



Asylum Trends

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First asylum applications in the EU, Norway and Switzerland in 2020 and 2021

Source: EUROSTAT, situation by July 1st 2021

		2020											2021				Total 2020
		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	
EU	Germany	7.865	5.625	4.495	5.615	8.595	8.165	10.480	9.830	10.165	7.460	78.295	9.770	8.720	9.505	27.995	102.580
	France	6.015	175	3.175	5.800	6.520	6.830	8.325	8.705	7.755	6.805	60.105	6.405	6.195	7.630	20.230	81.735
	Spain	7.960	60	55	7.095	8.985	10.305	7.590	6.310	5.620	3.800	57.780	3.920	4.355	4.195	12.470	86.385
	Italy	850	120	890	1.500	1.810	930	1.055	2.915	2.590	2.560	15.220	2.405	2.315	2.695	7.415	21.220
	Greece	2.320	0	650	3.380	4.710	2.255	2.345	1.595	1.340	1.550	20.145	1.740	1.525	1.380	4.645	37.860
	Austria	755	325	605	970	1.045	1.360	1.375	1.665	1.400	1.560	11.060	1.445	1.715	1.465	4.625	13.415
	Belgium	895	170	225	320	710	1.070	1.365	1.435	1.510	1.365	9.065	955	965	1.135	3.055	12.930
	Netherlands	1.010	270	340	650	1.195	1.420	1.490	1.405	1.225	1.265	10.270	925	790	1.025	2.740	13.720
	Romania	335	60	55	270	335	495	485	1.050	1.170	1.045	5.300	1.040	790	820	2.650	6.025
	Sweden	1.475	850	795	795	1.015	1.210	1.240	1.175	930	835	10.320	685	685	790	2.160	13.630
	Cyprus	790	55	30	790	670	335	635	815	725	490	5.335	690	245	695	1.630	7.500
	Bulgaria	70	60	25	90	250	405	580	595	740	535	3.350	335	230	270	835	3.460
	Slovenia	150	15	445	470	460	500	325	260	235	270	3.130	170	85	225	480	3.465
	Poland	85	10	30	40	65	85	165	190	190	160	1.020	140	110	205	455	1.510
	Malta	105	0	20	165	265	215	200	355	290	165	1.780	170	155	120	445	2.410
	Croatia	80	30	15	50	265	180	95	170	245	90	1.220	170	125	150	445	1.540
	Denmark	110	35	45	100	120	135	155	145	135	100	1.080	90	105	185	380	1.435
	Ireland	175	30	15	40	105	110	165	125	65	160	990	140	80	135	355	1.535
	Luxembourg	120	25	25	60	110	110	165	135	115	155	1.020	85	75	85	245	1.295
	Finland	130	50	30	50	105	170	135	200	85	85	1.040	55	40	60	155	1.455
	Portugal	120	5	10	35	65	45	45	95	65	100	585	85	35	30	150	900
	Czech Republic	40	15	20	35	105	65	80	95	100	65	620	0	50	60	110	795
	Lithuania	5	0	5	20	15	25	25	15	55	35	200	35	30	30	95	260
Slovak Republic	10	10	10	20	50	30	25	15	30	35	235	15	15	35	65	265	
Latvia	25	5	0	5	10	5	25	20	10	30	135	10	5	5	20	145	
Hungary	5	5	10	5	0	5	0	5	10	0	45	0	0	5	5	90	
Estonia	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	30	5	0	0	5	45	
United Kingdom	2.575	1.175	2.085	2.265	2.795	3.165	3.975	2.980	3.350	0	24.365	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	34.075	9.180	14.105	30.635	40.380	39.630	42.550	42.305	40.155	30.725	323.740	31.485	29.440	32.935	93.860	417.605	
Not EU	Switzerland	835	280	310	500	935	865	1.030	1.030	1.070	890	7.745	725	700	825	2.250	9.765
	Norway	100	30	30	60	130	200	135	135	70	65	955	40	45	95	180	1.340
	Total	935	310	340	560	1.065	1.065	1.165	1.165	1.140	955	8.700	765	745	920	2.430	11.105
Total	35.010	9.490	14.445	31.195	41.445	40.695	43.715	43.470	41.295	31.680	332.440	32.250	30.185	33.855	96.290	428.710	

