

Asylum in the EU Member States

1.2 million first time asylum seekers registered in 2016

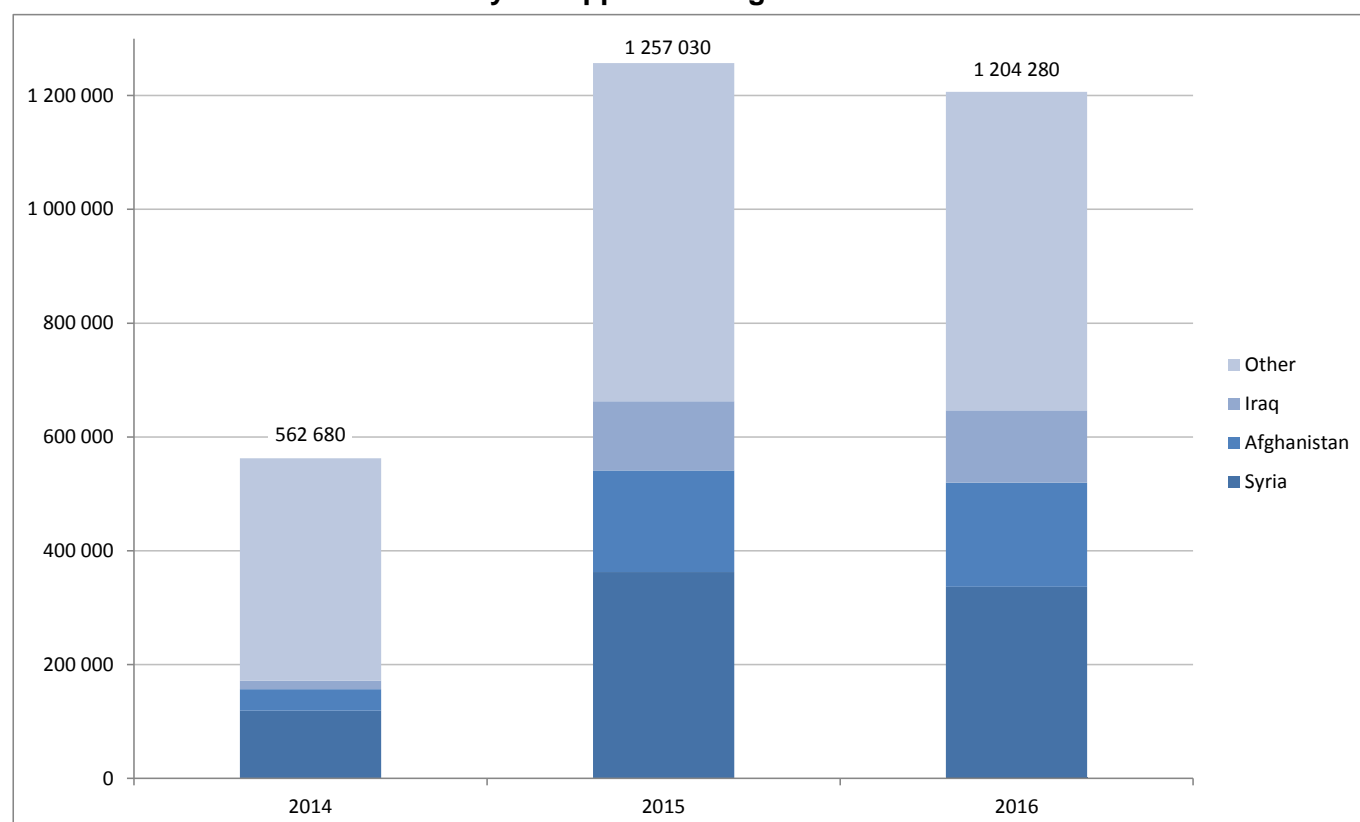
Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis continued to be the top citizenships

In 2016, 1 204 300 first time asylum seekers applied for international protection in the Member States of the **European Union** (EU), a number slightly down compared with 2015 (when 1 257 000 first time applicants were registered) but almost double that of 2014 (562 700).

Syrians (334 800 first time applicants), **Afghans** (183 000) and **Iraqis** (127 000) remained the main citizenship of people seeking international protection in the EU Member States in 2016, accounting for slightly more than half of all first time applicants.

These data on asylum applicants in the **EU** are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. They are complemented with an [article](#) and an [infographic](#) available on the Eurostat website.

