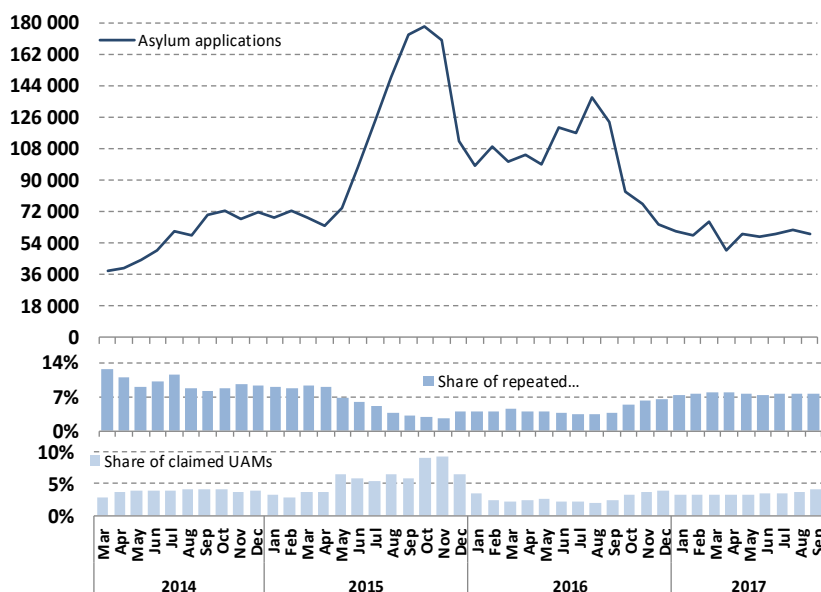


Latest asylum trends –September 2017

Number of applications for international protection in the EU+¹



In September, there were some **60,083** applications for international protection in the EU+ countries.²

This figure is comparable to that of August, but similarly to the previous months, significantly lower than one year ago. In fact, in September 2016 there were almost twice as many applicants in EU+ countries. Of all the foreign nationals who lodged an application in September, 7 % had already lodged a claim in the same EU+ country (repeated applicants).

As in August, 4 % of all applicants claimed to be unaccompanied minors (UAMs)³ at the time of lodging an application. The largest share of claimed UAM applicants were Eritreans (15 % of all UAM applicants) who overtook Afghans (12 %), followed by Gambians and Pakistanis (8 % each).

As in August, 4 % of all applicants

Main countries of origin of applicants



In September, the three most common countries of origin of applicants were the same as in August. **Syrians were the largest group, followed by Iraqi and Afghan** nationals. **Eritreans and Nigerians** completed the top five. In August, these five citizenships together accounted for about 39 % of all applications lodged in the EU+.

Other countries of origin completing the top 10 were Pakistan (4 %), Albania, Turkey, Bangladesh and Iran (3 % each). Most citizenships had a number of applicants comparable to August, with some exceptions. Syrians

¹ The EU+ is composed of EU28 plus Norway and Switzerland. The share of repeated applicants is the proportion of repeated applicants in the total number of applicants for international protection. The share of claimed UAMs represents the proportion of asylum applicants claiming to be below the age of 18 years in the total number of applicants rather than those assessed to be such after an age assessment has been carried out.

² Information on asylum applications was available for 27 EU+ countries. Weekly estimates were used for Cyprus, Malta and Portugal.

³ Several EU+ countries have difficulties reporting on claimed UAMs in the framework of the EPS, these figures should therefore be considered as underestimations of the actual proportion of claimed UAMs.

(- 1,900 applicants), Afghans and Albanians (- 500 each) all lodged fewer applications. Contrarily, the number of applications from Eritrea (+ 500 applicants) increased.

