



Jean Monnet Chair
European Migration Studies

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FINAL COUNTRY REPORT

Greece



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INTRODUCTION

This report aims to provide information on the demographic and migration situation in Greece, using statistical information that has been mainly collected through Eurostat, the official database of the European Union. Greece is a country of arrival and departure, but in this context, it has been analyzed as a country of destination, with a particular focus on refugees and asylum seekers.

The report is structured into eight sections, according to the eight different objects of analysis:

1. Stock of total population.
2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years.
3. Stock of immigrants by category (sex, age, country of birth and reasons for migration).
4. Population growth.
5. Flows of immigrants in the last 10 years by categories (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration).
6. Total number of refugees and asylum seekers (sex, age).
7. Share of refugees on total migration.
8. Migrants' integration indicators employment or unemployment.

Each section has been examined in detail, often dividing it into subsections.

1. Stock of total population

In the first section, we started analyzing the stock of the total population in Greece.

First, we used a table that includes information on age and sex to get a general overview of the Greek population; then we added the variable of the country of birth, so as to go into detail about the composition of the population, including non-natives born.

The stock represents an exact number: the number of persons present at a certain moment in the country. The last available set of information dates back to January first, 2021.

Population on 1 January by age and sex

Last update: 24.03.22

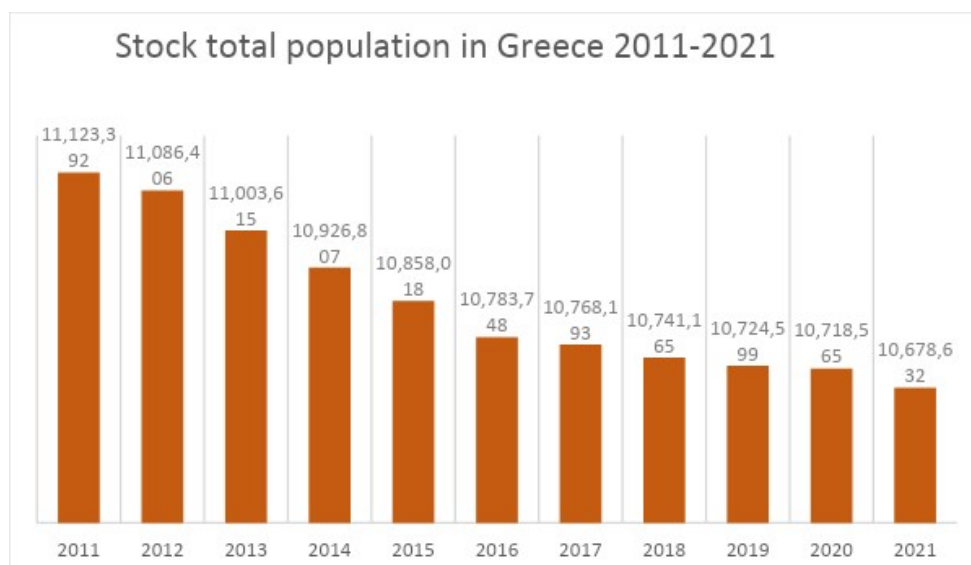
Source of data: Eurostat

AGE: Total SEX: Total UNIT: Number

TIME	2021
GEO	
Greece	10,678,632

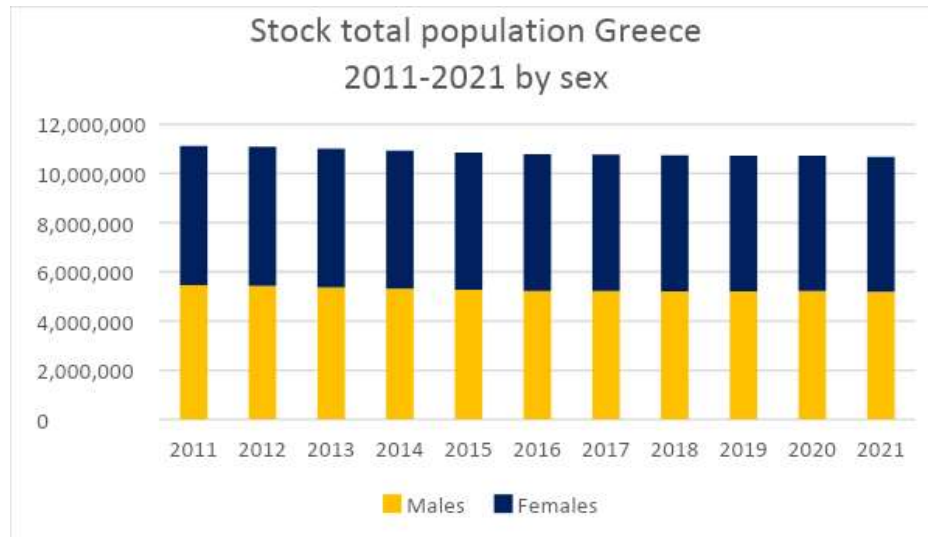
Source: Eurostat [demo_pjan]

Looking at the population over the last 10 years, we see how it has remained fairly balanced, despite a slight decrease of about 450,000 people



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

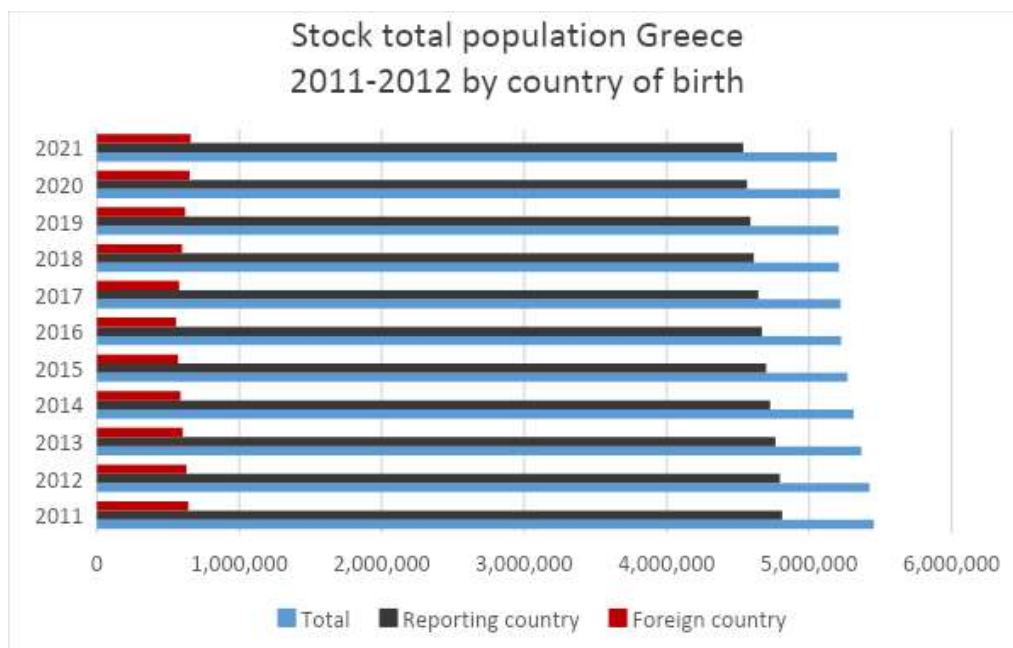
Analyzing in detail the composition of the Greek population during the last 10 years, we can observe that the distribution between males and females is quite homogeneous: during that time the proportion tended to remain unchanged.



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

Focusing now on the country of birth variable, we see that the foreign-born component is a small minority compared to the native population. A minority that has declined marginally from 2011 to 2016 and has increased slightly again in the following years.

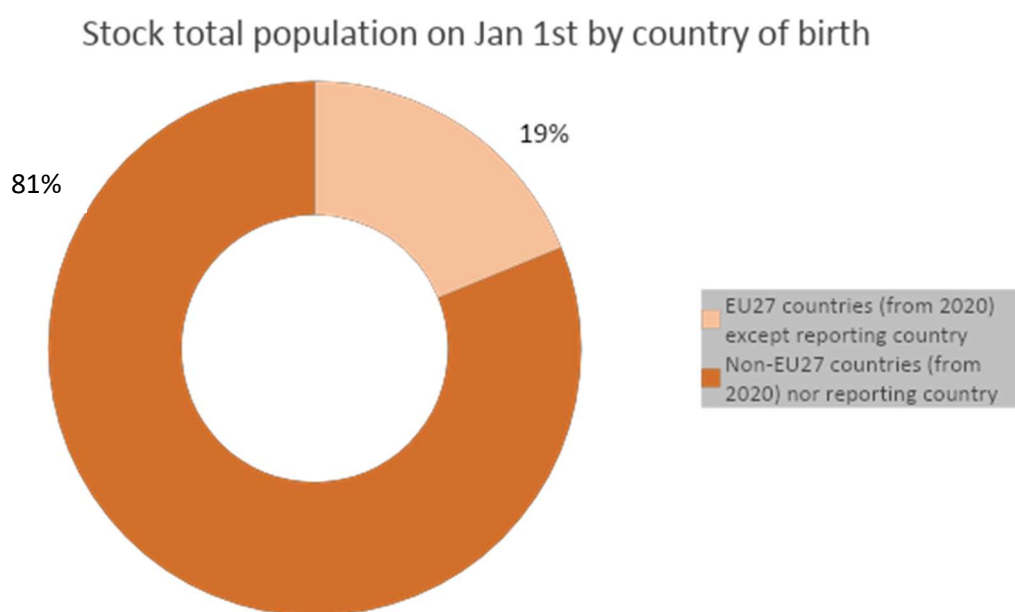
In 2021, out of a total population of 10.678.632: 9.316.912 are natives and 1.361.720 are foreigners.



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop4ctb]

When we look closely at the latest available data of January 1st, 2021, we can better observe the impact of the foreign-born population on the Greek population.

This foreign component is composed as follows:



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

In the following section, we will focus more precisely on how the foreign part of the population is constituted, analyzing the migration stock in the last 10 years.



2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

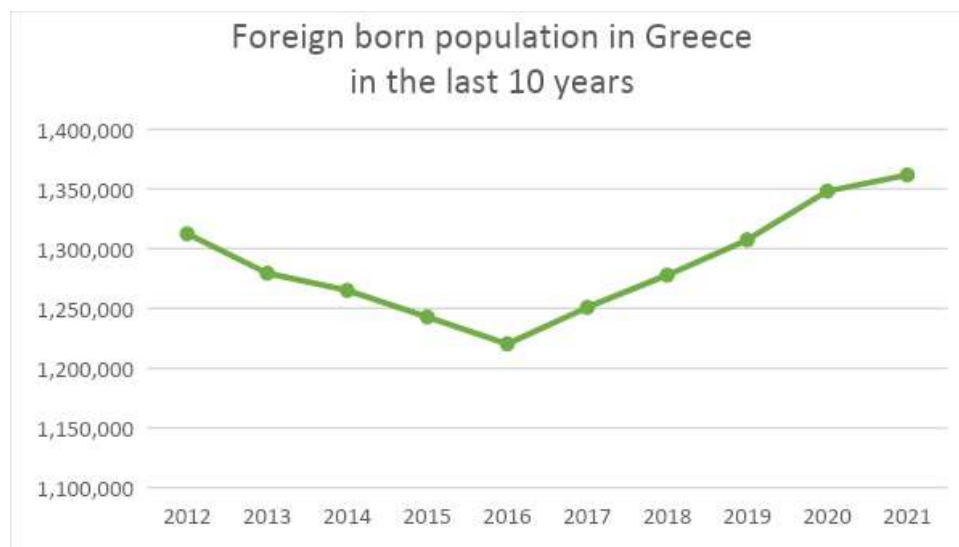
For most of its contemporary history, Greece was a migrant-sending country. Since the 1990s, due to the geopolitical changes of 1989, the country started to experience high flows of mainly undocumented immigrants from Southeast Europe, Central-Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and later from South Asia, the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Greece's geographical position, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and close to both the Balkans and the MENA region, has made it the first country of arrival and the most easily accessible destination for migrants attempting to reach Europe.

