

# Trafficking in human beings in the EU: main findings 2013-2023

2025 edition





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main findings 2013-2023** | **2025 edition**

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# 1

## Introduction and background information

### Introduction and background information

Trafficking in human beings is a serious and persistent violation of human rights, and it remains a scourge in the European Union (EU). Despite comprehensive legal frameworks and policy initiatives, thousands of individuals are exploited each year for sexual, labour, forced criminality, forced begging and other purposes.

In 2013, the reference year, the European Commission began systematically collecting data on trafficking in human beings along with national statistical institutes and authorities, and with national anti-trafficking rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms. This publication reports the findings of over 10 years of data – the reference period 2013-2023 – for all EU Member States.

The basis for this data collection is the Anti-Trafficking Directive <sup>(1)</sup>, as amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1712 <sup>(2)</sup>. It defines trafficking in human beings as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

The amended Directive requires Member States to systematically collect statistical data every year, supported by Eurostat’s data collection on trafficking in human beings. To ensure consistent and

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<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/36/oj>).

<sup>(2)</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (OJ L, 2024/1712, 24.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1712/oj>).

comparable reporting across the EU, a set of statistical indicators has been developed. The set includes indicators tracking the number of:

- **Number of victims**, broken down by key characteristics such as the registering organisation, sex and age group, citizenship, and form of exploitation (e.g. sexual exploitation);
- **Number of suspects**, broken down by sex and age, citizenship and form of exploitation;
- **Number of persons prosecuted**, broken down by sex and age, citizenship and form of exploitation;
- **Number of persons convicted**, also broken down by sex and age, citizenship and form of exploitation;

These indicators provide a comprehensive overview of the scale and nature of trafficking in human beings. They are used to underpin evaluations of policy effectiveness at both national and EU level.

For data on traffickers and suspected traffickers, sources include the police and courts. For data on victims, sources include law enforcement, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), border guards, immigration officers and labour inspectors.

# 2

## Victims of trafficking in human beings

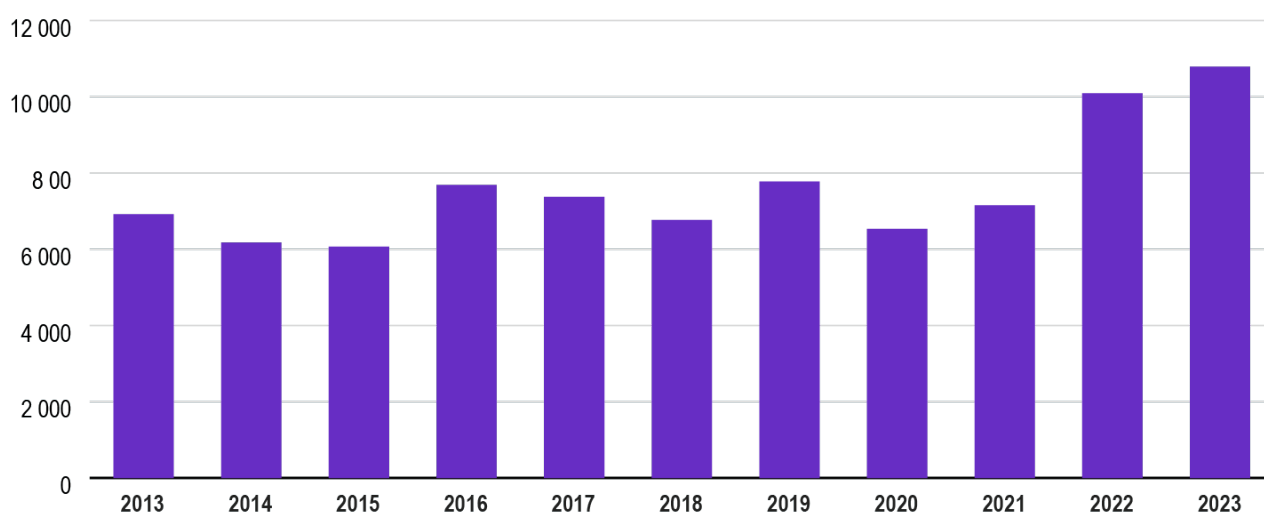
### Victims of trafficking in human beings

#### Main characteristics of registered victims

The total number of victims registered in the EU27 during the period 2013 to 2023 was 83 355.

