

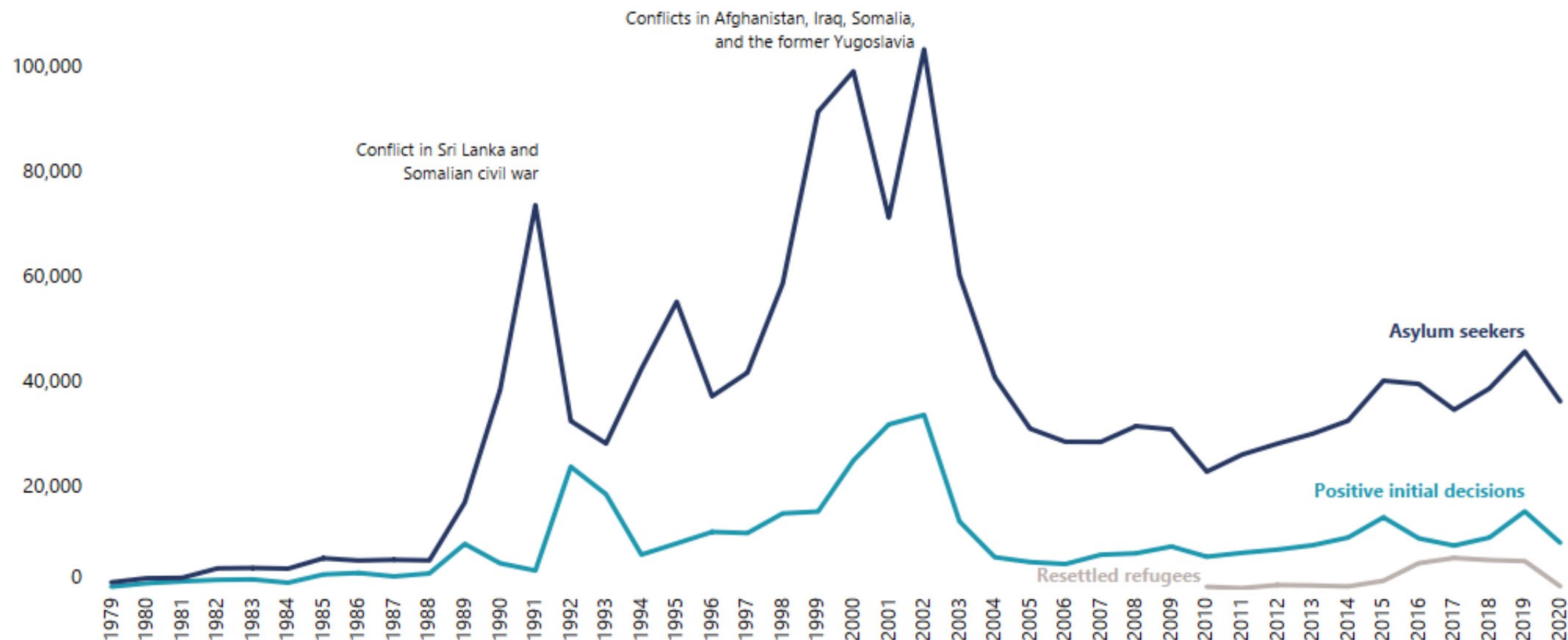
# The UK asylum system:

## A statistical overview

Peter W. Walsh, The Migration Observatory

## Number of people who claimed asylum, positive initial decisions, and refugees resettled, per year, UK, 1979 to 2020

Main applicants and dependants; positive decisions are grants of asylum or other permission to stay



Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Home Office Immigration Statistics: for asylum seekers and positive initial decisions, 1979–2000: Table as\_02 (March 2019), and for 2001–2020, Table Asy\_D02. For resettled refugees: Table Asy\_D02 (June 2020).