In the public debate, Greece has become part of the narrative of the 'migrant emergency' at the European level. Migrant landings are continuous, and the main problem concerns irregulars, which are difficult to count in statistics. According to the IOM, in 2015 there was a population of irregular migrants that represented about 11% of the population.

Below we can see the stock of migrants in the last 10 years, obtained from the foreign population residing in Greece in the different years. We can observe a slight decrease from 2012 to 2016 and continuous growth until 2021, which seems to have found a balance in the last year.

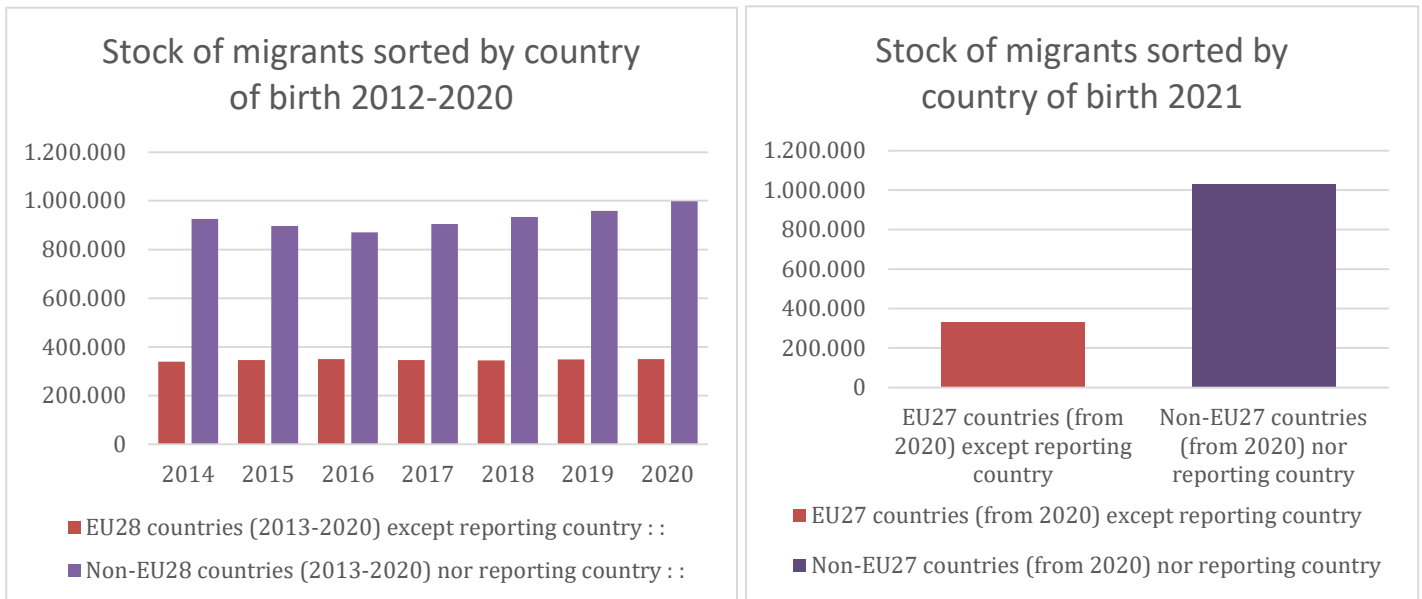
2015 and 2016 are delicate years, due to the outbreak of the conflict in Syria and the subsequent humanitarian crisis. One thing must be underlined: the statistics consider just regular migrants, but the number of irregular migrants, which especially since 2016 has increased, is not included here.



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop4ctb]

According to the following graph, we can see the composition of the foreign part of the Greek population. The big majority coming from non-EU countries.

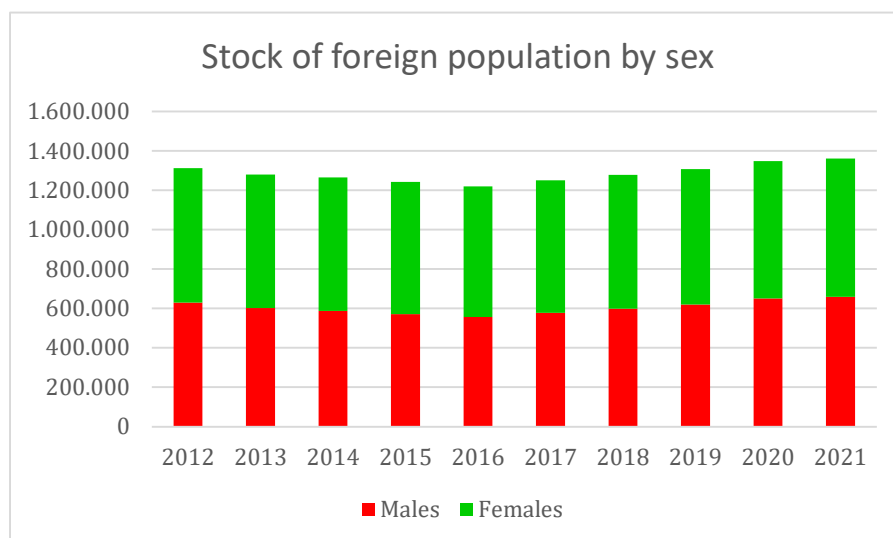
No data are available before 2014, and there is a distinction between before and after 2020, due to the Brexit.



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

What we can do is analyze how migrant stocks are made regarding sex distribution. The proportion is very balanced over time, with a small predominance of the female component.

In 2021, out of a total of 1.360.720: 658.701 are male and 703.019 are female



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]



3. Stock of immigrants by category (sex, age, country of birth, and reason for migration)

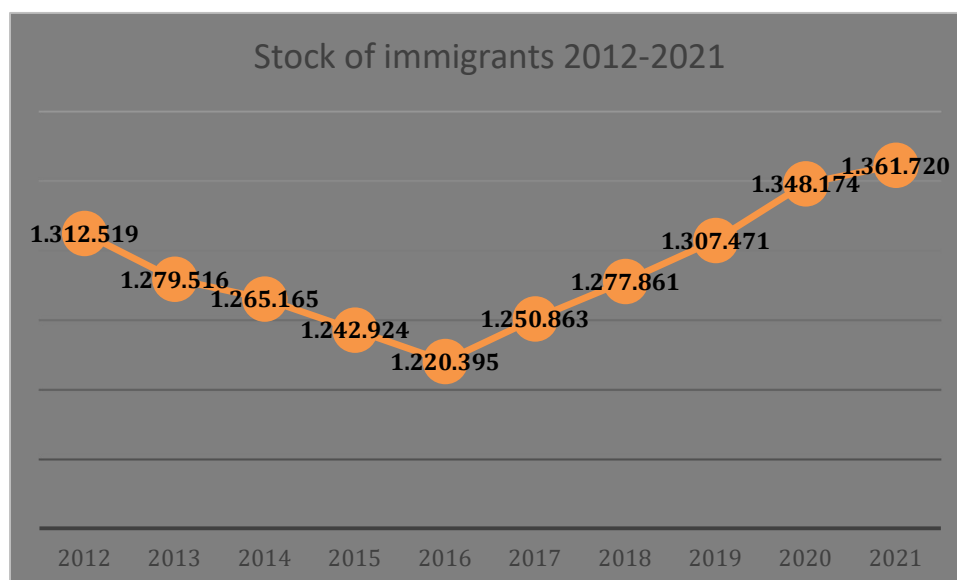
Before focusing on the categories of the immigration stock, we found it interesting to show the graph of the migration stock over the last 10 years.

From 2012 to 2016 we observe a slow decrease, while since 2016 there is a reversal of the trend and the rate of immigrants rises steadily.

2016 represents the moment when the Syrian conflict broke out, during which migration flows increased dramatically, touching the highest point in 2019.

Between 2019 and 2020, due to the covid restrictions, arrivals decreased considerably.

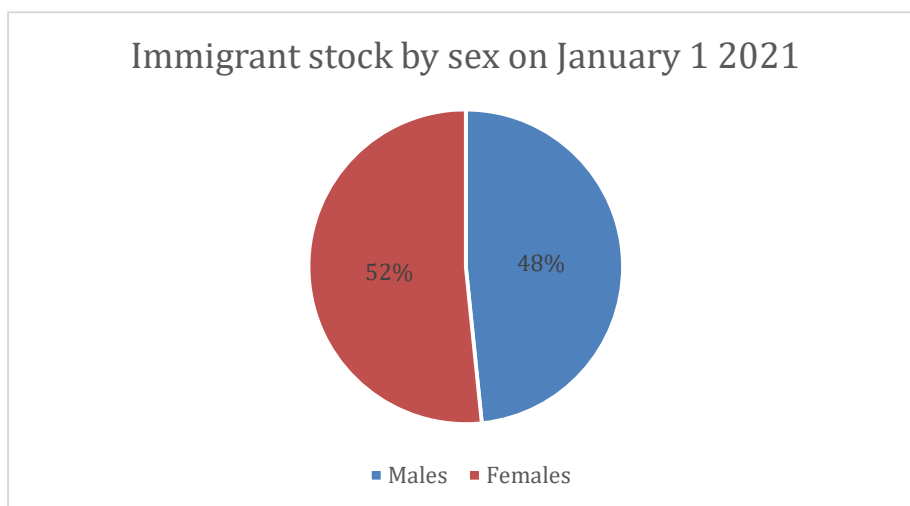
We don't have any data regarding 2021, but considering the last events in Afghanistan and Tunisia, we can suppose the flow of migrants will increase again.



Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

3.1 Stock of immigrants by sex

Looking closer at the composition of immigration in Greece, we start with the sex distribution. Using the label [migr_pop3ctb], we can observe that on a total of 1.361.720 immigrants, the female side, consisting of 703.019 components, exceeds the male, consisting of 658.701 people, by 4%.

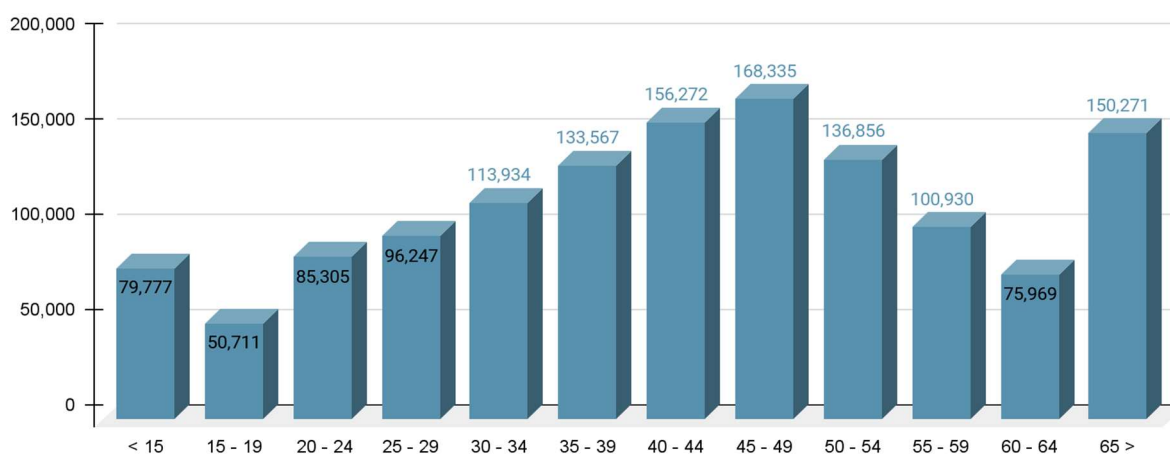


Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

3.2 Stock of immigrants by age

The graph below shows the immigrant stock by age. Using the same label [migr_pop3ctb], in this case, we highlighted the different ranges of age and it resulted that most immigrants are relatively middle-aged, with peaks of 168.335 people between 45 and 49, and 156.272 people between 40 and 44.

