



Data on Decisions on Asylum Applications and Recognition Rates at Second or Higher Instances in 2024

The information presented in this fact sheet complements the information on first instance decisions as presented in the Asylum Report 2025.

The EU legislative framework for appeal procedures is outlined in the recast Asylum Procedures Directive and the Asylum Procedure Regulation. Both legislative instruments oblige Member States to ensure that applicants have the right to an effective remedy before a court or tribunal with regard to a decision issued on a first instance application for international protection, including against a return decision issued when an application is rejected in accordance with the Asylum Procedure Regulation, Article 37

The right to an effective remedy includes a full examination of both facts and points of law, including an examination of the need for international protection. For an appeal of a decision, the examination should be done before a court or tribunal to guarantee adequate substantive and procedural safeguards.

The recognition rate for specific nationalities of applicants can indicate which citizenships are granted protection more frequently and which are rejected. The rate represents the number of positive outcomes as a percentage of the total number of decisions on applications for international protection. For reporting in the Asylum Report, positive decisions included in the recognition rate include EU-harmonised statuses only (i.e. refugee and subsidiary protection).



1. Decisions on asylum applications at second or higher instances

In 2024, EU+ countries issued about 189,000 decisions on appealed cases, which was similar to 2023 (see *Figure 1*).

The number of decisions issued in appeal or review is predominantly related to the number of negative decisions at first instance, thus an analysis of the evolution of the latter can help to better understand changes in the former.

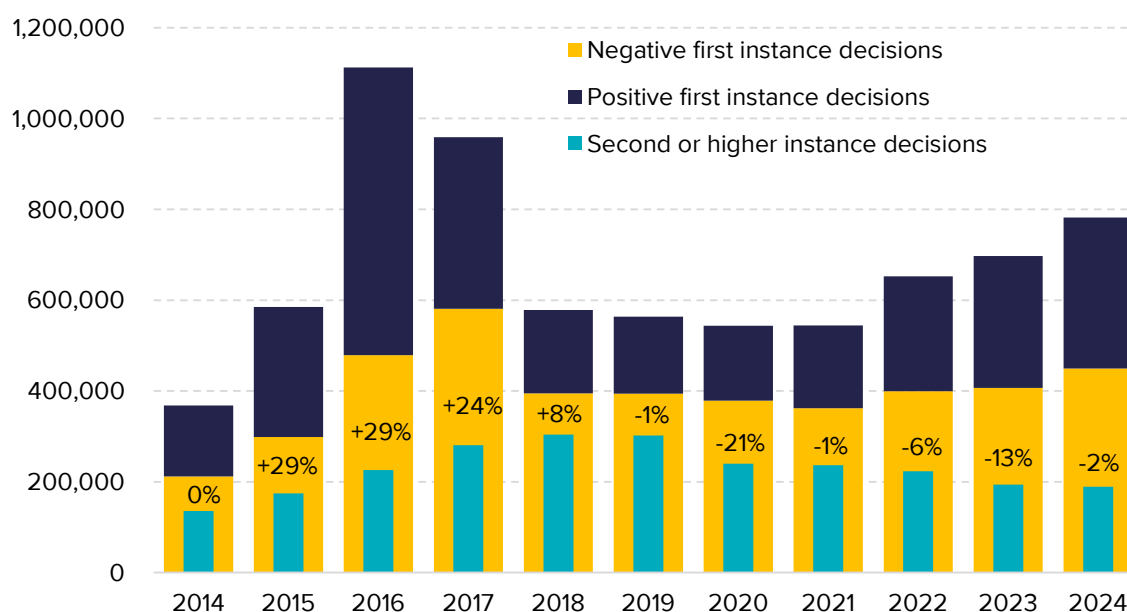
In 2022-2023, negative decisions at first instance remained stable, between approximately 400,000 and 406,000. In 2024, the situation changed as EU+ countries rejected significantly more asylum applications at first instance (+11% from the previous year, see *Figure 1*).

