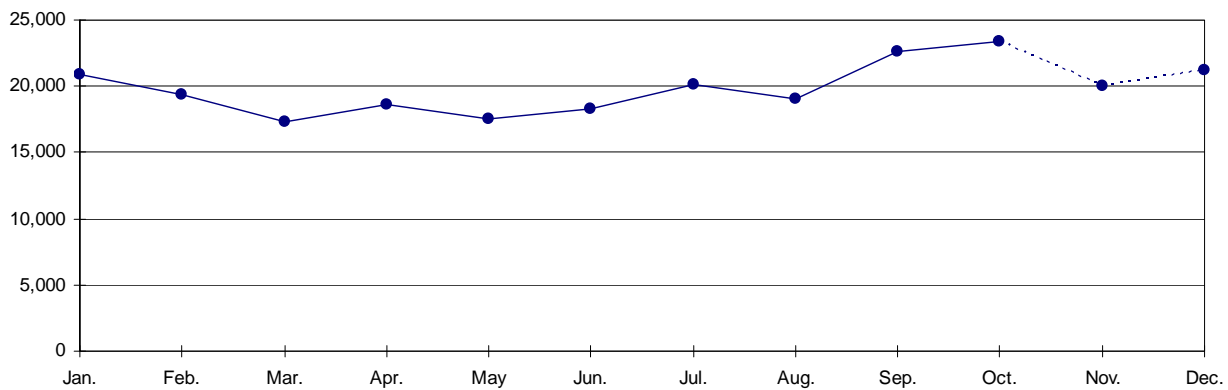


Asylum applicants and decisions on asylum applications in Q4 2008

Around 20 thousand asylum applicants registered each month in 2008 in EU-27

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

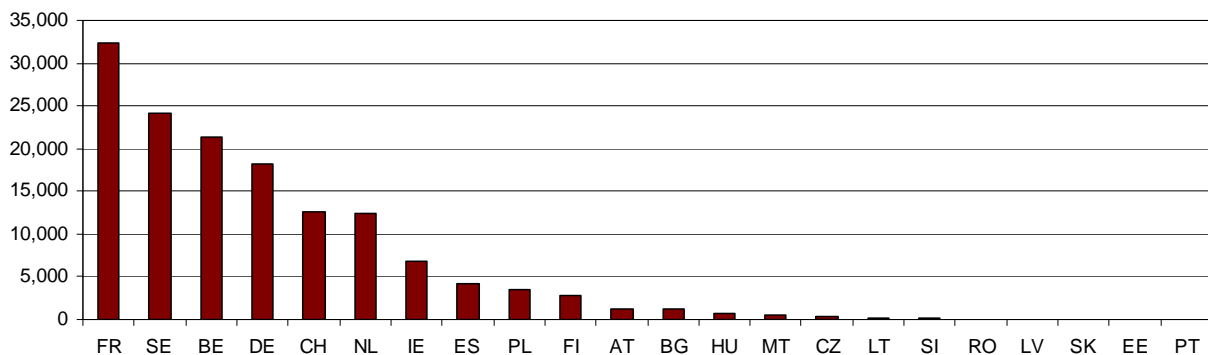


1) EU-27 aggregate estimated for November and December; data for UK refers only to new asylum applicants
IT: see country information in methodological notes;

Source: Eurostat

More than 30 thousand applicants awaiting decision at the end of 2008 in France

Figure 2: Persons who are the subject of an application pending at the end of December 2008



Notes:

No data on pending applications available for: LU, EL, UK, NO. No data for December 2008 available for: DK, CY, IT and IS

Source: Eurostat

Table 1: Asylum applicants (including new applicants), Q1-Q4/08 (rounded figures)