Immigrant stock by age on Jan 1st 2020

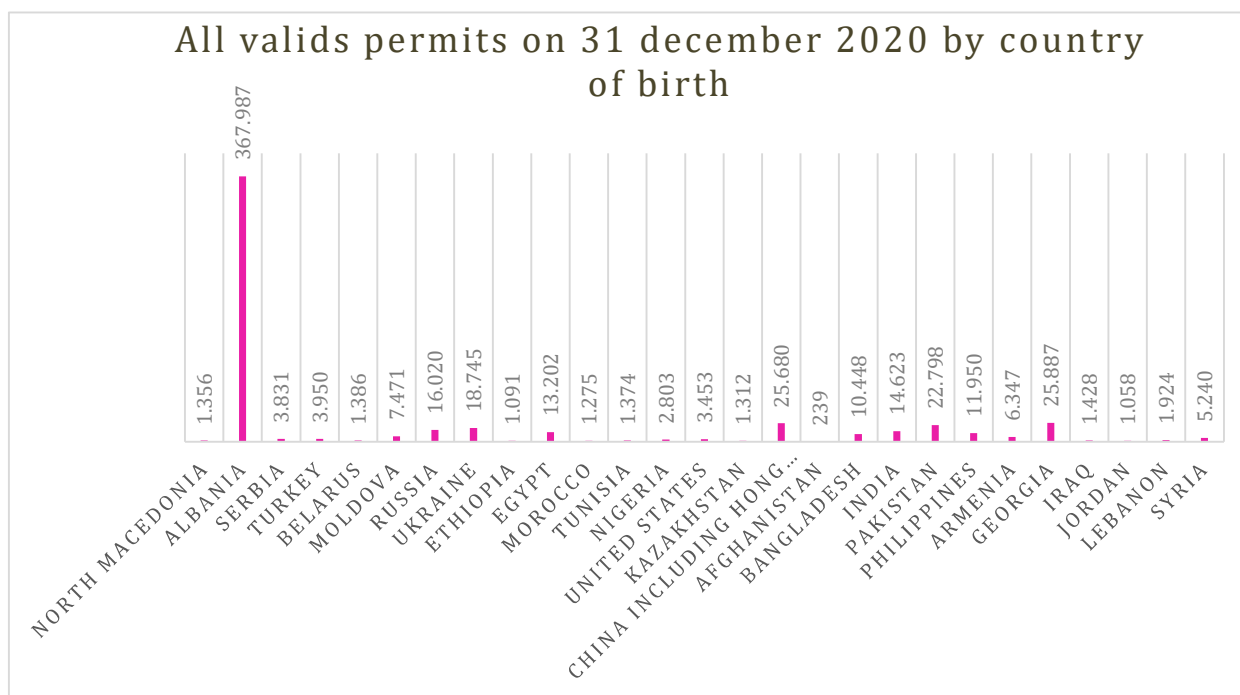


Source: Eurostat [migr_pop3ctb]

3.3 Stock of immigrants by country of birth

Data on the immigrant stock by country of birth are not available, so in order to derive at least part of the origin of immigration in Greece, we used research on residence permits, using the label [migr_resvalid].

The big majority of permission requests come from Albania, but we also find some incongruence with the public narrative of migration. There is migration from the US and China that is hardly ever addressed in the public discourse. This migration can be explained by looking at the reasons for moving: the majority of these permits are for family reunification and education (China has a proportion of 15.640/25.680 for studying).

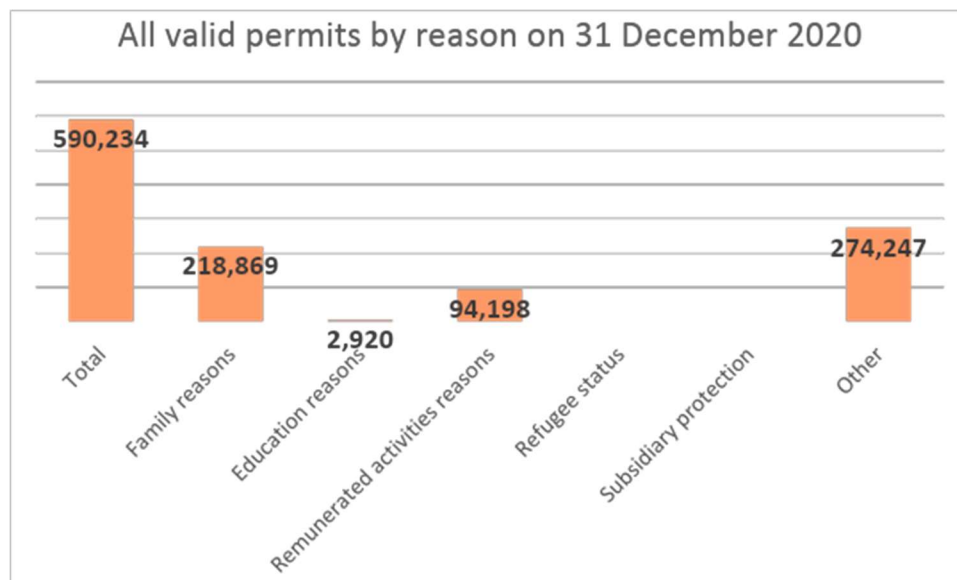


Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid]

3.4 Stock of immigrants by reason of migration

The last graph shows the stock of immigrants by reason of migration, the stock considered dates back to 31 December 2020, because the latest information available is at this time. As in the previous section, we have analyzed data on residence permits, as they are the only official way to trace the reason for migration.

As can be seen, the majority of permits are requested for family reunification, while refugee requests are zero. This data seemed unusual and counter-intuitive to the situation in Greece. Therefore, we looked for data from previous years, but they are always unavailable or, as for 1019 and 2020, they report a zero amount.



Source: Eurostat [migr_resvalid]



4. Population growth

Population growth represents the increase in the number of people in a population, i.e the speed at which a population changes in size over time. It is determined by the rates of birth, death, immigration and emigration.

Since 2005, Greece has experienced a population decline, dropping from 11.23 million people to 10.42 million in 15 years. The most recent projections show a continuation of this decline. The main reasons for Greece's population declining are a very low fertility rate of 1.3 births per woman, financial crisis, emigration, and an aging population. The decline in the birth rate can be caused by education levels, the economic crisis, women's unemployment, and the government's inability or unwillingness to encourage fertility.

With fewer people in Greece, there is less economic stimulation, fewer people working due to an aging population, and more people emigrating to other nations, creating a cyclical effect on the population decline.

In the following table we can observe in absolute numbers how the Greek population has steadily decreased in the last decade.

TIME	Total population change
2012	-82.791
2013	-76.808
2014	-68.789
2015	-74.270
2016	-15.555
2017	-27.028
2018	-16.566
2019	-6.034
2020	-39.933
2021	:

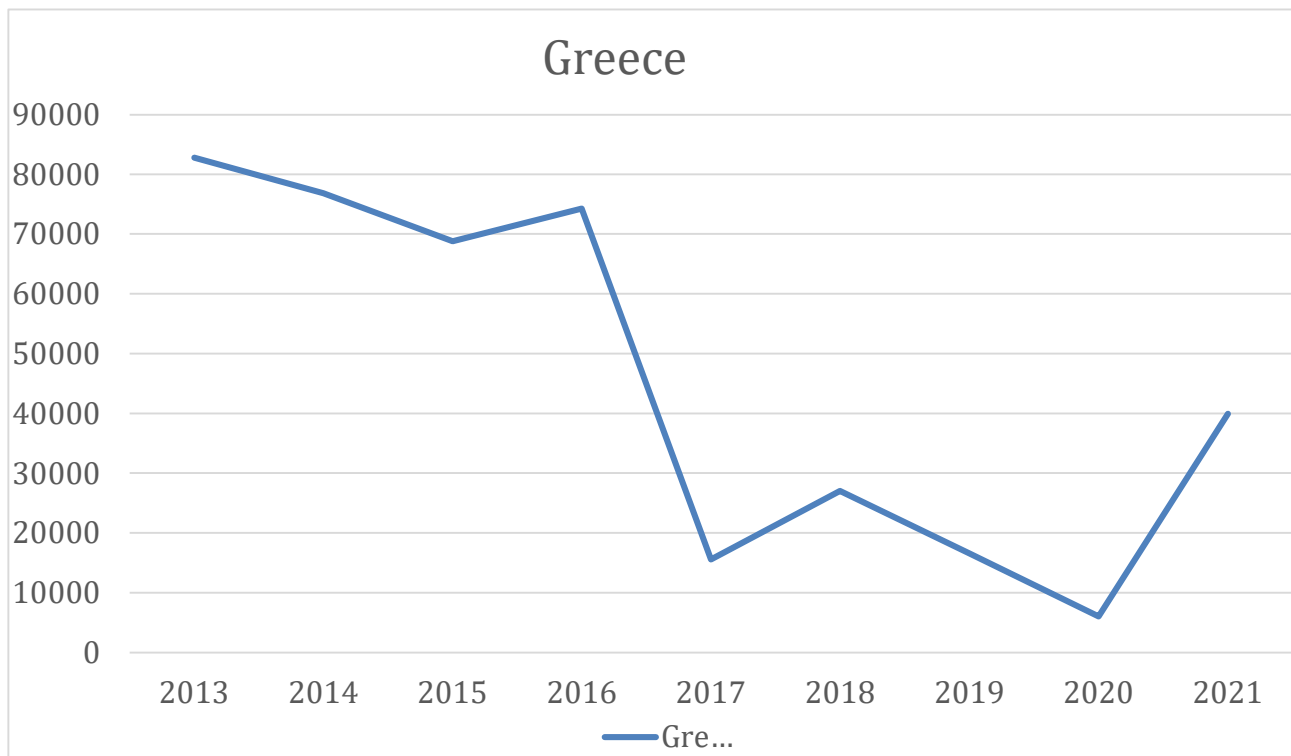
Population change - Demographic balance and crude rates at national level (online data code: DEMO_GIND).

Source of data: Eurostat

Source: Eurostat [demo_gind]



We can observe in the graph a fairly constant decrease of the Greek population, with some negative peaks.



Population growth

Source: eurostat



The crude rate of net migration plus adjustment is defined as the ratio of net migration (including statistical adjustment) during the year to the average population in that year.