Number of first time asylum applicants registered in the EU Member States



6 in 10 applied for asylum in Germany

With 722 300 first time applicants registered in 2016, **Germany** recorded 60% of all first time applicants in the EU Member States. It was followed by **Italy** (121 200, or 10%), **France** (76 000, or 6%), **Greece** (49 900, or 4%), **Austria** (39 900, or 3%) and the **United Kingdom** (38 300, or 3%). Among Member States with more than 5 000 first time asylum seekers in 2016, numbers of first time applicants rose most compared with the previous year in **Greece** (38 500 more first time asylum seekers in 2016 than in 2015, or +339%), **Germany** (280 500 more, or +63%) and **Italy** (37 900 more, or +46%). In contrast, the largest decreases were recorded in the Nordic Member States – **Sweden** (-86%), **Finland** (-84%) and **Denmark** (-71%) – as well as in **Hungary** (-84%), **Belgium** (-63%), the **Netherlands** (-55%) and **Austria** (-53%).

Highest number of first time applicants relative to the population in Germany, lowest in Slovakia

Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest number of registered first time applicants in 2016 was recorded in **Germany** (8 789 first time applicants per million inhabitants), ahead of **Greece** (4 625), **Austria** (4 587), **Malta** (3 989), **Luxembourg** (3 582) and **Cyprus** (3 350). In contrast, the lowest numbers were observed in **Slovakia** (18 applicants per million inhabitants), **Portugal** (69), **Romania** (94), the **Czech Republic** and **Estonia** (both 114). In 2016, there were in total 2 360 first time asylum applicants per million inhabitants in the **EU** as a whole.

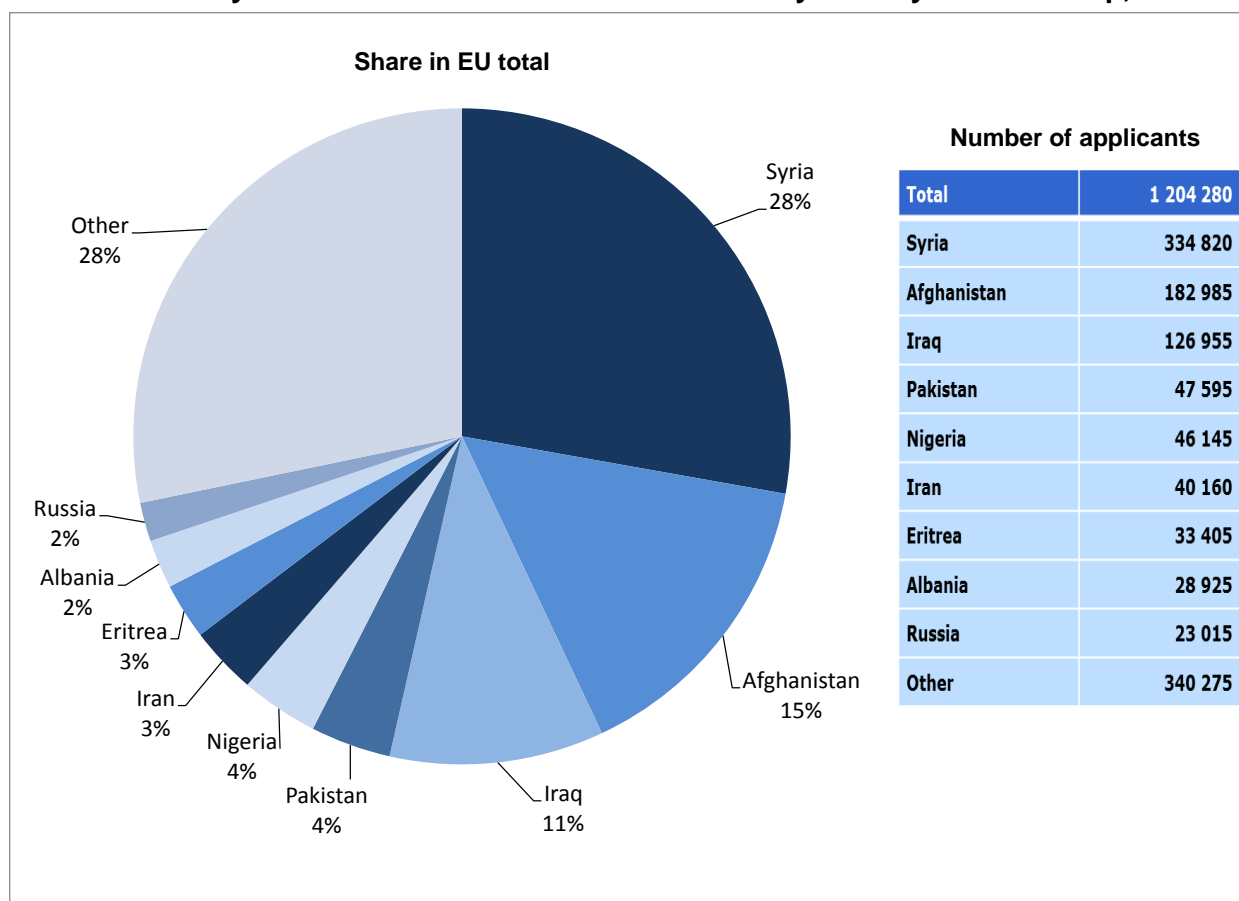
Around 30% of first time asylum seekers were Syrians

