

Asylum in the EU27

Around 260 000 asylum applicants registered in 2009

In 2009, there were nearly 261 000 asylum applicants¹ registered in the **EU27**, or 520 applicants per million inhabitants. The main countries of citizenship of these applicants were **Afghanistan** (20 400 or 8% of the total number of applicants), **Russia** (20 100 or 8%), **Somalia** (19 100 or 7%), **Iraq** (18 700 or 7%) and **Kosovo** under UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (14 200 or 5%).

These data on asylum applicants in the **EU27** are taken from a report² issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

Highest number of applicants recorded in France, Germany and UK

In 2009, the highest number of applicants were registered in **France** (47 600 applicants) followed by **Germany** (31 800), the **United Kingdom**³ (30 300), **Sweden** (24 200), **Belgium** (21 600), **Italy** (17 500), the **Netherlands** (16 100), **Greece** (15 900) and **Austria** (15 800).

When compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of applicants registered were recorded in **Malta** (5 800 applicants per million inhabitants), **Cyprus**⁴ (3 300), **Sweden** (2 600), **Belgium** (2 000) and **Austria** (1 900).

In some Member States, a large proportion of the applicants came from a single country. The Member States with the highest concentrations were **Malta** (60% of the applicants came from **Somalia**), **Lithuania** (54% from **Russia**), **Poland** (54% from **Russia**), **Hungary** (38% from **Kosovo** under UN Security Council Resolution 1244) and the **Netherlands** (37% from **Somalia**).

First instance decisions

In 2009 in the **EU27**, 229 500 first instance decisions⁵ were made on asylum applications. There were 166 900 rejections (73% of decisions), 27 600 applicants (12%) were granted refugee status, 26 200 (11%) subsidiary protection and 8 900 (4%) were granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons. It should be noted that first instance decisions made in 2009 may refer to applications registered in previous years.

The proportion of positive decisions varies considerably among Member States. However, it should be kept in mind that the country of origin of applicants also differs greatly between Member States.

Asylum applicants in the EU27, 2009

	Applicants		Citizenships of main groups of asylum applicants								
	2009	Per million inh*	First group	#	%	Second group	#	%	Third group	#	%
EU27	260 730	520	Afghanistan	20 410	8	Russia	20 075	8	Somalia	19 070	7
Belgium	21 645	2 015	Russia	2 875	13	Kosovo**	2 515	12	Afghanistan	2 055	9
Bulgaria	855	110	Iraq	305	36	Stateless	125	15	Afghanistan	60	7
Czech Republic	1 240	120	Ukraine	200	16	Kazakhstan	185	15	Mongolia	160	13
Denmark	3 725	675	Afghanistan	1 045	28	Syria	380	10	Russia	335	9
Germany	31 810	390	Iraq	7 065	22	Afghanistan	3 455	11	Kosovo**	1 790	6
Estonia	40	30	Afghanistan	10	25	Georgia	5	13	Russia	5	13
Ireland	2 690	605	Nigeria	570	21	Pakistan	260	10	China	195	7
Greece	15 925	1 415	Pakistan	3 715	23	Georgia	2 170	14	Bangladesh	1 810	11
Spain	3 005	65	Nigeria	460	15	Ivory Coast	305	10	Colombia	255	8
France	47 625	740	Kosovo**	4 580	10	Sri Lanka	3 900	8	Russia	3 785	8
Italy	17 470	290	Nigeria	3 975	23	Somalia	1 600	9	Pakistan	1 355	8
Cyprus⁴	2 665	3 345	India	300	11	Sri Lanka	235	9	Occ. Palestinian Territories	230	9
Latvia	60	25	Afghanistan	20	33	Uzbekistan	10	17	Syria	5	8
Lithuania	450	135	Russia	245	54	Georgia	75	17	Sri Lanka	20	4
Luxembourg	480	975	Kosovo**	130	27	Iraq	65	14	Bosnia & Herz.	35	7
Hungary	4 665	465	Kosovo**	1 785	38	Afghanistan	1 195	26	Serbia	535	11
Malta	2 385	5 765	Somalia	1 445	60	Nigeria	280	12	Eritrea	270	11
Netherlands	16 140	980	Somalia	6 025	37	Iraq	2 165	13	Afghanistan	1 400	9
Austria	15 785	1 890	Russia	3 565	23	Afghanistan	2 215	14	Kosovo**	1 305	8
Poland	10 595	280	Russia	5 725	54	Georgia	4 180	39	Armenia	150	1
Portugal	140	15	Eritrea	20	14	Guinea	20	14	Mauritania	15	11
Romania	965	45	Moldova	145	15	Pakistan	110	11	Afghanistan	90	9
Slovenia	200	100	Bosnia & Herz.	40	20	Kosovo**	30	15	Serbia	20	10
Slovakia	810	150	Pakistan	170	21	Georgia	100	12	Moldova	75	9
Finland	4 915	925	Somalia	1 150	23	Iraq	1 130	23	Russia	585	12
Sweden	24 175	2 610	Somalia	5 915	24	Iraq	2 310	10	Afghanistan	1 695	7
United Kingdom³	30 290	490	Zimbabwe	7 505	25	Afghanistan	3 590	12	Iran	2 175	7
Iceland	35	110	Iran	5	14	Albania	5	14	Iraq	5	14
Liechtenstein	280	7 870	Somalia	120	43	Eritrea	110	39	Russia	10	4
Norway	17 140	3 570	Afghanistan	3 870	23	Eritrea	2 665	16	Somalia	1 900	11
Switzerland	15 900	2 065	Nigeria	1 785	11	Eritrea	1 725	11	Sri Lanka	1 415	9

* Number of applicants registered during the year relative to population as of 1st January 2009. Population data are provisional for Belgium and the United Kingdom.

** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.
Data are rounded to the nearest 5.

First instance decisions, 2009

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Rejections
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
EU27	229 510	62 650	27 630	26 165	8 855	166 860
Belgium	14 365	2 910	2 425	480	-	11 460
Bulgaria	645	270	40	230	-	375
Czech Republic	530	100	60	20	20	430
Denmark	1 650	790	350	345	95	860
Germany	26 780	9 765	8 155	405	1 205	17 015
Estonia	25	5	5	0	-	20
Ireland	4 040	1 030	105	40	885	3 010
Greece	14 350	165	35	105	25	14 185
Spain	4 480	350	180	160	10	4 135
France	35 295	5 050	3 910	1 145	-	30 240
Italy	22 000	8 440	2 115	4 845	1 480	13 560
Cyprus	3 855	1 130	50	1 040	40	2 725
Latvia	40	10	0	5	-	35
Lithuania	145	40	10	30	-	100
Luxembourg	465	110	110	0	-	355
Hungary	1 805	390	170	60	155	1 415
Malta	2 575	1 690	20	1 660	10	885
Netherlands	16 355	7 905	695	3 270	3 940	8 455
Austria	14 815	3 220	1 885	1 335	-	11 600
Poland	6 580	2 525	130	2 330	65	4 055
Portugal	95	50	5	45	-	45
Romania	540	115	50	10	55	430
Slovenia	130	20	15	5	-	110
Slovakia	315	180	15	135	30	140
Finland	2 650	960	75	805	80	1 690
Sweden	23 930	7 095	1 480	4 970	640	16 840
United Kingdom	31 040	8 350	5 545	2 685	125	22 690
Iceland	30	5	0	0	5	25
Liechtenstein	80	0	0	-	0	75
Norway	14 700	4 510	1 755	1 630	1 125	10 190
Switzerland	12 695	6 025	2 505	735	2 780	6 670

- not applicable

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

1. **Asylum applicant** means a person having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such application as a family member during the reference period.

'Application for international protection' means an application for international protection as defined in Art. 2(g) of Council Directive 2004/83/EC, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally. Within the same month every person being a subject of asylum application is counted only once, therefore repeat applications are not recorded if the first application has been lodged in the same month. However, such a repeat application will be recorded if lodged in a different reference month. It means that the annual figures, which are based on an aggregation of monthly data, may overestimate the number of persons applying for international protection. For reasons of simplicity, the term "applicant" has been used in this Release, because the data counts individuals rather than applications, which include in some cases several persons.

2. **Eurostat**, Data in Focus, 18/2010 "**Asylum applicants and decisions on asylum applications in Q4 2009**", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.

The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States. Apart from statistics on new asylum applicants, these data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.

3. Data excludes repeat applicants in Q1 and Q2 2009. Data meeting the definition in the Regulation and guidelines would be higher.
4. Data refers to the number of applications, i.e. the number of main applicants. Data meeting the definition in the Regulation and guidelines would be higher.

5. **First instance decision** means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure. The number of asylum applicants and the number of first instance decisions during the same reference period differs. This is due to the time lag between the date of the asylum application and the date of the decision on the asylum application. The duration of this time lag may vary considerably depending on the national asylum procedure and the administrative workload. An asylum application lodged in one reference period may therefore result in a decision in a later period, while some asylum decisions reported for that period may relate to applications lodged in previous reference periods.

Rejected applicant means a person covered by first instance decision rejecting application for international protection, such as, inter alia, decisions considering applications as inadmissible or as unfounded and decisions under priority and accelerated procedures, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Rejected applicants have the possibility to appeal against refusal. The outcomes of the appeals may overturn the results of the first instance decisions and may vary greatly between countries.

Person granted refugee status at first instance means a person covered by first instance decision granting refugee status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Refugee status means status as defined in Art.2(d) of Directive 2004/83/EC within the meaning of Art.1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967. According to the Art.2(c) of that Directive refugee means a third country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.

Person granted subsidiary protection status at first instance means a person covered by first instance decision granting subsidiary protection status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Subsidiary protection status means status as defined in Art.2(f) of Directive 2004/83/EC. According to the Art.2(e) of that Directive person eligible for subsidiary protection means a third country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person concerned, if returned to his or her country of origin, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.

Person granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons at first instance means a person covered by other first instance decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. It includes persons who are not eligible for international protection as currently defined in the first stage legal instruments, but are nonetheless protected against removal under the obligations that are imposed on all Member States by international refugee or human rights instruments or on the basis of principles flowing from such instruments. Examples of such categories include persons who are not removable on ill health grounds and unaccompanied minors.

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