First asylum applications in the EU , Norway and Switzerland from April 2020 - March 2021

	2020										2021			Total
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
Syrian Arab Republic	1.975	2.315	4.500	6.650	5.790	6.830	6.625	6.275	5.350	0	0	0	46.310	
Afghanistan	755	1.265	2.790	3.490	3.830	4.995	5.500	5.325	4.065	0	0	0	32.015	
Venezuela	80	160	2.800	3.735	3.550	2.375	1.920	1.605	1.090	0	0	0	17.315	
Colombia	65	105	2.420	2.960	3.280	2.455	2.085	1.725	1.055	0	0	0	16.150	
Iraq	935	875	1.100	1.905	1.665	1.880	1.770	1.865	1.330	0	0	0	13.325	
Pakistan	205	465	1.165	1.420	1.465	1.830	2.125	2.040	1.435	0	0	0	12.150	
Turkey	475	545	925	1.285	1.465	1.845	1.655	1.475	1.010	0	0	0	10.680	
Eritrea	290	510	730	1.060	1.110	1.255	1.185	1.145	870	0	0	0	8.155	
Bangladesh	90	420	715	890	1.015	1.260	1.555	1.180	975	0	0	0	8.100	
Somalia	230	345	550	1.000	1.015	1.135	1.275	955	1.050	0	0	0	7.555	
Others	4.270	7.290	13.230	16.755	16.110	17.530	17.590	17.515	13.305	0	0	0	123.595	
Total	9.370	14.295	30.925	41.150	40.295	43.390	43.285	41.105	31.535	0	0	0	295.350	

Figures are sorted by total in 2021. Figures are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5. Figures include applications from EU citizens. "0" means data not yet available. The last column in the uppermost table is based on yearly data from Eurostat. Because of the aforementioned rounding to multiples of 5 there are small differences with the monthly data.

In 2021 Germany registered the highest number of applications, followed by France and Spain. Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and Venezuela are the most important countries of origin in the influx of first asylum applications in the EU.

Special Theme: First Asylum Applications in Europe (2nd half of 2020) related to country Area, Population and GDP

Source: EUROSTAT, situation by July 1st 2021

Introduction

Biannually the influx of asylum seekers in Europe is related to three indicators of country size: Area, Population and GDP. This way, it's easier to compare the asylum influx between small, medium, and large countries.

Table 1: Number of first asylum applications compared to country area, population and GDP in the 2nd half of 2020