	Q1 2008			Q2 2008				Q3 2008			Q4 2008				2008		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.-Mar. 2008	Apr.	May	Jun.	Apr.-Jun. 2008	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Jul.-Sep. 2008	Oct.	Nov.		Dec.	Oct.-Dec. 2008
EU-27²⁾	20,940	19,345	17,305	57,590	18,565	17,540	18,335	54,440	20,090	19,070	22,585	61,745	23,375	20,005	21,205	64,585	130
BE	1,460	1,250	1,080	3,790	1,115	1,130	1,290	3,535	1,415	1,345	1,485	4,240	1,655	1,400	1,320	4,375	410
BG	85	90	60	235	55	75	50	180	60	35	80	175	65	50	40	155	20
CZ	210	190	180	580	135	100	115	350	110	115	120	345	175	115	85	375	35
DK	240	175	130	545	160	155	145	460	135	210	250	595	255	275	245	775	140
DE	3,055	2,400	2,030	7,485	2,230	2,035	2,125	6,390	2,225	2,040	2,450	6,720	2,370	2,100	1,880	6,350	75
EE	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	5
IE	330	295	300	925	300	300	330	930	340	335	360	1,030	355	325	300	980	225
EL	1,685	1,725	1,505	4,915	1,715	1,790	1,745	5,250	1,740	1,420	1,700	4,865	1,650	1,430	1,780	4,855	435
ES	370	430	330	1,130	445	415	335	1,200	370	290	335	995	420	365	330	1,120	25
FR	2,860	3,240	2,910	9,010	3,485	2,830	3,280	9,595	3,355	3,270	4,000	10,625	4,625	3,635	4,350	12,615	200
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CY	210	405	385	1,000	295	305	265	865	410	195	295	900	195	250	245	685	870
LV	0	0	5	5	0	0	5	5	0	10	0	10	20	10	5	30	15
LT	50	20	45	115	60	50	35	150	35	25	55	115	50	35	60	140	40
LU	45	25	30	100	45	20	35	100	40	55	70	165	30	35	25	95	195
HU	240	240	225	710	175	195	150	515	160	240	445	845	445	340	320	1,105	110
MT	220	150	110	480	200	190	230	620	365	270	260	895	190	205	215	610	1,490
NL	1,060	1,050	1,020	3,130	1,085	1,160	1,310	3,550	1,445	1,440	1,615	4,500	1,645	1,250	1,175	4,070	250
AT	1,105	880	805	2,790	885	830	805	2,515	1,075	1,160	1,280	3,515	1,405	1,225	1,300	3,930	470
PL	490	760	655	1,905	735	585	565	1,885	585	665	1,040	2,290	795	725	915	2,435	65
PT	5	10	10	30	15	10	35	60	5	20	10	35	15	10	5	35	5
RO	50	60	110	220	45	55	85	185	160	90	110	360	125	125	160	415	20
SI	15	15	10	45	15	45	10	75	15	10	25	50	30	40	25	90	45
SK	45	60	65	170	75	75	90	240	75	80	85	240	120	65	65	250	45
FI	160	100	110	370	135	200	245	585	280	375	450	1,105	630	515	570	1,715	325
SE	3,220	2,245	1,680	7,145	1,880	1,780	1,655	5,315	1,920	1,975	2,205	6,095	2,270	1,900	2,140	6,315	690
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IS	5	5	0	15	5	10	5	20	10	5	10	25	10	:	:	:	:
NO	865	785	830	2,480	850	995	1,070	2,915	1,435	1,700	1,545	4,680	1,455	1,450	1,450	4,355	920
CH	1,050	860	880	2,785	1,085	900	1,170	3,160	1,095	1,605	1,705	4,405	2,115	2,055	2,085	6,255	825

1) Relative to population as of 1st January 2008

2) EU-27 total estimated and includes UK and IT data. UK data includes only new asylum applicants. IT: see country information in methodological notes

Source: Eurostat

Table 2: New asylum applicants, Q1 – Q4/08 (rounded figures)