**Figure 1**

**Victims of trafficking in human beings, EU, 2013-2023**  
(number of persons)



Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made.  
Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat 



The number of registered victims of trafficking fluctuated over this period, with the trend in recent years being markedly upwards. After a relatively stable period between 2013 and 2019, during which the annual number of victims ranged between approximately 6 000 and 7 800, there was a slight decrease in 2020 (6 534) (Figure 1) before the upward trend began.

The number of victims then increased to reach 10 093 in 2022 and 10 793 in 2023 – the highest figures recorded since 2013. This may reflect changes in identification methods, national data collection practices or actual increases in trafficking activity. The figures are based on officially registered victims and do not necessarily reflect the full extent of the phenomenon, which means that the actual number of victims might be significantly higher.

### Number of victims of trafficking in human beings across EU Member States

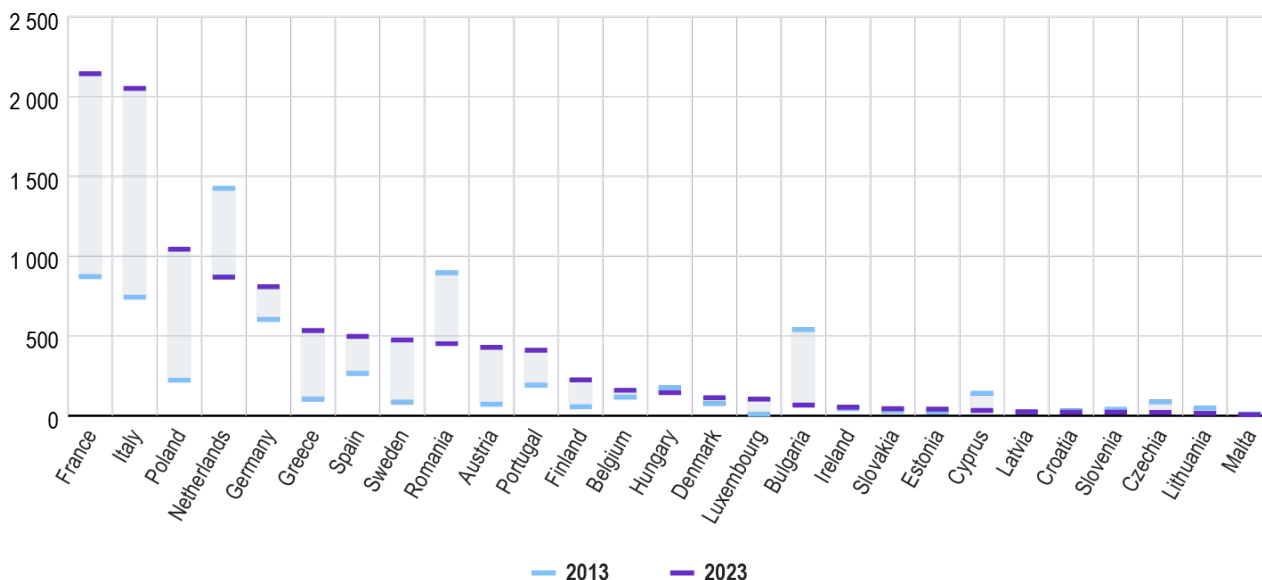
The number of registered victims of trafficking in human beings across Member States fluctuates by country over the eleven-year period between 2013 and 2023. Some Member States reported substantial increases in trafficking activity, while others experienced sharp drops (Figure 2).

France and Italy registered the highest numbers of victims in 2023, with 2 143 and 2 051 victims respectively, showing significant increases since 2013 (871 and 743). Poland recorded a marked increase in registered victims, from 222 in 2013 to 1 043 in 2023, and Greece, Spain, and Sweden also recorded considerable increases.

