

3. Latest country of origin trends

Western Balkan nationals (WB) – The total number of applicants coming from all six WB countries went up sharply by 42 % compared to October 2014, marking a new highest level (16 021 applicants) since Eurostat data collection began in 2008. This historical increase was mostly due to the high number of Kosovars and Serbs reported by both Germany and Hungary.

Syria - In November 2014, the number of Syrian asylum applicants (13 749) contracted by 11 % compared to the previous month. This represents the second consecutive decrease and mirrors the seasonal pattern of the last two years. If the pattern continues, the last month of the year should see a further decline. The overall numbers remain significantly higher than in previous years. Compared to November 2013, Syrian asylum applicants were 90 % more and, in the first 11 months of 2014 overall, numbers more than doubled (120 %) compared to the all year of 2013.

Ukraine - The number of Ukrainians (1 866) seeking asylum in EU+ dropped by 12 % compared to October, marking the first month-on-month decrease since the tensions started in eastern Ukraine. As a consequence, Ukraine has dropped one position in the top single countries of origin of asylum applicants from sixth in October, to seventh in November 2014.