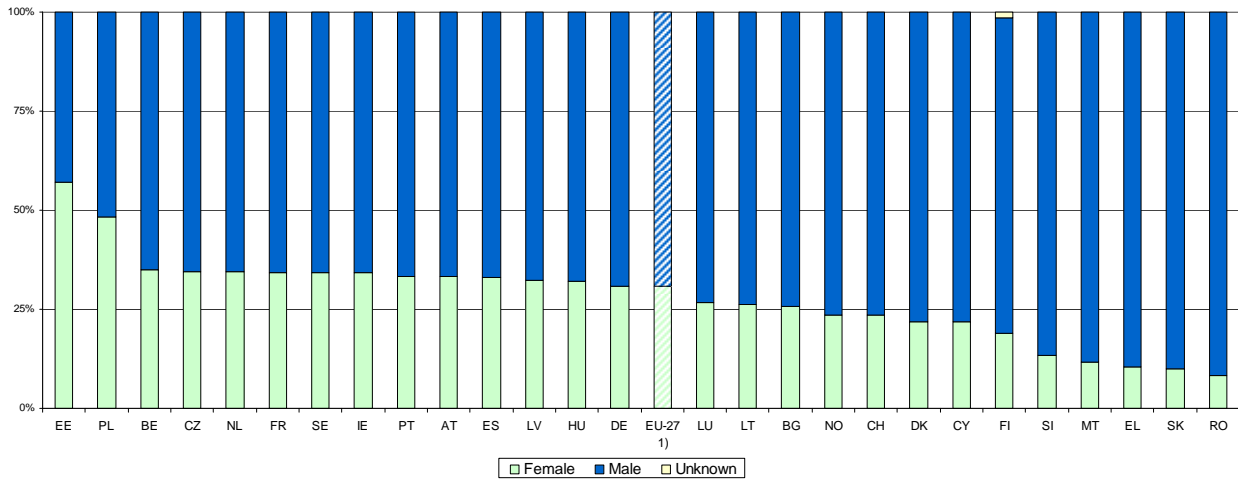
	Q1 2008			Q2 2008				Q3 2008			Q4 2008				2008			
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.-Mar. 2008	Apr.	May	Jun.	Apr.-Jun. 2008	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Jul.-Sep. 2008	Oct.	Nov.		Dec.	Oct.-Dec. 2008	New applicants per million inhabitants ¹⁾
EU-27	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
BE	1,070	870	750	2,690	770	820	915	2,505	965	980	1,065	3,010	1,250	1,035	900	3,190	300	11,395
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CZ	155	150	135	440	100	60	55	215	50	60	70	175	110	65	45	220	20	1,050
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
DE	2,395	1,820	1,545	5,760	1,695	1,600	1,670	4,965	1,795	1,660	1,965	5,415	1,945	1,730	1,545	5,220	65	21,365
EE	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
IE	315	290	295	895	295	295	320	915	330	330	360	1,020	355	325	300	975	220	3,805
EL	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CY	210	405	385	1,000	295	305	265	865	410	195	295	900	195	250	245	685	870	3,450
LV	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	5	0	10	0	10	20	10	5	30	15	50
LT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
HU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
MT	220	150	110	480	200	190	230	620	365	270	260	895	190	205	215	610	1,490	2,605
NL	905	860	885	2,655	925	1,010	1,165	3,105	1,270	1,285	1,445	4,000	1,435	1,105	1,080	3,625	220	13,380
AT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	360	635	510	1,505	565	460	480	1,505	490	585	950	2,025	710	645	810	2,165	55	7,205
PT	5	10	10	30	15	10	35	60	5	20	10	35	15	10	5	35	5	155
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	15	15	10	45	15	45	10	70	15	10	25	45	25	35	20	80	40	240
SK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SE	3,195	2,210	1,645	7,050	1,840	1,750	1,630	5,225	1,895	1,935	2,150	5,985	2,195	1,850	2,065	6,110	665	24,365
UK	2,705	2,510	2,490	7,705	2,270	2,185	2,385	6,840	2,755	2,385	2,845	7,985	2,815	2,565	2,635	8,015	130	30,545
IS	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CH	900	755	775	2,430	975	815	1,045	2,835	990	1,490	1,580	4,055	1,960	1,920	1,980	5,860	770	15,180

1) Relative to population as of 1st January 2008

Source: Eurostat

Around 70% of applicants are male, the majority aged 18-34

Figure 3: Asylum applicants by gender, 4th quarter 2008 (in %)



Source: Eurostat

1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes IT for which data are not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK.