Note: 'Other leave' comprises grants of humanitarian protection, discretionary leave, leave under family or private life rules, UASC leave, leave outside the rules, Calais leave, and exceptional leave to remain. Grants are at initial decision; the number of people granted some form of asylum-related leave will be higher if appeals are taken into account. Resettlement data are for refugees resettled under the VPRS, VCRS, Gateway Protection Programme, and Mandate Scheme.

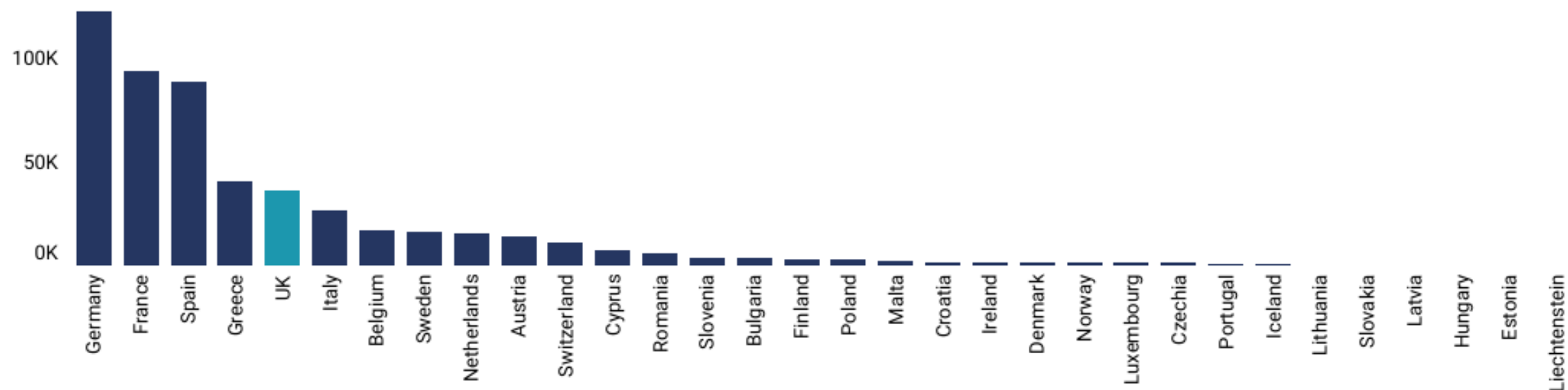


## Asylum seekers and grants of asylum: the UK and the EU

Per year, 2008 to 2020; absolute numbers and per 1,000 population; *does not include resettled refugees*

Select year:

2020



Applicants/grants

- Applicants
- Grants

Metric

- Absolute number
- Per 1,000 population

Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Eurostat, 'Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex (migr\_asyappctza)' (applications); and 'First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex (migr\_asydcfsta)' (grants). Date of data retrieval: 1 April 2021. Population estimates are from Eurostat, demo\_pjan, as at 1 January in each year. Note: Counts are for main applicants and dependants. 'Grants' includes all people receiving a *positive* grant, which includes a grant of refugee status, authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons, or any other kind of permission to stay, *at initial decision*, excluding the results of appeals. The success rate of applications in any year cannot be calculated by dividing the number of grants by the number of applications, because grants will be made with respect to applications made in previous years.

