



Latest Asylum Trends - November 2024

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Overview

scatter visualization

1. In November 2024, EU+ asylum authorities received 84,000 asylum applications, continuing a rather stable trend for most of the year.
2. Syrians still lodged the most applications in November 2024, but compared to the previous month, their applications fell by 26% to just 12,000.
3. Germany remained the top receiving country in November 2024 despite receiving half as many applications compared to the same period last year, while Greece recorded the highest number of applications per capita.
4. The number of cases awaiting a first instance decision remained at near record levels, with 979,000 at the end of November 2024.

5. At the end of November 2024, about 4.4 million persons were benefiting from temporary protection in the EU+ after fleeing Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Most beneficiaries were hosted by Germany and Poland, but Czechia hosted the most beneficiaries per capita.

Applications

Trends

chart visualization

Asylum applications peaked in October 2023 with 123,000 applications lodged, a figure comparable to levels observed during the refugee crisis of 2015–2016. Indeed by the end of that year, some [1.1 million applications](#) had been lodged in the EU+ marking an 18% increase from the previous year, and the highest annual total in seven years. For most of 2024, asylum applications were somewhat stable at around 86,000 applications per month, with 84,000 applications lodged in November 2024.

In addition, in November 2024 around 4.4 million persons displaced from the Russian invasion of Ukraine were receiving [temporary protection](#) in the EU+. This number has not changed markedly since the beginning of 2023, but it significantly contributes to the overall number of people in the EU+ with protection needs. Further information on forced displacement from Ukraine can be found in the recently released EUAA [Survey of Arriving Migrants from Ukraine: Movements and Returns Report](#), which also features a contribution by [Gradus Research](#) based in Kyiv. Read also [Voices in Europe](#), a joint report based on the personal testimonies of over 1,500 respondents. Details on court cases related to the Temporary Protection Directive are available in the [EUAA Analysis of Case Law](#).

These concurrent trends — asylum applications and displaced persons from Ukraine — are placing considerable pressure on EU+ asylum and reception systems, as reflected in near-record numbers of pending first instance cases, and [EUAA operational assistance](#) being provided to 11 EU Member States.

The December 2024 [take-over of Syria](#) by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) marked a significant shift in both the country's stability and the broader regional dynamics. According to the United Nations, between the fall of the Assad regime on 8 December and early January 2025, some [115,000 Syrians](#) returned back to Syria. However, the UNHCR has urged states to refrain from [forcibly returning](#) Syrian nationals, emphasising the ongoing vulnerabilities in the country. Several EU Member States have [suspended](#) the processing of asylum claims from Syria until conditions stabilise further, although Syrians can still submit applications. The European Parliament has sought [clarifications](#) on this practice and whether Syrians returning home risk losing their protection status. Amid this fluid situation, in November 2024 (i.e. still before the fall of the Assad regime), [Syrians](#) continued to be the largest group of asylum applicants in the EU+, lodging 12,000

applications and accounting for 14% of the total. This marks a decline compared to previous months (back to levels seen in the first half of 2024), and at the time of writing, early indicators do not suggest a significant new surge in Syrian asylum applications. For more detailed information, refer to the latest EUAA country of origin information reports on [Syria - Country Focus](#), its [Security situation](#), and [Country Guidance](#) which outlines the key elements of qualification for international protection.

According to the [UNHCR](#), over 5.5 million people have been displaced in the Central Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger) due to ongoing conflict exacerbated by the escalating climate crisis. This has coincided with [record numbers](#) of migrants arriving in the Canary Islands, exceeding numbers seen in 2006 during the so-called [Cayuco crisis](#). According to the Spanish authorities, in 2024 there were 47,000 arrivals to the Canary Islands, which [Frontex](#) identified as the busiest migratory route in Europe in November 2024. Frontex also reported that Malian and Senegalese nationals were the [most frequently detected](#), which corresponds to an increase in [Malian](#) and [Senegalese](#) asylum applications: in November 2024, [Malians](#) lodged 1,400 asylum applications in the EU+, marking a 52% rise compared to November 2023, whereas [Senegalese](#) lodged 1,100 applications a marked increase compared to most of 2023.