Table 3: Asylum applicants by age group, 4th quarter 2008 (rounded data)

	Total (absolute value) ¹⁾	Distribution of age groups as a share of total (in %) ²⁾					Unknown
		0-13	14-17	18-34	35-64	65 and over	
EU-27	64,585	16.2	7.3	56.4	19.2	0.8	0.1
Belgium	4,375	21.7	7.1	51.2	19.3	0.7	0.0
Bulgaria	155	16.7	3.8	48.1	26.9	4.5	0.0
Czech Republic	375	16.2	2.9	42.0	38.3	0.5	0.0
Denmark	775	11.1	15.9	56.9	14.6	1.4	0.1
Germany	6,350	18.3	8.5	55.9	16.4	0.7	0.1
Estonia	5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ireland	980	18.5	5.2	57.5	18.2	0.6	0.0
Greece	4,855	3.5	4.4	78.2	13.9	0.1	0.0
Spain	1,120	9.6	2.3	70.5	17.1	0.4	0.0
France	12,615	14.5	3.1	56.4	25.1	0.9	0.0
Italy	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Cyprus	685	0.0	2.9	69.9	26.4	0.7	0.0
Latvia	30	25.8	12.9	41.9	19.4	0.0	0.0
Lithuania	140	23.4	3.5	56.7	16.3	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	95	11.7	5.3	53.2	29.8	0.0	0.0
Hungary	1,105	29.0	7.2	48.4	15.0	0.4	0.0
Malta	610	2.5	10.0	82.2	5.1	0.2	0.2
Netherlands	4,070	18.2	8.3	54.2	18.3	1.0	0.0
Austria	3,930	28.5	7.7	47.0	16.4	0.3	0.0
Poland	2,435	38.4	4.6	37.1	19.1	0.7	0.0
Portugal	35	3.0	0.0	81.8	15.2	0.0	0.0
Romania	415	2.7	2.9	73.9	20.5	0.0	0.0
Slovenia	90	13.3	12.2	62.2	12.2	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	250	4.8	4.8	80.7	8.8	0.8	0.0
Finland	1,715	3.6	20.6	59.3	13.8	1.2	1.5
Sweden	6,315	17.1	9.5	51.5	20.4	1.5	0.0
United Kingdom	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	4,355	11.8	11.2	62.1	14.7	0.3	0.0
Switzerland	6,255	14.7	6.1	67.3	11.5	0.3	0.0

Source: Eurostat

1) EU-27 total estimated; includes estimated IT data and only new asylum applicants for the UK.

2) Distribution of age groups for EU-27 excluding IT for which data are not available; including only new asylum applicants for the UK.

Notes:

* - Age 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 2008 (rounded figures)

BELGIUM		BULGARIA		CZECH REPUBLIC	
Russia	715	Iraq	80	Ukraine	70
Serbia	620	Stateless	15	Mongolia	45
Iraq	340	Afghanistan	15	SY	30
Afghanistan	320	Armenia	10	Vietnam	25
Guinea	220	Lebanon	5	Myanmar	25
Other	2,160	Other	30	Other	185
DENMARK		GERMANY		ESTONIA	
Afghanistan	170	Iraq	1,725	Belarus	5
Iraq	120	Serbia	475	Russia	0
Iran	85	Iran	405	Turkey	0
Serbia	60	Turkey	400	Georgia	0
Russia	45	Vietnam	315	Other	0
Other	290	Other	3,030	SPAIN	
IRELAND		GREECE		Nigeria	245
Nigeria	255	Pakistan	1,680	Colombia	130
China	80	Afghanistan	665	Ivory Coast	115
Pakistan	65	Georgia	630	Somalia	80
Iraq	55	Bangladesh	610	Guinea	40
Georgia	40	Nigeria	210	Other	510
Other	490	Other	1,065	CYPRUS	
FRANCE		ITALY		SY	160
Serbia	1,195	Not available		PS	105
Russia	1,020	LITHUANIA		Sri Lanka	45
Sri Lanka	965	Russia	95	Iran	40
Turkey	860	Sri Lanka	5	Pakistan	40
CD	775	Cameroon	5	Other	300
Other	7,795	Cuba	5	LUXEMBOURG	
LATVIA		Pakistan	5	Serbia	30
Georgia	15	Other	25	Iraq	15
Afghanistan	10	MALTA		Bosnia and Herzegovina	15
SY	5	Somalia	290	Iran	5
Sri Lanka	0	Mali	60	Albania	5
Belarus	0	Ivory Coast	50	Other	25
Other	5	Nigeria	45	NETHERLANDS	
HUNGARY		Ghana	40	Somalia	1,255
Serbia	780	Other	130	Iraq	1,120
Somalia	70	POLAND		Afghanistan	255
Georgia	40	Russia	2,230	Iran	180
Afghanistan	30	Iraq	45	Eritrea	100
Turkey	30	Vietnam	20	Other	1,160
Other	155	Georgia	15	PORTUGAL	
AUSTRIA		Uzbekistan	15	Colombia	10
Russia	1,045	Other	115	Bosnia and Herzegovina	5
Serbia	565	SLOVENIA		CD	5
Afghanistan	465	Turkey	30	Senegal	5
Georgia	170	Serbia	25	Guinea	0
Iraq	150	Afghanistan	5	Other	5
Other	1,535	Montenegro	5	SLOVAKIA	
ROMANIA		Albania	5	Georgia	40
Bangladesh	165	Other	20	Afghanistan	35
Pakistan	75	SWEDEN		Pakistan	25
Cameroon	25	Iraq	1,160	Moldova	25
Iraq	25	Somalia	900	Russia	20
Turkey	20	Serbia	650	Other	100
Other	105	Afghanistan	285	UNITED KINGDOM	
FINLAND		Eritrea	270	Not available	
Somalia	685	Other	3,045		
Iraq	600	EU-27¹⁾			
Afghanistan	100	Iraq	6,555		
Russia	45	Russia	5,820		
Iran	45	Serbia	4,465		
Other	240	Somalia	3,915		
		Afghanistan	3,860		
		Other	36,925		

