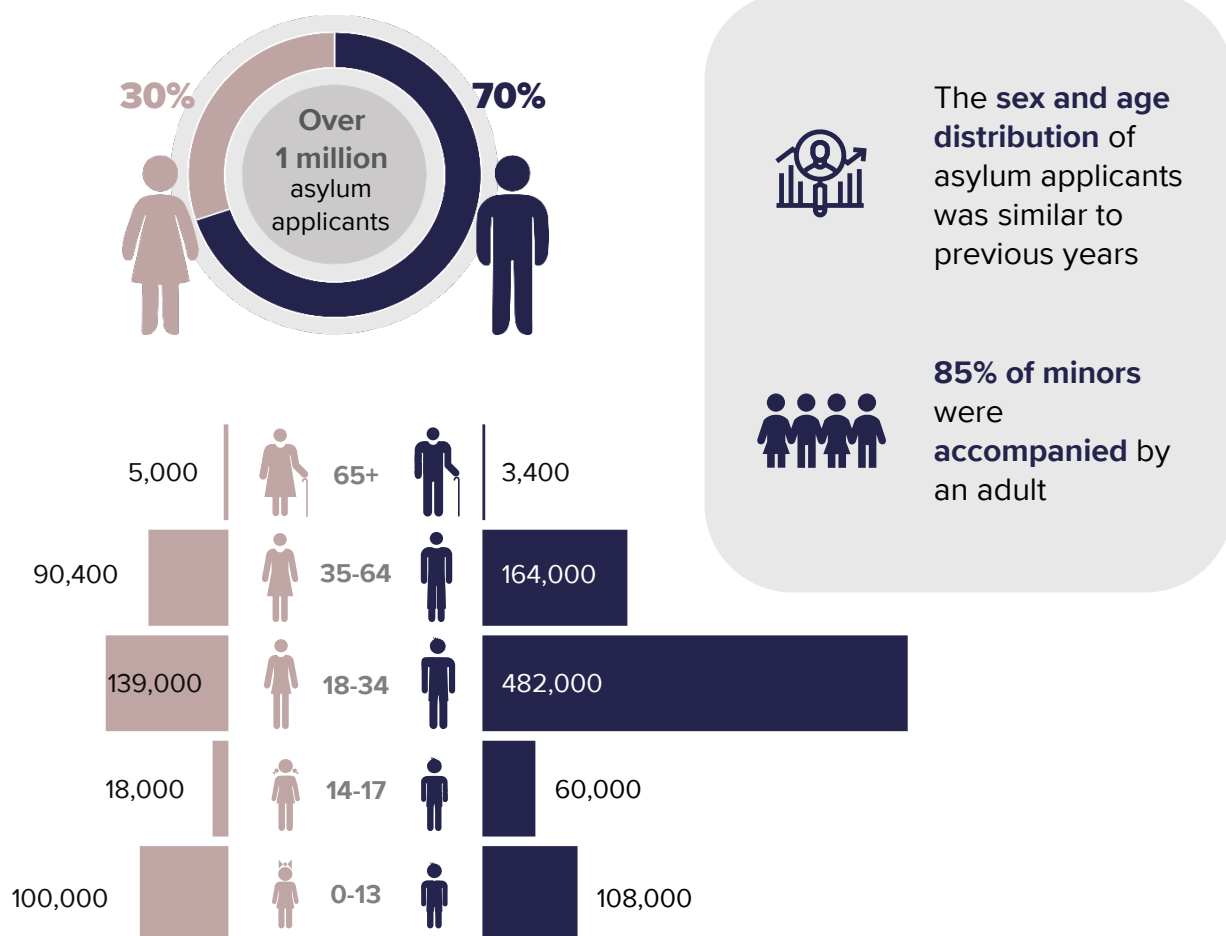




Data analysis of asylum applications by sex and age¹ in 2023

The information presented in this fact sheet complements the information on asylum applications as presented in the [Asylum Report 2024](#).

