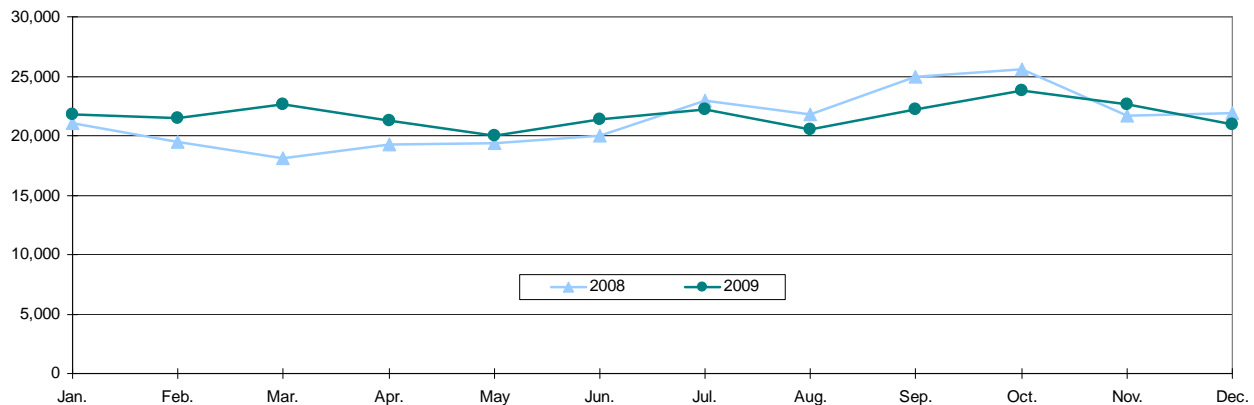


Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications in Q4 2009

The number of asylum applicants remains stable in 2009

Figure 1: Asylum applicants, EU-27¹⁾, January 2008 – December 2009

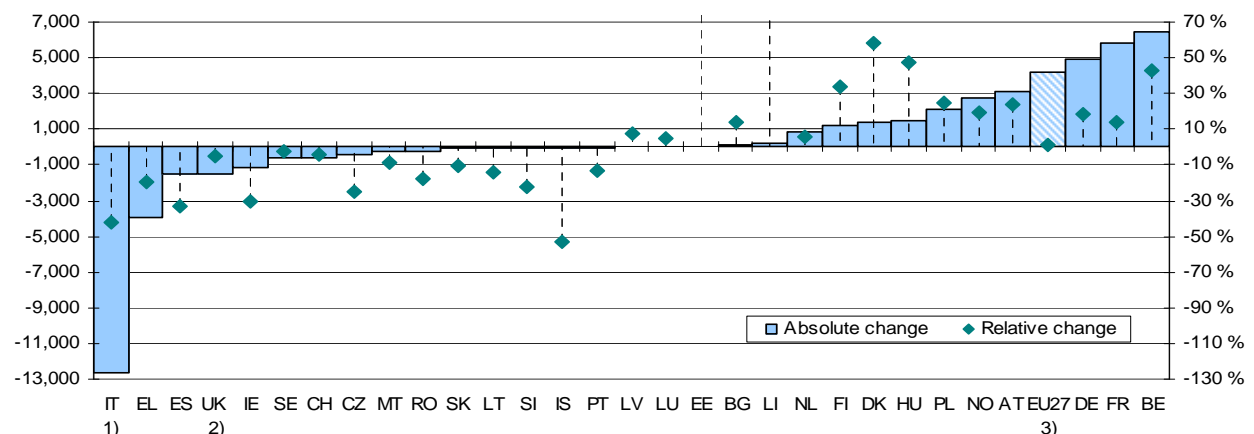


1) EU-27 aggregate includes data for CY relating to applications instead of applicants, and from January 2008 to June 2009 data for UK referring only to new asylum applicants.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctzm](#))

Nearly 13 000 fewer asylum applicants in Italy and 4 000 fewer in Greece in 2009 compared to 2008

Figure 2: Asylum applicants, absolute and relative change between 2009 and 2008



1) IT see country information in the methodological notes

2) UK: data refers only to new asylum applicants.

3) EU-27 aggregate includes data for UK referring only to new asylum applicants, and data for CY relating to applications instead of applicants.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctzm](#))

Table 1: Asylum applicants (including new asylum applicants), Q4/08-Q4/09 (rounded figures)

