

MIGRATION KEY FACTS SHEET



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

MIGRATION KEY FACTS SHEET

DIRECTORATE GENERAL
HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW (DG I)

DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
DIVISION ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEES

Council of Europe

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All other correspondence concerning this document should be addressed to the Council of Europe Division on Migration and Refugees, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex or to migration@coe.int.

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE DIVISION ON MIGRATION AND REFUGEES – MANDATE

The Division on Migration and Refugees was created within the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG1) on 1 February 2025 to follow up on the action by the former Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees.

Its mandate includes suggesting assistance and support to member states, particularly through the Network of Focal Points on Migration, seeking, collecting and analysing information on the human rights situation of migrants and refugees, as well as complementing and co-ordinating activities of other relevant Council of Europe bodies and our action with other international partners, notably the UNHCR, the IOM, the EU and its specialised agencies, and other national, regional and international stakeholders, including civil society organisations. The Division on Migration and Refugees represents the Council of Europe in the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Selection Committee, as well as in the Consultative Forums of Frontex and of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA).

www.coe.int/migration

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Introductory note

Migration has been a continuous feature of human history, shaping societies across centuries. This publication aims to provide an overview of key facts concerning migration at global and European levels. By compiling and presenting the most relevant statistics and trends, it can serve as a resource for evidence-based discussions and decision making.

The data available and included herein indicate that, in recent years, most migratory movements in Europe occur through regular and orderly channels and that there has been an increase of migrant returns from European Union (EU) member states. The figures also show that migration plays a significant role in supporting European economies, helping to meet labour market needs, offset demographic challenges and fill gaps in skills.

It is intended that this “Migration key facts sheet” will be updated regularly and made available on the website of the Council of Europe’s Division on Migration and Refugees, ensuring that the information remains accurate, timely and relevant for the policies and practices of member states and other stakeholders.

Definitions

- ▶ A “migrant” is an umbrella term referring to a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, for any reason.¹
- ▶ “International migrants” – From the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UN DESA) statistical perspective, international migrants are defined by the intersection of two key dimensions: space and time. To be considered an international migrant, a person must have moved across an international border and changed his or her country of residence. In addition, a threshold, usually of 12 months, is used to specify the amount of time a person must have lived continuously in another country to be considered a migrant. The statistical definition of an international migrant makes no reference to the reason for migration or to the legal immigration status of persons changing their country of residence.²
- ▶ “Refugees” are persons forced to flee their own country and seek safety in another country. They are unable to return to their own country because of feared persecution as a result of who they are, what they believe in or say, or because of armed conflict, violence or serious public disorder.³
- ▶ “Asylum seekers” are persons seeking international protection. Their request for refugee status, or complementary protection status,⁴ has yet to be processed, or they may not yet have requested asylum but they intend to do so.⁵
- ▶ “Internally displaced persons”, usually referred to as IDPs, are persons who have been forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, persecution or disasters, however, they remain within the borders of their own country.⁶
- ▶ “Legal or regular migration” may be defined as migration that occurs in compliance with the laws of the country of origin, transit and destination.⁷
- ▶ “Illegal or irregular migration” refers to the movement of persons that occurs outside the laws, regulations or international agreements from the country of origin, transit or destination.⁸
- ▶ “Assisted voluntary return and reintegration” – Administrative, logistical or financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country or country of transit and who decide to return to their country of origin.⁹
- ▶ “Voluntary return” – The assisted or independent return to the country of origin or another country, based on the voluntary decision of the returnee.¹⁰

-
1. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of persons, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students, see www.iom.int/key-migration-terms.
 2. UN DESA (2024), *International migration and sustainable development report*, United Nations publication, p. 28.
 3. The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as a person who “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that country”. According to the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): “Regional legal instruments in Africa and the Americas have broadened this definition by including people who are compelled to leave their country because of external aggression, occupation, foreign domination, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights or events seriously disturbing public order”, see www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/refugees.
 4. “Complementary protection status” refers to a legal status granted to a person who does not satisfy the definition of refugee under the Refugee Convention but may not return to their country of origin due to a real risk of serious human rights violations.
 5. www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/asylum-seekers.
 6. www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/internally-displaced-people.
 7. International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019), “Glossary on migration”, available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/international-migration-law-ndeg34-glossary-migration>.
 8. Ibid.
 9. Ibid.
 10. Ibid.

1. Global data on migration

Global data: international migrants¹¹

United Nations data indicates that over the past six decades, the number of international migrants worldwide increased nearly fourfold, reaching 281 million in 2020.¹² Nonetheless, migrants still represent a relatively small proportion of the global population. According to data from the United Nations, international migrants accounted for just over 3% of the world's population in 1990, and this share gradually increased to approximately 3.6% by 2020.