Data from Eurostat (extracted on 31 May 2024) are used in this fact sheet. Data on asylum applications, which are published in the Asylum Report 2024, are based on the EUAA's Early Warning and Preparedness System (EPS) data exchange. EPS data shared with the EUAA are provisional and unvalidated, and therefore may differ from validated data submitted to Eurostat at a later date, according to Regulation (EU) 2020/851 amending Regulation (EC) 862/2007.



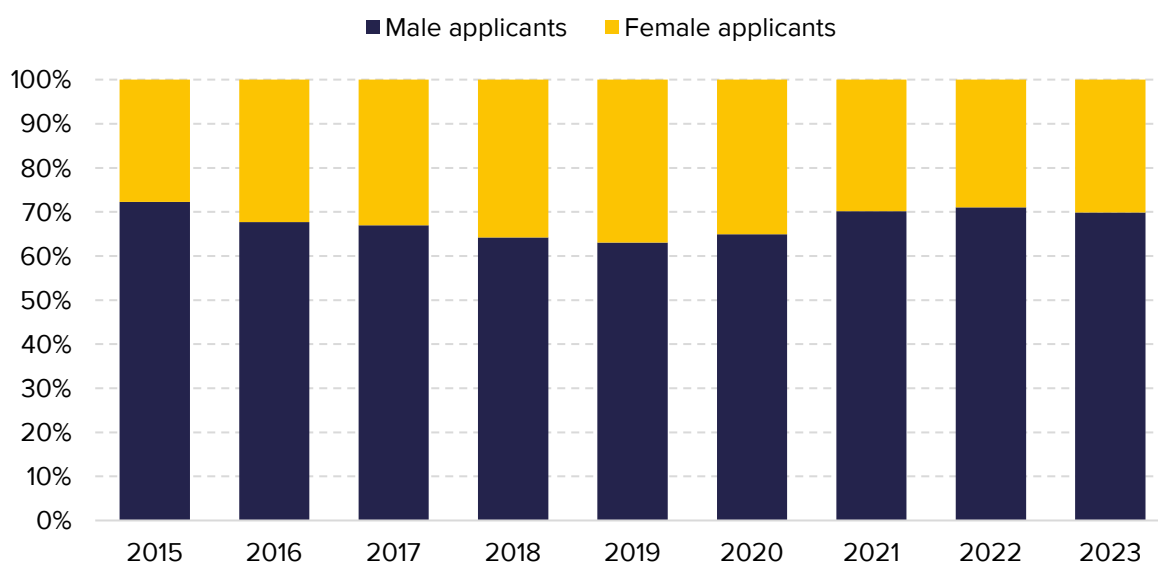
¹ For 0.02% of asylum applications, the sex of the applicant was unknown. For 0.01% of asylum applications, the age of the applicant was unknown. Unknowns have been excluded from this analysis.

Over 1 million applications for international protection were lodged in EU+ countries in 2023. As in previous years, more males than females sought asylum. In fact, 7 in 10 applicants were male, with their share remaining stable compared to 2022 and 2021 (see *Figure 1*).



Men and boys continued to seek asylum more frequently than women and girls

Figure 1. Share of male and female applicants in EU+ countries, 2015–2023



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctza](#)] as of 31 May 2024.