Syria (28% of the total number of first time applicants) was again in 2016 the main country of citizenship of asylum seekers in the EU Member States. Of the 334 800 **Syrians** who applied for the first time for asylum in the EU in 2016, almost 80% were registered in **Germany** (266 250). In total, **Syrians** represented the main citizenship of asylum seekers in thirteen EU Member States.

Afghanistan (15% of the total number of first time applicants) remained the second main country of citizenship of asylum seekers in the EU Member States in 2016. Of the 182 000 **Afghans** seeking asylum protection for the first time in the EU Member States in 2016, nearly 70% applied in **Germany** (127 000). **Afghans** represented the main citizenship of asylum seekers in five EU Member States.

With 127 000 first time applicants (or 11% of the EU total) in 2016, **Iraq** was the third country of citizenship of asylum seekers in the EU Member States. Three-quarters applied in **Germany** (96 100).

First time asylum seekers in the EU Member States by country of citizenship, 2016

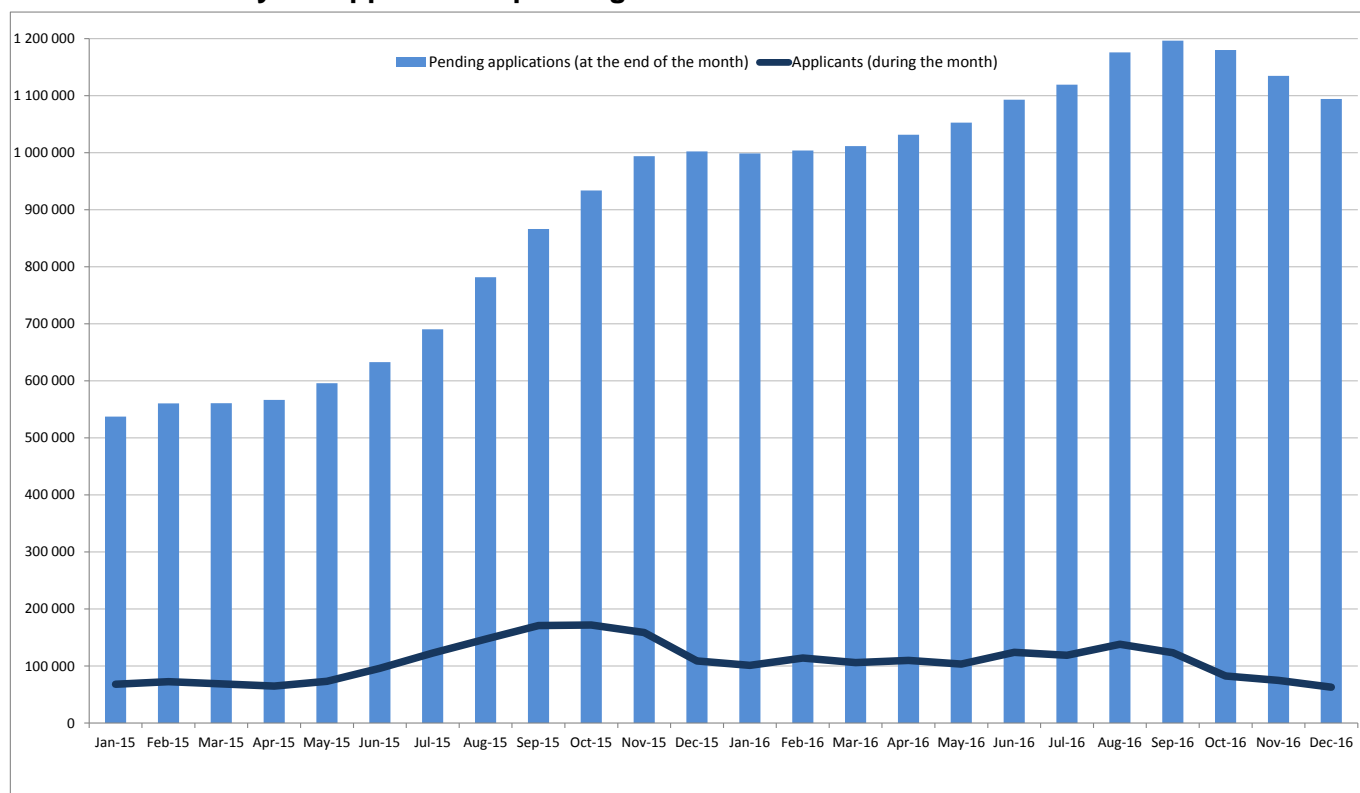


A million asylum applications pending at the end of 2016

Pending applications for international protection are those that have been made at any time and are still under consideration by the responsible national authorities at the end of the reference period. In other words, they refer to the “stock” of applications for which decisions are still pending. This statistic is meant to measure the workload of the national authorities.

At the end of 2016, 1 094 100 applications for international protection in the **EU** Member States were still under consideration by the responsible national authorities. At the end of 2015, there were about as many (1 002 400). With 601 900 pending applications at the end of 2016 (or 55% of the EU total), **Germany** had the largest share in the EU, ahead of **Italy** (99 900, or 9%), **Sweden** (83 000, or 8%) and **Austria** (77 400, or 7%).