**Figure 2**

### Victims of trafficking in human beings by Member State, EU, 2013, 2023

(number of persons)



Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made.

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat

By contrast, several countries that had previously reported high numbers have seen a downward trend. The Netherlands reported a decrease from 1 425 in 2013 to 868 in 2023, and Romania from 896 to 451. Bulgaria, which had recorded 540 victims in 2013, reported only 66 in 2023.

These variations may reflect differences in national legislation, victim identification methods, data collection practices or actual changes in trafficking activity.

### **Victims of trafficking in human beings by sex in the EU**

In the EU, throughout the period 2013-2023, the majority of registered victims of trafficking in human beings were women but there has been a rise in the proportion of male victims (Figure 3).

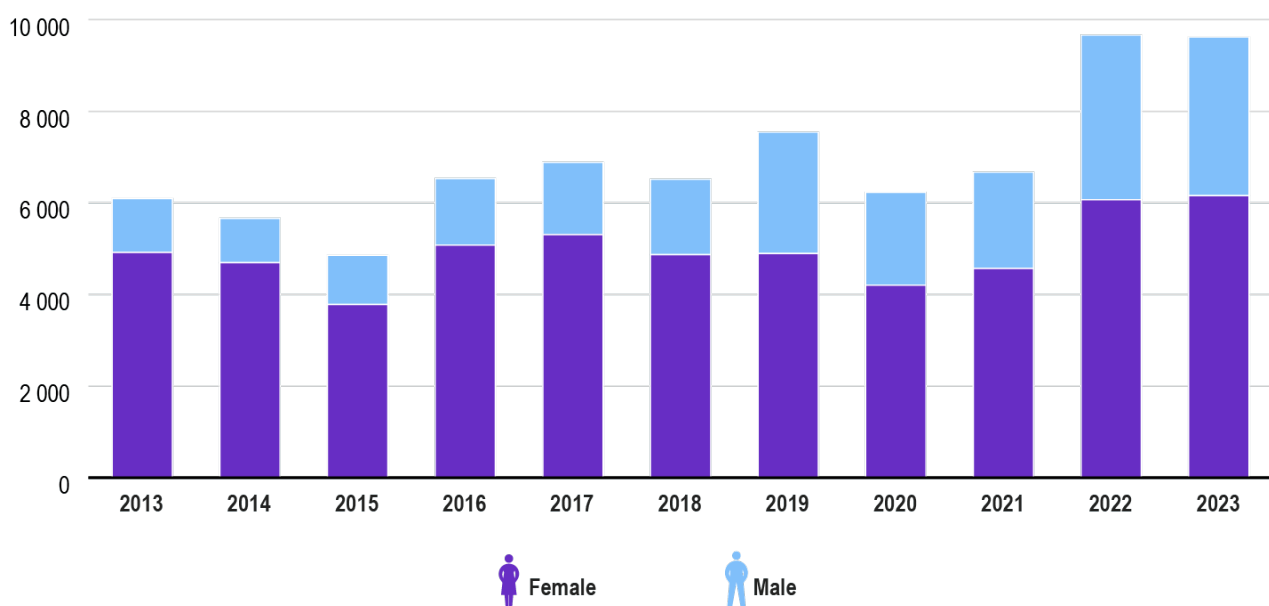
In 2013, over 80% of all victims (of known sex) were women (4 917, against 1 177 male victims). By 2023, although women were still the majority of victims (6 159), the number of male victims had risen significantly to 3 463, more than doubling since 2013.

The most pronounced increase in the number of men registered as victims was between 2018 and 2019, rising from 1 644 to 2 654. This increase continued into 2022, with 3 595 registered male victims, before slightly decreasing in 2023.

These findings suggest a growing recognition of male victims, possibly due to improved identification methods and more general awareness of the forms of exploitation that affect men and boys, particularly labour exploitation.