	Q4 2008				Q1 2009				Q2 2009				Q3 2009				Q4 2009				Applicants per million inhabitants ¹⁾	2009
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.-Dec. 2009					
EU27²⁾	25,565	21,705	21,865	21,810	21,465	22,600	21,250	19,995	21,335	22,170	20,525	22,225	23,810	22,600	20,950	67,360	135	260,730				
BE	1,565	1,340	1,275	1,670	1,305	1,470	1,460	1,435	1,535	1,705	1,700	1,835	2,425	2,445	2,665	7,530	700	21,645				
BG	65	50	40	70	65	90	50	55	75	60	55	70	75	100	85	260	35	855				
CZ	175	115	85	125	130	110	135	115	95	105	80	85	95	80	85	260	25	1,240				
DK	245	275	245	335	260	340	215	300	205	225	315	380	360	410	385	1,155	210	3,725				
DE	2,370	2,095	1,870	2,735	2,365	2,510	2,305	2,250	2,390	3,000	2,825	3,025	3,035	2,850	2,510	8,390	100	31,810				
EE	0	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	15	10	40				
IE	355	325	300	255	270	270	240	230	245	220	225	195	205	175	160	540	120	2,690				
EL ³⁾	1,650	1,430	1,780	1,555	1,590	1,570	1,680	1,715	1,665	1,085	495	1,585	1,135	960	890	2,985	265	15,925				
ES	430	365	335	290	340	270	255	215	270	240	175	265	290	215	175	685	15	3,005				
FR	4,625	3,635	4,350	3,990	4,275	4,180	3,950	3,235	3,920	4,070	3,610	3,990	4,640	4,125	4,240	13,005	200	47,625				
IT	3,260	2,740	1,705	1,800	1,390	1,490	2,300	2,405	1,510	1,415	575	1,075	1,235	1,620	655	3,510	60	17,470				
CY	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:			
LV	20	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	10	20	5	0	30	10	60				
LT	50	35	60	30	40	35	30	55	20	25	30	75	55	25	35	115	35	450				
LU	30	35	25	25	25	30	35	25	40	45	45	55	30	55	60	150	305	480				
HU	445	340	320	280	495	485	350	350	310	480	430	475	520	250	240	1,010	100	4,665				
MT	190	205	215	220	225	225	200	180	155	145	205	145	160	280	250	685	1,660	2,385				
NL	1,645	1,250	1,175	1,300	1,280	1,385	1,340	1,110	1,325	1,265	1,145	1,425	1,655	1,565	1,340	4,560	275	16,140				
AT	1,405	1,220	1,295	1,210	1,250	1,315	1,200	1,225	1,295	1,345	1,280	1,435	1,465	1,315	1,450	4,225	505	15,785				
PL	795	725	915	370	345	450	470	520	1,310	1,565	2,075	995	890	695	905	2,490	65	10,595				
PT	15	10	5	15	10	15	5	10	25	10	5	10	15	5	10	30	5	140				
RO	125	125	160	95	125	65	70	70	105	75	120	75	50	70	45	165	10	965				
SI	30	40	25	40	10	20	15	10	5	30	10	10	0	15	30	50	25	200				
SK	120	65	65	55	45	60	40	60	70	95	60	105	80	65	70	215	40	810				
FI	630	515	565	520	445	465	340	310	375	365	440	420	485	395	345	1,225	230	4,915				
SE	2,270	1,900	2,140	1,935	1,670	1,735	1,565	1,590	1,880	2,045	2,385	2,185	2,325	2,400	2,455	7,180	775	24,175				
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	2,320	2,080	2,070	2,315	2,190	1,650	6,160	100	:				
IS	10	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	5	10	0	5	5	0	5	20	35				
LI	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	5	5	0	20	70	100	65	5	170	4,720	280				
NO	1,455	1,450	1,450	1,345	1,180	1,265	1,270	1,510	1,545	1,765	1,810	1,630	1,520	1,210	1,095	3,820	795	17,140				
CH	2,090	2,050	2,080	2,265	1,355	1,295	1,195	1,060	1,180	1,275	1,200	1,225	1,305	1,345	1,200	3,850	500	15,900				

1) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2009 (provisional data for BE and UK).

2) EU-27 aggregate includes data for CY relating to applications instead of applicants, and from October 2008 to June 2009 data for UK referring only to new asylum applicants.

3) EL see country methodological notes.