In recent months more [Haitians](#) have been seeking asylum in the EU+. In November 2024, they lodged 1,200 applications almost exclusively in France. This level of applications is less than many of the other main citizenships analysed here, but it is a near-record number for Haitians and nearly double the number compared to a year previously. Haiti is currently experiencing a severe escalation in gang-related violence, particularly in its capital, Port-au-Prince. UN figures suggest that more than [700,000](#) people have been forced to flee their homes and [5,600](#) were killed in gang violence in 2024.

Typically, around a fifth of asylum applications in the EU+ are lodged by nationals of countries with [visa-free access](#) to the Schengen area, which means they can arrive on flights directly from their home countries. Spain tends to receive the largest share of such applications, with visa-free nationals usually accounting for three quarters of its total inflow. [Venezuelans](#) and [Colombians](#) represent the majority of visa-free applicants in the EU+: in November 2024, Venezuelans submitted a near record number of applications (7,300) ranking second among all nationalities, while Colombians lodged 4,500 applications, ranking fourth. [Peruvian](#) nationals also applied in significant numbers, with 2,400 applications in November 2024. However, unlike Venezuelans and Colombians, most Peruvians have been applying in Italy (60%) rather than Spain (36% see [chart](#)). This trend is impactful to the extent that, in 2024 Peruvians have often been the number two citizenship lodging applications in Italy. In response to challenges and linked to high numbers of unfounded asylum applications, in October 2023, the European Commission proposed revisions to Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 to strengthen the visa suspension mechanism, potentially allowing the EU to temporarily suspend visa exemptions in response to increased irregular migration or security risks from visa-free countries. In December 2024, the Commission published its seventh [report](#) to the [European Parliament](#) who will soon vote on the revised mechanism.

[Afghan](#) applications have been on a predominantly downward trend over the last two years. In November 2024, Afghans lodged just 7,300 applications which a drop of -23% compared to the same period in 2023. Read an [EUAA Country Focus](#) report on the general security and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, plus [Country Guidance](#), which focusses on the key elements of qualification for international protection.

In the autumn of 2023, [Turkish](#) nationals suddenly sought international protection in the EU+ in [unprecedented numbers](#) such that for a short time they ranked second among all citizenships applying for asylum. However, this Germany-centred surge was short-lived with far fewer Turks seeking protection in subsequent months. In November 2024, Turks lodged just 4,100 applications and ranked fifth among all nationalities.

Since March 2022, individuals displaced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine have been eligible for temporary protection in the EU+. By the end of November 2024, approximately 4.4 million people were benefiting from

this protection, which has been extended to [March 2026](#). The majority of beneficiaries were in Germany (1.1 million) and Poland (1 million), with relatively [few in France](#) (60,000). Overall, numbers of beneficiaries have not been changing dramatically since 2022, but so far in 2024 an increasing number of Ukrainians have also been applying for international protection in the EU+. In November 2024, [Ukrainians](#) lodged 3,100 applications, which is more than twice the number compared to a year previously in November 2023. The increase was concentrated in France, where in November 2024 more than half of all Ukrainian applications were lodged, followed by Poland with more than a quarter (see [chart](#)).

[Main citizenships](#)

scatter visualization

The chart above provides a comprehensive overview of November's top 20 nationalities' asylum application trends, smoothing out month-to-month fluctuations by comparing data from the past 12 months (yellow) with the preceding 12 months (blue). [Syrians](#) and [Afghans](#) lodged the most applications for asylum during both of these time periods. However, these citizenships lodged fewer applications compared to the previous period, Syrians -14% and Afghans -26%.