TIME	Crude rate of total population change
2012	-7,5
2013	-7,0
2014	-6,3
2015	-6,9
2016	-1,4
2017	-2,5
2018	-1,5
2019	-0,6
2020	-3,7

Time frequency: annual

Demographic indicator: Crude rate of total population change

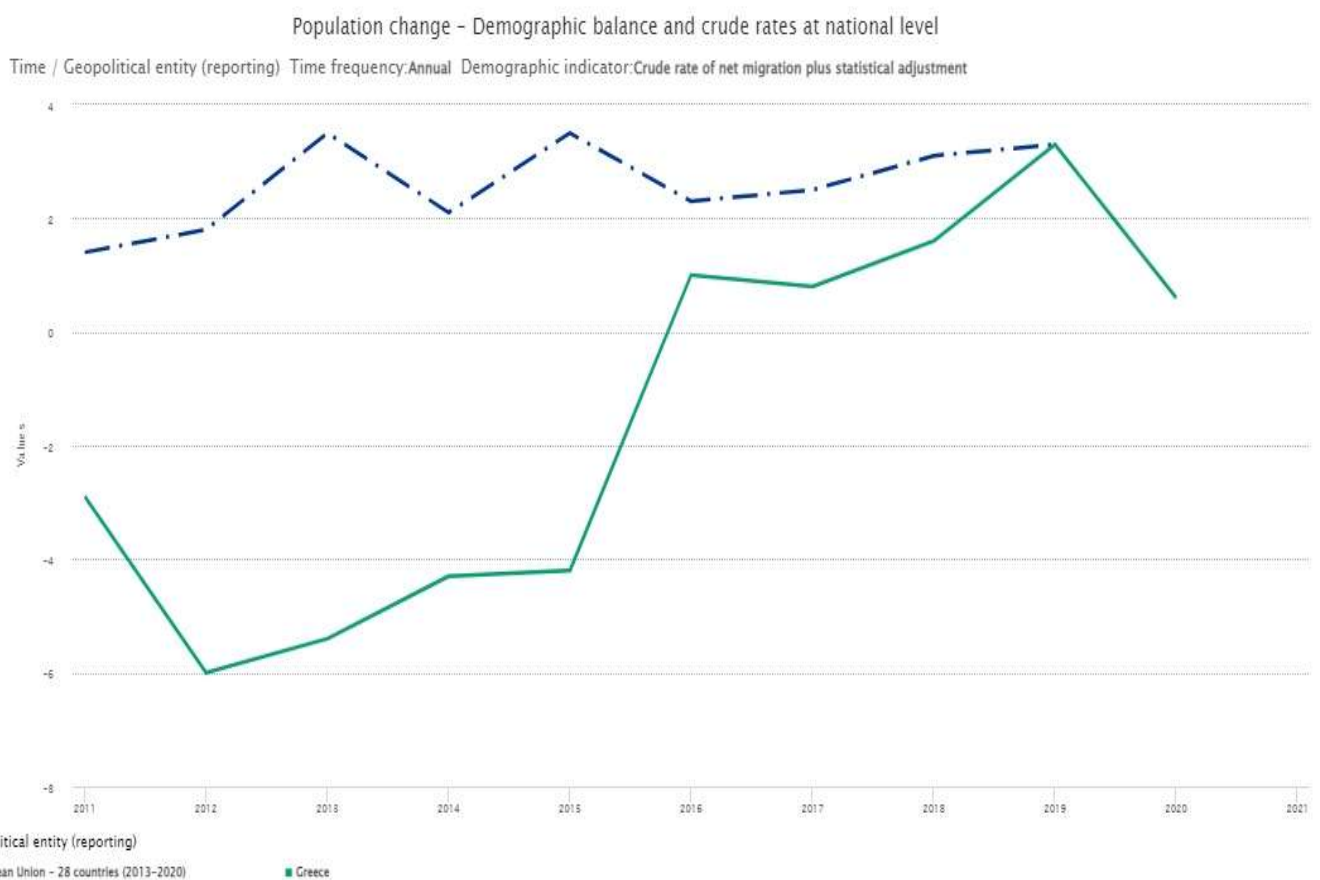
Population change - Demographic balance and crude rates at national level (online data code: DEMO_GIND)

Source of data: Eurostat



The crude rate of net migration remains negative until 2015. In 2016 it rises to a value of 1.0 and in 2019 to 3.3, then declines again.

Net migration is linear for Greece during the period 2011-2020, whereas the European average changes a lot from year to year.

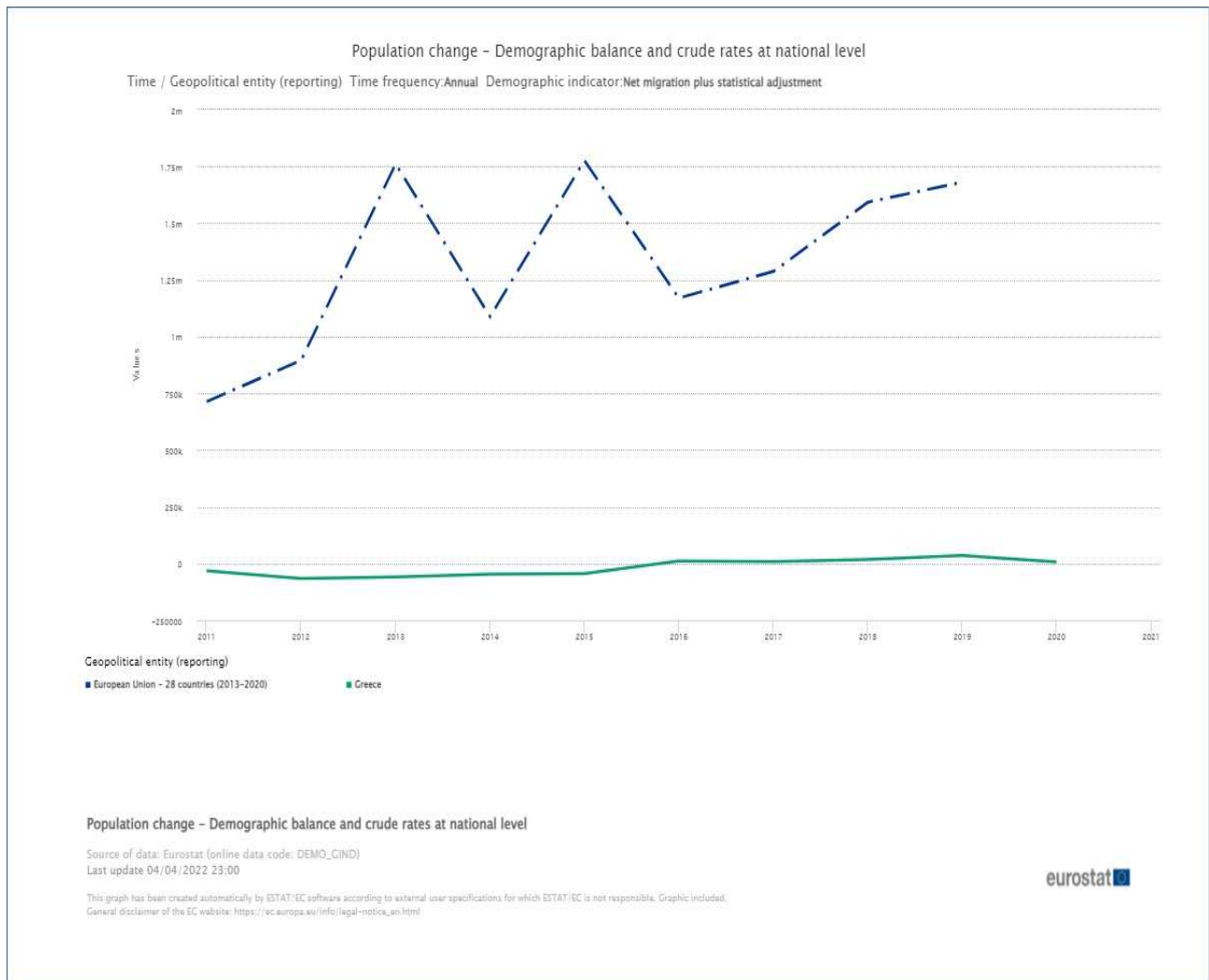


Population change - Demographic balance and crude rates at national level

Source of data: Eurostat (online data code: DEMO_GIND)

Last update: 04/04/2022 23:00

This graph has been created automatically by ESTAT/EC software according to external user specifications for which ESTAT/EC is not responsible. Graphic included.
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Source: eurostat



5. Immigration flow in Greece in the last 10 years by categories (sex, age group, country of birth, and reason for migration).

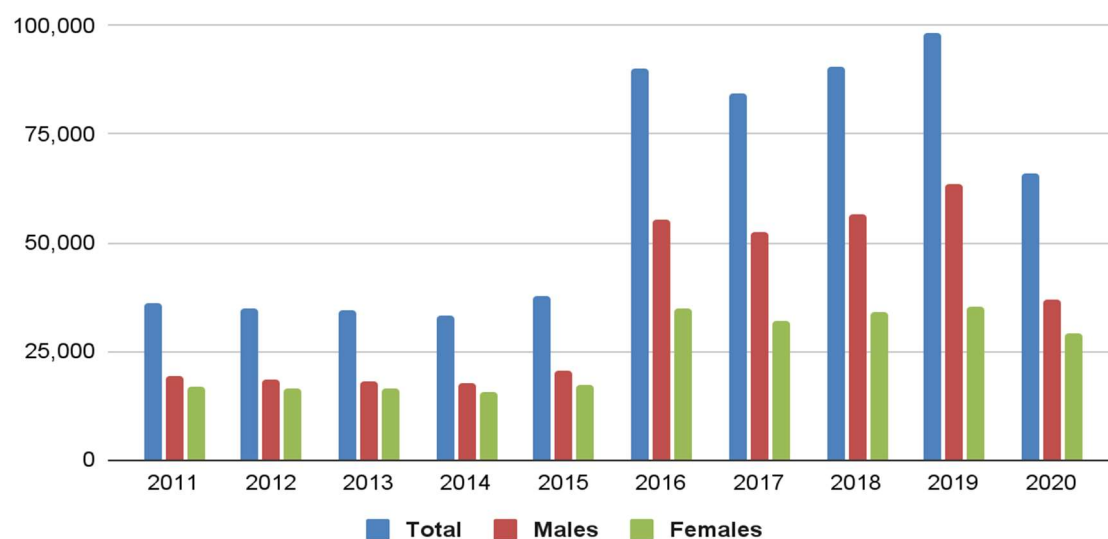
In this section, we will present the dynamics of immigration flows in Greece over the last 10 years.

In 2015, arrivals of refugees by sea have increased dramatically in Greece mainly due to the ongoing Syrian Civil War. There were 856,723 arrivals by sea in Greece, an almost fivefold increase from the same period of 2014. An estimated 8% of the arrivals applied for asylum in Greece, with others hoping to find asylum in Northern European countries. Greek law defines refugees and asylum seekers arriving in their country as foreign citizens. Family members of a stateless person who has attained refugee status are also treated with the same status and are granted a renewable three-year residence permit. In addition, the right to education and training is granted to persons who have been granted the right to refugee rights. We will look at the latest available year in the Eurostat database (2020) to see some details of our analysis.

5.1 Immigration flow by Sex

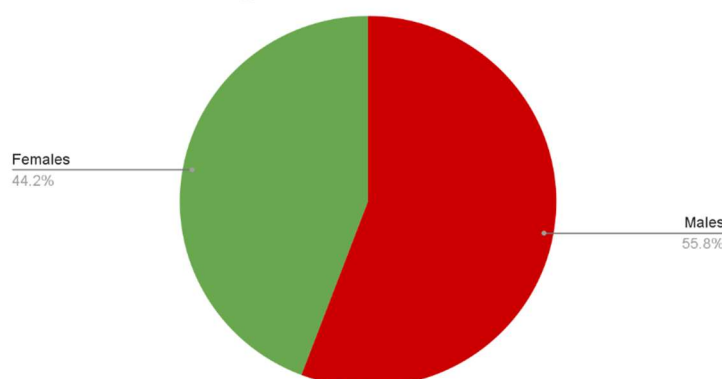
The first histogram shows the total number of immigrants in Greece per year distributed then by sex. The largest number of people who immigrated to Greece was registered in 2019 (around 98.520) and the smallest one in 2014 (around 33.289). The flows of immigration in these years do not have big differences until 2016. It can be also mentioned that the number of male immigrants is always slightly higher (with no big differences) than the number of female immigrants. However, after 2016 number of male immigrants was approximately 20% more than the number of female immigrants, except in 2020.