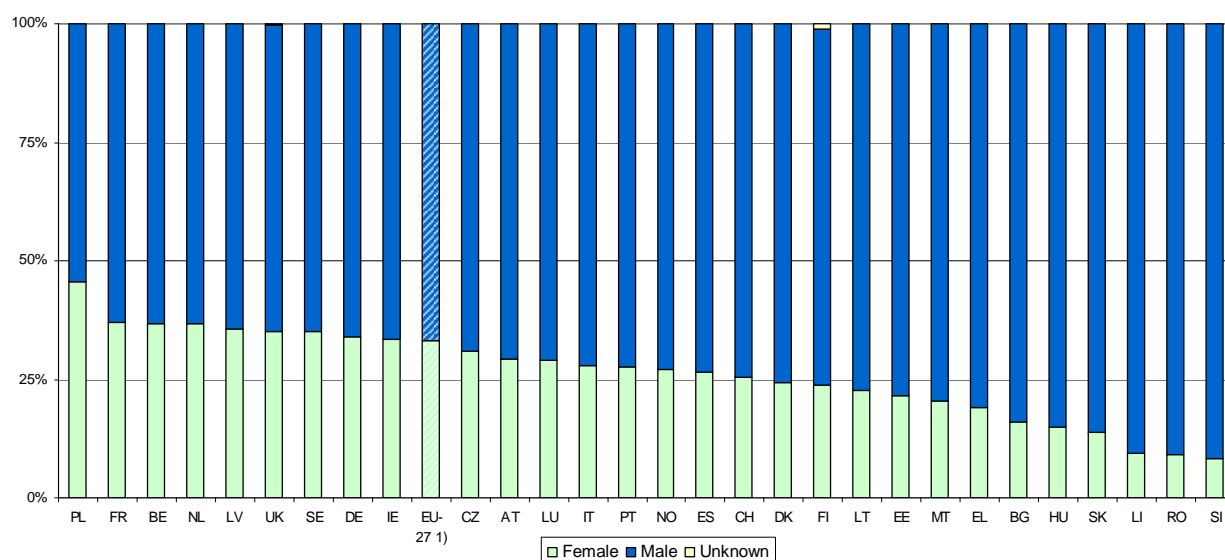
Table 2: New asylum applicants, Q4/08-Q4/09 (rounded figures)

	Q4 2008			Q1 2009			Q2 2009			Q3 2009			Q4 2009			Applicants per million inhabitants ¹⁾	2009
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
EU27	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
BE	1,230	1,015	885	1,270	955	1,010	990	985	1,045	1,210	1,275	1,550	1,915	2,060	2,355	6,335	590
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CZ	110	65	45	80	65	50	50	60	45	45	35	40	50	45	55	145	15
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DE	1,945	1,730	1,540	2,335	1,935	1,995	1,915	1,820	1,950	2,540	2,450	2,595	2,630	2,450	2,170	7,250	90
EE	0	5	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	15	10
IE	355	325	300	250	270	270	235	225	240	210	225	195	205	175	160	540	120
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FR	:	:	:	2,905	3,755	3,640	3,490	2,815	3,475	3,550	3,200	3,480	4,135	3,720	3,905	11,760	185
IT	3,260	2,740	1,705	1,800	1,390	1,490	2,300	2,405	1,510	1,415	575	1,075	1,235	1,620	655	3,510	60
CY	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LV	20	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	5	20	5	0	30	10
LT	:	:	:	15	15	10	10	20	10	5	20	50	25	15	20	60	20
LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
HU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
MT	190	205	215	220	225	225	200	180	155	145	205	145	160	280	250	685	1,660
NL	1,435	1,105	1,080	1,170	1,145	1,300	1,230	1,020	1,215	1,170	1,030	1,325	1,570	1,465	1,230	4,270	260
AT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	710	645	810	310	290	415	405	445	1,250	1,490	1,970	920	805	620	745	2,165	55
PT	15	10	5	15	10	15	5	10	25	10	5	10	15	5	10	30	5
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	25	35	20	40	10	15	10	10	5	30	10	10	0	10	30	45	20
SK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SE	2,195	1,845	2,060	1,860	1,595	1,645	1,500	1,545	1,835	2,020	2,360	2,150	2,280	2,360	2,465	7,105	765
UK	2,845	2,610	2,670	3,255	3,210	3,815	2,805	2,270	2,295	2,250	2,005	2,015	2,225	2,100	1,565	5,890	95
IS	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CH	1,940	1,915	1,975	2,125	1,255	1,160	1,075	955	1,060	1,160	1,080	1,110	1,155	1,235	1,040	3,425	445

1) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2009 (provisional data for BE and UK).

In Q4 2009, every third asylum seeker in the EU27 was female

Figure 3: Asylum applicants by gender, 4th quarter 2009 (in %)



1) EU-27 aggregate includes CY data relating to applications.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctzm](#))

Table 3: Asylum applicants by age group, 4th quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