Nevertheless, the number of decisions issued at second or higher instances in EU+ countries remained stable (189,000). This coincided with an equally stable pending caseload at second or higher instances,¹ which was somewhat an unexpected development given the consistently growing first instance caseload of the past years. At the country level, interesting variations emerge, showing that in around one-half of EU+ countries decisions at second or higher instances remained stable or declined, but they increased in the other half. At the end of 2024, the number of cases pending at first instance reached the most on record.



More rejected applications at first instance, but stable number of decisions at second or higher instances

Figure 1. Number of decisions at first and second or higher instances and year-on-year percentage changes in decisions at second or higher instances, 2014–2024



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asydcfina](#)] and [[migr_asydcfst](#)] as of 7 July 2025.

¹ The pending caseload at second or higher instances is estimated as the difference between the total EU+ pending caseload [[migr_asyencztm](#)] and the EU+ pending caseload at first instance (EUAA EPS data).

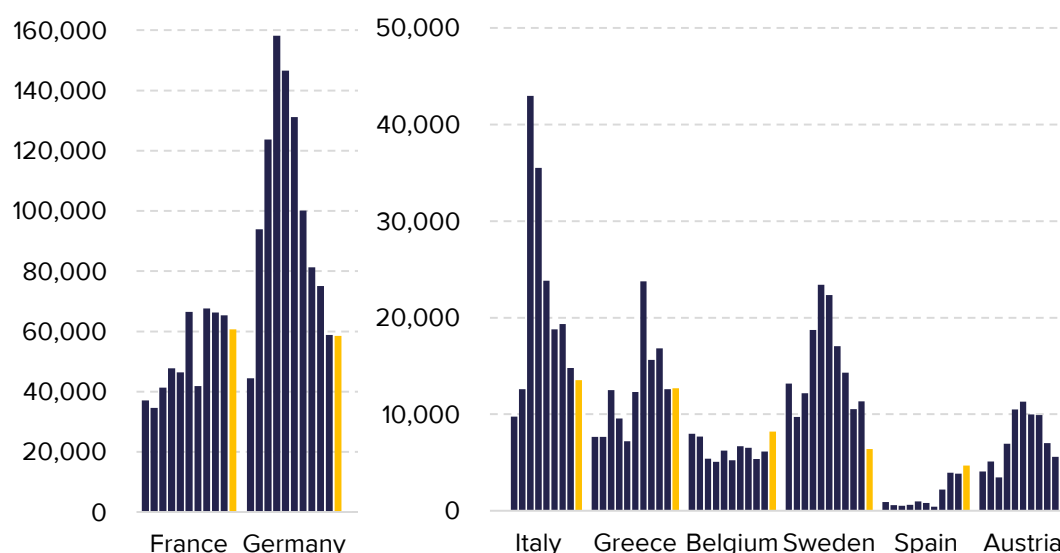
As in previous years, France and Germany issued the most decisions at second or higher instances (see *Figure 2*), accounting for around 32% and 31% of the EU+ total, respectively. For the second consecutive year and despite a slight year-to-year decrease, France (61,000) surpassed Germany (59,000, stable from the previous year, but still the lowest level since 2014). These two countries also issued both the highest number of total and negative decisions at first instance within EU+ countries.

Other countries that issued over 10,000 decisions at second or higher instances were Italy and Greece (in descending order, see *Figure 2*). Italy issued the lowest number of decisions since 2017 (-9% from 2023), while the situation in Greece remained stable.



France and Germany again issued the most decisions overall, while several other EU+ countries issued the most in 10 years

Figure 2. Top countries issuing decisions at second or higher instances, 2014-2024



Note: The yellow bar represents the year 2024.

Source: Eurostat [[migr_asydcfina](#)] as of 7 July 2025.

Among EU+ countries that issued at least 1,000 decisions at second or higher instances in 2024, Belgium, Cyprus, Ireland and Switzerland reported the largest year-on-year increases. In the latter two, the number of decisions roughly doubled compared to 2023, while in Cyprus it rose by one-half and in Belgium by one-third. Both Belgium and Ireland had the most higher instance decisions in over 10 years. Significant relative increases were also recorded in the Netherlands and Spain as both countries issued the most higher instance decisions on record. Conversely, the largest decline among all EU+ countries took place in Sweden, where decisions dropped to the least on record.