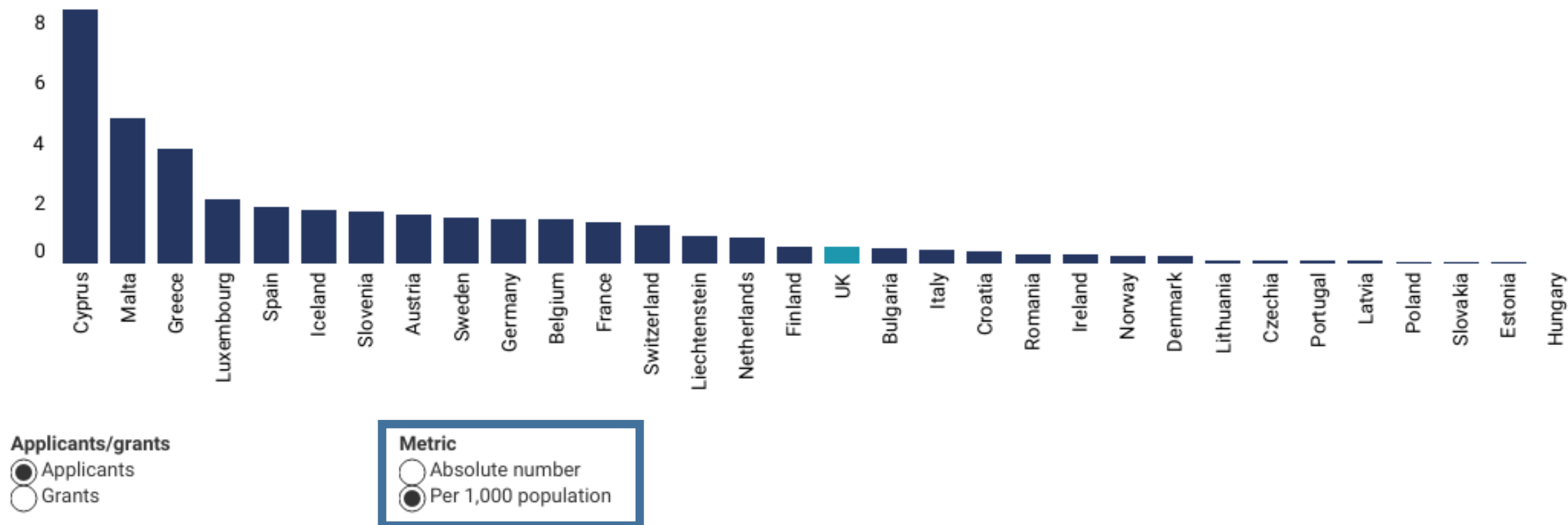


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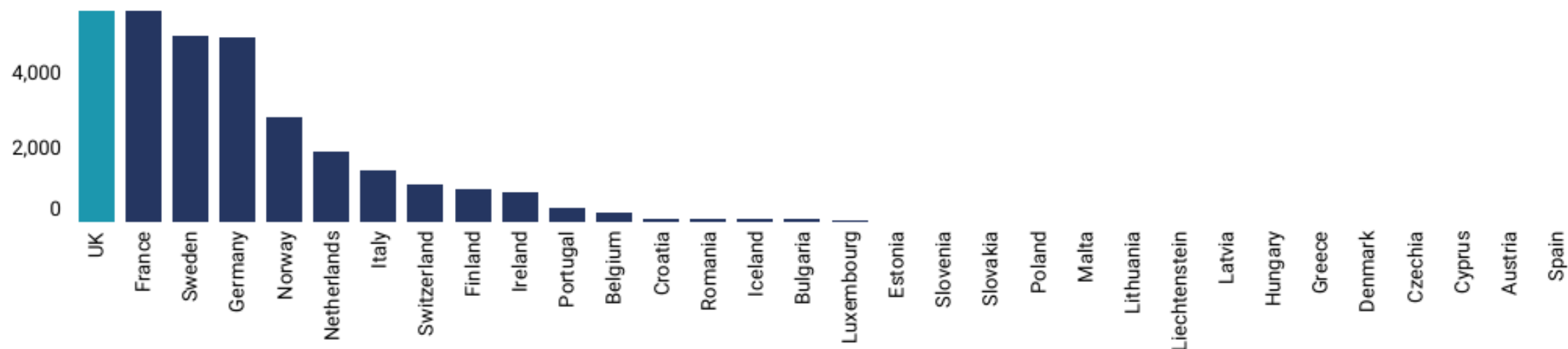


## Resettled refugees: the UK and the EU

Total refugees resettled per year, 2008 to 2020; absolute numbers and per 1,000 population

Select year:

2019



Metric

- Absolute number
- Per 1,000 population

Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Eurostat, 'Resettled persons by age, sex and citizenship (migr\_asyresa)'. Population estimates are from Eurostat, demo\_pjan. Date of data retrieval: 1 April 2021.