Usually this chart suffers from a statistical artifact, whereby nationalities with declining trends are likely to drop out of the top 20, while those with increasing trends are more likely to enter the ranking. Notably in November 2024 many of the top citizenships actually lodged fewer applications between the two reporting periods, as was especially the case for example for [Georgians](#) and [Turks](#) (-41% and -39% respectively). Nevertheless, it is still notable that [Haitians](#), [Maliens](#) and [Senegalese](#) lodged more than twice as many applications in the 12 months leading up to November 2024 (up by +165%, +137%, and +124%, respectively).

[Per receiving country](#)

hierarchy visualization

In November 2024, Germany remained the top destination for asylum seekers in the EU+, receiving 18,000 applications or 21% of the total. This was despite the fact that applications in Germany fell by more than

50% compared to November 2023. Spain was ranked second among EU+ countries due to the situation in the Canary Islands combined with visa-free nationalities arriving from South America. In November 2024, Spain received more than 15,000 applications (18% of the total), followed by France with more than 13,000 (16% of the total). Italy received 12,000 applications (15% of the total). Together these four countries received 7 in every 10 applications lodged in the EU+.

Other differences between the main receiving countries include the nature of the caseloads. For example, there is a remarkable lack of overlap between the citizenships that tend to apply in the main receiving countries: in Germany more than half of all applications were lodged by Syrians, Afghans and Turks; in France the top two citizenships were Ukrainians and Haitians; in Spain two thirds of all applications were lodged by Venezuelans and Colombians; and in Italy nearly a third of all applications were lodged by Bangladeshis and Peruvians.

As illustrated in the chart above, certain nationalities predominantly lodge their asylum applications in a single EU+ country, reflecting localised patterns. In November 2024, nearly all Haitian applications were lodged in France, most Venezuelans (89%), Colombians (74%) and Malians (69%) lodged applications in Spain, and most Bangladeshis (74%) sought international protection in Italy.

Per capita

chart visualization

Evaluating which EU+ countries tend to receive the most applications for asylum is important but to some extent a simple like-for-like comparison is not appropriate because the EU+ countries vary wildly in terms of the size and capacity of their asylum and reception systems. For more information, read an EUAA report on the [national authorities](#) responsible for different steps of the asylum and reception systems. As a rough measure of their overall capacity and a more nuanced estimation of the pressure exerted on national authorities, this chart illustrates the number of asylum applications lodged per million inhabitants (using [Eurostat population data](#)).

In November 2024, Greece, with a population size of around 10.4 million received around 8,500 asylum applications. This amounts to a rate of 817 applications per million population or 1 application for every 1,200 inhabitants. Germany may have received many more applications for asylum (18,000) but, given its larger population of 84 million, the German rate was lower, at 211 applications per million inhabitants or 1 application per 4,700 inhabitants. Spain and Luxembourg and, while receiving very different numbers of applications per se (15,000 and 200 respectively) actually received very similar numbers per capita, at slightly over 300 applications per million population. Hungary, despite a population size approaching 10 million, accepted fewer than 5 applications for asylum in November 2024 mostly because third-country nationals seeking protection in Hungary can only apply after submitting a declaration of intent at a Hungarian embassy in a non-EU country. In December 2020, the [European Court of Justice](#) held that Hungary failed to comply with the rules of EU law on procedures for granting international protection and returning illegally staying third-country nationals.

Taking the whole EU+ into consideration: its population of 463 million and 84,000 asylum applications received in November 2024 converts into 181 applications per million population or about 1 application for every 5,500 persons.

In addition to asylum applications, at the end of November 2024, there were also 4.4 million persons benefiting from temporary protection in the EU+. This protection is based on a 2001 [Directive](#) which was triggered for the first time in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 with the aim of offering quick and effective assistance to people displaced to the EU+. For more information, read the EUAA report on the [Application of the Temporary Protection Directive](#). At the end of November 2024, almost half of all beneficiaries of temporary protection were either in Germany (1.2 million) or Poland (just under 1 million – based on [Eurostat data](#)). For context and to allow comparisons with the inflow of asylum applications, the chart above can also be used to illustrate the number of beneficiaries of temporary protection per capita being hosted in each EU+ country. In Czechia, there were about 385,000 beneficiaries of temporary protection which translates into 35,000 per million [inhabitants](#), or 1 beneficiary for every 29 inhabitants. For the sake of comparison, Slovakia and Cyprus might be hosting vastly different numbers of beneficiaries (130,000 versus 22,000) but rather similar numbers per capita, 1 beneficiary for every 42 inhabitants.