1.1. Decisions by sex and age of applicants

Similarly to previous years, about 70% of all decisions at the appeal stage were issued to male applicants, of whom 9 in 10 were adults. Prevalence of women over men was recorded only in the decisions pertaining to elderly applicants (i.e. 65 years of age or older). There were also slightly more decisions for girls under 14 years of age compared to boys of the same age.

All age groups had somewhat fewer decisions than a year earlier, but only for minors the decrease exceeded 5%. In fact, the number of higher instance decisions issued to persons below 18 years of age – around 28,000 in 2024 – was the lowest since 2014.

1.2. Decisions by nationality of applicants

For the second consecutive year, most decisions on appeals in 2024 were issued to Turkish applicants (17,000), rising by 16% to the highest level since at least 2008. They were followed by Afghans (12,000), who received 13% fewer decisions than in the previous year, the lowest level since 2016. Syrians and Bangladeshis also received some 12,000 decisions on appeal each, following increases by 13% and 19% from the 2023 level respectively.

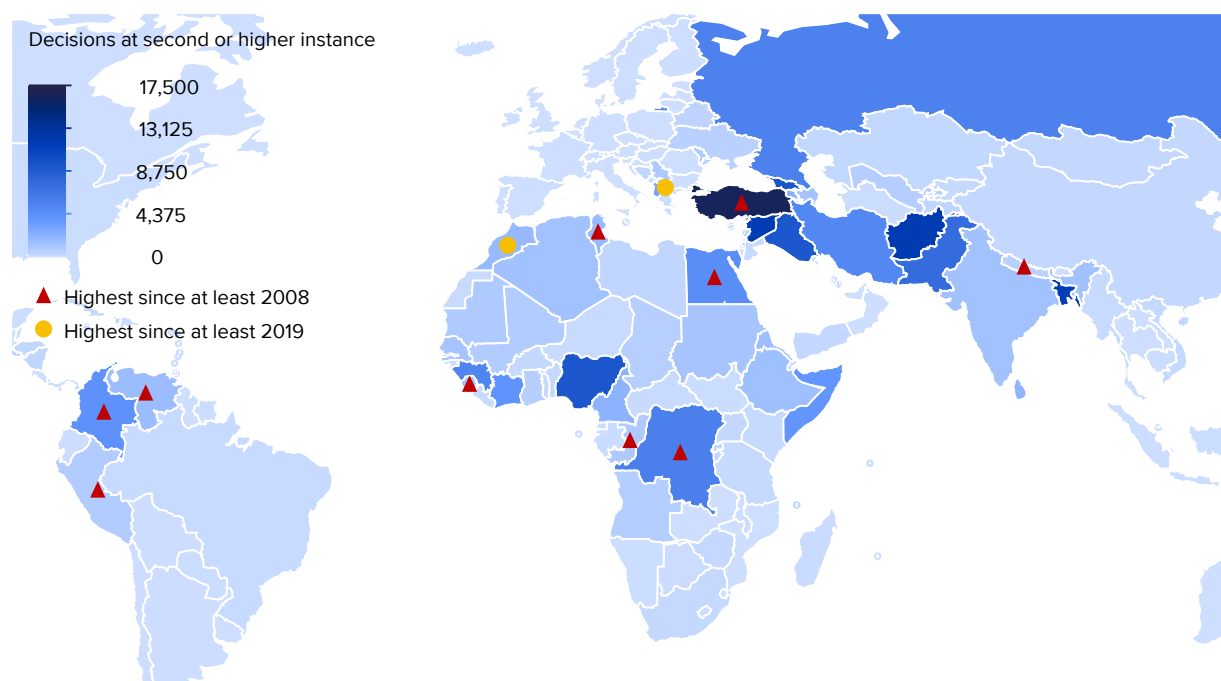
Decisions on cases in appeal by applicants from most other Top 10 nationalities declined or remained stable, with the exception of citizens of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for whom decisions in appeals reached a new record high of 6,000. This contrasted with the declines observed for Pakistanis (7,700, -20%), Nigerians (9,600, -13%) and Iraqis (9,400, -12%), among others (see *Figure 3*).