	Rank	Country of asylum	Number of Applications	% share in EU	Country area (sq km)	% share in EU	Inhabitants (million)	% share in EU	GDP	% share in EU
EU	1	Germany	54.695	23%	357.569	8%	83,2	16%	2.624	20%
	2	France	44.940	19%	549.060	13%	67,3	13%	1.830	14%
	3	Spain	42.610	18%	498.502	11%	47,3	9%	1.125	9%
	4	United Kingdom	16.265	7%	244.381	6%	67,0	13%	1.742	13%
	5	Greece	13.795	6%	131.694	3%	10,7	2%	213	2%
	6	Italy	11.860	5%	302.073	7%	59,6	12%	1.541	12%
	7	Austria	8.405	4%	83.878	2%	8,9	2%	281	2%
	8	Netherlands	8.000	3%	37.377	1%	17,4	3%	548	4%
	9	Belgium	7.455	3%	30.666	1%	11,5	2%	339	3%
	10	Sweden	6.405	3%	447.424	10%	10,3	2%	314	2%
	11	Romania	4.580	2%	238.398	5%	19,3	4%	278	2%
	12	Cyprus	3.670	2%	9.253	0%	0,9	0%	19	0%
	13	Bulgaria	3.105	1%	110.996	3%	7,0	1%	87	1%
	14	Slovenia	2.050	1%	20.273	0%	2,1	0%	44	0%
	15	Malta	1.490	1%	316	0%	0,5	0%	10	0%
	16	Croatia	1.045	0%	56.594	1%	4,1	1%	66	1%
	17	Poland	855	0%	311.929	7%	38,0	7%	673	5%
	18	Denmark	790	0%	42.925	1%	5,8	1%	180	1%
	19	Luxembourg	790	0%	2.595	0%	0,6	0%	37	0%
	20	Finland	780	0%	338.411	8%	5,5	1%	156	1%
	21	Ireland	730	0%	69.947	2%	5,0	1%	149	1%
	22	Czech Republic	510	0%	78.871	2%	10,7	2%	216	2%
	23	Portugal	415	0%	89.103	2%	10,3	2%	203	2%
	24	Slovak Republic	185	0%	49.035	1%	5,5	1%	106	1%
	25	Lithuania	170	0%	65.284	1%	2,8	1%	56	0%
	26	Latvia	100	0%	64.586	1%	1,9	0%	35	0%
	27	Estonia	30	0%	45.336	1%	1,3	0%	25	0%
	28	Hungary	20	0%	93.012	2%	9,8	2%	170	1%
EU - Total			235.745	100%	4.369.488	100%	514,3	100%	13,069	100%
Not EU		Switzerland	5.820	2%	41.285	1%	8,6	2%	326	2%
		Norway	735	0%	323.787	7%	5,4	1%	250	2%
Not EU - Total			6.555	3%	365.072	8%	14,0	3%	576	4%

Table 1 shows the number of first asylum applications, country area size, inhabitants and GDP per country. The table is arranged by the number of asylum applications in decreasing order. In the second six months of 2020 Germany received the highest number of first asylum applications in the EU, followed by France and Spain. The Netherlands ranked 8th within the EU.

It is clear from table 1 that there are substantial differences in ranking when one takes into account the respective country area, inhabitants and GDP of the European countries. In the next subsection, these differences will be related to the number of asylum applications in more detail.



First Asylum Applications in Europe (2nd half of 2020) related to area size

Source: EUROSTAT, situation by July 1st 2021

Table 2: Number of first asylum applications 2nd half of 2020 related to country area size

Rank	Country of asylum	Application per 1000 sq km	In relation to Total EU 28 = 1	Number of Applications	Country area (sq km)
1	Malta	4.715	89,0	1.490	316
2	Cyprus	397	7,5	3.670	9.253
3	Luxembourg	304	5,7	790	2.595
4	Belgium	243	4,6	7.455	30.666
5	Netherlands	214	4,0	8.000	37.377
6	Germany	153	2,9	54.695	357.569
7	Greece	105	2,0	13.795	131.694
8	Slovenia	101	1,9	2.050	20.273
9	Austria	100	1,9	8.405	83.878
10	Spain	85	1,6	42.610	498.502
11	France	82	1,5	44.940	549.060
12	United Kingdom	67	1,3	16.265	244.381
	TOTAL EU-28	54	1,0	236.125	4.457.149
13	Italy	39	0,7	11.860	302.073
14	Bulgaria	28	0,5	3.105	110.996
15	Romania	19	0,4	4.580	238.398
16	Croatia	18	0,3	1.045	56.594
17	Denmark	18	0,3	790	42.925
18	Sweden	14	0,3	6.405	447.424
19	Ireland	10	0,2	730	69.947
20	Czech Republic	6	0,1	510	78.871
21	Portugal	5	0,1	415	89.103
22	Slovak Republic	4	0,1	185	49.035
23	Poland	3	0,1	855	311.929
24	Lithuania	3	0,0	170	65.284
25	Finland	2	0,0	780	338.411
26	Latvia	2	0,0	100	64.586
27	Estonia	1	0,0	30	45.336
28	Hungary	0	0,0	20	93.012
	Norway	2	0,0	735	323.787
	Switzerland	141	2,7	5.820	41.285

Table 2 relates the number of first asylum applications to the area size of the European countries and is arranged in decreasing order. By indexing the Total EU-28 figure as 1, it shows how many times more or less applications a country received relative to the EU average.