Number of asylum applications pending at the end of the month in the EU Member States



The source dataset can be found [here](#).

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First time asylum applicants in the EU Member States

	Number of first time applicants			Share in EU total (%)	Number of applicants per million inhabitants*
	2015	2016	Change (in %)	2016	2016
EU	1 257 030	1 204 280	-4%	100.0%	2 360
Belgium	38 990	14 250	-63%	1.2%	1 260
Bulgaria	20 165	18 990	-6%	1.6%	2 655
Czech Republic	1 235	1 200	-3%	0.1%	114
Denmark	20 825	6 055	-71%	0.5%	1 061
Germany	441 800	722 265	+63%	60.0%	8 789
Estonia	225	150	-34%	0.0%	114
Ireland	3 270	2 235	-32%	0.2%	473
Greece	11 370	49 875	+339%	4.1%	4 625
Spain	14 600	15 570	+7%	1.3%	335
France	70 570	75 990	+8%	6.3%	1 138
Croatia	140	2 150	+1413%	0.2%	513
Italy	83 245	121 185	+46%	10.1%	1 998
Cyprus	2 105	2 840	+35%	0.2%	3 350
Latvia	330	345	+5%	0.0%	175
Lithuania	275	410	+51%	0.0%	142
Luxembourg	2 360	2 065	-13%	0.2%	3 582
Hungary	174 435	28 215	-84%	2.3%	2 870
Malta	1 695	1 735	+2%	0.1%	3 989
Netherlands	43 035	19 285	-55%	1.6%	1 136
Austria	85 505	39 860	-53%	3.3%	4 587
Poland	10 255	9 780	-5%	0.8%	258
Portugal	870	710	-18%	0.1%	69
Romania	1 225	1 855	+51%	0.2%	94
Slovenia	260	1 265	+389%	0.1%	613
Slovakia	270	100	-63%	0.0%	18
Finland	32 150	5 275	-84%	0.4%	961
Sweden	156 110	22 330	-86%	1.9%	2 267
United Kingdom	39 720	38 290	-4%	3.2%	586
Iceland	:	1 105	:	-	3 320
Liechtenstein	:	75	:	-	2 047
Norway	30 470	3 240	-89%	-	622
Switzerland	38 060	25 820	-32%	-	3 101

Number of first time applicants is rounded to the nearest 5. Calculations are based on exact data.

* Inhabitants refer to the resident population at 1 January 2016.

