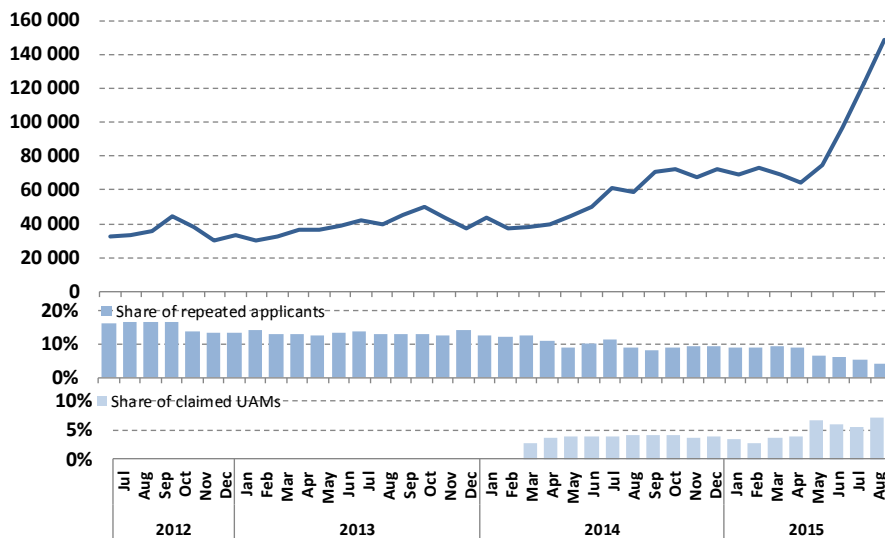


Latest asylum trends

1. Number of applications for international protection in the EU+¹

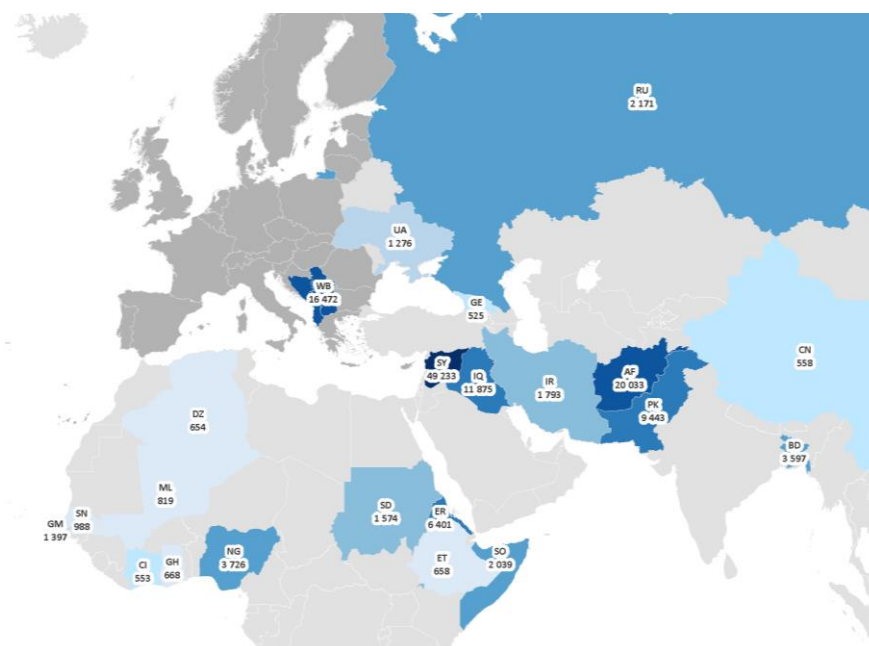
In August 2015, the number of asylum applications recorded by EU+ countries reached a record high for the fourth consecutive month, with over 148 880 applications² reported. This represents an increase of 21 % compared to the level recorded in July and two and a half times the level of the same month of last year. The total of applications for the first eight months of 2015 (over 720 000) has already exceeded the total for the whole of 2014 (about 660 000 applications). The share of repeated applicants reported by EU+ countries decreased to about 4 % of the total; the lowest share recorded in the last three years.



In contrast, the number of claimed unaccompanied minors (UAMs) rose in August compared to July and totalled 9 725. The share of applicants who claim to be UAMs at the moment of lodging an application reached 7 % of the total number of applicants in the EU+, the highest monthly share since March 2014. Citizens of Afghanistan continued to represent the main group of claimed UAMs (42 %), followed by Syrians (26 %) and Eritreans (9 %).

2. Main countries of origin of applicants in the EU+ in August 2015

The map below displays the main countries of origin of asylum applicants recorded by EU+ countries in August, with Syria being the number one citizenship recorded. Since April, the number of applications from Afghans (the second most important citizenship) has steadily increased each month, reaching over 20 000 in August.



The third most significant flow continued to be Western Balkan (WB) applicants considered as a group (mainly Albanians) with 16 472 applications made in the EU+ in August.

