

Asylum decisions in the EU27

EU Member States granted protection to 78 800 asylum seekers in 2009

The **EU27** Member States granted protection to 78 800 asylum seekers in 2009 compared with 75 100 in 2008. The largest groups of beneficiaries of protection status¹ in the **EU27** were citizens of **Somalia** (13 400 persons or 17% of the total number of persons granted protection status), **Iraq** (13 100 or 17%) and **Afghanistan** (7 100 or 9%).

These data on the results of asylum decisions in the **EU27** are released by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union** on the occasion of the World Refugee Day² on 20 June 2010.

More than one quarter of EU27 asylum decisions at the first instance resulted in protection status

In 2009, 317 500 decisions on asylum applications³ were made in the **EU27**, of which 228 600 were first instance decisions and 88 900 final decisions on appeal. Decisions made at the first instance⁴ resulted in 61 700 persons being granted protection status, while a further 17 100 received protection status on appeal⁵. The rate of recognition of asylum applicants, i.e. the share of positive decisions in the total number of decisions, was 27% for first instance decisions and 19% for final decisions on appeal.

Of the 78 800 persons who were granted protection status, 39 300 persons were granted refugee status, 29 900 subsidiary protection and 9 600 authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons. 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 relating to international protection.

More than three quarters of grants of protection status in the EU27 made in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands

In 2009, the highest number of persons granted protection status was registered in the **United Kingdom** (12 500), followed by **Germany** (12 100), **France** (10 400), **Sweden** (9 100), **Italy** (8 600) and the **Netherlands** (8 100). These Member States accounted for more than three quarters of all those granted protection status in the **EU27**.

The rate of recognition varies considerably among Member States, which is partly due to the differing citizenships of applicants in each Member State. The highest rates of recognition in the first instance were recorded in **Malta** (66%), **Slovakia** (56%), **Portugal** (51%), the **Netherlands** and **Denmark** (both 48%), and the lowest in **Greece** (1%), **Ireland** (4%), **Spain** (8%), **France** (14%) and **Slovenia** (15%).

Somalis were the single largest group of persons granted protection status in the **EU27**. Of the 13 400 **Somalis** granted protection status in the **EU27**, 4 000 were recorded in **Sweden**, 3 600 in the **Netherlands**, 2 400 in **Italy** and 1 400 in **Malta**. Of the 13 100 **Iraqis** granted protection, 6 200 were registered in **Germany**, 1 900 in the **Netherlands** and 1 500 in **Sweden**, and of the 7 100 **Afghans**, 1 800 were in the **United Kingdom** and 1 200 each in **Germany** and **Austria**.

More than 260 000 asylum applicants in 2009 and nearly one quarter were minors

On the occasion of the World Refugee Day, **Eurostat** also issues a report⁶ on the characteristics of asylum seekers in the **EU27** in 2009. It should be noted that processing of applications takes time, and therefore **there is no direct correspondence between applications made and decisions taken during the same year**. In 2009, around 261 000 asylum applicants were registered in the **EU27**. Amongst other characteristics such as the origin and

gender of these applicants, the report highlights that minors accounted for 60 500 of the applicants, of which 12 200 were unaccompanied.

Decisions on asylum applications in 2009

	Decisions*			Positive decisions**				
	Total	First instance	Final decisions on appeal	Total	First instance		Final decisions on appeal	
					#	Rate of recognition (%)	#	Rate of recognition (%)
EU27	317 505	228 610	88 895	78 820	61 750	27.0	17 075	19.2
Belgium	21 700	14 365	7 335	3 190	2 910	20.2	280	3.8
Bulgaria	695	645	50	280	270	41.7	10	21.6
Czech Republic	950	530	415	125	100	18.8	25	6.0
Denmark	2 095	1 650	440	920	790	47.9	130	29.7
Germany	33 505	26 780	6 730	12 055	9 765	36.5	2 295	34.1
Estonia	25	25	0	5	5	17.4	0	0.0
Ireland	6 560	3 135	3 420	395	125	4.0	270	7.8
Greece	16 460	14 350	2 105	210	165	1.2	40	2.0
Spain	6 195	4 480	1 710	380	350	7.8	30	1.8
France	54 840	35 295	19 545	10 415	5 050	14.3	5 365	27.4
Italy	22 875	22 000	875	8 550	8 440	38.4	110	12.5
Cyprus	6 515	3 855	2 660	1 210	1 130	29.3	80	3.0
Latvia	55	40	15	10	10	19.0	5	20.0
Lithuania	195	145	55	45	40	29.4	5	9.3
Luxembourg	670	465	205	140	110	23.6	30	15.3
Hungary	1 960	1 805	150	395	390	21.5	10	5.3
Malta	3 050	2 575	475	1 690	1 690	65.7	0	0.0
Netherlands	17 000	16 355	645	8 120	7 905	48.3	220	33.8
Austria	26 665	14 815	11 850	4 995	3 220	21.7	1 775	15.0
Poland	6 680	6 580	100	2 615	2 525	38.4	95	92.1
Portugal	95	95	0	50	50	51.1	0	-
Romania	1 210	540	670	210	115	20.8	95	14.2
Slovenia	200	130	70	20	20	15.2	0	0.0
Slovakia	355	315	35	195	180	56.2	15	41.7
Finland	2 715	2 650	60	1 010	960	36.2	50	80.6
Sweden	39 350	23 930	15 420	9 085	7 095	29.6	1 990	12.9
United Kingdom***	44 890	31 040	13 850	12 510	8 350	26.9	4 155	30.0
Iceland	60	25	30	5	5	11.5	5	12.5
Norway	23 180	14 700	8 480	4 935	4 510	30.7	430	5.1
Switzerland	19 345	12 695	6 650	6 665	6 025	47.5	640	9.6
Liechtenstein	155	80	75	5	0	2.6	0	2.7

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

- No decisions taken during the reference period.