Figure 1 – Number of international migrants worldwide and as a share of the global population

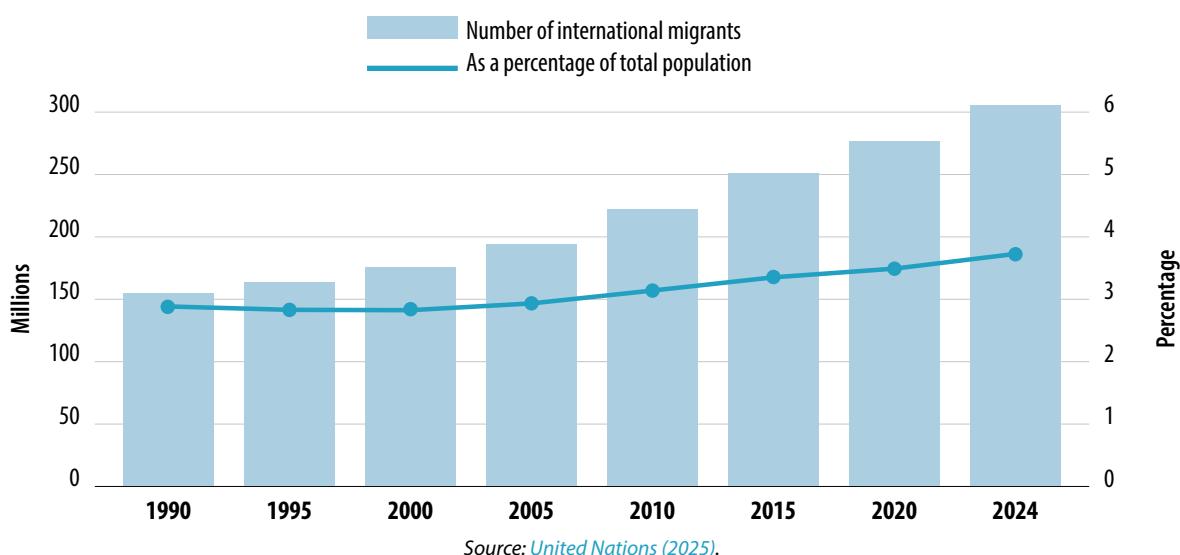


Table 1 – International migrants worldwide since 1970

Year	Number of international migrants	Migrants as a % of the world's population
1970	84 460 125	2.3
1975	90 368 010	2.2
1980	101 983 149	2.3
1985	113 206 691	2.3
1990	152 986 157	2.9
1995	161 289 976	2.8
2000	173 230 585	2.8
2005	191 446 828	2.9
2010	220 983 187	3.2
2015	247 958 644	3.4
2020	280 598 105	3.6

Source: IOM.

11. See the definition of international migrants, as employed by the UN DESA, in the section on definitions above.

12. See UN DESA (2024), *International migration and sustainable development*, United Nations Publication.

International migration by region

International migration often takes place within regions, facilitated by geographic proximity and the close economic, social and cultural ties that countries with shared borders or within the same region often enjoy.¹³

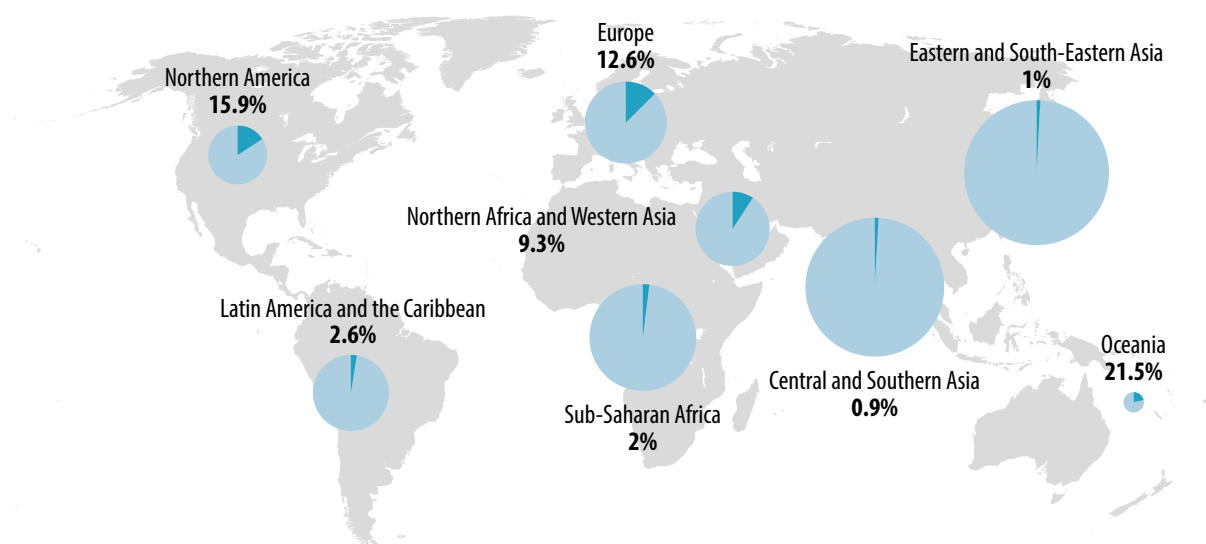
In 2024, nearly half (45%) of all international migrants worldwide were living in their region of origin. Europe had the largest share of intra-regional migration, with 74% of all migrants born in Europe residing in another European country or area. Similarly, 73% of international migrants from Oceania resided within the region, and 64% of all migrants born in sub-Saharan Africa lived in another country or area in the region in 2024.