ICELAND
Not available

NORWAY	
Iraq	1,030
Eritrea	495
Afghanistan	490
Somalia	415
Albania	5
Other	1,930

SWITZERLAND	
Eritrea	1,410
Somalia	1,085
Iraq	490
Sri Lanka	445
Serbia	385
Other	2,440

Source: Eurostat

1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes IT for which data are not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK.

Notes:

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

CD - Congo, the Democratic Republic of the; PS - West Bank and Gaza strip; SY - Syrian Arab Republic

Iraqis remain the biggest group of asylum seekers in EU

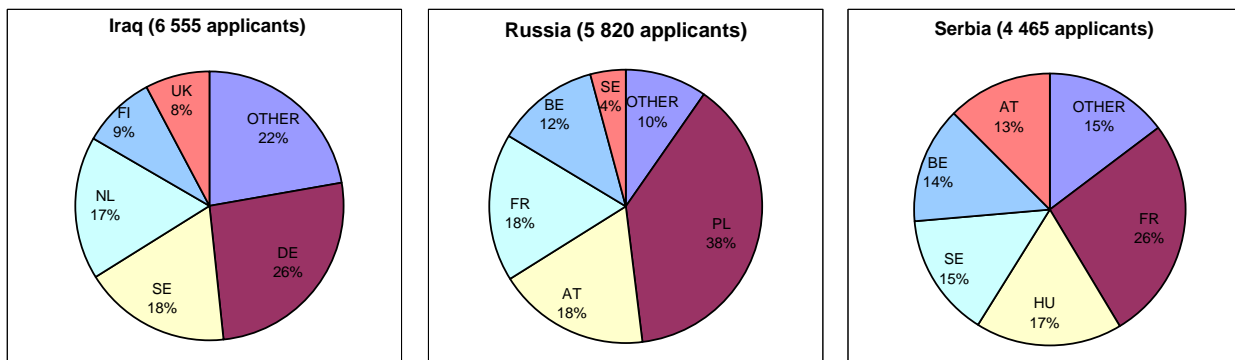
Table 5: Ten main citizenships of asylum seekers in the EU-27¹⁾ by number of applicants, 2nd- 4th quarter 2008 (rounded figures)