: Data not available

- Not applicable

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

First time asylum applicants by country of citizenship in 2016

	Applicants	Three main citizenships of first time asylum applicants								
	#	First citizenship	#	%	Second citizenship	#	%	Third citizenship	#	%
EU	1 204 280	Syria	334 820	28	Afghanistan	182 985	15	Iraq	126 955	11
Belgium	14 250	Syria	2 235	16	Afghanistan	2 225	16	Iraq	760	5
Bulgaria	18 990	Afghanistan	8 645	46	Iraq	5 240	28	Syria	2 585	14
Czech Republic	1 200	Ukraine	355	30	Iraq	140	12	Cuba	80	7
Denmark	6 055	Syria	1 255	21	Afghanistan	1 110	18	Stateless*	490	8
Germany	722 265	Syria	266 250	37	Afghanistan	127 010	18	Iraq	96 115	13
Estonia	150	Syria	45	30	Iraq	20	13	Iran	10	7
Ireland	2 235	Syria	245	11	Pakistan	235	11	Albania	220	10
Greece	49 875	Syria	26 630	53	Iraq	4 770	10	Pakistan	4 420	9
Spain	15 570	Venezuela	3 960	25	Syria	2 920	19	Ukraine	2 550	16
France	75 990	Albania	6 850	9	Afghanistan	6 065	8	Sudan	6 055	8
Croatia	2 150	Afghanistan	685	32	Syria	335	16	Iraq	335	16
Italy	121 185	Nigeria	26 550	22	Pakistan	13 470	11	Gambia	8 845	7
Cyprus	2 840	Syria	1 165	41	Somalia	225	8	Pakistan	205	7
Latvia	345	Syria	150	43	Afghanistan	35	10	Russia	25	7
Lithuania	410	Syria	165	40	Russia	50	12	Iraq	40	10
Luxembourg	2 065	Syria	330	16	Albania	220	11	Kosovo**	195	9
Hungary	28 215	Afghanistan	10 775	38	Syria	4 875	17	Pakistan	3 650	13
Malta	1 735	Libya	655	38	Syria	285	16	Eritrea	255	15
Netherlands	19 285	Syria	2 865	15	Eritrea	1 865	10	Albania	1 665	9
Austria	39 860	Afghanistan	11 500	29	Syria	8 730	22	Iraq	2 735	7
Poland	9 780	Russia	7 435	76	Tajikistan	830	8	Ukraine	595	6
Portugal	710	Ukraine	140	20	Congo	50	7	Guinea	50	7
Romania	1 855	Syria	805	43	Iraq	460	25	Pakistan	95	5
Slovenia	1 265	Afghanistan	410	32	Syria	270	21	Iraq	115	9
Slovakia	100	Ukraine	15	15	Pakistan	15	15	Iraq	10	10
Finland	5 275	Iraq	1 080	20	Afghanistan	685	13	Syria	600	11
Sweden	22 330	Syria	4 710	21	Afghanistan	2 145	10	Iraq	2 045	9
United Kingdom	38 290	Iran	4 780	12	Pakistan	3 700	10	Iraq	3 645	10
Iceland	1 105	FYR of Macedonia	460	42	Albania	230	21	Iraq	75	7
Liechtenstein	75	Serbia	15	20	Ukraine	10	13	Somalia	5	7
Norway	3 240	Eritrea	545	17	Syria	540	17	Afghanistan	365	11
Switzerland	25 820	Eritrea	5040	20	Afghanistan	3185	12	Syria	2040	8

Number of first time applicants is rounded to the nearest 5. Calculations are based on exact data.

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

** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

Geographical information

The **European Union** (EU) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Methods and definitions

Data on asylum are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the 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. In addition, all Member States provide data on first time asylum applicants on a voluntary basis.

The EU total is calculated as an aggregation of Member States data. Member State data refer to the number of persons applying for asylum for the first time in that Member State. Persons may however apply for international protection in more than one Member State in a given reference year. Consequently, the EU total may include such multiple applicants. Based on an estimate using latest available Dublin statistics, around 6% of asylum applicants in the EU have applied for asylum in more than one EU Member State during that same year.

'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 the border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally.

'First time asylum applicant/seeker' means a person having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such application as a family member, 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 first time asylum applicants if such persons are also a subject of first asylum application. A person can be recorded as first time applicant only if he or she had never applied for international protection in the reporting country in the past, irrespective of the fact that he or she is found to have applied in another Member State of the European Union.

This news release refers to the number of 'First time asylum applicants'. The indicator 'First time asylum applicants' excludes repeat applicants i.e. persons applying for asylum more than once in one country and therefore more accurately presents the number of persons applying for international protection in the EU Member States. The use of this indicator is now possible as all Member States are able to provide it to Eurostat.

A person being the subject of a **'pending application'** means a person who is the subject of an 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 (see Art 4.1(b) of the Regulation).

For more information

Eurostat [database](#) on asylum and managed migration

Eurostat [metadata](#) on asylum applications statistics

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on asylum quarterly data

Eurostat [Statistics Explained article](#) on asylum annual data

Eurostat [interactive infographic](#) on asylum applicants in 2016