Table 2 – International migration by region

Region	Number of international migrants (2024)	International migrants as a percentage of the total population of the region
Oceania	9.9 million	21.5%
Northern America	61.6 million	15.9%
Europe	93.9 million	12.6%
Northern Africa and Western Asia	56 million	9.3%
Latin America and the Caribbean	17.3 million	2.6%
Sub-Saharan Africa	25.5 million	2%
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	23 million	1%
Central and Southern Asia	20 million	0.9%

Source: www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock.

Figure 2 – International migrants as a share of total population by region or destination 2024



Source: www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock.

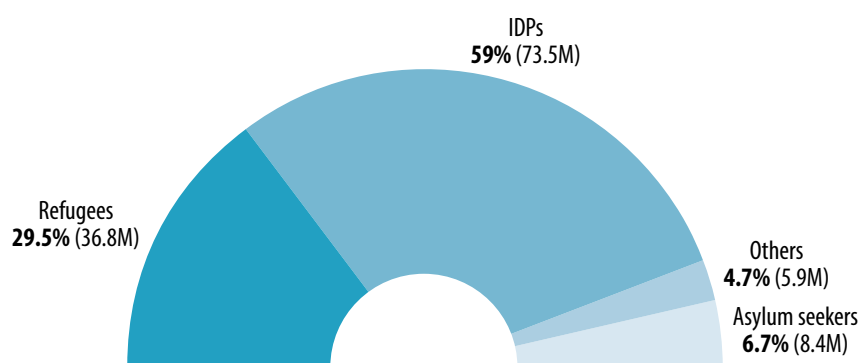
13. Ibid.

Global data: forcibly displaced persons

By the end of 2024, there were 124.6 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide, that is, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and persons otherwise in need of international protection:

- ▶ 73.5 million internally displaced persons (due to conflict and violence)
- ▶ 36.8 million refugees
- ▶ 8.4 million asylum seekers
- ▶ 5.9 million other persons in need of international protection¹⁴

Figure 3 – Forcibly displaced persons worldwide (total: 124.6 million)



Source: [UNHCR refugee statistics](#).

69% of refugees originate from just five countries:¹⁵

- ▶ Venezuela: 6.2 million
- ▶ Syrian Arab Republic: 6 million
- ▶ Afghanistan: 5.8 million
- ▶ Ukraine: 5.1 million
- ▶ South Sudan: 2.3 million

37% of them are hosted in five countries:¹⁶

- ▶ Islamic Republic of Iran: 3.5 million
- ▶ Türkiye: 2.9 million
- ▶ Colombia: 2.8 million
- ▶ Germany: 2.7 million
- ▶ Uganda: 1.8 million

In total, 49 million are children, which constitutes 40% of the total number.¹⁷ Some 1.8 million returned to their countries of origin or resettled during 2023.

14. The category "Other persons in need of international protection" refers to people who are outside their country or territory of origin, typically because they have been forcibly displaced across international borders, who have not been reported under other categories (asylum seekers, refugees, people in refugee-like situations) but who likely need international protection, including protection against forced return, as well as access to basic services on a temporary or longer-term basis, see UNHCR, [Refugee Data Finder - Methodology](#).

15. Refugees under the UNHCR's mandate and others in need of international protection, excluding refugees under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

16. Ibid.

17. All forcibly displaced persons.

Table 3 – Forcibly displaced populations by region of destination

Region	Total number of displaced persons	Percentage of the total global displaced population
Middle East and North Africa	24.4 million	20%
East and Horn Africa	23.7 million	19%
The Americas	21.3 million	17%
Europe	18.8 million	13%
Asia and the Pacific	16.3 million	15%
West and Central Africa	10.8 million	9%
Southern Africa	7.8 million	7%

Source: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#).

Europe

Total forcibly displaced population in Europe (2024): 18.8 million (-4.8% decrease compared to the previous year).

Table 4 – Forcibly displaced population by region of origin (2024)

Region of origin	Forcibly displaced population	Percentage of total
Europe	11 095 648	59%
Middle East and North Africa	4 813 307	25.6%
Asia and the Pacific	1 316 309	7%
The Americas	513 265	2.7%
East and Horn of Africa	493 912	2.6%
West and Central Africa	341 843	1.8%
Southern Africa	115 337	0.6%
Other	143 614	0.7%

Source: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#).

Table 5 – Number of displaced persons in Europe by year

Year	Number of displaced persons in Europe
2020	10 219 235
2021	10 247 412
2022	21 111 022
2023	19 774 081
2024	18 833 235

Sources: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#), [European Commission](#).

A fact to consider: at the end of 2021, less than 10% of all the world's refugees were living in the EU. By the end of 2022, as a result of the war in Ukraine, the share of refugees living in the EU increased to more than 20%. At the end of 2023, the share of refugees residing in the EU remained stable compared to the preceding year, standing at 20%. The share of refugees in the EU was 1.7% compared to its total population.