	Total (absolute value)	Distribution of age groups as a share of total (in %)					Unknown
		0-13	14-17	18-34	35-64	65 and over	
EU-27 ¹⁾	67,360	16.9	7.5	54.8	19.7	0.7	0.3
Belgium	7,530	23.4	7.6	48.8	19.6	0.5	0.0
Bulgaria	260	5.8	4.2	70.4	18.1	1.5	0.0
Czech Republic	260	20.6	1.9	49.2	28.2	0.0	0.0
Denmark	1,155	14.3	20.3	50.2	14.2	1.0	0.0
Germany	8,390	21.8	8.8	50.5	18.0	0.9	0.0
Estonia	15	7.1	14.3	64.3	7.1	7.1	0.0
Ireland	540	21.5	5.7	55.9	16.5	0.4	0.0
Greece	2,985	1.4	3.6	75.9	18.9	0.1	0.0
Spain	685	7.3	2.3	69.7	20.5	0.1	0.0
France	13,005	16.2	3.6	55.3	24.1	0.8	0.0
Italy	3,510	0.1	3.1	76.8	19.3	0.0	0.7
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Latvia	30	28.6	17.9	35.7	17.9	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	115	13.9	3.5	57.4	25.2	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	150	13.9	9.3	52.3	23.8	0.7	0.0
Hungary	1,010	15.2	11.2	63.3	10.2	0.1	0.0
Malta	685	3.2	1.2	89.1	6.3	0.0	0.3
Netherlands	4,560	19.9	11.0	50.9	17.1	1.1	0.0
Austria	4,225	24.4	11.5	48.0	15.7	0.4	0.0
Poland	2,490	33.2	5.1	39.3	21.4	0.9	0.0
Portugal	30	6.9	3.4	69.0	20.7	0.0	0.0
Romania	165	4.8	8.4	71.3	15.0	0.6	0.0
Slovenia	50	4.2	25.0	54.2	14.6	2.1	0.0
Slovakia	215	6.5	6.9	72.4	14.3	0.0	0.0
Finland	1,225	16.7	8.3	57.6	15.6	0.4	1.4
Sweden	7,180	16.0	11.7	50.3	20.8	1.2	0.0
United Kingdom	6,160	14.5	8.8	53.0	20.2	0.7	2.8
Iceland	5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Liechtenstein	170	5.4	5.4	79.8	9.5	0.0	0.0
Norway	3,820	14.8	15.4	54.2	15.2	0.4	0.0
Switzerland	3,850	21.6	3.9	60.7	13.3	0.4	0.0

1) EU-27 aggregate includes CY data relating to applications.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctzm](#))

Notes:

*¹⁾ – Age and sex distribution is not calculated for those countries where the number of applicants was lower than 10 during the reference period

Table 4: Five main citizenships of asylum applicants, 4th quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

BELGIUM		BULGARIA		CZECH REPUBLIC	
Russia	1,075	Iraq	90	Ukraine	45
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	1,070	Iran	20	Mongolia	35
Armenia	800	Armenia	15	Kazakhstan	20
Afghanistan	575	Algeria	10	Stateless	15
Guinea	475	Morocco	10	Turkey	15
Other	3,535	Other	110	Other	130
DENMARK		GERMANY		ESTONIA	
Afghanistan	340	Iraq	1,610	Afghanistan	5
Syrian Arab Republic	155	Afghanistan	1,160	Russia	5
Russia	140	Iran	545	Nigeria	*
Iran	100	Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	450	Armenia	*
Iraq	65	Turkey	405	Iraq	*
Other	355	Other	4,220	Other	*
IRELAND		GREECE		SPAIN	
Nigeria	110	Pakistan	750	Nigeria	95
Pakistan	55	Georgia	490	Algeria	60
China	45	Bangladesh	315	Colombia	60
Zimbabwe	20	Iraq	195	Guinea	55
Cameroon	20	Afghanistan	190	Ivory Coast	45
Other	300	Other	1,050	Other	370
FRANCE		ITALY		CYPRUS¹⁾	
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	1,550	Eritrea	590	India	115
Armenia	1,090	Nigeria	520	Sri Lanka	45
Russia	1,070	Turkey	185	Cameroon	40
Sri Lanka	940	Ghana	185	Egypt	40
CD	830	Afghanistan	175	Bangladesh	35
Other	7,525	Other	1,860	Other	455
LATVIA		LITHUANIA		LUXEMBOURG	
Afghanistan	20	Russia	50	Iraq	45
PS	5	Georgia	25	Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	20
Russia	*	Afghanistan	5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	15
CD	*	Belarus	*	Belarus	10
Georgia	*	India	*	Albania	5
Other	*	Other	35	Other	60
HUNGARY		MALTA		NETHERLANDS	
Afghanistan	455	Somalia	435	Somalia	1,285
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	245	Eritrea	145	Iraq	645
Serbia	85	Mali	30	Afghanistan	430
Georgia	35	Bangladesh	20	Georgia	265
Iran	25	Nigeria	15	Iran	240
Other	165	Other	45	Other	1,700
AUSTRIA		POLAND		PORTUGAL	
Russia	960	Russia	1,850	Guinea	5
Afghanistan	735	Georgia	485	Angola	*
Georgia	320	Armenia	30	Moldova	*
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	305	Belarus	10	Russia	*
Nigeria	235	China	10	CD	*
Other	1,670	Other	110	Other	20
ROMANIA		SLOVENIA		SLOVAK REPUBLIC	
Pakistan	35	Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	10	Pakistan	45
Afghanistan	30	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	Moldova	25
Moldova	20	Afghanistan	10	Afghanistan	25
Iraq	20	Iran	5	Georgia	20
Turkey	10	Pakistan	5	Vietnam	20
Other	55	Other	15	Other	85
FINLAND		SWEDEN		UNITED KINGDOM	
Russia	290	Somalia	2,105	Zimbabwe	835
Somalia	210	Afghanistan	645	Afghanistan	750
Iraq	185	Iraq	560	Pakistan	575
Afghanistan	95	Iran	435	Iran	575
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	80	Eritrea	325	China	315
Other	360	Other	3,110	Other	3,110
EU-27²⁾					
		Russia	6,310		
		Afghanistan	5,965		
		Somalia	4,900		
		Iraq	4,485		
		Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	4,145		
		Other	41,555		