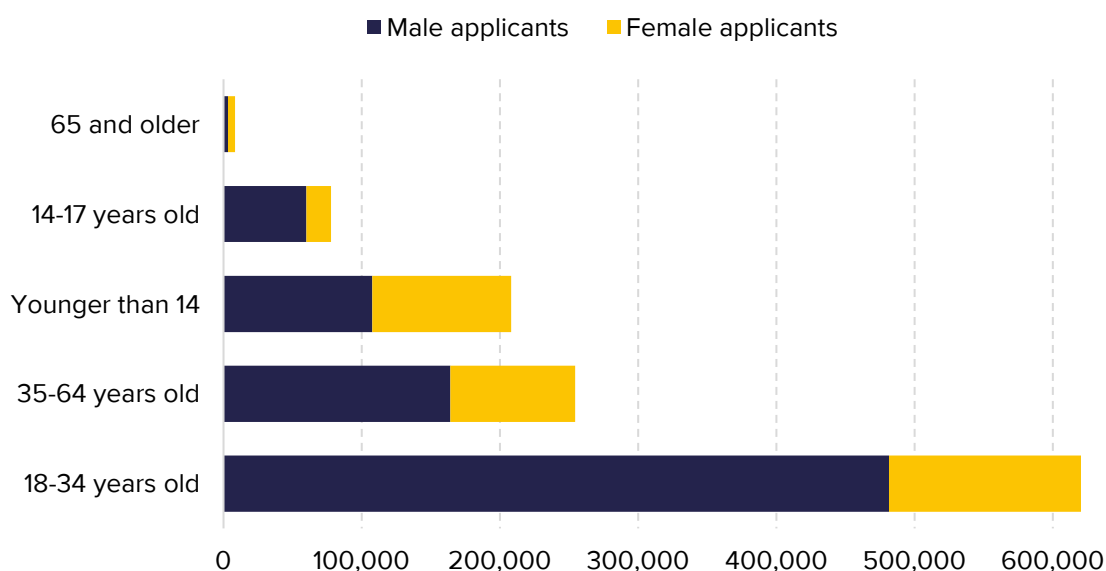
The distribution of applicants by age group was similar to previous years. In 2023, applicants aged 18-34 years accounted for more than one-half of all applicants, while nearly one-quarter were younger than 18. Slightly over one-fifth were older than 35.

Men represented the majority in each age group except among applicants aged over 65. Men aged 18-34 years were the largest group of applicants, accounting for 41% of the total number of applications lodged in EU+ countries. They were followed by men aged 35-64 (14% of the total) and women aged 18-34 (12%). The share of boys and girls younger than 14 years was similar (around 9% each), while there were more boys (5%) than girls (2%) aged 14-17 years (see *Figure 2*).



Most applicants were men aged 18-34 years

Figure 2. Asylum applications lodged in EU+ countries by sex and age, 2023



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctza](#)] as of 31 May 2024.

The share of unaccompanied minors among people aged under 18 years was 15% across EU+ countries. The low share indicates that most minors were accompanied by adults. However, the data available do not indicate which applicants were part of family units.

Sex and age by nationality of applicants

The overall sex and age patterns in EU+ countries were shaped by, and consistent across, some of the largest groups of asylum seekers, including nationals from Syria, Afghanistan, Türkiye and Iraq (in descending order of the number of applications lodged). Most applicants from these four countries were adult men, with women and girls accounting for merely 2-3 in every 10 applicants (see *Figure 3*).

However, the share of unaccompanied minors among people younger than 18 years varied for these four nationalities: they represented 5% of applicants from Türkiye, 8% from Iraq, 25% from Syria and 36% from Afghanistan. The lower shares indicate that the vast majority of minors from Türkiye and Iraq were accompanied by adults. However, the data available do not indicate which applicants were part of family units.

