

## Asylum in the EU27

# The number of asylum applicants registered in the EU27 stable around 260 000 in 2010

In 2010, there were 257 800 asylum applicants<sup>1</sup> registered in the **EU27**, or 515 applicants per million inhabitants. It is estimated that around 90% of these were new applicants and around 10% were repeat applicants<sup>2</sup>. In 2009, there were 264 000 asylum applicants.

In 2010, the main countries of citizenship of these applicants were **Afghanistan** (20 600 or 8% of the total number of applicants), **Russia** (18 500 or 7%), **Serbia** (17 700 or 7%), **Iraq** (15 800 or 6%) and **Somalia** (14 400 or 6%).

These data on asylum applicants in the **EU27** are taken from a report<sup>3</sup> issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

### Highest number of applicants recorded in France, Germany and Sweden

In 2010, the highest number of applicants were registered in **France** (51 600 applicants) followed by **Germany** (48 500), **Sweden** (31 900), **Belgium** (26 100), the **United Kingdom** (23 700), the **Netherlands** (15 100), **Austria** (11 100), **Greece** (10 300), **Italy** (10 100) and **Poland** (6 500). These ten Member States accounted for more than 90% of applicants registered in the **EU27** in 2010.

When compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rates of applicants registered were recorded in **Cyprus** (3 600 applicants per million inhabitants), **Sweden** (3 400), **Belgium** (2 400), **Luxembourg** (1 600) and **Austria** (1 300).

In some Member States, a large proportion of the applicants came from a single country. The Member States with the highest concentrations were **Poland** (73% of the applicants came from **Russia**), **Lithuania** (50% from **Georgia**), **Bulgaria** (44% from **Iraq**), **Latvia** (38% from **Afghanistan**) and **Hungary** (33% from **Afghanistan**).

### First instance decisions

In 2010 in the **EU27**, 222 100 first instance decisions<sup>4</sup> were made on asylum applications. There were 167 000 rejections (75% of decisions), 27 000 applicants (12%) were granted refugee status, 20 400 (9%) subsidiary protection and 7 600 (3%) were granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons. It should be noted that first instance decisions made in 2010 may refer to applications registered in previous years.

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

## Asylum applicants, 2010

	Applicants		Citizenships of main groups of asylum applicants								
	2010	Per million inh.	First group	#	%	Second group	#	%	Third group	#	%
<b>EU27</b>	<b>257 815</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>20 580</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Russia</b>	<b>18 500</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Serbia</b>	<b>17 715</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	26 130	2 410	Kosovo*	3 230	12	Russia	2 725	10	Serbia	2 220	8
<b>Bulgaria</b>	1 025	135	Iraq	450	44	Stateless	100	10	Armenia	60	6
<b>Czech Republic</b>	780	75	Ukraine	115	15	Mongolia	95	12	Belarus	55	7
<b>Denmark</b>	5 070	915	Afghanistan	1 465	29	Syria	815	16	Iran	655	13
<b>Germany</b>	48 490	595	Serbia	6 795	14	Afghanistan	6 065	13	Iraq	5 945	12
<b>Estonia</b>	35	25	Afghanistan	10	27	Russia	5	21	Nigeria	5	9
<b>Ireland</b>	1 940	435	Nigeria	385	20	China	230	12	Pakistan	200	10
<b>Greece</b>	10 275	910	Pakistan	2 750	27	Georgia	1 160	11	Bangladesh	985	10
<b>Spain</b>	2 740	60	Cuba	405	15	Nigeria	240	9	Algeria	175	6
<b>France</b>	51 595	795	Kosovo*	5 260	10	Russia	4 610	9	Bangladesh	3 680	7
<b>Italy</b>	10 050	165	Nigeria	1 385	14	Pakistan	930	9	Afghanistan	875	9
<b>Cyprus</b>	2 875	3 580	Iraq	340	12	India	320	11	Vietnam	225	8
<b>Latvia</b>	65	30	Afghanistan	25	38	Russia	5	11	Kyrgyzstan	5	11
<b>Lithuania</b>	495	150	Georgia	250	50	Russia	110	22	Afghanistan	40	8
<b>Luxembourg</b>	780	1 555	Kosovo*	160	21	Serbia	150	19	Iraq	95	12
<b>Hungary</b>	2 095	210	Afghanistan	700	33	Kosovo*	380	18	Occ. Palestinian territory	225	11
<b>Malta</b>	175	425	Somalia	35	20	Pakistan	15	9	Eritrea	15	9
<b>Netherlands</b>	15 100	910	Somalia	3 670	24	Iraq	1 905	13	Afghanistan	1 585	10
<b>Austria</b>	11 050	1 320	Russia	2 330	21	Afghanistan	1 590	14	Kosovo*	610	6
<b>Poland</b>	6 540	170	Russia	4 795	73	Georgia	1 085	17	Armenia	105	2
<b>Portugal</b>	160	15	Guinea-Conakry	45	27	Colombia	15	10	Angola	10	8
<b>Romania</b>	885	40	Afghanistan	115	13	Moldova	110	13	Turkey	70	8
<b>Slovenia</b>	245	120	Turkey	30	13	Afghanistan	30	13	Bosnia and Herzegovina	30	11
<b>Slovakia</b>	540	100	Afghanistan	75	14	Russia	65	12	Georgia	65	12
<b>Finland</b>	3 090	575	Somalia	520	17	Iraq	515	17	Russia	395	13
<b>Sweden</b>	31 875	3 410	Serbia	6 255	20	Somalia	5 630	18	Afghanistan	2 400	8
<b>United Kingdom</b>	23 715	380	Zimbabwe	2 435	10	Iran	2 350	10	Pakistan	2 185	9
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	105	2 925	Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	40	36	Russia	30	30	Nigeria	10	10
<b>Norway</b>	10 025	2 065	Eritrea	1 710	17	Somalia	1 395	14	Afghanistan	980	10
<b>Switzerland</b>	15 435	1 980	Nigeria	1 970	13	Eritrea	1 800	12	Sri Lanka	940	6