LIECHTENSTEIN		NORWAY		SWITZERLAND	
Eritrea	105	Afghanistan	690	Nigeria	550
Somalia	50	Eritrea	680	Eritrea	380
Serbia	5	Somalia	430	Sri Lanka	295
Azerbaijan	5	Stateless	270	Afghanistan	220
Kyrgyzstan	5	Russia	260	Iraq	180
Other	*	Other	1,495	Other	2,220

1) Data relates to applications.

2) EU-27 aggregate estimated; includes CY data relating to applications.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctzm](#))

Notes:

* – represents 2 or fewer applicants recorded in the reference period

CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the; PS – Palestinian territory occupied

The number of Armenian asylum seekers in the EU-27 almost doubled in 6 months

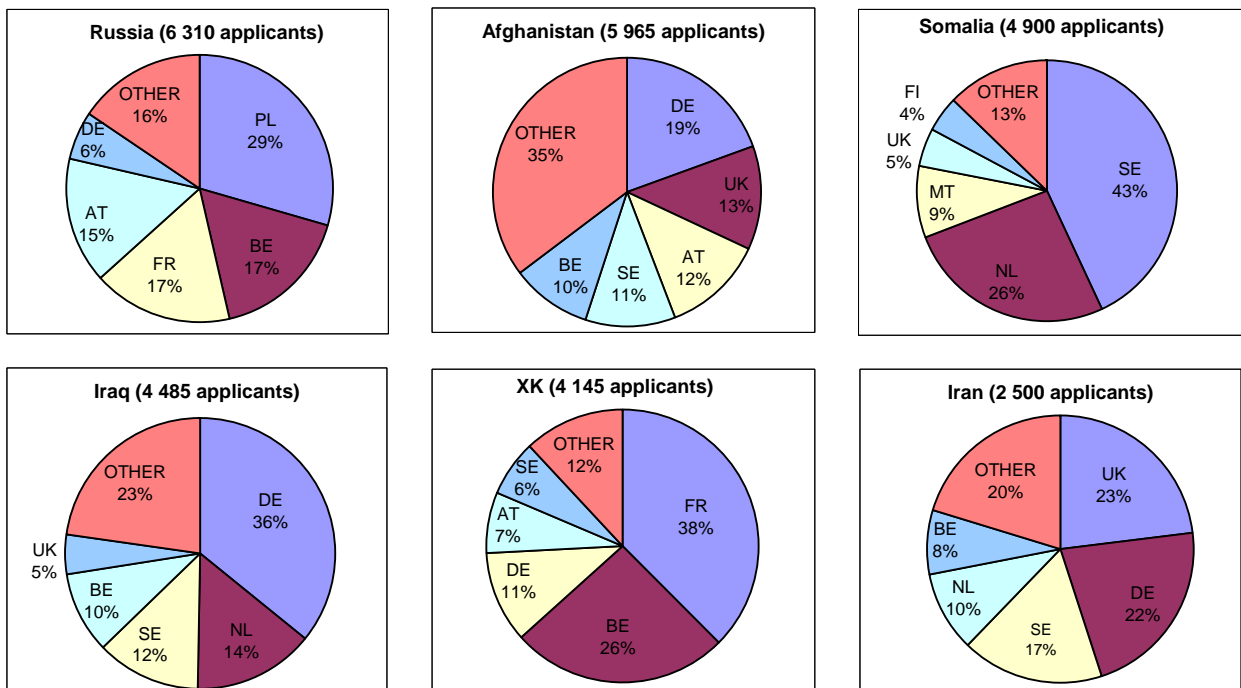
Table 5: Ten main citizenships of asylum seekers in the EU-27¹⁾ by number of applicants, 2nd quarter 2009 – 4th quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

	Q4 2009	Q3 2009		Q2 2009	
	Number of applicants	Number of applicants	Rank	Number of applicants	Rank
Russia	6,310	5,395	(1)	4,100	(3)
Afghanistan	5,965	5,205	(2)	4,375	(2)
Somalia	4,900	4,820	(3)	5,120	(1)
Iraq	4,485	4,570	(4)	4,010	(4)
Kosovo UNSCR / 1244	4,145	3,510	(6)	3,235	(6)
Iran	2,500	2,475	(7)	1,600	(12)
Armenia	2,400	1,545	(12)	1,300	(16)
Georgia	2,340	4,525	(5)	2,365	(8)
Pakistan	2,105	2,170	(8)	2,910	(7)
Nigeria	1,985	2,140	(9)	3,350	(5)
Other	30,225	28,555	(-)	30,215	(-)