The Council of the EU has extended temporary protection for people fleeing Russia's aggression against Ukraine for another year until 4 March 2026. Read more [here](#).

Recognition Rates

First instance

[Time series per citizenship](#)

chart visualization

Over the past two years, the recognition rate, which reflects the percentage of asylum applicants that receive decisions granting refugee status and subsidiary protection, has fluctuated around 40% at first instance, with slightly more decisions granting refugee status rather than subsidiary protection. In November 2024 the recognition rate declined very slightly to 38% but this summary statistic is made up of multiple, highly diverse trends. For example, the recognition rates of the main citizenships very wildly from each other: Syrians for example have a recognition rate of around 90%, whereas Afghans are below 60% and Turks even lower at below 20%. Having said that, many recognition rates remain fairly stable over time: for example, in November 2024, Georgians and Bangladeshis continued to have a recognition rate of around 5% which is in line with long-term trends. However, there are exceptions to this general observation:

- **Haiti:** Since mid-2023 the recognition rate has been increasing from 25% to 80% in November 2024 with most decisions granting subsidiary protection.
- **Iraqis:** The recognition rate peaked in October 2023 but since then has remained rather variable, most recently at 29% in November 2024. Read the new [EUAA Country Guidance on Iraq](#), as well as [Iraq - Country Focus](#) and [Iraq - Security Situation](#).
- **Turks:** The recognition rate has been in steady decline for more than the last two years, reaching 14% in November 2024.
- **Syrians:** The recognition rate has been above 90% for most of the last two years with most decisions granting subsidiary protection rather than refugee status. Indeed, refugee status accounted for just 27% of all decisions issued to Syrians in November 2024.

Read [EUAA Country Guidance](#) on Syria, [Syria - Country Focus](#) and the following EUAA COI reports on specific topics: [Security situation](#), [Targeting of individuals](#), and [Socio-economic situation](#).

- **Afghans:** The recognition rate increased in the spring of 2023, then remained reasonably steady at around 65% but has been declining slightly in the past five months, down to 58% in November 2024.

Read [EUAA Country Guidance on Afghanistan](#), [Afghanistan - Country Focus](#) and the following EUAA COI reports from 2022 on specific topics: [Targeting of Individuals](#), [Security Situation](#), [Key socio-economic indicators](#) and [Major legislative, security-related, and humanitarian developments](#).

Context

It should be noted that some applicants, especially those from [Venezuela](#), Peru, Colombia and to a lesser extent from [Afghanistan](#), are often granted national (rather than international) [forms of protection](#) which are unregulated at the EU level and are therefore considered as negative asylum decisions in these statistics. Also, the recognition rates presented here are based on first instance decisions issued by asylum authorities and thus do not account for cases decided by the judiciary and other authorities at [second or higher instance](#) i.e. in appeal and review.

[Across receiving countries](#)

scatter visualization

The aim of EUAA's work is to foster a harmonised implementation of the Common European Asylum System across the EU so as to reach a situation where an application for international protection would receive the same decision, no matter where it was lodged. Recognition rates – the percentage of asylum

applications that receive decisions granting refugee status or subsidiary protection – are sometimes cited as an indicator of the level of such harmonisation between EU+ countries.