At lower levels, decisions issued in appeal rose to record highs for Egyptians (4,700, +70% from 2023), Colombians (4,400, +9%), Tunisians (1,900, +20%) and Venezuelans (1,800, +54%).



Several nationalities received the most higher instance decisions since at least 2008, most notably Turks and Congolese (DR)

Figure 3. Countries of origin of applicants who received decisions on appeals, 2024 (shading)



Note: Markers indicating the highest value since 2008 or 2019 are only included for nationalities which received at least 500 decisions on appeals in 2024.

Source: Eurostat [[migr_asydcfina](#)] as of 7 July 2025.

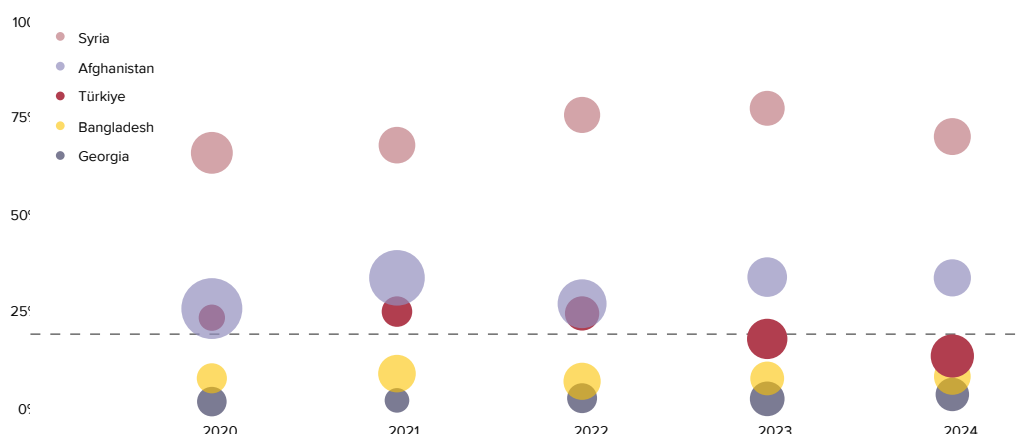
2. Recognition rate at second or higher instances

In 2024, the recognition rate at second or higher instances remained stable at 19%, in line with the previous 5 years (ranging between 18% and 20%). The first instance recognition rate was also stable compared to 2023 at 43%.



Substantial differences in recognition rates across nationalities

Figure 4. Recognition rates at second or higher instances for Top 5 citizenships in terms of number of decisions issued at second or higher instances, 2020-2024



Note: The size of the bubbles reflects the total number of decisions issued at second or higher instances. The dashed line at 19% represents the overall EU+ second or higher instance recognition rate for all citizenships across the period.

Source: Eurostat [[migr_asydcfina](#)] as of 7 July 2025.

Focusing exclusively on positive decisions issued at second or higher instances, in 2024 59% granted refugee status. The remaining 41% provided subsidiary protection, which increased notably from 2023, when subsidiary protection accounted for just 35% of positive decisions. As in the past 7 years, women and girls maintained a slightly higher recognition rate at second or higher instances (22%) compared to men and boys (17%), underscoring a slight but consistent disparity in appeal success.

For the Top 20 citizenships which received the most decisions at higher instances, Syrians retained the highest recognition rate at 70% in 2024 (down from 78% in 2023, see Figure 4), followed by Iranians (38%) and Afghans (34%). Georgians continued to have the lowest rate at 3%, unchanged from 2023. Germany was the primary issuing country for Syrians, Iranians and Georgians, while France led for Afghans.

The recognition rate for Turks, the largest nationality group in appeals, dropped sharply to 13% in 2024, a 5 percentage point decline from 18% in 2023. This decrease occurred in both Germany (15%, down from 19% in 2023) and France (16%, down from 19%), the top two countries in terms of higher instance decisions on Turkish applicants.



To read latest data analysis on first instance decisions, consult the [EUAA Latest Asylum Trends](#).

To search for more developments by topic, country or year, consult the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).