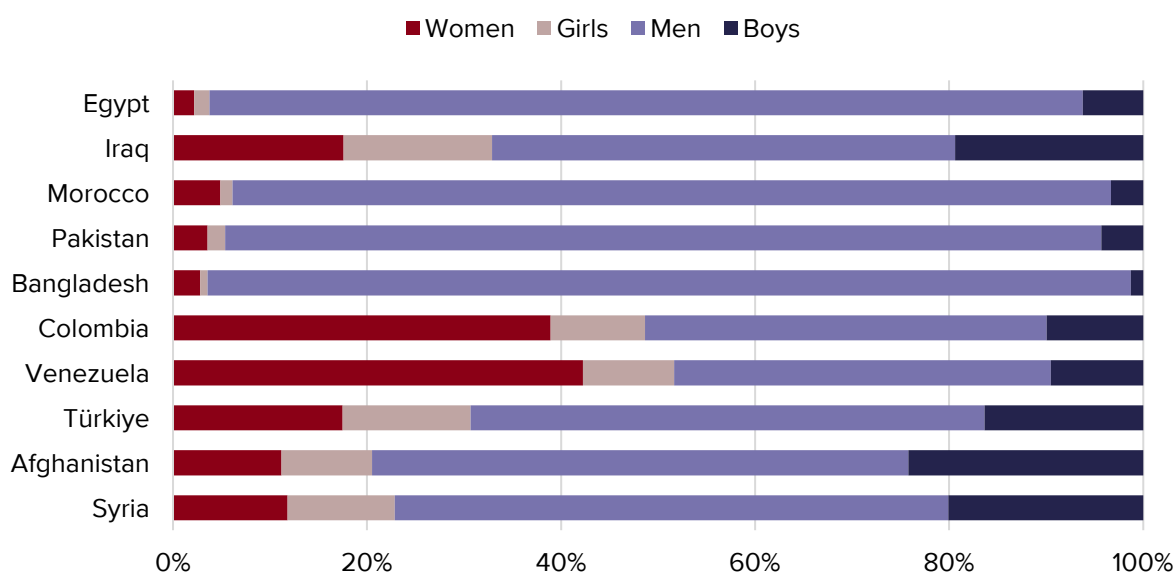
For many nationalities, men and boys lodged the vast majority of applications. Women and girls accounted for less than 1 in every 10 applicants from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Morocco, Egypt, India, Burkina Faso and The Gambia (in descending order). The large share of adult men and relatively small share of women and girls indicates that the majority of applicants from these countries of origin were men traveling alone.

In contrast, there were slightly more female than male applicants from Venezuela, Peru, Côte d'Ivoire, Angola, Uganda and Zimbabwe.² The number of male and female applicants from Colombia was almost on par, with slightly more male applicants.



Among top nationalities, only Venezuelans and Colombians had almost equal numbers of both sexes

Figure 3. Share of women, girls, men and boys for the Top 10 nationalities seeking asylum in EU+ countries, 2023



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctza](#)] as of 31 May 2024.

The share of female applicants remained stable from the previous year for most nationalities. There were, however, a few exceptions. As applications by Turkish nationals (102,000) rose by 80% from 2022 overall, their share of female applicants rose by 9 percentage points to 31% in 2023. Similarly, the share of Tunisian female applicants rose by 8 percentage points to 17% in 2023, which was due to a notable decrease in the number of male applicants compared to 2022 (-9,200).

Conversely, Burkinabe females, who accounted for around one-quarter of Burkinabe applicants in 2022, lodged less than 1 in every 10 applications in 2023. Even though women and girls lodged 200 more applications compared to the previous year, Burkinabe male applications surged from 835 in 2022 to 6,350 in 2023.

Most applications for international protection by Ukrainians were lodged by women and girls (55%) in 2022. However, in 2023 men and boys accounted for more than one-half of all Ukrainian applicants (57%). Ukraine has been under martial law since the Russian invasion on 24 February 2022, which places restrictions on the right to leave the country for able-bodied

² Only citizenships with at least 1,000 asylum applications lodged in 2023 were considered.

men aged 18–60 years who are liable for military service.³ As such, there have been several reports about Ukrainian men fleeing to avoid conscription.⁴ Data collected through the EUAA Survey of Arriving Migrants from Ukraine show that slightly more participants indicated “a fear of being forced to fight” in 2023 than in 2022.⁵ Thus, the number of male applicants has been rising in comparison to the beginning of the war when mostly women and girls from Ukraine sought asylum.



To read latest data analysis on asylum trends, consult the [EUAA Latest Asylum Trends](#).

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

³ VisitUkraine (22 January 2024). [What rights of citizens cannot be restricted during martial law?](#)

⁴ Reuters (30 April 2024). [Thirty men have died trying to leave Ukraine to avoid fighting since war started](#); The Guardian (29 June 2024). [‘I am not made for war’: The men fleeing Ukraine to evade conscription](#); BBC News (23 April 2024). [Ukraine war: Kyiv tightens pressure on fighting age men abroad](#); Politico (25 March 2024). [Draft-dodging plagues Ukraine as Kyiv faces acute soldier shortage](#).

⁵ EUAA and OECD (March 2024). [Voices in Europe: Experiences, hopes, and aspirations of forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine](#).