Note: Country population estimates are as at 1 January in each year. Data for several countries in 2020 is not yet available.

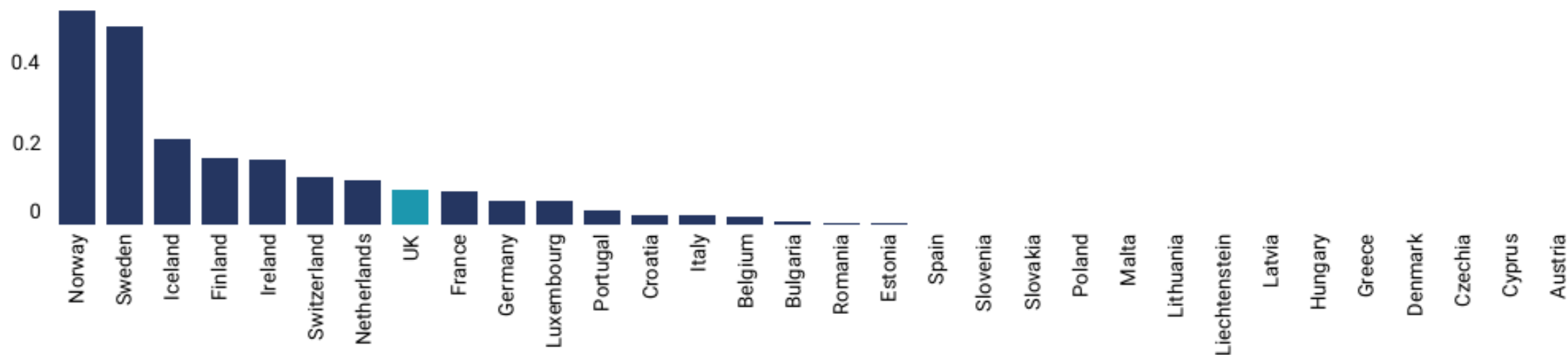


## Resettled refugees: the UK and the EU

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Select year:

2019



### Metric

- Absolute number
- Per 1,000 population

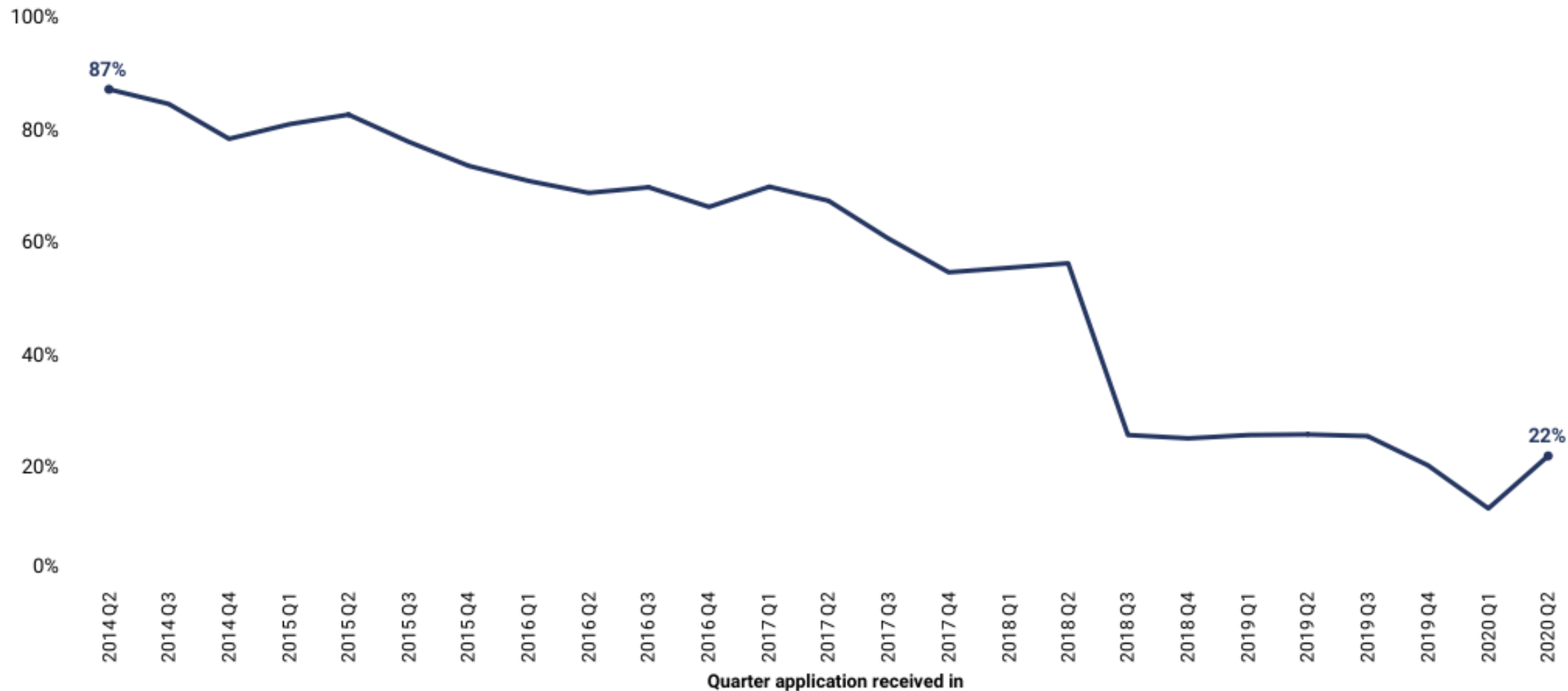
Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Eurostat, 'Resettled persons by age, sex and citizenship (migr\_asyresa)'. Population estimates are from Eurostat, demo\_pjan. Date of data retrieval: 1 April 2021.

Note: Country population estimates are as at 1 January in each year. Data for several countries in 2020 is not yet available.