**Figure 3**

**Victims of trafficking in human beings by sex, EU, 2013-2023**  
(number of persons)



Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made. Only known values are used.  
Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat

### **Victims of trafficking in human beings by age in the EU**

In the EU, over the period 2013-2023, the majority of identified victims of trafficking in human beings were adults. However, child victims – under the age of 18 – also made up a significant proportion

of the total, highlighting that children remain vulnerable to trafficking (Figure 4).

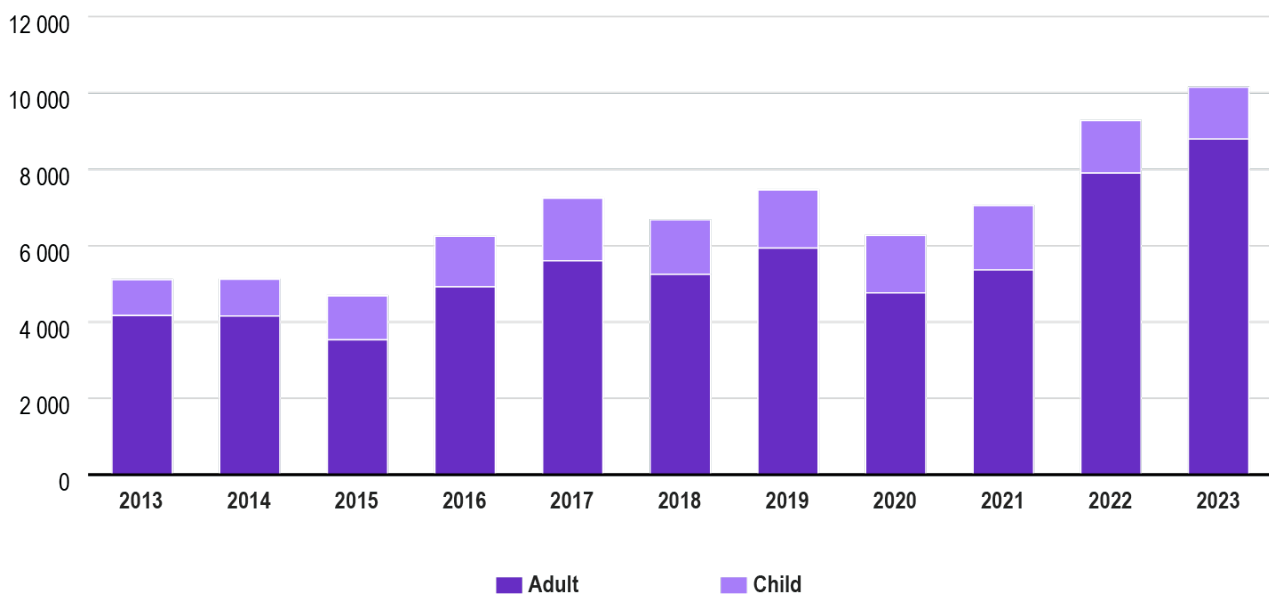
The trend in the number of registered adult victims has generally been upwards over the decade, rising sharply from 4 171 in 2013 to 8 796 in 2023. By contrast, the number of child victims increased steadily between 2013 (939) and 2017 (1 641), remained relatively stable after that, fluctuating between 1 400 to 1 600 victims a year, before dropping slightly to 1 358 in 2023.

The highest proportion of child victims was recorded in 2021, when they accounted for approximately 24% of all known victims of trafficking that year.

**Figure 4**

### Victims of trafficking in human beings by age, EU, 2013-2023

(number of persons)



Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made. Only known values are used.

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_vsage)

eurostat 

### Victims of trafficking in human beings in the EU by citizenship

Throughout the period 2013-2023, victims of trafficking in human beings registered in the EU included citizens of non-EU countries, citizens of other EU Member States and nationals of the reporting country. Over time, there have been significant shifts in these groups (Figure 5). This may reflect changing migration patterns, shifting routes of trafficking networks or better detection of non-EU nationals.

