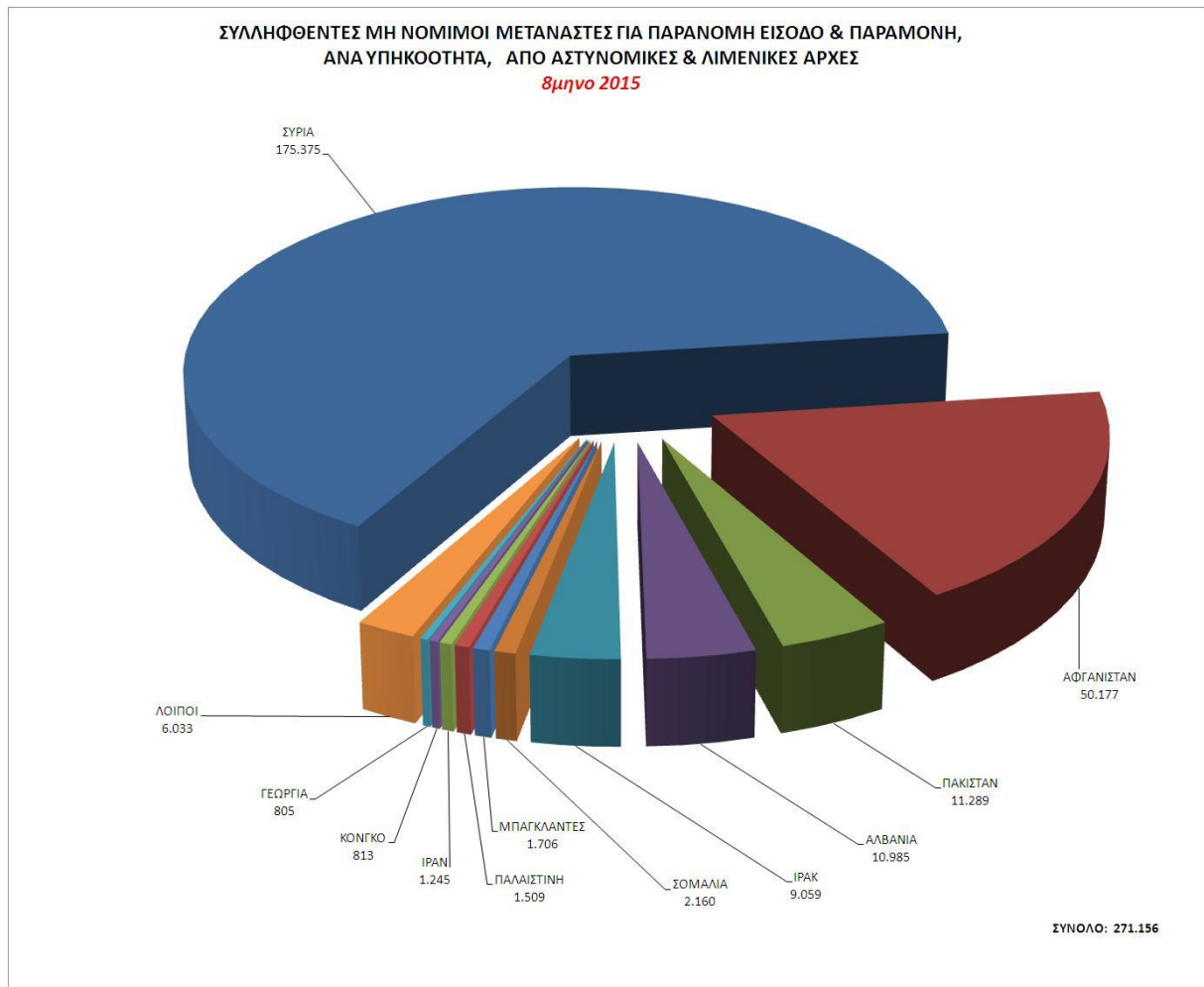


Arrivals on Greek islands Jan.-August 2015:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| 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_asydcfststa]; 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.