## Share of asylum applications receiving an initial decision within six months, UK, Q2 2014 to Q2 2020

Adult main applicants

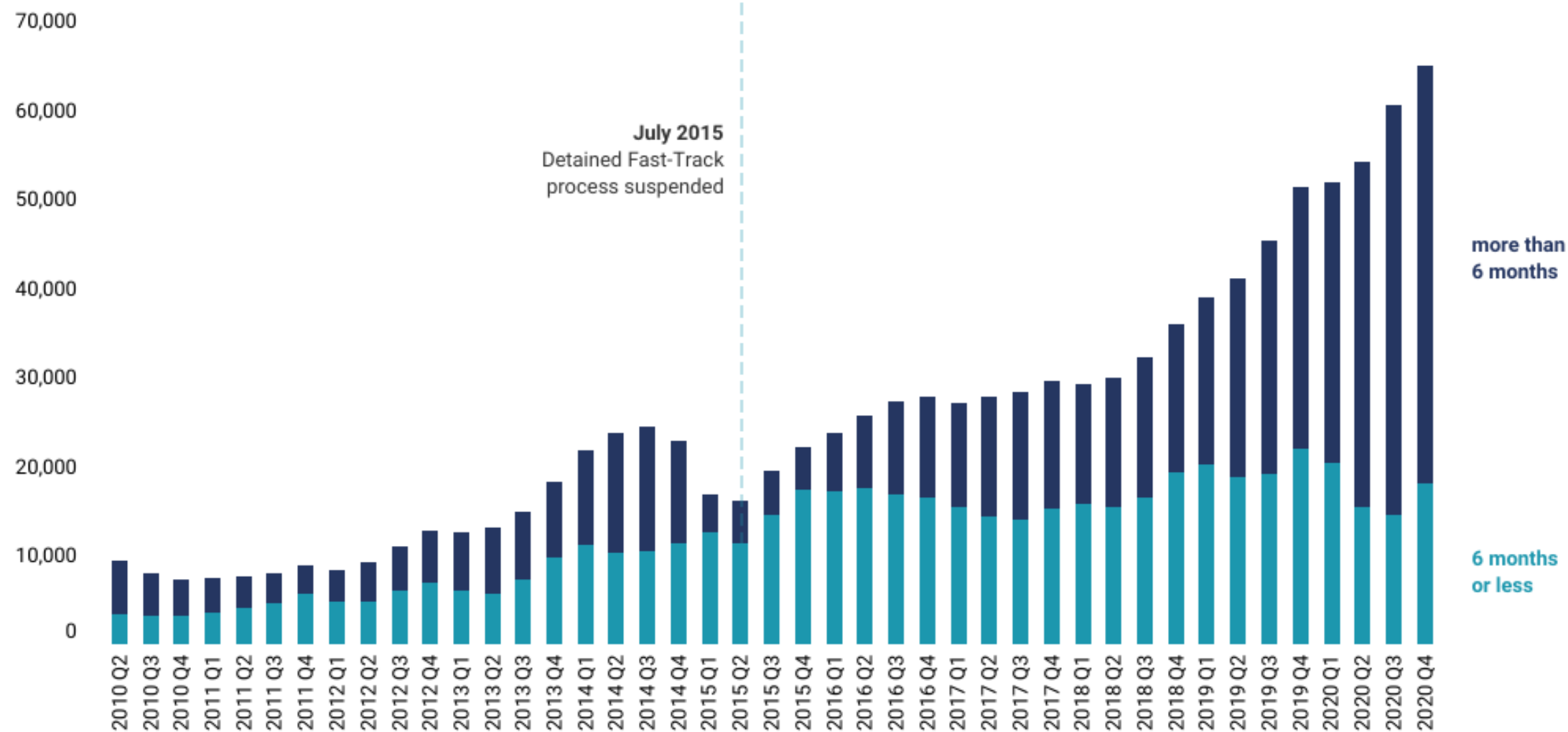


Source: Migration Observatory analysis of UK Visas and Immigration Transparency data, Immigration & Protection data: August 2020, Asy\_01.



# Number of people awaiting an initial decision on their asylum claim, Q2 2010 to Q4 2020

Main applicants and dependants; counts taken on the last day of each quarter



Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Home Office Immigration Statistics, Asylum applications awaiting a decision, Table Asy\_D03.