The largest number of asylum applications in Europe in relation to its area size is Malta (4.715 per 1.000 sq km) which receives 89,0 times more applicants than the EU average (54 per 1.000 sq km). Cyprus and Luxembourg ranked second and third at some distance with 7,5 and 5,7 times more applications than the EU average. The Netherlands ranked 5th in the EU with 4,0 times the EU average.



First Asylum Applications in Europe (2nd half of 2020) related to population size

Source: EUROSTAT, situation by July 1st 2021

Table 3: Number of first asylum applications 2nd half of 2020 related to population size

Rank	Country of asylum	Application per million inhabitants	In relation to Total EU 28 = 1	Number of Applications	Inhabitants (million)
1	Cyprus	4.133	9,0	3.670	0,9
2	Malta	2.896	6,3	1.490	0,5
3	Greece	1.287	2,8	13.795	10,7
4	Luxembourg	1.262	2,8	790	0,6
5	Slovenia	978	2,1	2.050	2,1
6	Austria	944	2,1	8.405	8,9
7	Spain	900	2,0	42.610	47,3
8	France	668	1,5	44.940	67,3
9	Germany	658	1,4	54.695	83,2
10	Belgium	647	1,4	7.455	11,5
11	Sweden	620	1,4	6.405	10,3
12	Netherlands	460	1,0	8.000	17,4
	TOTAL EU-28	459	1,0	236.125	514,7
13	Bulgaria	447	1,0	3.105	7,0
14	Croatia	258	0,6	1.045	4,1
15	United Kingdom	243	0,5	16.265	67,0
16	Romania	237	0,5	4.580	19,3
17	Italy	199	0,4	11.860	59,6
18	Ireland	147	0,3	730	5,0
19	Finland	141	0,3	780	5,5
20	Denmark	136	0,3	790	5,8
21	Lithuania	61	0,1	170	2,8
22	Latvia	52	0,1	100	1,9
23	Czech Republic	48	0,1	510	10,7
24	Portugal	40	0,1	415	10,3
25	Slovak Republic	34	0,1	185	5,5
26	Estonia	23	0,0	30	1,3
27	Poland	23	0,0	855	38,0
28	Hungary	2	0,0	20	9,8
	Norway	137	0,3	735	5,4
	Switzerland	676	1,5	5.820	8,6

Table 3 provides an overview of the number of first asylum applications in relation to population size.

Cyprus received the most applications in the EU in relation to its population size: 4.133 applications per million inhabitants, 9,0 times the EU average (459 applications per million inhabitants). Malta and Greece ranked second and third (6,3 and 2,8 times the EU average). The Netherlands ranked 12th in the EU with 460 applications per million inhabitants.



First Asylum Applications in Europe (2nd half of 2020) related to GDP size

Source: EUROSTAT, situation by July 1st 2021

Table 4: Number of first asylum applications 2nd half of 2020 related to GDP size