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

## First instance decisions, 2010

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Rejections
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
<b>EU27</b>	<b>222 105</b>	<b>55 095</b>	<b>27 045</b>	<b>20 400</b>	<b>7 645</b>	<b>167 010</b>
Belgium	16 245	3 510	2 700	805	-	12 740
Bulgaria	515	140	20	120	-	375
Czech Republic	500	175	75	75	20	330
Denmark	3 280	1 345	660	520	170	1 935
Germany	45 310	10 445	7 755	545	2 145	34 865
Estonia	40	15	10	5	-	25
Ireland	1 600	25	25	5	-	1 575
Greece	3 455	105	60	20	30	3 350
Spain	2 785	610	245	350	15	2 175
France	37 620	5 115	4 095	1 020	-	32 505
Italy	11 325	4 305	1 615	1 465	1 225	7 015
Cyprus	2 440	425	30	370	25	2 015
Latvia	50	25	5	20	-	25
Lithuania	190	15	*	15	-	175
Luxembourg	475	70	55	15	-	405
Hungary	1 040	260	75	115	70	785
Malta	350	210	45	165	15	125
Netherlands	17 145	7 565	810	4 010	2 745	9 575
Austria	13 770	3 445	2 055	1 390	-	10 325
Poland	4 420	510	80	195	230	3 910
Portugal	130	55	5	50	-	75
Romania	425	70	40	30	0	355
Slovenia	115	25	20	*	-	95
Slovakia	295	90	5	55	30	205
Finland	4 260	1 595	165	1 240	190	2 665
Sweden	27 630	8 495	1 935	5 955	605	19 140
United Kingdom	26 690	6 440	4 445	1 850	140	20 250
Liechtenstein	85	*	*	-	0	85
Norway	15 255	5 300	2 975	1 565	760	9 955
Switzerland	18 475	7 815	3 380	1 155	3 280	10 660

- Not applicable

\* One or two first instance decisions

Data are rounded to the nearest 5.

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. 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.

'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.

2. This proportion has been estimated on the basis of the share of repeat applicants available in 18 of the 27 Member States (Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom). These Member States covered 85% of all asylum applicants registered in the EU27 in 2010.

3. Eurostat, Data in Focus, 5/2011 "[Asylum applicants and first instance decisions on asylum applications in 2010](#)", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site.
4. 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.
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.

Issued by:  
**Eurostat Press Office**

**Louise CORSELLI-NORDBLAD**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

Eurostat press releases on the internet:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

For further information on the data:

**Piotr JUCHNO**  
Tel: +352-4301-36 240  
[piotr.juchno@ec.europa.eu](mailto:piotr.juchno@ec.europa.eu)

**Anthony ALBERTINELLI**  
Tel: +352-4301-31 660  
[anthony.albertinelli@ec.europa.eu](mailto:anthony.albertinelli@ec.europa.eu)