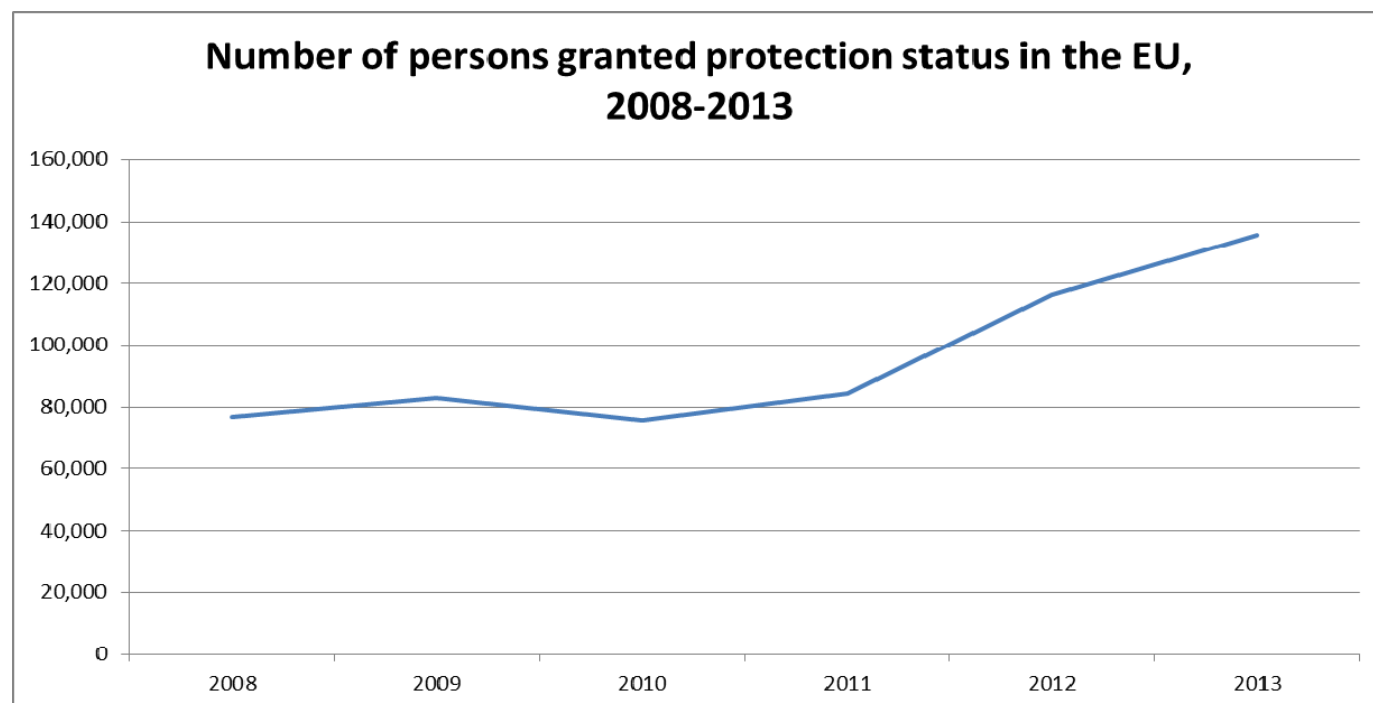


Asylum decisions in the EU28

EU Member States granted protection to 135 700 asylum seekers in 2013

Syrians main beneficiaries

The **EU28** Member States granted protection to 135 700 asylum seekers in 2013, compared with 116 200 in 2012. Over the last five years, more than 570 000 asylum seekers were granted protection status¹ in the EU.



EU refers to EU27 for the years 2008 to 2011 and to EU28 for the years 2012 and 2013

These data² on the results of asylum decisions in the **EU28** are released by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** on the occasion of the World Refugee Day³ on 20 June 2014.