2. Refugees and asylum seekers in Europe

Refugee population in Europe

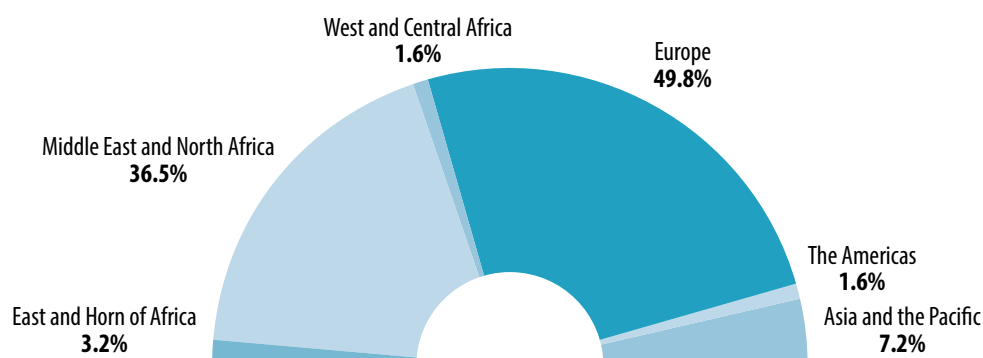
Total refugee population in Europe (2024): 12.01 million.¹⁸

Table 6 – Refugee population by region of origin (2024)

Region of origin	Refugee population	Percentage of total
Europe	5 538 745	46.2%
Middle East and North Africa	4 451 600	37.1%
Asia and the Pacific	957 419	8%
East and Horn of Africa	422 405	3.5%
The Americas	222 310	1.9%
West and Central Africa	209 458	1.8%

Source: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#).

Figure 4 – Refugee population by region of origin



Source: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#).

Table 7 – Number of refugees in by year

Year	Number of refugees in Europe
2020	6 793 797
2021	7 003 711
2022	12 415 909
2023	13 061 135
2024	12 013 473

Source: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#).

Table 8 – Asylum seekers by European country (2024)

Country	Asylum seekers
Germany	348 903
Spain	263 965
Italy	207 278
Türkiye	154 083

18. According to UNHCR data this represented a decrease of 4.8% compared to 2023, see [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#).

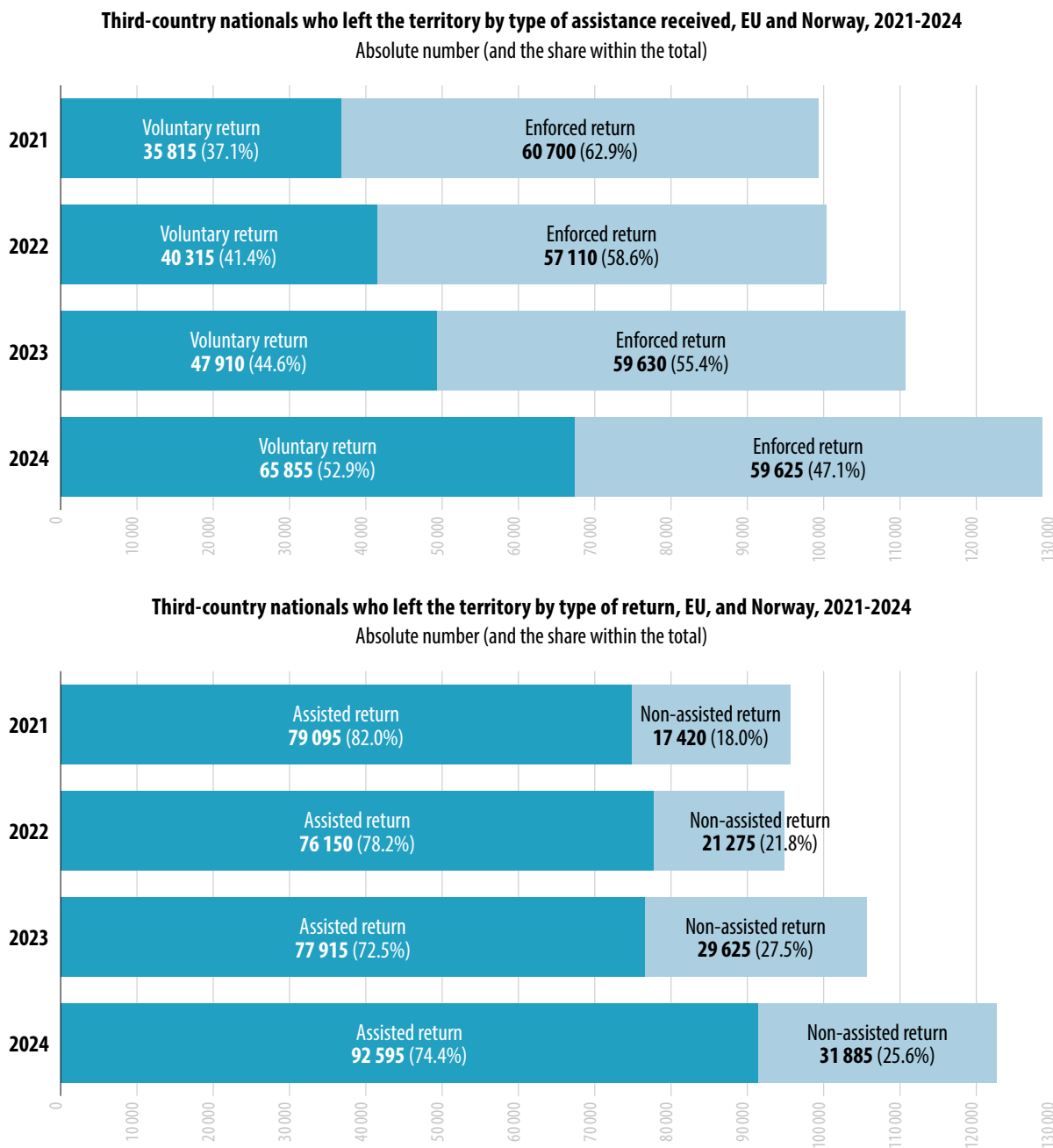
Country	Asylum seekers
United Kingdom	124 783
France	88 554
Belgium	53 138
Netherlands	46 840
Ireland	31 711
Austria	28 883
Greece	28 244
Cyprus	27 553
Switzerland	17 010
Poland	10 992
Bulgaria	5 981
Norway	5 913
Sweden	5 490
Finland	4 386
Luxembourg	4 285
Denmark	2 628
Portugal	2 563
Malta	1 470
Belarus	1 224
Croatia	1 220
Iceland	1 081
Czech Republic	1 065
Armenia	975
Republic of Moldova	904
Slovenia	845
Georgia	764
Ukraine	487
Romania	462
Lithuania	298
Azerbaijan	267
Latvia	263
Serbia and Kosovo* ¹⁹	202
Bosnia and Herzegovina	190
Estonia	172
Montenegro	150
Slovakia	80
Liechtenstein	34
North Macedonia	26
Hungary	0
Albania	0
Andorra	0
Monaco	0
San Marino	0