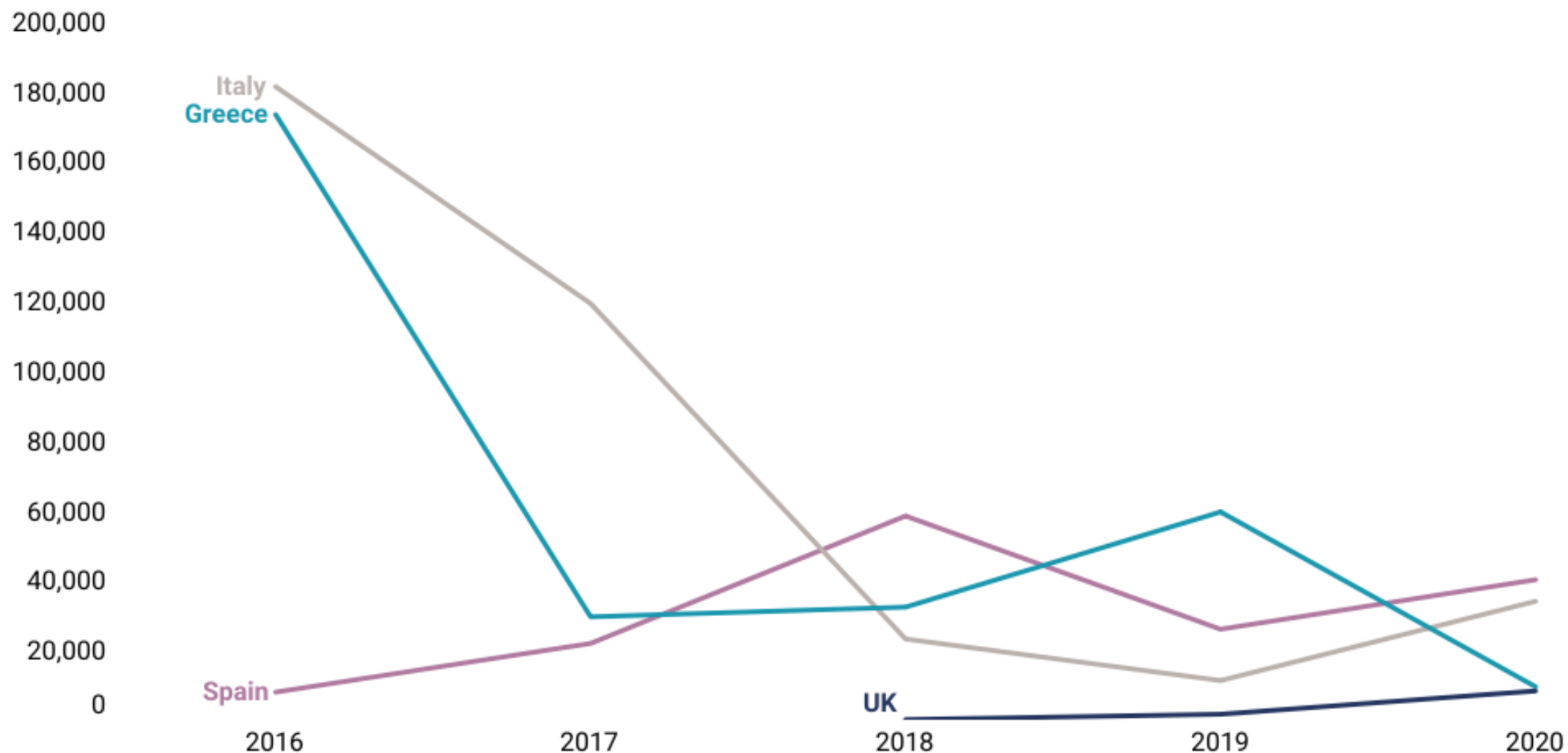
Note: Includes cases lodged since 1 April 2006. Last day in each quarter = 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December.