Immigration Flow by Sex



Source: Eurostat [migr_imm3ctb]

Female & male immigration flow in 2020

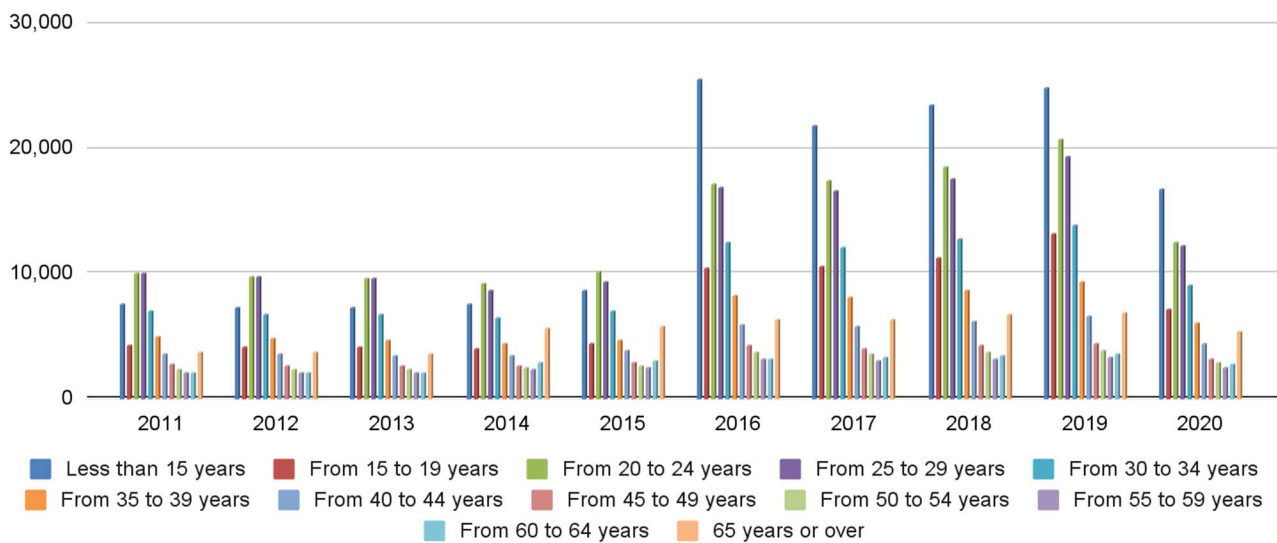


Source: Eurostat [migr_imm3ctb]

5.2 Immigration flow by Age

In most cases, the data presented below shows clear domination of the green and purple columns which represents the immigrants of a group age from 20 to 29 years until 2016. This column does not stay far from the light blue column (less than 15 years old immigrants) which overpasses after 2016. Thus, younger generations are more represented than older ones.

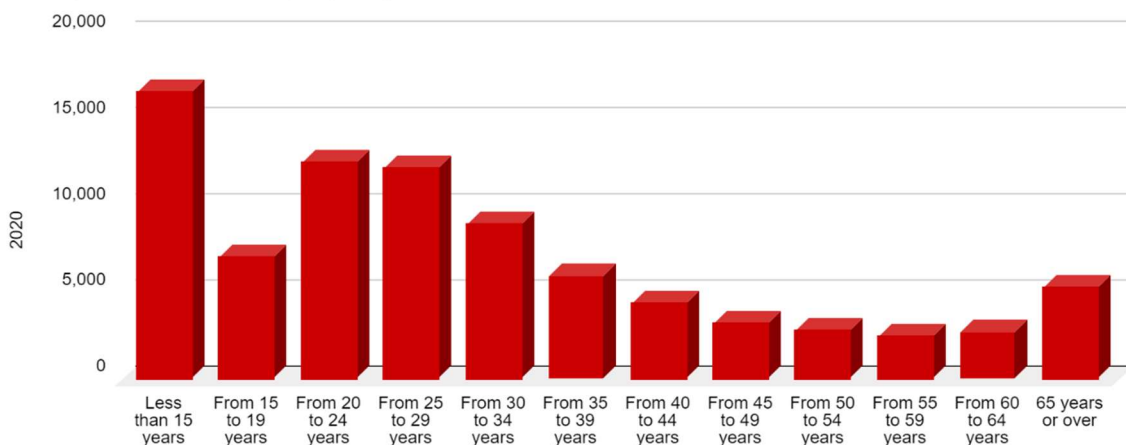
Immigration Flow 2011-2020 by age group



Source: Eurostat [migr_imm3ctb]

In fact, when we look at 2020, we see that most immigrants who reached Greece in 2020 were young people aged less than 15, followed by ages between 20 and 29 years old. Adults from 55 to 59 years have the smallest weight in the total number of immigrants who reached Greece in 2020.

Immigration flow by age group in 2020



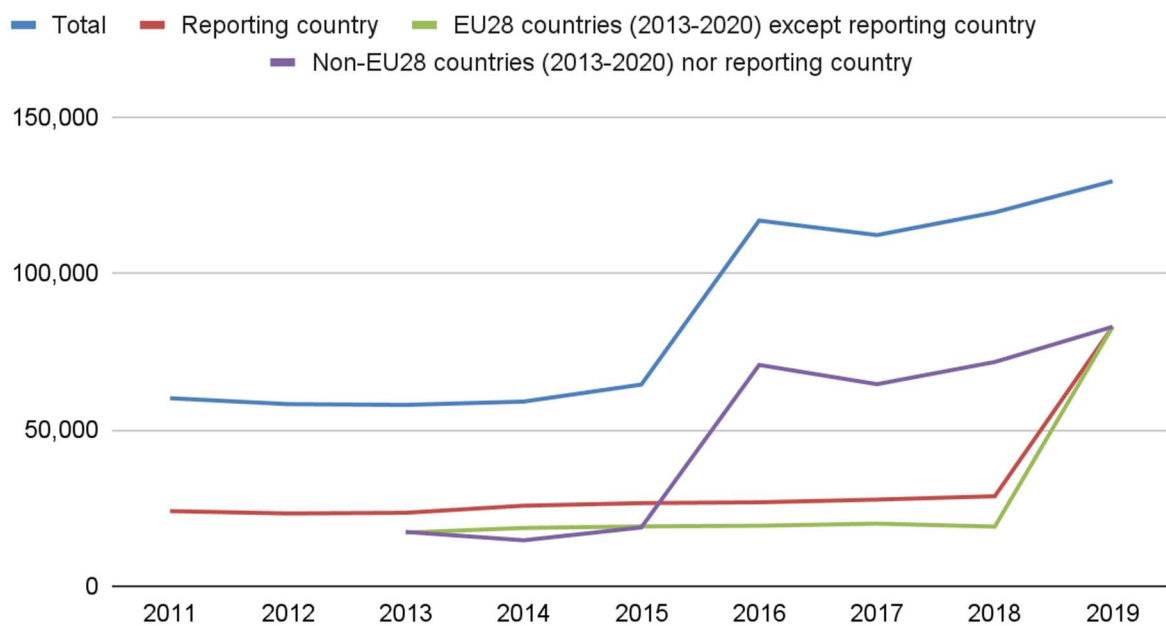
Source: Eurostat [migr_imm3ctb]

5.3 Immigration flow by Country of Birth

We proceed with analyzing the immigration flows by country of birth. The following considerations can be made:

1. Immigrants born in non-EU countries have a dominant position in their weight in total immigration and in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 this weight has exceeded 50% of the total number of immigrants.
2. Starting from 2018 the difference among the immigrants born in Greece, the ones born in other EU countries, and Non-EU countries becomes quite insignificant. Until 2020 Non-EU countries prevailed over it.

Immigration flow 2011 -2019



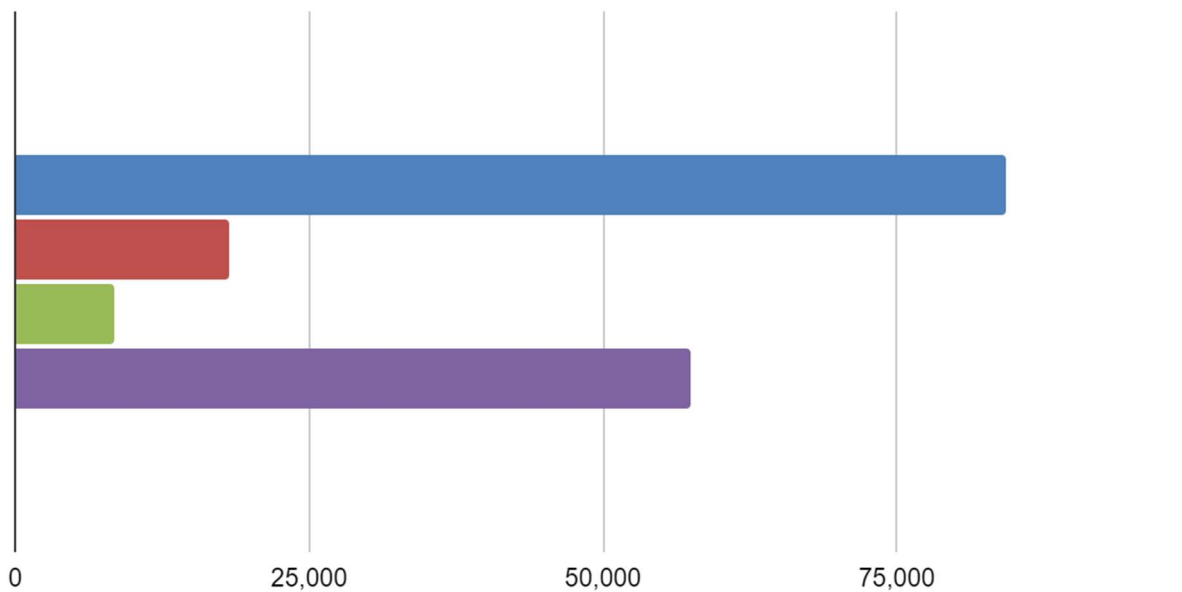
Source: Eurostat [migr_imm3ctb]



Let us look closer to 2020. More than half of the people who immigrated to Greece in 2020 were born in non-EU countries, while the number of immigrants born in Greece overcomes the number of immigrants born in other EU countries.