Source: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder](#).

19. *All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

3. Returns of migrants from Europe

Figure 5 – Returns of migrants from Europe (EU and Norway) 2021-2024 – Return and readmission



Source: European Migration Network (2025), "Asylum and migration overview 2024".

Table 9 – Total numbers of third-country nationals ordered to leave and effectively returned from European countries (2024)

Country	Orders to leave	Returns	Return rate (%)
Germany	54 560	26 825	49.2%
France	131 100	15 615	11.9%
Sweden	17 960	13 340	74.3%
Poland	12 570	9 240	73.5%

Country	Orders to leave	Returns	Return rate (%)
Cyprus	15 930	8 670	54.4%
Greece	28 460	6 120	21.5%
Austria	15 860	6 070	38.3%
Croatia	12 110	5 100	42.1%
Italy	26 035	4 520	17.4%
Spain	44 065	4 275	9.7%
Netherlands	23 335	3 005	12.9%
Belgium	24 245	2 995	12.4%
Switzerland	7 850	2 075	26.4%
Romania	5 070	2 110	41.6%
Norway	3 435	2 320	67.5%
Hungary	11 400	2 485	21.8%
Latvia	2 285	2 250	98.5%
Bulgaria	9 405	955	10.2%
Malta	1 010	860	85.1%
Denmark	2 330	800	34.3%
Estonia	850	780	91.8%
Finland	3 945	1 390	35.2%
Lithuania	4 010	1 420	35.4%
Ireland	3 360	1 460	43.5%
Slovenia	690	495	71.7%
Luxembourg	1 335	435	32.6%
Slovakia	530	370	69.8%
Portugal	1 290	315 (Q3 only)	24.4% (est.)
Czech Republic	6 805	600	8.8%
Liechtenstein	0	0	0.0%

Source: Eurostat, Returns of irregular migrants – quarterly statistics.

Table 10 – Top five countries of origin of third-country nationals ordered to leave the EU (2023-2024)

Country	2023	2024
Algeria	32 495	37 650
Morocco	34 975	32 055
Syria	21 710	27 075
Afghanistan	24 070	23 080
Türkiye	20 990	25 590

Source: Eurostat.

Table 11 – Top five countries of origin of third-country nationals returned to a third country following an order to leave the EU (2023-2024)

Country	2023	2024
Georgia	9 975	11 450
Albania	7 820	7 815
Türkiye	5 560	7 775
Moldova	3 565	4 040
Morocco	2 710	3 975

Source: Eurostat.

4. International migrants in Europe's labour force

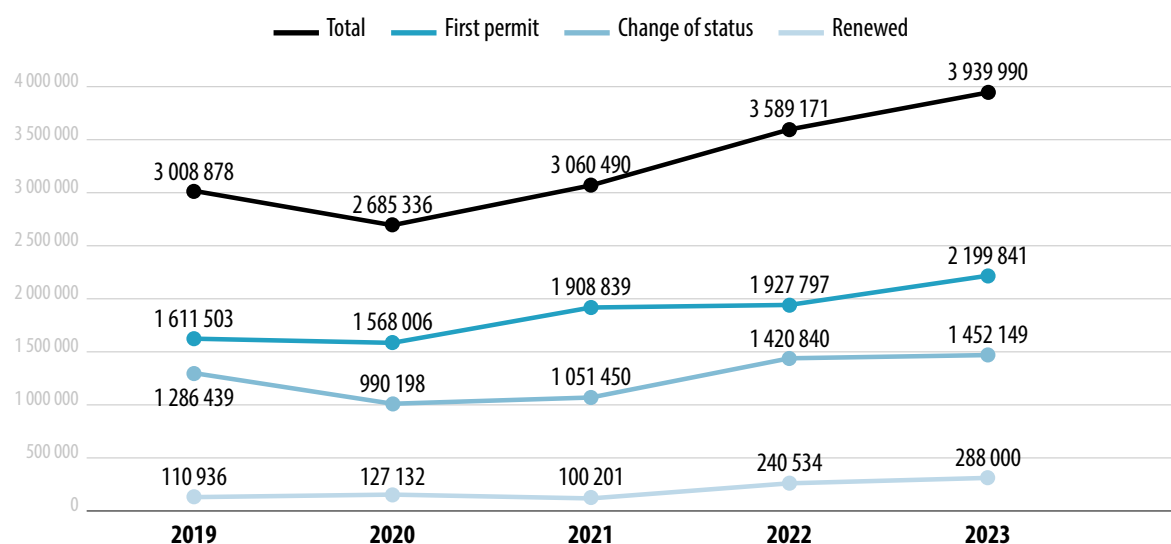
International Labour Organization (ILO) data indicate that from 2013 to 2022 the distribution of international migrants in the labour force by region remained relatively stable. The distribution of international migrants in the labour force in northern, southern and western Europe increased marginally between 2013 and 2022.