Syrians accounted for a quarter of all persons granted protection status in the EU28

The three largest groups of beneficiaries of protection status in the **EU28** in 2013 remained citizens of **Syria** (35 800 persons or 26% of the total number of persons granted protection status), **Afghanistan** (16 400 or 12%) and **Somalia** (9 700 or 7%).

Syrians, whose number has almost doubled compared with 2012, represented in 2013 the largest group granted protection status in half of the Member States and one of the three largest groups in 23 of the 28 Member States. Of the 35 800 **Syrians** granted protection status in the **EU28**, more than 60% were recorded in two Member States: **Sweden** (12 000) and **Germany** (9 600). Of the 16 400 **Afghans** granted protection, more than three-quarters were registered in **Germany** (5 000), **Austria** and **Sweden** (both 2 300), **Italy** (1 600) and **Belgium** (1 500). Of the 9 700 **Somalis**, 2 800 were granted protection status in the **Netherlands**, 1 700 in **Sweden** and 1 600 in **Italy**.

Largest groups granted protection status, 2013

	Largest group			Second largest group			Third largest group		
	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*
EU28	Syria	35 830	26	Afghanistan	16 405	12	Somalia	9 715	7
Belgium	Syria	1 545	23	Afghanistan	1 455	22	Guinea	630	9
Bulgaria	Syria	2 020	81	Stateless**	335	13	Iraq	80	3
Czech Rep.	Syria	105	29	Belarus	80	21	Cuba	30	9
Denmark	Syria	1 380	41	Iran	425	13	Somalia	390	12
Germany	Syria	9 630	37	Afghanistan	5 005	19	Iran	2 720	10
Estonia	Russia	5	33	:	:	:	:	:	:
Ireland	Syria	40	20	Pakistan	20	10	Iran	15	7
Greece	Afghanistan	290	21	Iraq	195	14	Syria	175	12
Spain	Syria	150	27	Somalia	90	16	Occ. Palestinian Territory	75	13
France	Russia	1 990	12	Sri Lanka	1 530	9	Dem. Rep. of Congo	1 515	9
Croatia	Syria	10	43	Somalia	5	17	Kazakhstan	5	17
Italy	Afghanistan	1 600	11	Somalia	1 585	11	Mali	1 485	10
Cyprus	Syria	175	70	Egypt	15	7	Iraq	15	6
Latvia	Syria	15	46	Iran	5	14	Russia	5	11
Lithuania	Afghanistan	30	48	Syria	10	20	Belarus	5	8
Luxembourg	Iran	35	23	Afghanistan	20	13	Iraq	15	11
Hungary	Syria	130	31	Afghanistan	110	26	Somalia	50	12
Malta	Somalia	665	41	Eritrea	550	34	Syria	270	17
Netherlands	Somalia	2 780	26	Syria	2 105	20	Iran	1 035	10
Austria	Afghanistan	2 270	36	Syria	1 015	16	Russia	910	14
Poland	Russia	395	54	Syria	85	12	Georgia	60	8
Portugal	Guinea	25	19	Syria	15	10	Dem. Rep. of Congo	10	9
Romania	Syria	1 580	86	Iraq	40	2	Occ. Palestinian Territory	30	2
Slovenia	Syria	5	18	Afghanistan	5	13	Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	10
Slovakia	Afghanistan	20	27	Eritrea	15	18	Syria	10	16
Finland	Iraq	665	37	Somalia	240	13	Afghanistan	235	13
Sweden	Syria	12 015	46	Stateless**	4 110	16	Eritrea	2 565	10
United Kingdom	Iran	1 890	14	Pakistan	1 735	13	Syria	1 545	12
Iceland	Syria	5	38	Iran	5	31	:	:	:
Norway	Eritrea	2 235	33	Somalia	1 285	19	Syria	745	11
Switzerland	Eritrea	2 415	37	Syria	740	11	Afghanistan	720	11
Liechtenstein	China	5	57	Somalia	5	43	:	:	:

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

: No data presented for those countries of citizenship where the number of positive decisions was 2 or less during the reference period.