It is important to recognise that several objective factors may lead to variations in recognition rates. The complexity of an asylum application and its examination cannot be reduced to a single measure such as the nationality of the applicant. Differences in the underlying profile of the applicant, national jurisprudence and national policies, and the application of certain legal concepts also come into play and can result in different recognition rates. For more information, read the [EUAA Pilot Convergence Analysis](#) which focuses on the main factors leading to variations in recognition rates as well as on measures to achieve greater convergence. Irrespective of underlying causes, the chart presented here illustrates recognition rates across the EU+ for various citizenships. In each column, individual circles of the same colour represent different issuing countries, with the size of each circle reflecting the number of decisions issued, and their placement on the vertical axis indicating the corresponding recognition rate—namely, the percentage of decisions that granted refugee status or subsidiary protection.

Between September and November 2024, the EU+ recognition rate for [Afghans](#) stood at 58% but as the chart shows, there was much variation between receiving countries (leftmost column of black circles). Most decisions were issued by Germany (the biggest circle, labelled) where the September – November 2024 recognition rate stood at 35%. However, it is important to note that Germany also issued many decisions to Afghans granting a national form of protection (47% of all German first instance decisions issued to Afghans, counted here as negative decisions for international protection), which would push up the ‘inclusive’ German recognition rate to 81%, and the EU+ recognition rate to 79%. France also issued many decisions to Afghans with a September – November 2024 recognition rate of 68% compared with 94% in Switzerland, 98% in Greece, but just 38% in Belgium. To visualise these differences, click [here](#). Read [EUAA Country Guidance on Afghanistan](#) and [EUAA Country Focus on Afghanistan](#).

In contrast, the September to November 2024 recognition rate for [Syrians](#) (89%) exhibited much tighter consistency among receiving countries. Among the countries issuing the most decisions to Syrians, Germany had a September to November 2024 recognition rate of 92%, Greece 97% and Austria 92%. However, it is important to note that, while the EU+ recognition rate for Syrian cases might be more consistent between top decision-making countries, this metric does not differentiate between [refugee status](#) and [subsidiary protection](#). In fact, closer inspection reveals quite some variation in first instance decision-making practices for Syrian applicants: ratios between refugee status and subsidiary protection varied from 1:9 in Germany (heavily in favour of subsidiary protection) compared to 6:4 in Austria (in favour of refugee status) and even 10:0 in Greece (all refugee status). One difference between the two types of protection is that [family reunification](#) may be granted to refugees but often not to beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. To visualise these differences, click [here](#). In any case, the similar EU+ recognition rates at least suggest a more consistent assessment of general protection needs among Syrians across these EU+ countries. For more information read the latest [EUAA Country Guidance on Syria](#) which provides an in-depth analysis of the situation in Syria, focusing on the key elements of qualification for international protection.

Pending Cases

First instance

chart visualization

Pending first instance asylum cases represent applications awaiting an initial decision from national asylum authorities. This metric serves as a critical indicator of the workload faced by asylum systems and the pressure exerted on reception facilities. As of the end of November 2024, the number of pending first instance cases reached 979,000, still at near record levels and up by 13% compared to the same period in 2023.

Citizenships lodging the most applications also tend to account for the largest shares of pending cases. At the end of November 2024, Syrians (106,000), Colombians (96,000) and Venezuelans (88,000) were awaiting the most first instance decisions. Note that many of the 106,000 [Syrian cases](#) have been suspended until the situation in Syria has stabilised, and so these cases are not being processed for the time being. Among the citizenships with the most cases awaiting decisions, the biggest year-on-year increases occurred for Venezuelans (+63%), Colombians (+31%) and Peruvians (+58%) as well as Bangladeshis (51%). In addition, pending cases for Malian and Senegalese nationals both more than doubled between November 2023 and November 2024.

Geographically, the largest increase in pending cases over the past year occurred in Spain (+43%) where Venezuelans, Colombians, Peruvians, Malians and Senegalese all applied in highest numbers, but also in Italy (+43%) where the Bangladeshi, Pakistan, Egyptian and Peruvian caseloads dominate. In contrast, Germany's pending caseload declined slightly by -7%.