Table 12 – Proportion of international migrants in labour force in Europe

Subregion	2013	2017	2019	2022
Eastern Europe	7.6%	8.1%	8.2%	7.8%
Northern, southern and western Europe	14.3%	15.9%	17.0%	17.4%

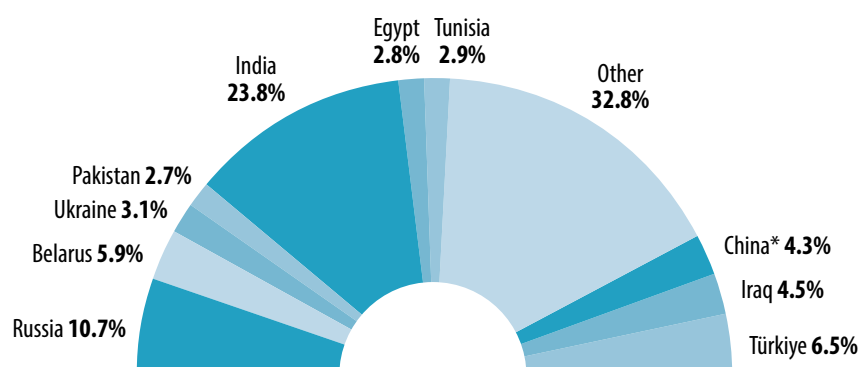
Source: ILO (2024), *ILO global estimates on international migrant workers*, *International migrants in the labour force*, fourth edition.

Figure 6 – Single residence permits issued in Europe (2019-2023)



Source: Eurostat.

Figure 7 – Share of top 10 non-EU countries whose citizens were granted EU Blue Cards²⁰ (2023)



Source: Eurostat.

20. European Commission: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/eu-immigration-portal/eu-blue-card_en. An EU Blue Card gives highly qualified workers from outside the EU the opportunity to live and work in an EU member state, provided they hold the necessary higher professional qualifications or, where appropriate, higher professional skills.

Table 13 – Immigration in EU+ states by country of birth (2023)

	Total immigrants (thousand)	Native-born		Total		Foreign-born		Born in a non-EU country		Unknown	
		(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)	(thousand)	(%)
Belgium	169.6	12.5	7.4	155.1	91.4	55.1	32.5	100.0	59.0	2.0	1.2
Bulgaria	56.8	14.3	25.1	42.6	74.9	7.5	13.2	35.1	61.7	0.0	0.0
Czechia	142.1	3.6	2.5	138.6	97.5	10.2	7.2	128.4	90.3	0.0	0.0
Denmark	98.3	12.9	13.1	85.4	86.8	33.6	34.2	51.8	52.7	0.0	0.0
Germany	1,271.2	49.1	3.9	1,123.9	88.4	237.7	18.7	886.2	69.7	98.2	7.7
Estonia	26.4	4.9	18.7	21.2	80.3	2.9	11.0	18.3	69.4	0.3	1.0
Ireland	135.6	28.7	21.2	106.6	78.6	20.9	15.4	85.8	63.2	0.3	0.2
Greece	118.8	40.3	33.9	78.5	66.1	10.6	8.9	67.9	57.1	0.0	0.0
Spain	1,251.0	88.5	7.1	1,162.5	92.9	152.8	12.2	1,009.7	80.7	0.0	0.0
France*	417.6	85.7	20.5	331.9	79.5	58.8	14.1	273.1	65.4	0.0	0.0
Croatia	69.4	6.7	9.6	62.7	90.4	5.1	7.3	57.7	83.1	0.0	0.0
Italy	439.7	45.5	10.3	394.2	89.7	40.2	9.1	354.0	80.5	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	40.8	1.9	4.7	38.8	95.3	7.4	18.0	31.5	77.2	0.0	0.0
Latvia	18.7	6.6	35.5	11.9	63.9	0.9	4.9	11.0	58.9	0.1	0.7
Lithuania	66.7	15.1	22.7	51.5	77.3	1.2	1.9	50.3	75.4	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	27.0	1.4	5.2	25.4	94.1	11.7	43.5	13.6	50.6	0.2	0.7
Hungary	96.2	24.1	25.1	70.9	73.7	10.7	11.1	60.2	62.6	1.1	1.2
Malta	42.2	1.9	4.6	40.3	95.4	5.8	13.7	34.5	81.7	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	274.6	23.2	8.5	251.4	91.5	83.3	30.3	168.1	61.2	0.0	0.0
Austria	147.6	6.5	4.4	136.3	92.4	63.3	42.9	73.0	49.5	4.8	3.2
Poland*	303.3	38.6	12.7	263.0	86.7	62.5	20.6	200.5	66.1	1.7	0.5
Portugal	189.4	28.3	14.9	161.1	85.1	18.7	9.9	142.4	75.2	0.0	0.0
Romania	324.1	187.4	57.8	136.7	42.2	16.8	5.2	119.9	37.0	0.0	0.0
Slovenia	33.9	3.1	9.0	30.9	91.0	2.7	7.9	28.2	83.1	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	5.9	0.9	15.0	5.0	85.0	2.8	46.7	2.3	38.3	0.0	0.0
Finland	73.2	5.5	7.5	67.2	91.7	6.5	8.8	60.7	82.9	0.6	0.8
Sweden	94.5	10.6	11.2	83.9	88.7	26.5	28.0	57.4	60.7	0.0	0.1
Iceland	11.2	1.4	12.1	9.8	87.1	5.8	51.5	4.0	35.6	0.1	0.7
Liechtenstein	0.7	0.0	5.6	0.7	93.6	0.3	38.7	0.4	54.9	0.0	0.8
Norway	86.6	4.5	5.2	82.1	94.8	22.4	25.9	59.6	68.9	0.0	0.0
Switzerland	263.1	16.6	6.3	244.2	92.8	109.6	41.7	134.6	51.2	2.3	0.9