2020

■ Total ■ Reporting country ■ EU27 countries (from 2020) except reporting country
■ Non-EU27 countries (from 2020) nor reporting country

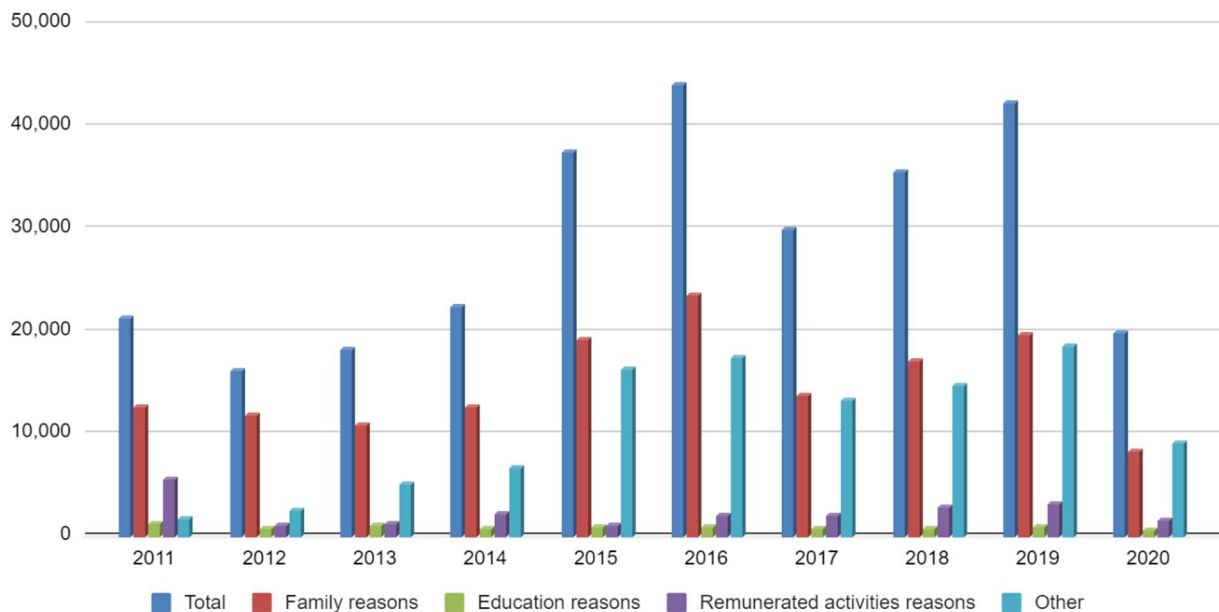


Source: Eurostat [migr_imm3ctb]

5.4 Immigration flow by Reason of Immigration

In August 2019, migrants arrived on sixteen boats in Greece for the first time in such mass since 2016. As a result, the government decided to increase border patrols and deportations to control the sudden migrant influx.

First Permits, Immigration Flow 2011-2020

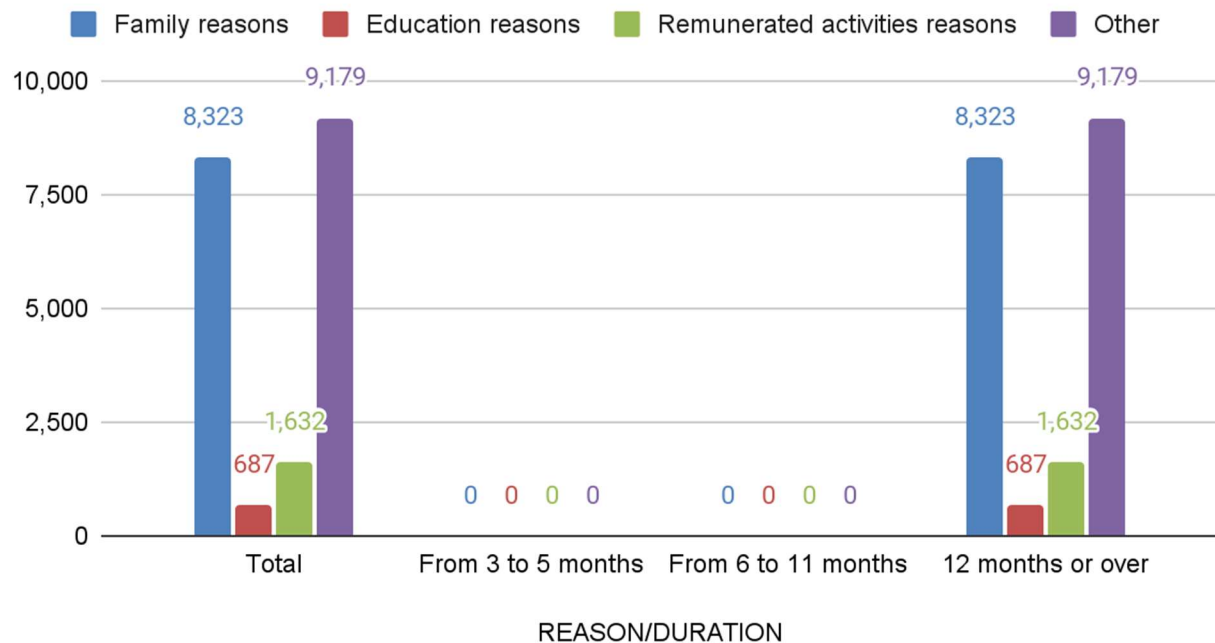


Source: Eurostat [migr_resfirst]

The following considerations can be done:

1. The largest number of first permits was issued in 2016 and the smallest one in 2012.
2. Since 2011 taken into consideration, permits issued for family reasons prevail over all other reasons.
3. In 2020 there was a small change and dominance of the category of “other reasons” in issuing a first permit.
4. In 2020 the first permits issued for remunerated activities reasons make a significant “drop”. Below can be found more detailed information regarding this year.

Immigration Flow 2020 First Permit and Duration of Stay



Source: Eurostat [migr_resfirst]

This histogram demonstrates that in 2020 in Greece there were issued 19,821 first permits in total, which majority of them were issued for other reasons and family reasons.



6. Total number of refugees and asylum seekers

In this section we focus on the data related to asylum seekers and refugees. Before doing so, we provide some key definitions.

An *asylum-seeker* is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim. Seeking asylum is a human right. This means everyone should be allowed to enter another country to seek asylum.

A *refugee* is a person who has fled their own country because they are at risk of serious human rights violations and persecution there. The risks to their safety and life were so great that they felt they had no choice but to leave and seek safety outside their country because their own government cannot or will not protect them from those dangers. Refugees have a right to international protection.

6.1 Methodology: what is the difference between Eurostat and UNHCR tables on asylum seekers we refer to?

In this paragraph, we would like to explain some methodology choices we made while collecting useful data on Eurostat and UNHCR database.

- Eurostat provides data by type of applicant: we do not include in the following tables the number of applications withdrawn, which means applications for asylum having been withdrawn during the reference period at all instances of the administrative and/or judicial procedure;
- Eurostat data are rounded,

While UNHCR tables we based our research on provide aggregate data. The data covered in the UNHCR database refer to claimants whose individual applications were pending at the end of the year, irrespective of when those claims may have been lodged.

That being said, we can now start by examining more closely the data.

6.2 Asylum seekers, EU countries: latest trends

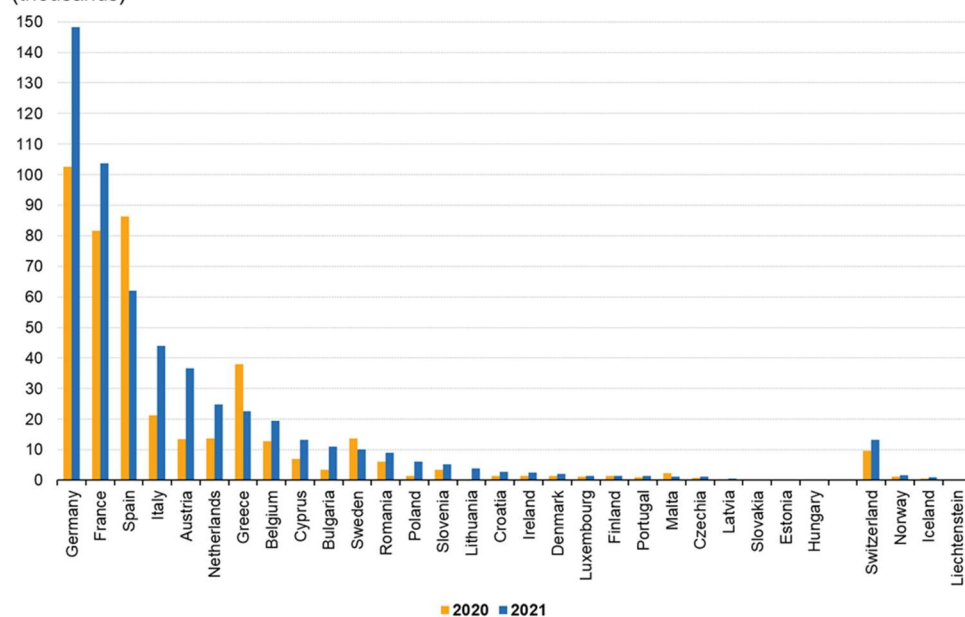
In 2021, some 617 800 applications for international protection were received in the EU+, increasing by a third from 2020 and returning to pre-pandemic levels.

The rise in applications was mostly due to more applications by Afghans and Syrians. In fact, both lodged the most applications since 2016.

As we can see from the graph below, the countries which experienced the most significant increase in asylum applications in 2021 have been Germany and France, the latter however experiencing a slighter increase.

Greece, however, experienced a drop in asylum applications from previous peak levels.

**Number of first-time asylum applicants (non-EU citizens),
2020 and 2021**
(thousands)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: migr_asyappctza)

eurostat 

Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctza]

6.3 Total number of asylum seekers in Greece

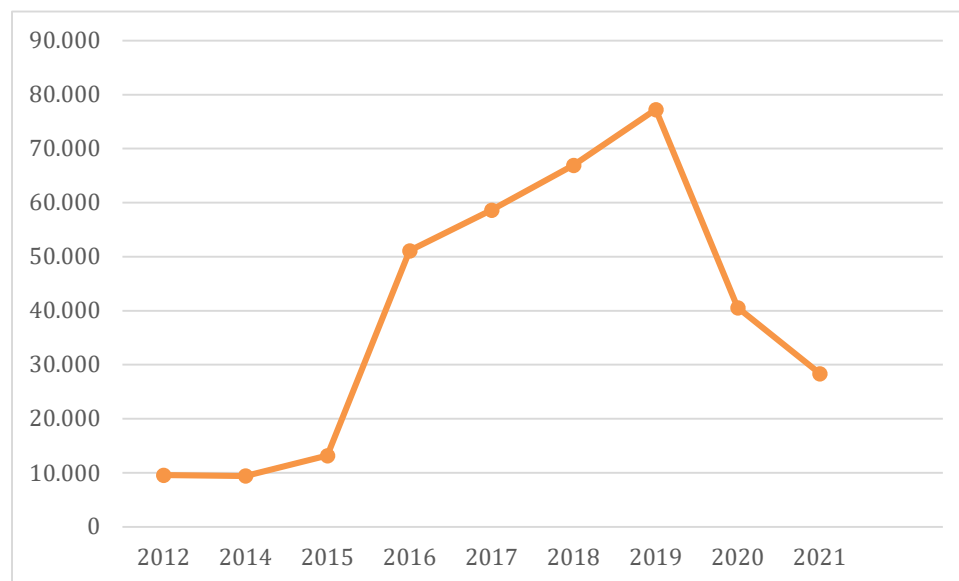
The Asylum Service received 40,560 new applications in 2020, which amounts to a decrease of 47.5% compared to 2019. Out of the 40,560 new applications, 19,742 have been examined under the regular procedure while 20,814 were examined under the Fast-Track Border Procedure. According to the information provided by the Asylum Service, in total a number of 57,347 applications were pending by the end of 2020.

However, and despite the significant decrease on the number of new asylum applications registered in 2020 and the number of first instance decisions issued during the year, significant delays occur in processing applications at first instance if the total number of pending applications is taken into consideration, i.e. applications registered within 2020 and applications registered the previous years and pending by the end of 2020.