1) EU-27 aggregate includes CY data relating to applications and from April 2009 to June 2009 data for UK referring only to new asylum applicants.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctzm](#))

Figure 4: Distribution of the 6 main countries of citizenship of asylum seekers in the EU-27¹⁾ by receiving country, 4th quarter 2009



1) EU-27 aggregate includes data for CY relating to applications instead of applicants.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctzm](#))

Note:

XK – Kosovo / UNSCR 1244

Germany granted the highest number of refugee status at first instance in Q4 2009

Table 6: First instance decisions by citizenship in selected Member States¹⁾, 4th quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

GERMANY					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections
Iraq	740	Afghanistan	45	Afghanistan	230
Iran	175	Sri Lanka	20	Iraq	30
Eritrea	150	Somalia	15	XK	10
Other	540	Other	40	Other	85
				Iraq	620
				Turkey	365
				Other	3,030

FRANCE					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections
Sri Lanka	190	Mali	120	Not applicable	XK
Russia	75	Guinea	40		Turkey
CD	70	Senegal	25		Haiti
Other	695	Other	75		Other
					775
					585
					575
					6,365

ITALY					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections
Eritrea	210	Eritrea	295	Nigeria	60
Iran	55	Somalia	110	XK	25
Afghanistan	50	Afghanistan	80	Ghana	20
Other	420	Other	280	Other	240
					580
					225
					185
					1,280

SWEDEN					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections
Somalia	120	Somalia	1,240	Afghanistan	35
Iraq	100	Eritrea	175	XK	35
Iran	70	Afghanistan	140	Iraq	25
Other	195	Other	235	Other	130
					575
					505
					360
					3,560

OTHER EU MS					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections
Iraq	235	Somalia	1,095	Somalia	215
Iran	145	Iraq	670	Iraq	185
Syrian Arab f	110	Afghanistan	235	Afghanistan	115
Other	615	Other	905	Other	565
					1,285
					1,130
					1,080
					8,430

UNITED KINGDOM					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections
Zimbabwe	230	Afghanistan	310	Zimbabwe	5
Eritrea	175	Zimbabwe	115	Bangladesh	5
Somalia	150	Iran	25	Kenya	5
Other	535	Other	215	Other	30
					990
					635
					555
					4,145

EU-27					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		Humanitarian reasons		Rejections
Iraq	1,255	Somalia	2,510	Afghanistan	385
Eritrea	625	Afghanistan	985	Iraq	245
Iran	560	Iraq	890	Somalia	245
Other	4,295	Other	2,325	Other	1,170
					2,540
					2,480
					2,370
					33,795

1) Countries selected here are those with the highest number of first instance decisions.

Source: Eurostat (migr.asydcfstg)

Notes:

CD – Congo, the Democratic Republic of the; SY – Syrian Arab Republic; XK – Kosovo / UNSCR 1244.

Table 7: First instance decisions by outcome, 4th quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

	Total decisions	Total positive decisions	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejected
EU-27 ¹⁾	56,670	15,485	6,735	6,705	2,045	41,185
Belgium	3,860	870	680	190	-	2,985
Bulgaria	150	65	15	50	-	85
Czech Republic	100	20	10	*	5	85
Denmark	855	375	200	145	25	480
Germany	6,470	2,085	1,605	125	355	4,390
Estonia	10	*	*	0	-	5
Ireland	1,060	410	25	25	360	650
Greece	1,815	25	5	20	0	1,790
Spain	955	95	45	50	*	860
France	9,590	1,290	1,030	260	-	8,300
Italy	4,125	1,855	735	770	350	2,265
Cyprus	670	300	*	285	10	375
Latvia	15	5	*	5	-	10
Lithuania	10	*	*	0	-	10
Luxembourg	145	40	40	0	-	100
Hungary	405	115	35	15	65	285
Malta	700	565	0	560	5	140
Netherlands	3,575	1,650	160	960	530	1,920
Austria	3,815	825	490	335	-	2,990
Poland	1,545	115	15	85	20	1,425
Portugal	15	5	0	5	-	5
Romania	120	20	10	0	15	95
Slovenia	25	15	15	*	-	10
Slovakia	70	30	5	20	5	40
Finland	955	400	30	340	35	555
Sweden	7,490	2,495	485	1,785	220	5,000
United Kingdom	8,120	1,800	1,090	665	40	6,320
Iceland	15	*	*	0	0	10
Liechtenstein	45	0	0	-	0	45
Norway	4,605	980	420	345	210	3,625
Switzerland	4,075	2,000	805	240	960	2,075

1) As a sum of available data.