Note: The individual values do not add up to the total due to rounding.

Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and Liechtenstein did not include refugees from Ukraine who benefit from temporary protection in their population and migration statistics.

(*) Provisional/estimated

Source: [Eurostat](#).

Table 14 – Number and share of students from abroad by sex and level of education in extended EU+ countries (2023)

	Short-cycle tertiary			Bachelor's or equivalent			Master's or equivalent			Doctoral or equivalent		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
EU	38 612	16 317	22 294	772 875	377 851	395 024	786 432	383 548	402 884	158 749	84 124	74 625
Belgium	1 316	353	963	29 598	11 457	18 141	21 286	9 332	11 954	5 081	2 763	2 318
Bulgaria	–	–	–	5 667	328	2 387	12 789	6 040	6 749	794	432	362
Czechia	69	19	50	29 800	14 504	15 296	20 722	9 370	11 402	5 635	3 063	2 572
Denmark	2 341	1 059	1 282	9 713	4 193	5 520	13 920	6 385	7 535	3 700	1 954	1 746
Germany	0	0	0	153 841	85 159	68 682	221 295	118 546	102 749	48 061	25 071	22 990
Estonia	–	–	–	1 719	960	739	2 388	1 134	1 254	763	438	325
Ireland	734	417	317	15 187	6 734	8 453	9 895	4 490	5 405	4 289	2 061	2 228
Greece	9 478	3 629	5 849	24 902	11 662	13 240	662	300	362	763	397	366
Spain	13 257	5 601	7 657	27 333	12 371	14 962	45 699	20 628	25 071	19 652	10 224	9 428
France	0	0	0	96 169	43 520	52 649	141 361	69 713	71 649	25 429	13 604	11 826
Croatia	0	0	0	2 806	1 314	1 492	2 731	1 142	1 589	392	190	202
Italy	0	0	0	45 679	20 390	25 289	54 897	24 619	30 278	5 874	3 416	2 458
Cyprus	425	318	107	7 332	4 824	2 508	3 297	1 542	1 755	741	333	408
Latvia	70	46	24	4 566	3 425	1 141	5 198	2 687	2 511	246	172	74
Lithuania	–	–	–	6 098	3 391	2 707	4 609	2 357	2 252	301	170	132
Luxembourg	78	29	49	745	313	432	2 430	1 170	1 260	917	520	397
Hungary	126	53	73	20 338	10 227	10 111	18 142	8 287	9 855	3 124	1 659	1 465
Malta	662	365	296	2 932	1 434	1 498	2 039	929	1 110	609	330	279
Netherlands	4 279	1 500	2 779	112 041	50 174	61 867	53 139	22 883	30 256	–	–	–
Austria	1 343	527	816	37 708	17 156	20 552	39 753	17 949	21 773	8 236	4 234	4 002
Poland	22	7	15	61 211	33 181	28 030	27 442	14 142	13 300	1 002	588	414
Portugal	3 837	2 095	1 742	22 971	10 784	12 187	21 795	10 116	11 679	8 172	4 318	3 854
Romania	–	–	–	13 222	6 673	6 549	22 090	10 797	11 293	904	560	344
Slovenia	514	273	241	4 684	1 927	2 757	2 497	1 065	1 432	804	389	415
Slovakia	46	22	24	13 623	7 239	6 384	6 708	3 132	3 576	885	574	311
Finland	–	–	–	15 609	8 329	6 740	9 851	5 147	4 704	5 426	2 898	2 528
Sweden	15	5	10	7 921	3 211	4 710	19 777	9 646	10 132	6 948	3 766	3 182
Iceland	183	64	119	805	233	572	767	275	492	334	163	171
Liechtenstein*	0	0	0	358	185	173	276	170	106	197	141	56
Norway	100	43	57	4 657	1 940	2 717	6 904	3 601	3 303	2 480	1 432	1 048
Switzerland**	0	0	0	23 077	11 594	11 483	27 163	13 072	14 091	15 949	8 367	7 582
North Macedonia	–	–	–	5 217	3 003	2 214	622	204	418	339	170	169
Albania	18	9	9	616	322	294	1 369	597	772	9	9	0
Serbia	–	–	–	7 527	3 507	4 020	3 154	1 341	1 813	738	405	333
Türkiye	40 546	21 906	18 640	193 860	119 743	74 117	55 763	30 729	25 034	11 049	7 192	3 857