	4 th quarter		3 rd quarter		2 nd quarter	
	Number of applicants	Rank	Number of applicants	Rank	Number of applicants	Rank
Iraq	6,555	(1)	7,080	(1)	6,500	(1)
Russia	5,820	(2)	5,365	(2)	4,395	(2)
Serbia	4,465	(5)	3,590	(5)	2,520	(5)
Somalia	3,915	(3)	4,105	(3)	3,025	(3)
Afghanistan	3,860	(4)	3,640	(4)	2,425	(6)
Pakistan	2,845	(6)	2,925	(6)	2,895	(4)
Iran	2,225	(8)	1,905	(8)	1,475	(10)
Sri Lanka	1,900	(9)	1,555	(9)	1,740	(8)
Turkey	1,775	(10)	1,525	(10)	1,705	(9)
Bangladesh	1,750	(13)	1,300	(13)	1,220	(13)
Other	26,435	(-)	28,765	(-)	26,545	(-)

Source: Eurostat

1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes IT for which data are not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK.

Figure 4: Distribution of the 3 main countries of citizenship of asylum seekers in the EU-27¹⁾ by receiving country, 4th quarter 2008

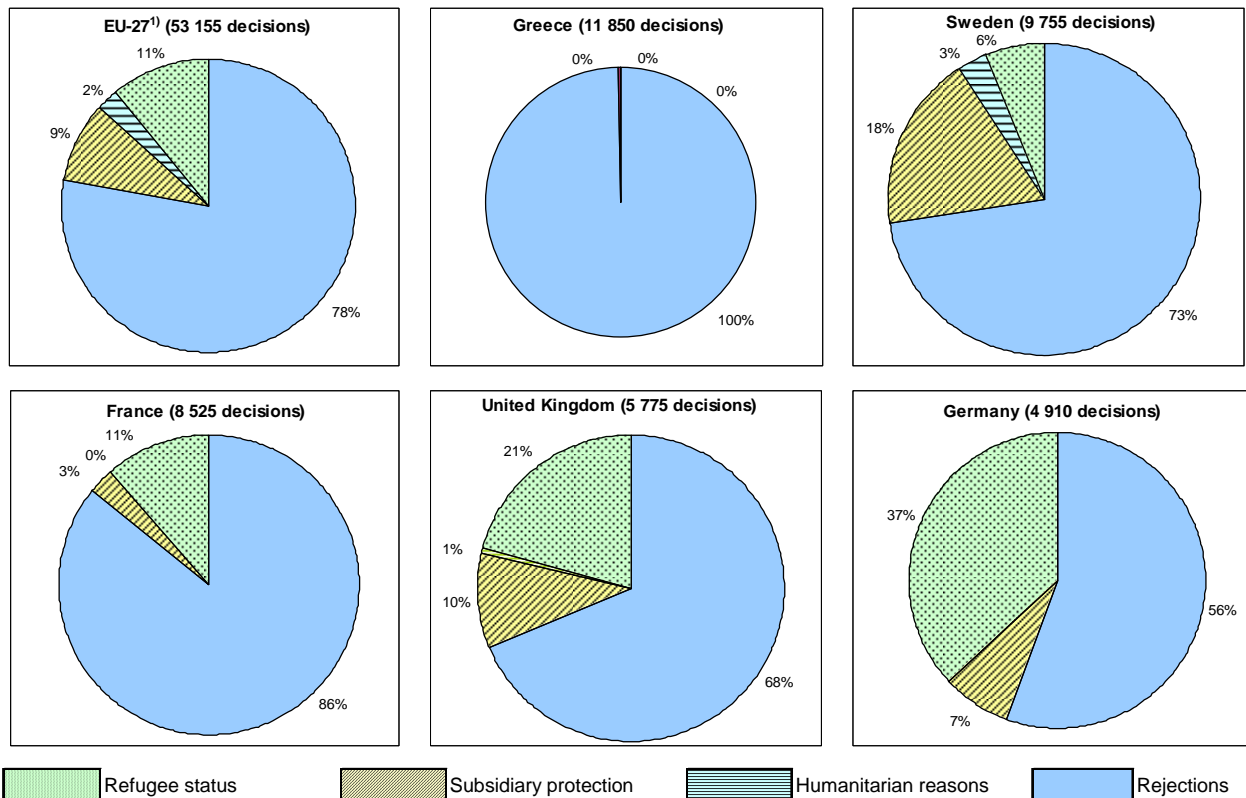


Source: Eurostat

1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes IT for which data are not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK.