Context

EU+ asylum authorities strive to increase their decision making and do so often with the [operational support](#) of the EUAA. Despite these efforts, decision making has not kept pace with the number of applications being lodged. As a consequence, we estimate that the total number of cases awaiting a decision at the end of October 2024 (including those in [appeal or review](#)) increased to around 1.3 million ([Eurostat](#)). Within this total, we conclude that four fifths (79% or 994,000) of cases were pending at first instance, while the remaining one fifth (21% or 271,000) were awaiting decisions at second or higher instances.

Migrants from Ukraine

The [Survey of Asylum-related Migrants](#) (SAM) is a multi-country project designed to collect testimonies directly from people seeking international protection across the EU+. Based on the premise that digital literacy is increasingly prevalent, the project uses online, self-administered surveys that can be completed on smartphones and offers the possibility to survey large numbers of migrants at the same time. The primary objective of SAM is to establish a permanent system of collecting standardised, reliable and comparable data on relevant topics, such as push and pull factors, travel histories and migrants' future aspirations. Understanding these drivers both facilitates general preparedness to deal with a high number of arrivals but also helps to better inform policymakers.

On 11 April 2022, the EUAA launched the Survey of Arriving Migrants for Displaced People from Ukraine (SAM-UKR), with the support of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The questionnaire was updated in February 2023 to include additional topics. Demographics of the responses since February 2023, as of 30 November 2024, are shown below. Recently the EUAA released [Survey of Arriving Migrants from Ukraine: Movements and Returns Report](#), which also features a contribution by [Gradus Research](#) based in Kyiv.

The SAM-UKR survey is ongoing and accessible in Ukrainian, Russian and English at: <https://tellusyourstoriysurvey.eu/>.

results of The Survey of Asylum-related Migrants (SAM)

For more information on SAM and on other projects related to displacement from Ukraine, access the following reports:

Cover - EUAA Survey

[Surveys of Arriving Migrants from Ukraine: Movements and Returns Report](#)

This Movements and Returns report uses 7,600 surveys to highlight the prevailing themes related to movements to the EU, intra-EU, and returns.

2023 temporary protection year in review

[Providing Temporary Protection to Displaced Persons from Ukraine](#)

The report covers national developments in the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, from crisis measures to changing legislation and practices.

cover

[Challenges and opportunities in rapid situational awareness of Ukrainian displacement to the European Union: Some methodological insights](#)

This Migration Research Series paper highlights four research projects employed by the EUAA that seek to understand displacement from Ukraine to the European Union.

Cover of the Report Voices in Europe: Experiences, hopes, and aspirations of forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine

[Voices Europe experiences hopes and aspirations forcibly displaced persons Ukraine Executive Summary](#)

This report highlights the prevailing themes emerging from forced displacement, drawn from the personal testimonies of over 1,500 respondents participating in the ongoing Survey of Arriving Migrants from Ukraine.

Definitions

Asylum applications include all persons who have lodged or have been included in an application for international protection as a family member in the reporting country during the reporting month.

EU+ refers to the 27 European Union Member States, plus Norway and Switzerland.

First instance decisions include all persons covered by decisions issued on granting EU-regulated international protection status (refugee or subsidiary protection) following a first time or repeated application for international protection in the first instance determination process.

Stock of pending cases includes all cases for which an asylum application has been lodged and are under consideration by the national authority responsible for the first instance determination of the application for international protection (until the first instance decision has been issued) at the end of the reference period (i.e. last day of the reference month). It refers to the “stock” of applications for which decisions at first instance are still pending.

The EU+ recognition rate includes EU-regulated forms of protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection) and excludes national protection forms (humanitarian reasons). It is calculated by dividing the number of positive first instance decisions (granting refugee status or subsidiary protection) by the total number of decisions issued

[Country code glossary](#)

This page is produced by EUAA’s Situational Awareness Unit (SAU) based on monthly data exchanged under the [Early warning and Preparedness System](#) (EPS). The data shared with the EUAA by EU+ countries are provisional and unvalidated and, therefore, may differ from validated data submitted to Eurostat at a later stage under [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/851](#). Trends analysed here focus on the top 20 citizenships applying for asylum in the focal month.

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