(-) not available. (-) not applicable.

Note: based on country of upper secondary diploma unless otherwise stated. Based on country of usual residence in Estonia, Ireland, Spain (not for short-cycle tertiary), Italy, Slovenia, and Liechtenstein. Based on country of citizenship in Bulgaria (for Master's or equivalent), Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia and Türkiye. Based on country of upper secondary/prior education in Bulgaria (for Doctoral or equivalent), Latvia and Poland. Based on country of upper secondary diploma and/or citizenship in France and the Netherlands. Other criteria: Sweden. No information provided: North Macedonia.

(*) 2022.

(**) Short-cycle tertiary: negligible, reported as 0. Bachelor's or equivalent and master's or equivalent: only covers students in universities or universities of applied sciences

Source: Eurostat.

5. Irregular border crossings in Europe

Table 15 – Legal migration v. irregular migration in the EU

Year	Legal migration	Irregular migration	Percentage of irregular migrants
2020	2 294 305	126 310	5.2%
2021	2 933 148	199 898	6.4%
2022	3 454 684	326 217	8.6%
2023	3 741 015	385 445	9.3%
2024	–	202 322	–

Sources: [European Commission](#), European Border and Coast Guard Agency [Frontex data](#).

Table 16 – Detections of irregular border crossings at the EU's external borders

Route	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percentage change over 2023
Central Mediterranean	67 724	105 561	162 714	66 766	-59%
Eastern Mediterranean	22 793	38 690	61 092	69 436	+14%
Western African Route	22 351	15 463	39 673	46 877	+18%
Western Balkan Route	61 735	144 197	99 041	21 520	-78%
Eastern Borders Route	8 160	6 373	5 824	17 001	+192%
Western Mediterranean	18 466	15 134	16 877	17 026	+1%
Total EU – Detections	201 229	326 335	385 221	238 626	-38%

Source: [Frontex data](#).

Table 17 – Migrant deaths in the Mediterranean and Europe (2020–2024)

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Europe	84	135	164	158	233
The Mediterranean	2 048	2 048	2 411	3 155	2 452

Source: [IOM](#).

Table 18 – Mixed migration entries – Western Balkans

Year	Total
2020	103 371
2021	120 513
2022	192 182
2023	163 521
2024	56 213
2025 (Q1 and Q2)	13 113

Source: [IOM mixed migratory flows in the Western Balkans, June 2025](#).

6. Ukrainian refugees

Table 19 – Ukrainian refugees in Europe (as of 31 July 2025)

Rank	Host country	Ukrainian refugees
1	Germany	1 227 090
2	Poland	1 000 320
3	Czech Republic	374 310
4	United Kingdom	254 580
5	Spain	243 670
6	Romania	188 270
7	Italy	176 240
8	Slovakia	144 970
9	Republic of Moldova	133 310
10	Netherlands	126 400
11	Ireland	113 920
12	Belgium	91 750
13	Austria	86 250
14	Norway	81 880
15	France	74 100
16	Finland	73 270
17	Bulgaria	67 730
18	Switzerland	69 990
19	Hungary	63 870
20	Portugal	63 690
21	Lithuania	46 790
22	Sweden	44 550
23	Belarus	42 150
24	Estonia	40 860
25	Denmark	38 350
26	Greece	36 600
27	Latvia	31 950
28	Georgia	30 000
29	Croatia	26 860
30	Cyprus	24 290
31	North Macedonia	20 740
32	Montenegro	18 560
33	Slovenia	10 810
34	Serbia and Kosovo*	10 720
35	Albania	9 250
36	Azerbaijan	5 110
37	Iceland	4 220
38	Luxembourg	3 780
39	Türkiye	2 620
40	Malta	2 450
41	Armenia	770
42	Liechtenstein	760
43	Bosnia and Herzegovina	270
44	Monaco	55
45	San Marino	N/A
46	Andorra	N/A

Source: [UNHCR](#), [Statista](#).

Migration has been a continuous feature of human history, shaping societies across centuries. By compiling and presenting the most relevant statistics and trends at global and European level the Migration key facts sheet aims to contribute to evidence-based discussions and decision making. This document will be updated regularly and made available on the website of the Council of Europe's Division on Migration and Refugees.

www.coe.int/en/web/migration-and-refugees/

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