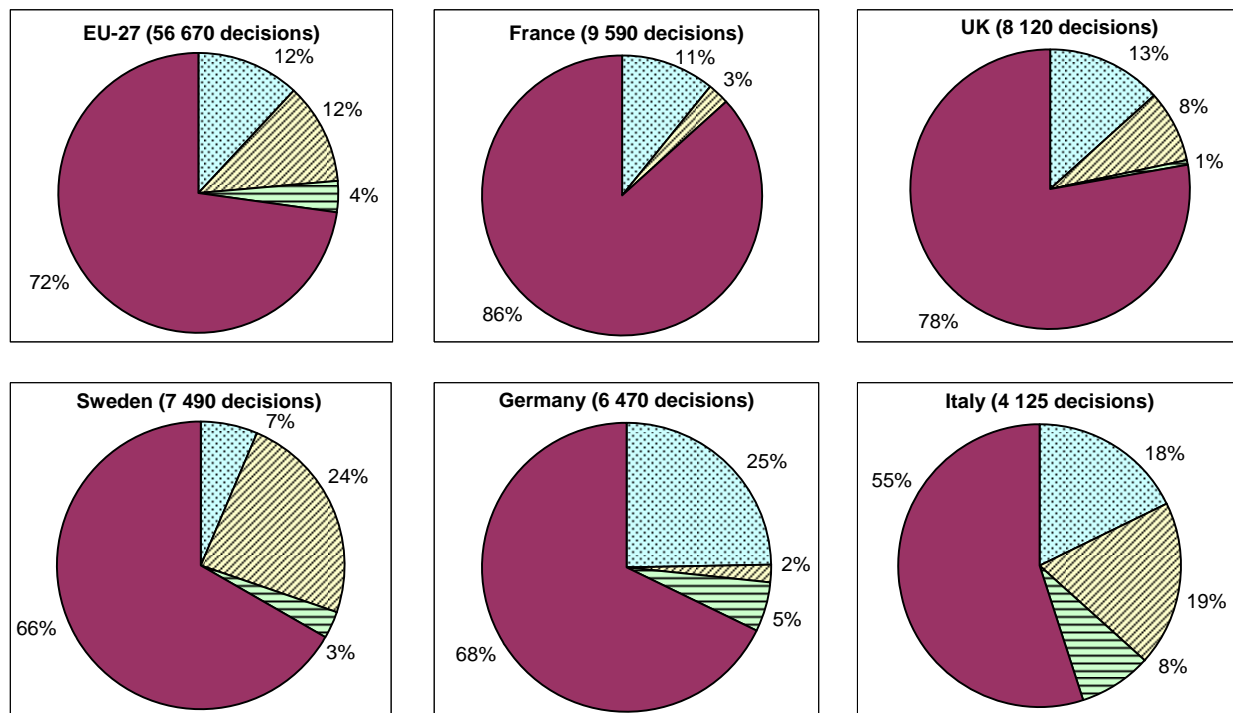
Source: Eurostat (migr.asydcfstg)

'-' – not applicable

* – represents 2 or fewer first instance decisions recorded in the reference period

Half of the Somali applicants received subsidiary protection at first instance in the EU during Q4 2009

Figure 5: First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States¹⁾, 4th quarter 2009