The number of Iraqis applying in August rose by 28 % and Iraq became the third-ranked single country of origin with almost 12 000 applications lodged. The total number of applications by Iraqis registered in the first eight months of 2015 was 43 000; twice the total for all of 2014.

¹ The EU+ is composed of EU-28 plus Norway and Switzerland. The share of UAM (unaccompanied minors) 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 A significant amount of double-counting is likely in this data since, since current trends see very high percentages of those applying in Hungary absconding and subsequently applying again for asylum in other MS. At the time of writing, data was available for 27 EU+ countries.

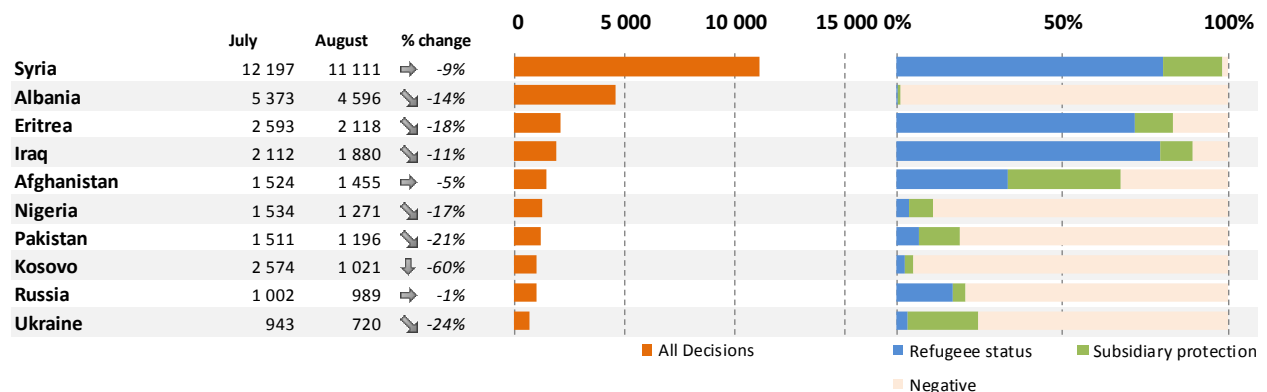
Syria – In August 2015, EU+ countries received **49 233 applications from Syrians, a strong increase of 56 % compared to July and almost four times the level recorded in the same month of last year**. Germany remained the main destination country for Syrian applicants, followed by Hungary and Austria. With regard to the distribution of applicants, of the 27 EU+ countries reporting in August, 17 had Syria in their national top three main countries of origin.

Western Balkan nationals (WB) – Applicants from the six WB countries considered together submitted 16 472 applications for international protection in EU+ countries, **a decrease of 8 % compared to July 2015**. This drop came after two consecutive months of increases and was mainly the result of a continued high number of applications from (visa-liberalised) Albanians who rose slightly by 5 % from 9 160 in July to 9 618 in August 2015.

Iraq – The number of **Iraqi applicants has risen strongly since the beginning of 2015, rising to 11 875 applications in August**, an increase of 28 % compared to July and represented **the highest monthly level since 2008**. In August, **Belgium and Hungary** were the main destination countries for Iraqi applicants, followed by Finland, Germany and Austria. 98 % of Iraqi applicants applying in August were first-time applicants.

Afghanistan– With an increase of more than 6 % compared to July, in August **the number of applications from Afghans rose to 20 033** reaching a new monthly high. The increase reflects a similar rise to that which occurred last year during the same period. In the EU+, the main countries of destination for Afghans in August were **Hungary, Germany and Sweden**. Together, these three EU+ countries comprised 75 % of the total number of applications from Afghans recorded.

3. Number and type of decisions issued in first instance in EU+ countries



In August 2015, EU+ countries issued 39 964 decisions at first instance; a decrease of 19 % compared to July, but 51 % higher than the level recorded in August 2014. In the EU+ as a whole, **the share of positive decisions was 50 % of total decisions in first instance**, six percentage points higher than in July 2015.

Syrians continued as the citizenship receiving the highest number of decisions at first instance. In August, **EU+ countries issued 11 111 decisions on Syrian applications**, 9 % less than in July. Of those decisions, 98 % resulted in a positive outcome, with 80 % granting refugee status and 18 % granting subsidiary protection. The number of **decisions issued in the EU+ on Albanian cases in August decreased by 14 %** compared to July, falling to 4 596. About 99 % of all first instance decisions issued to Albanians were negative.

Despite the rise in the number of applicants from Afghanistan and Iraq, the number of decisions issued in the EU+ in August to applicants from these two countries of origin fell slightly compared to the number issued in July in line with seasonal trends.

The recognition rate for Eritreans and Iraqis continued to be over 75%, thus making them eligible for the planned EU-wide temporary relocation scheme. The recognition rate for Afghan applicants continued to rise in August reaching well over 60%.