Rank	Country of asylum	Application per billion PPS	In relation to Total EU 28 = 1	Number of Applications	GDP
1	Cyprus	191,2	10,6	3.670	19
2	Malta	155,1	8,6	1.490	10
3	Greece	64,9	3,6	13.795	213
4	Slovenia	46,8	2,6	2.050	44
5	Spain	37,9	2,1	42.610	1.125
6	Bulgaria	35,7	2,0	3.105	87
7	Austria	29,9	1,7	8.405	281
8	France	24,6	1,4	44.940	1.830
9	Belgium	22,0	1,2	7.455	339
10	Luxembourg	21,3	1,2	790	37
11	Germany	20,8	1,2	54.695	2.624
12	Sweden	20,4	1,1	6.405	314
	TOTAL EU-28	18,0	1,0	236.125	13.078
13	Romania	16,5	0,9	4.580	278
14	Croatia	15,7	0,9	1.045	66
15	Netherlands	14,6	0,8	8.000	548
16	United Kingdom	9,3	0,5	16.265	1.742
17	Italy	7,7	0,4	11.860	1.541
18	Finland	5,0	0,3	780	156
19	Ireland	4,9	0,3	730	149
20	Denmark	4,4	0,2	790	180
21	Lithuania	3,0	0,2	170	56
22	Latvia	2,9	0,2	100	35
23	Czech Republic	2,4	0,1	510	216
24	Portugal	2,0	0,1	415	203
25	Slovak Republic	1,7	0,1	185	106
26	Poland	1,3	0,1	855	673
27	Estonia	1,2	0,1	30	25
28	Hungary	0,1	0,0	20	170
	Norway	2,9	0,2	735	250
	Switzerland	17,9	1,0	5.820	326

Table 4 shows the number of first asylum applications related to GDP size in PPS arranged in decreasing order. PPS stands for Purchasing Power Standard, this is a mathematical method used to compare GDP sizes of different countries by eliminating the different price levels. Due to rounding in the calculation of the results for "TOTAL EU-28" the value can diverge somewhat from the expected (non-rounded) result.

Cyprus, Malta and Greece were the number one, two and three with respectively 10,6, 8,6 and 3,6 times the EU average. The Netherlands ranked 15th with 0,8 times the EU average.

Overview of indicators: Area, Population and GDP

Source: EUROSTAT, situation by July 1st 2021

Table 5: Overview of all indicators of country size related to number of first asylum applications 2nd half of 2020

Rank	Country of asylum	Average	Index figure area In relation to Total EU 28 = 1	Index figure population In relation to Total EU 28 = 1	Index figure GDP In relation to Total EU 28 = 1
1	Malta	34,6	89,0	6,3	8,6
2	Cyprus	9,0	7,5	9,0	10,6
3	Luxembourg	3,2	5,7	2,8	1,2
4	Greece	2,8	2,0	2,8	3,6
5	Belgium	2,4	4,6	1,4	1,2
6	Slovenia	2,2	1,9	2,1	2,6
7	Netherlands	2,0	4,0	1,0	0,8
8	Spain	1,9	1,6	2,0	2,1
9	Austria	1,9	1,9	2,1	1,7
10	Germany	1,8	2,9	1,4	1,2
11	France	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,4
12	Bulgaria	1,2	0,5	1,0	2,0
	TOTAL EU-28	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0
13	Sweden	0,9	0,3	1,4	1,1
14	United Kingdom	0,8	1,3	0,5	0,5
15	Romania	0,6	0,4	0,5	0,9
16	Croatia	0,6	0,3	0,6	0,9
17	Italy	0,5	0,7	0,4	0,4
18	Denmark	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,2
19	Ireland	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,3
20	Finland	0,2	0,0	0,3	0,3
21	Czech Republic	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
22	Lithuania	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,2
23	Latvia	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,2
24	Portugal	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
25	Slovak Republic	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
26	Poland	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,1
27	Estonia	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1
28	Hungary	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Norway	0,2	0,0	0,3	0,2
	Switzerland	1,7	2,7	1,5	1,0

Table 5 shows an overview of asylum influx by averaging (equally weighted) the three indexes from tables 2-4.

Malta received 34,6 times the EU average number of asylum applications in relation to its country size – area, population and GDP. Cyprus followed with 9,0 times the EU average. The Netherlands ranked 7th, receiving 2,0 times as many applications than the EU average.