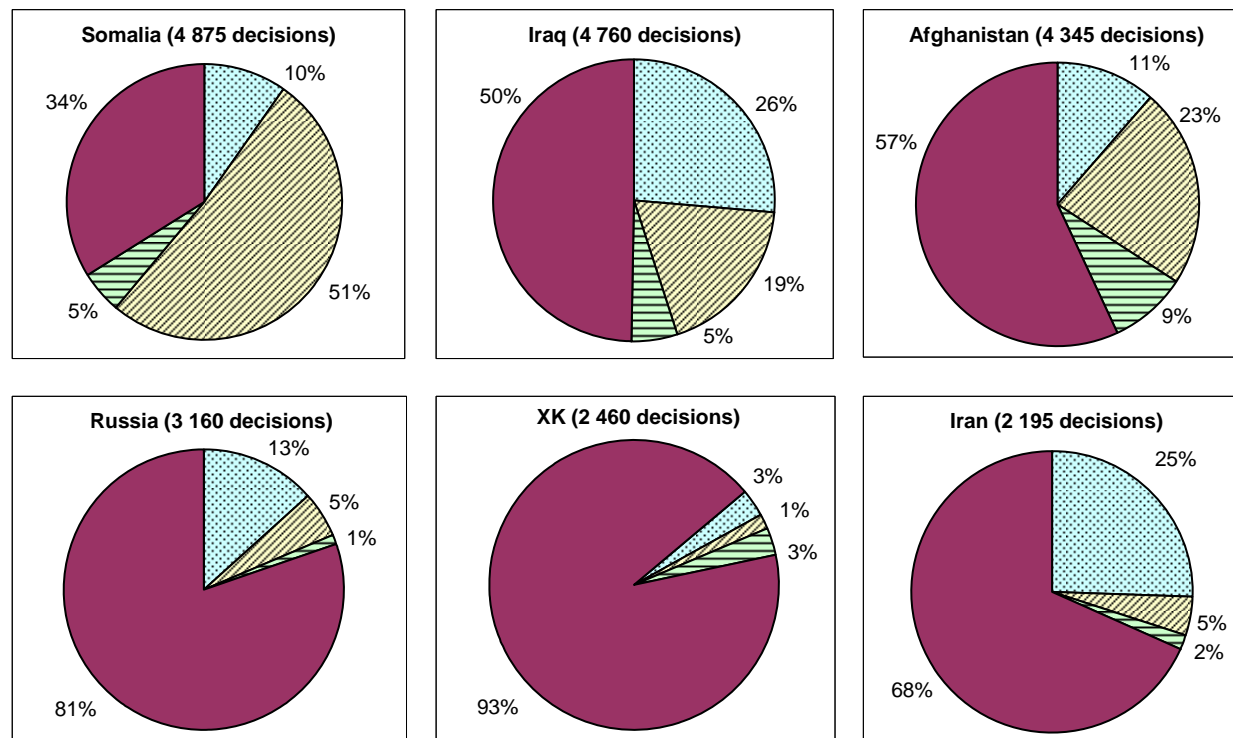


1) Countries selected here are those with the highest number of decisions.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asycdfstg](#))

Refugee status
 Subsidiary protection
 Humanitarian reasons
 Rejections

Figure 6: First instance decisions in EU-27 for the main countries of citizenship by outcome, 4th quarter 2009



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asycdfstg](#))

Refugee status
 Subsidiary protection
 Humanitarian reasons
 Rejections

Methodology

DATA SOURCES

The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States. Data are based entirely on relevant administrative sources. 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.

All data presented in this publication are rounded to the nearest 5.

All data presented in this publication are provisional (except for otherwise stated) and may be a subject of change.

DEFINITIONS AND COVERAGE

'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. In deciding when to regard an asylum application as having been lodged, the principles expressed in Article 4(1) of Council Regulation 2003/343/EC should be applied, i.e. 'An application for asylum shall be deemed to have been lodged once a form submitted by the applicant for asylum or a report prepared by the authorities has reached the competent authorities of the Member State concerned. Where an application is not made in writing, the time elapsing between the statement of intention and the preparation of a report should be as short as possible'. Applications submitted by persons who are subsequently found to be a subject of a Dublin procedure (Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003) are included in the number of asylum applications. Within the same reference period 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 reference period. However, such a repeat application will be recorded if lodged in a different reference month. It means that the aggregation of the monthly figures may overestimate the number of persons applying for international protection within the aggregated period (quarter or year).

In some MS (e.g. IT, MT) due to restrictions of the asylum procedure (e.g. time limits for lodging repeat application) repeat applications may be very rare. Therefore the number of new asylum applicants may equal or almost equal the number of asylum applicants.

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 asylum application and the date of the decision on asylum application. The duration of this time lag may vary considerably depending on the national asylum procedure and the administrative workload. 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 the applications lodged in previous reference periods.

'New asylum applicant' means a person having submitted an application for international protection for the first time. Applications submitted by persons who are subsequently found to be a subject of a Dublin procedure are included in the statistics on new asylum applicants if such persons are also a subject of first asylum application. All Member States are requested to supply these data but their provision is voluntary. As persons are counted once only, statistics on new asylum applicants may be used for preparation of annual aggregates.

Person being a subject of **'a pending application'** means a person who is the subject of application for international protection under consideration by the responsible national authority at the end of the reference period. It includes the number of persons with pending applications at all instances of the administrative and/or judicial procedure.

'Rejected applicant' means a person covered by a first instance decision rejecting an application for international protection, including 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.

'Person granted refugee status at first instance' means a person covered by a 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 a 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 a 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 an 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.

'Dublin procedure' means a procedure according to the Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003, establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Statistics on asylum applications in Cyprus relate to the number of administrative cases instead of individuals. This may result in underestimation of the actual number of applications, as one administrative case may cover several family members being a subject of this application.

The drop in the number of asylum applicants in Italy in 2009 followed the record high number of applicants in 2008 (30 145). According to the Italian authorities, one of the reasons for this decrease was the lower number, from May 2009 onwards, of migrants landing on the southern coasts of Italy.

Following the enforcement of the new asylum law in Greece, the examination of asylum applications has been decentralised to regional alien departments. The lower figure reported in August 2009 results from a transitional period inherent to this procedural change.

ABBREVIATIONS

Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), the United Kingdom (UK), Iceland (IS), Lichtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

EU ASYLUM POLICY

The Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security (DG JLS) is responsible for developing EU policies on asylum. For more information please see:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/index_en.htm

Further information

European Statistical Data Support:

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

Data

Data on "Population and Social conditions, Asylum":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

(Select "International Migration and asylum" and "Asylum")

More information about "Population and social conditions":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/introduction>

European Statistical Data Support:

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site:

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