Nearly four out of five applicants in EU rejected at first instance

Figure 5: First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States¹⁾, 4th quarter 2008

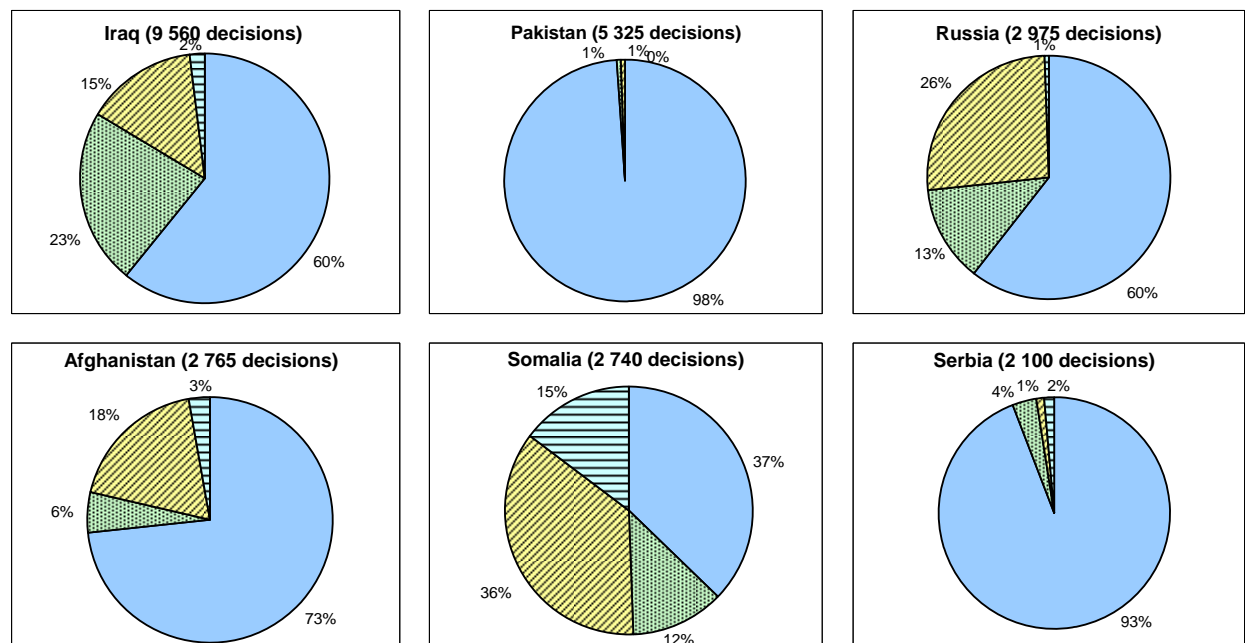


1) Countries selected here are those with the highest number of decisions.

2) EU-27: Refugee status, subsidiary protection and rejections: no data available for DK, IT and CY
Humanitarian reasons: no data available for DK, IT, CY and AT.

Source: Eurostat

Figure 6: First instance decisions in EU-27¹⁾ for the main countries of citizenship by outcome, 4th quarter 2008



Source: Eurostat

1) Refugee status, subsidiary protection and rejections: no data available for DK, IT and CY. Humanitarian reasons: no data available for DK, IT, CY and AT.

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.

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).

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

Monthly data for the period January to October for Italy have been estimated as the monthly mean of the number of applicants registered between January and October 2008. This is because the data supplied by Italy did not comply with the correct definition regarding registration date of asylum application.

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

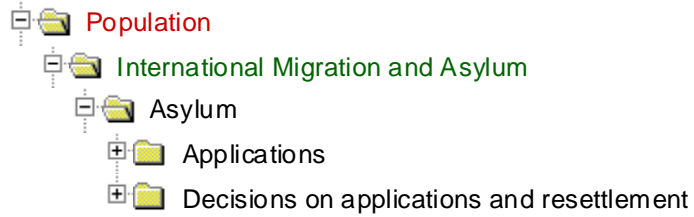
European Statistical Data Support:

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

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

Data: [Eurostat Website/Population and social conditions](#)

Population and social conditions



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