TIME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Greece	9.575	8.225	9.430	13.205	51.110	58.650	66.965	77.275	40.560	28.355

Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctza]

We can observe the table summarized in the following graph



Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctza]



6.4 Asylum seekers by age group and sex

The table shows that asylum seekers in Greece are mostly men, from 18 to 34 years of age.

The numbers of asylum seekers dramatically increased between 2016 and 2019, but from then on, they are showing a gradual decrease.

TIME		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
AGE	SEX										
>18	Males	345	705	960	1.535	11.220	11.970	12.960	15.030	7.250	5.955
>18	Females	170	335	390	965	8.500	7.820	8.810	10.330	4.000	2.505
18-34	Males	6.810	4.710	5.165	6.205	15.305	21.475	24.680	28.005	15.405	12.055
18-34	Females	1.110	975	925	1.465	6.605	7.165	8.830	10.540	6.305	2.900
35-64	Males	765	1.045	1.515	2.095	5.355	6.570	7.445	8.540	5.055	3.580
35-64	Females	370	435	460	855	3.800	3.420	3.945	4.450	2.355	1.265
65>	Males	5	10	5	35	145	105	130	165	95	45
65>	Females	5	10	15	50	175	130	165	220	95	45

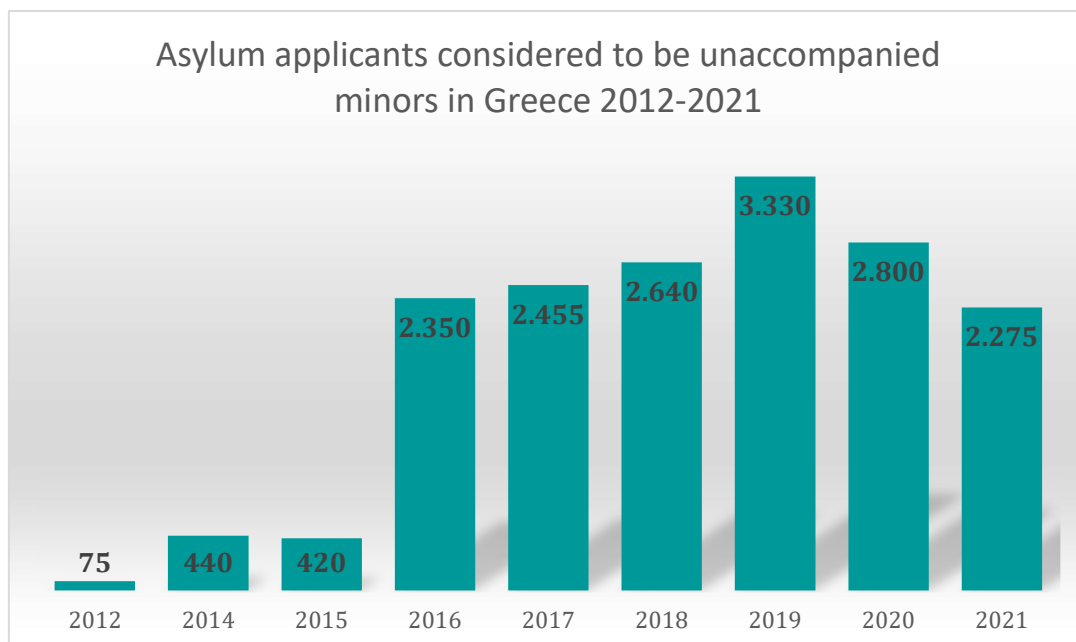
Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctza]

6.5 Unaccompanied minors

Since the beginning of the migratory crisis in 2015, growing numbers of unaccompanied children have been seeking protection in Europe. With increased migratory pressure in Greece along the EU's external border with Turkey at the beginning of 2020, and following the Greek government's official request for support, the European Commission launched a relocation scheme to speed up relocation of unaccompanied minors from the Greek islands to other EU Member States. Human rights organizations had denounced the precarious and difficult conditions in which unaccompanied minors had been living in the Greek hotspots, calling for structural solutions in the form of more solidarity and responsibility sharing among EU Member States, and a coordinated, child rights-based approach to addressing the many gaps in the protection afforded to unaccompanied children arriving in Europe.

However, recent legislative changes in Greece, such as the establishment of the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors (SSPUAM) and a new relocation scheme, have served to improve the situation of unaccompanied minors in the country drastically. Measures include the creation of an effective and sustainable child protection system, better reception conditions, and changes to the accommodation system for unaccompanied minors.

At the end of 2020, a new law put an end to the practice of detaining unaccompanied children on the sole grounds that they were homeless. This was followed in January 2021 by the introduction of an emergency response mechanism that offers children support and a safety net.



Source: Eurostat [migr_asyunaa]



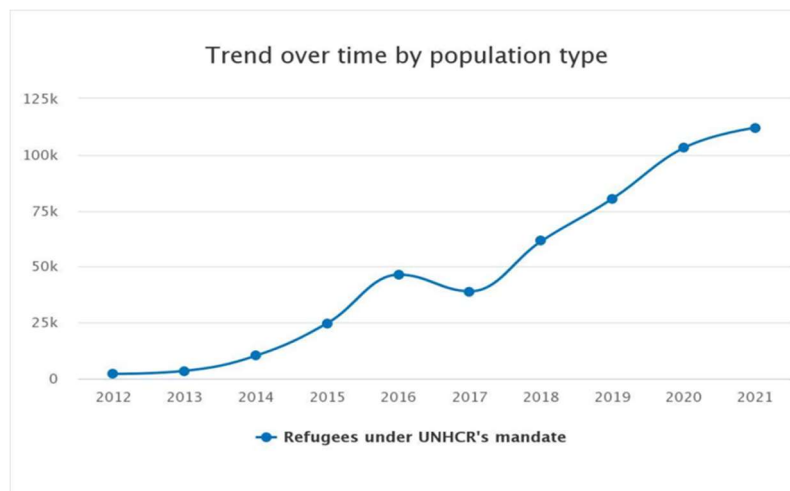
6.6 Gender/age breakdown of the total number of applicants: 2020

Gender/Age	Number	Percentage
Total number of applicants	40,559	100%
Men	27,807	68.56%
Women	12,752	31.44%
Children	14,490	35.73%
Unaccompanied children	2,799	6.9%

Source: AIDA https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/AIDA-GR_2020update.pdf

7. Refugees

The timeline series and the annex table shown below indicate that the trend of refugees has increased in steady growth in the last decade. The most marked increase occurred from 2014 to 2016. From 2016 on, the number of refugees slightly decreased, only to almost double in 2018 compared to 2017. Since 2019 the number of refugees is rising again.



Year	Refugees under UNHCR's mandate
2012	2.090
2013	3.468
2014	10.292
2015	24.831
2016	46.411
2017	38.988
2018	61.446
2019	80.454
2020	103.101
2021*	112.022

Source: UNHCR Refugee Statistics <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=VMpIx2>

*The data for the latest year (2021) is available up until the mid-year.



7.1 Share of refugees on total migration

The table below shows that the percentage of refugees on total international migrants decreased during the early 1990s, but since 1995 has started increasing, slowly, but constantly over the years, especially from 2005 to 2010 (+3.4 pp). After this, in 2015 the percentage slightly decreased (-0.2 pp), but the share reached an all-time high in 2019.

Greece	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019
Refugees as a share of international migrants (percentage)	1.4	0.5	0.8	0.9	4.3	4.1	6.9

Source: UN DESA

<https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates19.asp>

The workbook collecting all the data used for this table is available for download at the section “International migrant stock: total international migrant stock”.



7.2 Where do asylum seekers and refugees in Greece come from (2021)?

The figures show the most representative countries of origin of asylum seekers in Greece in 2021.

A greater proportion of asylum seekers comes from Syria (25%), Afghanistan (23%) and Iraq (9%).

Syrian Arab Rep.	42,793 (25.0%)	Unknown	11,061 (6.0%)	Egypt	1,917 (1.0%)
• Refugees	38,496	• Refugees	11,056	• Refugees	406
• Asylum-seekers	4,297	• Asylum-seekers	5	• Asylum-seekers	1,511
Afghanistan	39,870 (23.0%)	Palestinian	5,364 (3.0%)	Albania	1,781 (1.0%)
• Refugees	25,188	• Refugees	5,002	• Refugees	177
• Asylum-seekers	14,682	• Asylum-seekers	362	• Asylum-seekers	1,604
Iraq	15,635 (9.0%)	Pakistan	5,356 (3.0%)	Georgia	1,585 (1.0%)
• Refugees	12,657	• Refugees	1,218	• Refugees	266
• Asylum-seekers	2,978	• Asylum-seekers	4,138	• Asylum-seekers	1,319
Stateless	11,105 (6.0%)	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	5,153 (3.0%)	Cameroon	1,567 (1.0%)
• Refugees	744	• Refugees	1,733	• Refugees	820
• Asylum-seekers	104	• Asylum-seekers	3,420	• Asylum-seekers	747
• Stateless	5,552			Eritrea	1,495 (1.0%)
• Others of concern to UNHCR	4,705			• Refugees	1,284
				• Asylum-seekers	211
Yemen	921 (1.0%)	Ghana	408 (< 0.1%)		
• Refugees	877	• Refugees	84		
• Asylum-seekers	44	• Asylum-seekers	324		
Sudan	576 (< 0.1%)	India	406 (< 0.1%)		
• Refugees	531	• Refugees	39		
• Asylum-seekers	45	• Asylum-seekers	367		
Ethiopia	535 (< 0.1%)	Others	4,828 (3.0%)		
• Refugees	495				
• Asylum-seekers	40				
Nigeria	526 (< 0.1%)				
• Refugees	354				
• Asylum-seekers	172				
China	489 (< 0.1%)				
• Refugees	114				
• Asylum-seekers	375				

Source: UNHCR Population Statistics accessed through mobile app PopStats

7.3 Greece crisis briefing

Greece is dealing with a crisis that is both humanitarian and political: EU's policies imply that Greece – along with Italy – is asked to shoulder much of the responsibility for the lives of those who have reached Europe in search of safety.

Under the EU-Turkey deal, all asylum-seekers arriving on the Greek islands via Turkey are to be returned to Turkey on the flawed assumption that their rights as refugees will be respected there. In exchange, Turkey would receive €6 billion to assist the vast refugee community hosted in the country, Turkish nationals would be granted visa-free travel to Europe and, once the number of irregular arrivals dropped, a “voluntary” humanitarian scheme to transfer Syrians from Turkey to other European countries would be activated.

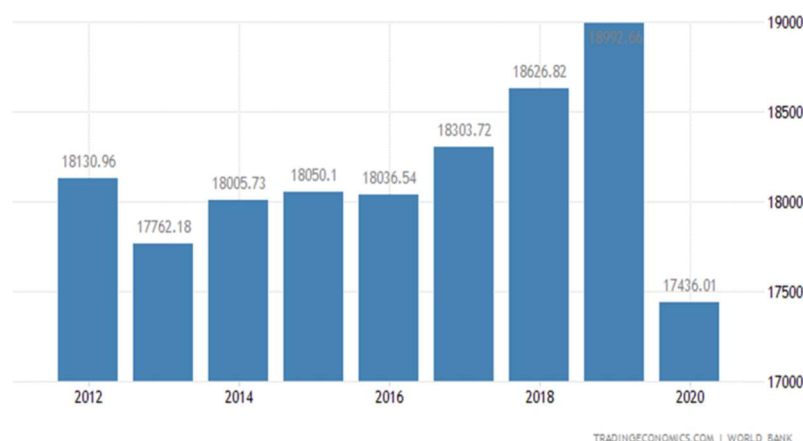
Integration is key to ensuring that they build successful lives in what is their new home, a challenging task in any country but exacerbated in Greece because of its ongoing financial difficulties.