* Persons with this citizenship granted protection status as a percentage of the total number of persons granted protection in this country.

** A stateless person is someone who is not recognized as a citizen of any state.

70% of protection status granted in five Member States

In 2013, the highest number of persons granted protection status was registered in **Sweden** (26 400), followed by **Germany** (26 100), **France** (16 200), **Italy** (14 500) and the **United Kingdom** (13 400). All together, these five Member States accounted for more than 70% of all those granted protection status in the **EU28**.

In total, of the 135 700 persons who were granted protection status in 2013, 64 500 persons were granted refugee status (47% of all positive decisions), 50 900 subsidiary protection (37%) and 20 400 authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons (15%). In addition, the **EU28** Member States received 4 800 resettled refugees⁴. It should be noted that, while both refugee and subsidiary protection status are defined by EU law, humanitarian status is granted on the basis of national legislation.

Positive decisions on asylum applications in 2013

	Positive decisions*				Resettled refugees
	Total number	Of which:			
		Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
EU28	135 725	64 465	50 895	20 365	4 840
Belgium	6 710	4 275	2 430	-	100
Bulgaria	2 495	180	2 315	-	0
Czech Republic	365	90	255	20	0
Denmark	3 360	1 865	1 415	80	515
Germany	26 080	13 870	7 955	4 255	280
Estonia	10	5	0	0	0
Ireland	205	185	20	-	85
Greece	1 415	585	395	435	0
Spain	555	220	325	10	0
France	16 155	13 410	2 745	-	90
Croatia	25	5	15	-	0
Italy	14 465	3 085	5 625	5 755	0
Cyprus	255	40	180	30	0
Latvia	35	15	20	-	0
Lithuania	60	15	45	-	0
Luxembourg	140	110	30	-	0
Hungary	420	200	215	5	0
Malta	1 610	45	1 450	115	0
Netherlands	10 620	1 685	3 900	5 035	310
Austria	6 345	4 345	2 000	-	0
Poland	735	200	140	395	0
Portugal	135	20	115	-	0
Romania	1 840	770	1 065	5	0
Slovenia	40	25	15	-	0
Slovakia	75	5	35	35	0
Finland	1 795	590	860	345	675
Sweden	26 395	7 435	17 135	1 825	1 820
United Kingdom	13 400	11 190	190	2 020	965
Iceland	15	10	5	0	:
Norway	6 770	4 840	1 170	765	955
Switzerland	6 605	3 165	885	2 555	0
Liechtenstein	5	0	5	0	0

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

: Not available

- Not applicable

* First instance and final decisions on appeal.

More than a third of EU28 asylum decisions at the first instance resulted in protection status

In 2013, 326 600 first instance decisions on asylum applications⁵ were made in the **EU28** and 135 000 final decisions on appeal. Decisions made at the first instance resulted in 111 100 persons being granted protection status, while a further 24 600 received protection status on appeal.

The rate of recognition of asylum applicants, i.e. the share of positive decisions in the total number of decisions, was 34% for first instance decisions. For final decisions on appeal, the recognition rate was 18%. In the Member States, the highest rates of recognition for first instance decisions were recorded in **Bulgaria** (87%), **Malta** (84%), **Romania** (64%), **Italy** and the **Netherlands** (both 61%), while those for final decisions on appeal were registered in **Bulgaria** (93%), **Italy** (78%), **Finland** (77%), **Romania** (60%) and the **Netherlands** (57%).