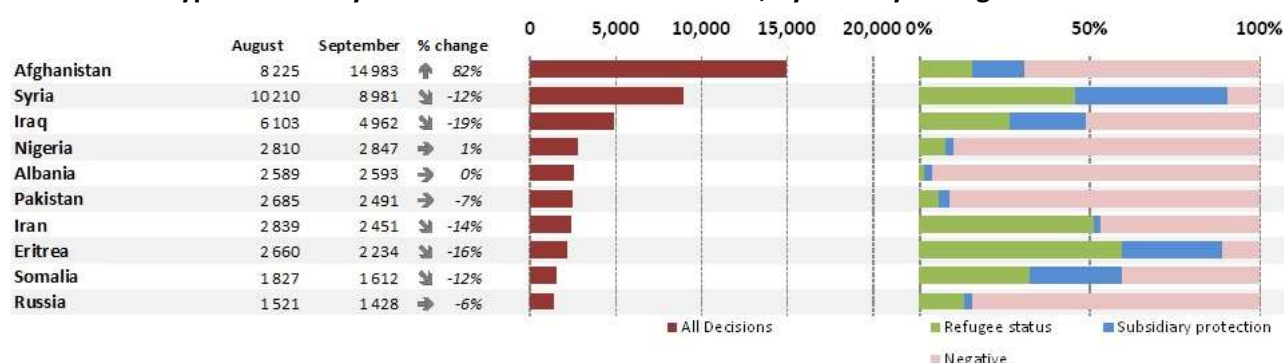
Syria – Syria has been the main citizenship of origin of applicants in the EU+ since April 2015. In September 2017, there were 8,150 Syrian applicants, 19 % fewer than in August. Syrian nationals accounted for 14 % of all applicants in the EU+ in September 2017. They remained spread throughout the EU+, with 15 out of 26 reporting countries counting Syrian nationals among their top-three citizenships of applicants.

Iraq – In September 2017, Iraq was the second main country of origin. Iraqi applicants increased for the third consecutive month, lodging a total of 5,132 applications (+ 5 % compared to August). Noticeably high numbers of asylum applications were lodged by Iraqi nationals in certain Member States: they were featuring among the top three countries of origin in 9 out of 26 EU+ countries. These countries received 90 % of all applications of Iraqi nationals in September.

Afghanistan – In September 2017, Afghan citizens lodged 3,567 applications in EU+ countries, 12 % fewer than in August. Afghan applicants were applying in several EU+ countries in large numbers, being among the top-three citizenships in twelve EU+ reporting countries.

Eritrea – In September 2017, 3,163 applications for international protection were lodged by Eritrean nationals. This represented an 18 % increase compared to August, and also the highest monthly level recorded in 2017. Eritrean applicants had the largest share of self-claimed unaccompanied minors (UAMs), accounting for 14 % of all UAM applications in September.

Number and type of monthly decisions issued in first instance, by country of origin⁴



In September 2017, EU+ countries issued 68,845 first-instance decisions, a figure comparable to those of the last three months. Some 41 % of all decisions were issued to applicants from the three main countries of origin: Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. Afghan applicants overtook Syrians as the group with most decisions issued, and received a much larger number of first-instance decisions (+ 82 %) compared to August. On the other hand, Syrians and Iraqis received some 1,200 fewer decisions each. The remaining citizenship groups received a total number of decisions roughly comparable to August.

The overall EU+ recognition rate in September 2017 was at 36 %, 2 percentage points lower than in August, and dropping for the second consecutive month.⁵ The citizenships with the highest recognition rates within the top ten countries with most decisions issued were Syrians (91 %) and Eritreans (89 %). Conversely, Albanians (4 %) and Pakistanis (9 %) had the lowest recognition rates. As was the case in August, the recognition rate which decreased the most was that of Afghans, dropping

⁴ Data on these indicators were available for 2 countries.

⁵ The EU+ recognition rate includes EU-regulated forms of protection; it excludes national protection forms (humanitarian reasons).

by 11 percentage points to 31 %. Similarly to the previous two months, among positive decisions a larger share of applicants were granted **refugee status (60 %) than subsidiary protection (40 %)**.
Cases awaiting a first-instance decision⁶

At the end of September 2017, there were 508,344 cases awaiting a decision in first instance, some 22,500 less than in August. Afghans remained the group with most pending cases in September, despite the largest decrease in the stock (- 15 %) compared to August among all citizenship groups.

⁶ Data on these indicators were available for 26 countries.