8. Migrants integration indicators

In this last section, we analysed the data relating to employment and unemployment in Greece, with particular attention to integration of migrants in the labour market.

8.1 GDP per capita in Greece

The first topic we would like to tackle is GDP per capita.



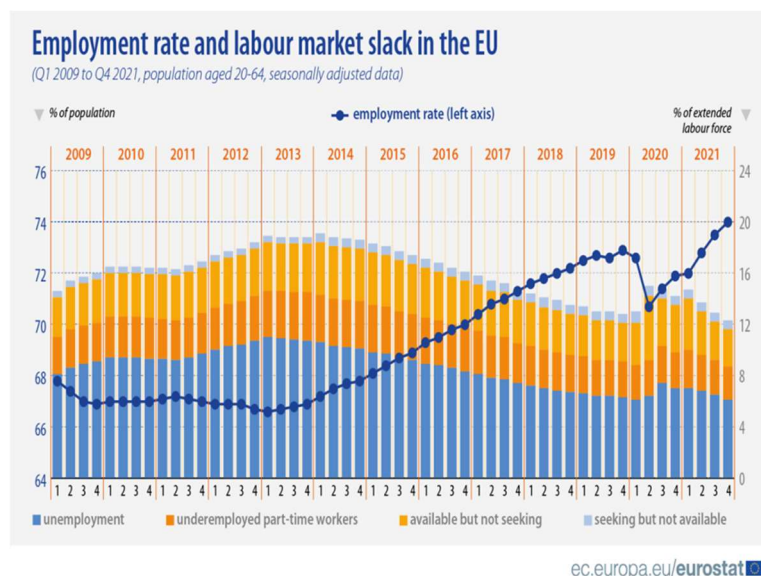
Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/greece/gdp-per-capita#:~:text=GDP%20per%20capita%20in%20Greece%20is%20expected%20to%20reach%2023200.00,according%20to%20our%20econometric%20models>

GDP per capita in Greece is expected to reach 23200.00 USD by the end of 2021, according to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts' expectations. In the long-term, the Greece GDP per capita is projected to trend around 23900.00 USD in 2022 and 24600.00 USD in 2023, according to our econometric models.

8.2 Employment and unemployment in Europe

In the EU, the employment rate of people aged 20-64 stood at 74.0% in the fourth quarter of 2021, which represents an increase of 0.5 percentage points (pp) compared with the third quarter of 2021.

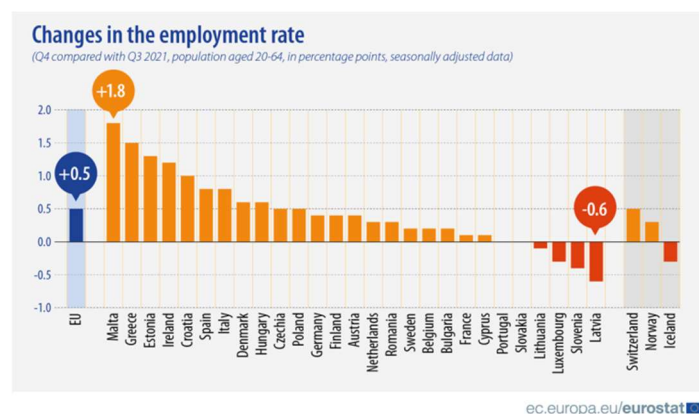
The labour market slack, which comprises all people who have an unmet need for employment and of which one of the main components is unemployment, amounted to 12.3% of the extended labour force aged 20-64 in the fourth quarter of 2021, down from 12.8% in the third quarter 2021 (-0.5 pp).



Source: Eurostat <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20220413-2>

8.3 Employment and unemployment in Greece

Changes in the employment rate between the third and the fourth quarter of 2021 varied across the EU Member States. The highest increases were recorded in Malta (+1.8 pp), Greece (+1.5 pp), Estonia (+1.3 pp), Ireland (+1.2 pp) as well as in Croatia (+1.0 pp).



Source: Eurostat <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20220413-2>

8.4 Employment in Greece

As we can observe from the table and time series below, employment in Greece has been slightly fluctuating in the last 10 years. In 2017 the percentage of employment indicated a small increase, which stopped in 2020, but started growing again in 2021, +4.3 pp compared to 2020.

Employment and activity by sex and age -

annual data

[lfsi_emp_a]

Last update: 12.04.22

Source of data: Eurostat

INDIC_EM: Total employment (resident population concept - LFS) SEX: Total AGE: From 20 to 64 years UNIT: Percentage of total population

TIME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
GEO										
Greece	54.5	52.5	53.1	54.8	55.9	57.4	59.0	60.8	58.3	62.6

Available flags:

b break in time series

e estimated

p provisional

u low reliability

c confidential

f forecast

r revised

z not applicable

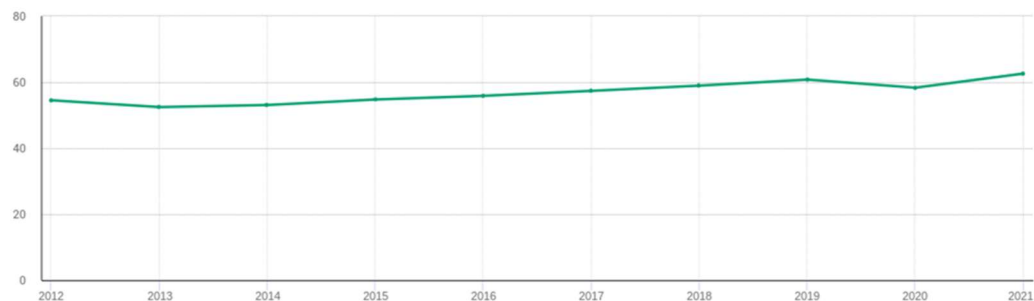
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Greece

Source: Eurostat [lfsi_emp_a]



8.5 Migrant integration: employment by age group (20-64 years) and sex

The table shows how many migrants are employed in Greece. The number of migrant women from EU countries (except reporting country) is higher compared to migrant men from EU countries.

On the other hand, if we observe how many migrant men from non-EU countries there are, we notice that the numbers of men employed is higher, compared to migrant women from non-EU countries.

TIME		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
SEX	CITIZEN										
Males	EU27 countries (from 2020) except reporting country	28,7	24,0	22,9	23,4	18,8	17,8	16,0	15,4	14,1	11,8
Males	Non-EU27 countries (from 2020) nor reporting country	182,4	140,6	124,8	131,4	117,3	118,9	106,5	103,5	119,9	94,0
Females	EU27 countries (from 2020) except reporting country	38,7	30,4	26,0	26,8	23,2	20,4	18,8	17,4	16,5	17,9
Females	Non-EU27 countries (from 2020) nor reporting country	101,7	85,8	75,5	83,7	80,4	67,6	65,8	63,1	72,9	58,3

Source: Eurostat [lfsa_pganws]

8.6 Unemployment in Greece

This paragraph deals with unemployment in Greece. The table and the time series show that in 2013 the number of unemployed was increasing compared to 2012, but from then on the number has been actually steadily decreasing over the years.

Unemployment by sex and age – annual data

Last update: 12.04.22

Source of data: Eurostat

[une_rt_a]

AGE: From 20 to 64 years UNIT: Thousand persons SEX: Total

TIME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
GEO										
Greece	1,174	1,306	1,247	1,173	1,120	1,015	910	826	772	657

Available flags:

b break in time series

e estimated

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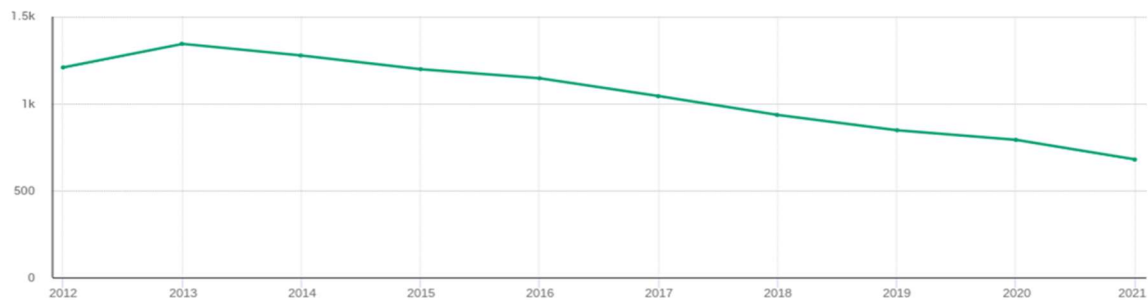
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8.7 Migrant integration: unemployment by age group (20-64 years) and sex

In this table we can see how many migrants are unemployed in Greece: the unemployment is higher for females than males from EU countries except reporting country, and this gap increased from 2011 to 2020. The trend changed in 2012 and 2013.

The trend is the same if we observe the data related to migrants from non-EU27 countries, but until 2017 the unemployment has been higher for men.

TIME		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CITIZEN (Labels)	SEX (Labels)										
EU27 countries (from 2020) except reporting country	Males	4,1	9,0	13,2	10,0	5,3	4,6	4,2	4,3	3,9	3,2
EU27 countries (from 2020) except reporting country	Females	5,5	8,5	11,3	10,7	8,6	9,8	7,7	6,8	7,2	8,2
Non-EU27 countries (from 2020) nor reporting country	Males	47,9	75,6	73,0	62,8	52,4	43,1	34,0	26,1	31,3	26,9
Non-EU27 countries (from 2020) nor reporting country	Females	31,2	44,0	52,7	43,3	39,1	35,4	32,1	34,8	37,9	34,5

Source: Eurostat [lfsa_pganws] <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/bookmark/aa724032-e629-49cb-9e4f-a5c518691c23?lang=en>

Unity of measure: thousand



CONCLUSION

Greek law defines refugees and asylum seekers arriving in their country as foreign citizens. Greece hosted more than 186,000 refugees and asylum seekers, including more than 5,000 unaccompanied minors at the end of 2019 (UNHCR The Un Refugee Agency, 2020; 1). Therefore, in Greek national law, a number of rights are given to third-country nationals or stateless persons who are entitled to refugee status despite the far-right and xenophobia that has risen in Europe and affected Greece. The most important of these rights is the right to ensure family unity. Family members of a stateless person who has attained refugee status are also treated with the same status and are granted a three-year residence permit, which can be renewed. For a significant part of the EU's land and sea borders, Greece is a safe fortress for those organizing irregular migration flows. Due to its current geographical location, Greece is one of the important entrance gates for immigrants and refugees to the EU borders. Greece is one of the EU members states that has experienced the most refugee crisis. These crises jeopardized the functioning of the Schengen Agreement signed in 1985, because some EU countries have decided to review the issue of border controls arising from free movement rights. In addition, Greece's inability to control the current migration flow and the issue of re-implementing the border controls that will develop in this case are also seriously discussed among EU countries. The extreme right and xenophobia, which are increasing day by day in EU member countries, negatively affect Greece. The main reason for this situation is that the employment of refugees has negatively affected the employment opportunities for the local people of Greece, and it is started to be advocated that refugees should be excluded within the country. In the last elections in 2019, the center-right New Democracy party's formation of the government alone shows itself as the reflection of the exclusion policy toward refugees in politics and the increase in xenophobia.