* The total number of decisions refers to the number of administrative decisions rather than the number of individuals.

** 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.

*** Data on final decisions on appeal are estimates.

Largest groups granted protection status, 2009

	Largest group			Second largest group			Third largest group		
	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*	Citizens of	#	%*
EU27	Somalia	13 425	17.0	Iraq	13 130	16.7	Afghanistan	7 100	9.0
BE	Iraq	640	20.0	Russia	335	10.5	Afghanistan	300	9.4
BG	Iraq	210	74.9	Afghanistan	30	10.4	Stateless****	15	5.4
CZ	Ukraine	20	17.6	Myanmar	20	16.8	Vietnam	10	8.0
DK	Afghanistan	230	25.2	Iraq	170	18.7	Iran	150	16.2
DE	Iraq	6 215	51.5	Afghanistan	1 185	9.8	Iran	980	981.0
EE	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IE	Iraq	70	18.0	Afghanistan	30	8.1	Somalia	30	7.9
EL	Iraq	45	21.6	Afghanistan	30	15.4	Iran	30	14.9
ES	Cuba	50	12.7	Colombia	40	10.3	Iraq	35	9.5
FR	Sri Lanka	1 845	17.7	Russia	1 075	10.3	Mali	680	6.5
IT	Somalia	2 385	27.9	Eritrea	1 305	15.3	Afghanistan	700	8.2
CY	Occ. Palestinian Territory	895	73.9	Iraq	155	12.9	Turkey	35	3.0
LV	Russia	5	27.3	:	:	:	:	:	:
LT	Russia	30	61.7	Sri Lanka	5	12.8	Afghanistan	5	6.4
LU	Iraq	55	37.6	Kosovo***	30	19.9	Russia	15	9.2
HU	Afghanistan	150	37.3	Somalia	115	28.5	Iraq	35	9.1
MT	Somalia	1 445	85.6	Eritrea	195	11.6	Sudan	20	1.3
NL	Somalia	3 560	43.9	Iraq	1 885	23.2	Afghanistan	315	3.9
AT	Russia	1 770	35.4	Afghanistan	1 245	24.9	Iraq	285	5.7
PL	Russia	2 505	95.7	Iraq	25	0.9	Belarus	20	0.8
PT	Colombia	15	29.2	Dem Rep. of Congo	10	16.7	Eritrea	5	10.4
RO	Iraq	120	56.7	Afghanistan	30	15.4	Moldova	15	6.7
SI	Kosovo***	10	40.0	Serbia	5	20.0	Kazakhstan	5	20.0
SK	Afghanistan	50	25.4	Pakistan	15	7.8	Iraq	10	6.2
FI	Somalia	400	39.5	Iraq	375	37.3	Afghanistan	70	6.9
SE	Somalia	4 005	44.1	Iraq	1 520	16.8	Eritrea	855	9.4
UK**	Zimbabwe	4 485	35.8	Afghanistan	1 785	14.3	Eritrea	1 125	9.0
IS	Afghanistan	5	42.9	:	:	:	:	:	:
NO	Eritrea	1 390	28.1	Afghanistan	1 035	20.9	Somalia	685	13.8
CH	Eritrea	1 740	26.1	Somalia	745	11.2	Sri Lanka	645	9.7
LI	Armenia	5	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

- Not applicable.

: 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.

** Data on final decisions on appeal are estimates.

*** Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

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

Positive decisions on asylum applications, 2009

	Total positive decisions	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons
EU27	78 820	39 330	29 915	9 575
Belgium	3190	2 590	595	-
Bulgaria	280	40	240	-
Czech Republic	125	65	20	45
Denmark	920	415	415	95
Germany	12 055	9 565	545	1 945
Estonia	5	5	0	-
Ireland	395	370	25	-
Greece	210	65	115	25
Spain	380	200	170	10
France	10 415	7 950	2 465	-
Italy	8 550	2 150	4 920	1 480
Cyprus	1 210	75	1 050	85
Latvia	10	5	5	-
Lithuania	45	10	35	-
Luxembourg	140	130	10	-
Hungary	395	175	65	155
Malta	1 690	20	1 660	10
Netherlands	8 120	740	3 395	3 985
Austria	4 995	3 280	1 715	-
Poland	2 615	135	2 400	80
Portugal	50	5	45	-
Romania	210	110	45	55
Slovenia	20	15	5	-
Slovakia	195	20	145	30
Finland	1 010	80	840	90
Sweden	9 085	1 790	6 125	1 170
United Kingdom	12 510	9 325	2 870	315
Iceland	5	0	0	5
Norway	4 935	1 800	1 710	1 430
Switzerland	6 665	2 620	790	3 255
Liechtenstein	5	0	-	5

Data are rounded to the nearest five.

0 means less than 3.

- Not applicable

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(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 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(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 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. For more information see: <http://www.unrefugees.org>
3. **A decision on an asylum application** means a decision on 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.
4. **First instance decision** means a decision made in response to an asylum application at the first instance level of the asylum procedure.
5. **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.
6. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, 27/2010 "**Around 261,000 asylum applicants from 151 different countries were registered in the EU-27 in 2009**", available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat web site. The data in this publication 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.

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