## Number of migrants arriving without authorisation by sea, per year

For selected destination countries, 2016 to 2020

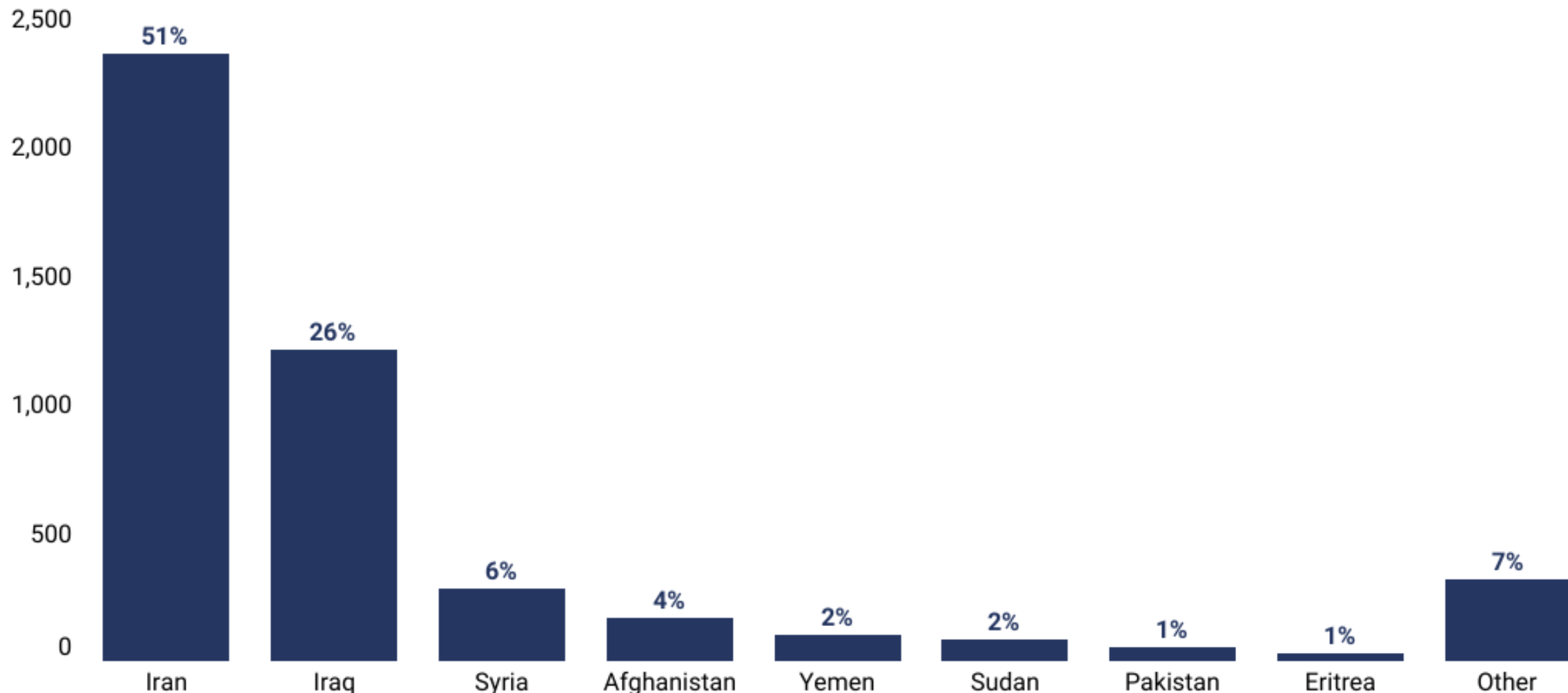


Source: For Greece, Italy, and Spain: UNHCR Operational Data Portal, Mediterranean Situation. For the UK: Letter from the Home Secretary to the Home Affairs Committee, 2 September 2020; and Home Office (2021), New Plan for Immigration.

Notes: The counts for Spain include sea arrivals to the Canary Islands.



## Number of people detected crossing the English Channel in small boats from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2020, by country of nationality



Source: Letter from the Home Secretary to the Home Affairs Committee, 2 September 2020.

Note: Information is from a live operational database and is therefore provisional and subject to change. Includes individuals detected at sea and brought to the UK and those detected in the UK, including where authorities suspect individuals arrived by small boat, even if no boat was found. Excludes individuals prevented from departing France, or who are intercepted by French authorities and returned to France.



## Final success rate of asylum applications in the UK for selected nationalities

Main applicants only, excluding dependants

Country of nationality

Final success rate of applications received in 2016–18

Afghanistan

68%

Iran

73%

Iraq

49%

Syria

88%

Yemen

90%

Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Home Office Immigration Statistics, Outcome analysis of asylum applications, Asy\_D04.

Note: Final success rate of applications is the share of applications received in 2016 to 2018 inclusive with a grant of asylum or other form of leave as at May 2020, taking into account successful appeals to the First-tier Tribunal but not higher courts, and excluding pending and withdrawn applications.