Recognition rates, 2013

	First instance decisions				Final decisions on appeal			
	Total number	Positive	Rate of recognition (%)*		Total number	Positive	Rate of recognition (%)*	
			Total	Refugee & subsidiary protection status			Total	Refugee & subsidiary protection status
EU28	326 575	111 115	34	29	134 965	24 615	18	15
Belgium	21 390	6 280	29	29	11 485	430	4	4
Bulgaria	2 810	2 460	87	87	40	40	93	93
Czech Republic	900	345	38	36	415	20	5	4
Denmark	6 965	2 810	40	39	1 660	550	33	33
Germany	76 165	20 125	26	24	36 660	5 955	16	11
Estonia	55	10	17	13	0	0	0	0
Ireland	840	150	18	18	580	55	9	9
Greece	13 080	500	4	3	3 900	910	23	14
Spain	2 365	535	23	22	1 110	20	2	2
France	61 715	10 705	17	17	37 550	5 450	15	15
Croatia	185	25	12	12	95	0	0	0
Italy	23 565	14 390	61	37	95	75	78	71
Cyprus	800	165	21	20	960	90	9	7
Latvia	95	25	29	29	55	10	15	15
Lithuania	175	55	31	31	35	5	19	19
Luxembourg	1 245	130	11	11	670	10	1	1
Hungary	4 540	360	8	8	685	60	9	9
Malta	1 905	1 605	84	78	140	0	1	1
Netherlands	15 590	9 545	61	30	1 895	1 075	57	47
Austria	16 610	4 920	30	30	6 860	1 425	21	21
Poland	2 895	685	24	11	1 050	50	5	3
Portugal	305	135	44	44	100	0	0	0
Romania	1 435	915	64	64	1 550	925	60	60
Slovenia	195	35	19	19	60	0	3	3
Slovakia	190	70	35	17	115	5	4	4
Finland	3 185	1 620	51	42	230	180	77	55
Sweden	45 005	24 015	53	51	12 955	2 380	18	13
United Kingdom	22 355	8 505	38	34	14 010	4 895	35	27
Iceland	130	10	8	7	70	5	9	7
Norway	11 785	5 770	49	47	10 430	1 005	10	5
Switzerland	16 595	6 390	38	24	3 400	215	6	2
Liechtenstein	45	5	16	16	35	0	0	0

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

* Rate of recognition is the share of positive decisions (first instance or final on appeal) in the total number of decisions at the given stage. In this calculation, the exact number of decisions has been used instead of the rounded numbers presented in this table. Rates of recognition for humanitarian status are not shown in this table, but are part of the total recognition rate.

1. **Protection status** includes three different categories of protection:

Person granted refugee status means a person covered by a decision granting refugee status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Refugee status means status as defined in Art.2(e) of Directive 2011/95/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(d) 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 means a person covered by a 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(g) of Directive 2011/95/EC. According to the Art.2(f) 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 citizenship, 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 means a person covered by a 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.
2. The data in this release are provided to Eurostat by Ministries of the Interior or Justice, or immigration agencies, of the Member States. 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. For more information see:
http://www.worldrefugeeday.us/site/c.arKK11MLIj0E/b.8092105/k.B369/World_Refugee_Day.htm
4. **Resettled refugees** means persons who have been granted an authorisation to reside in a Member State within the framework of a national or Community resettlement scheme. Resettlement means the transfer of third-country nationals or stateless persons, on the basis of their need for international protection and a durable solution, to a Member State where they are permitted to reside with a secure legal status. Data relate to resettled persons who have actually arrived into the territory of the Member State.
5. **A decision on an asylum application** means a decision on an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(h) of Council Directive 2011/95/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.

First instance decision means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure.

Final decision on appeal means a decision granted at the final instance of administrative/judicial asylum procedure and which results from the appeal lodged by the asylum seeker rejected in the preceding stage of the procedure. As the asylum procedures and the numbers/levels of decision making bodies differ between Member States, the true final instance may be, according to the national legislation and administrative procedures, a decision of the highest national court. However, the applied methodology defines that 'final decisions' should refer to what is effectively a 'final decision' in the vast majority of all cases: i.e. that all normal routes of appeal have been exhausted.

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

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