Victims from non-EU countries accounted for a growing proportion of all registered cases. The number more than tripled over the reporting period, from 1 964 in 2013 to 6 642 in 2023. This upward trend started steadily in 2015 with a particularly sharp rise after 2021. The number of non-EU victims remained high in 2023; the peak recorded for this group across the entire period.

Victims from other EU Member States showed the opposite trend. At the beginning of the reference period (2013-2014), this group was nearly equal in size to the non-EU group. Over the decade, the

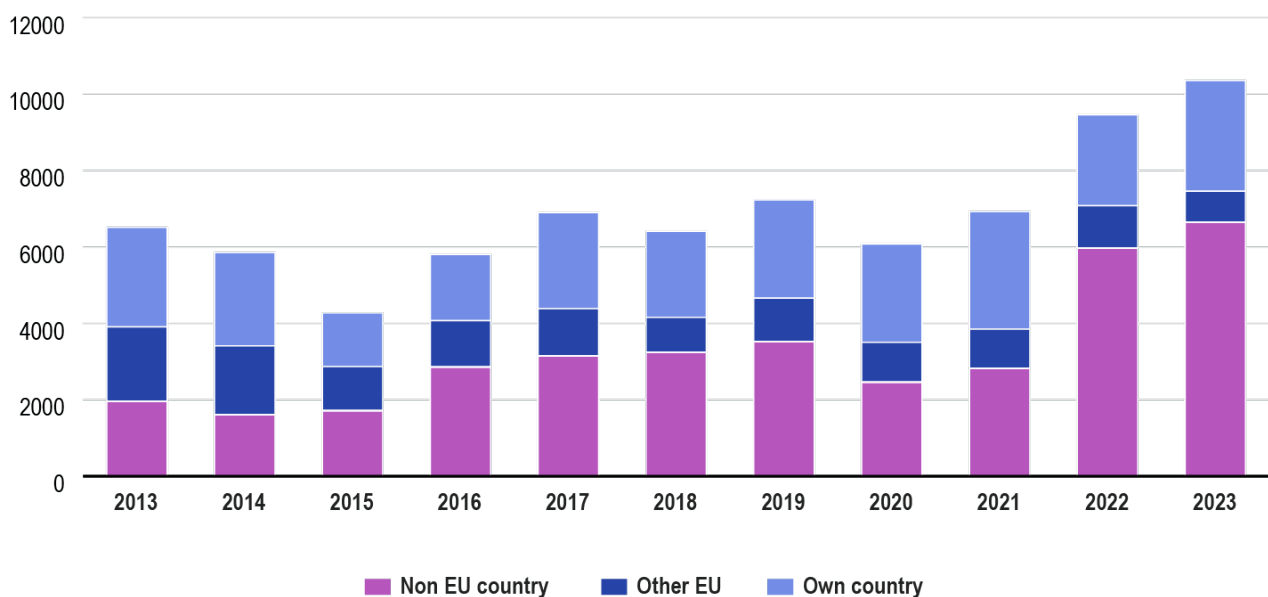
number of victims of EU citizenship fell from 1 942 in 2013 to 817 in 2023. The sharpest drop occurred between 2014 and 2018.

Victims who were nationals of the reporting country still made up a substantial share of the victims recorded each year. In 2013, 2 608 victims were own-country nationals – the largest group that year. Their numbers decreased until 2015 (1 405), before steadily increasing again to peak in 2021 at 3 077 victims. In 2023, 2 901 own-country nationals were registered. This consistent number highlights that human trafficking of EU Member State nationals in the EU is a persistent problem.

**Figure 5**

### Victims of trafficking in human beings by citizenship, EU, 2013-2023

(number of persons)



Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made. Only known values are used.  
Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_vctz)

eurostat

Between 2013 and 2023, data on the registered victims of trafficking in human beings in the EU show both geographical diversity and strong regional patterns (Figure 6).

The highest number of registered victims during this period were Romanian nationals, with a total of 12 166 victims. This is significantly more than the number of nationals from all other countries, a persistent finding seen throughout the reporting period.

Nigerian nationals were the second most frequently registered group of victims and the largest non-EU nationality, with 9 111 victims.

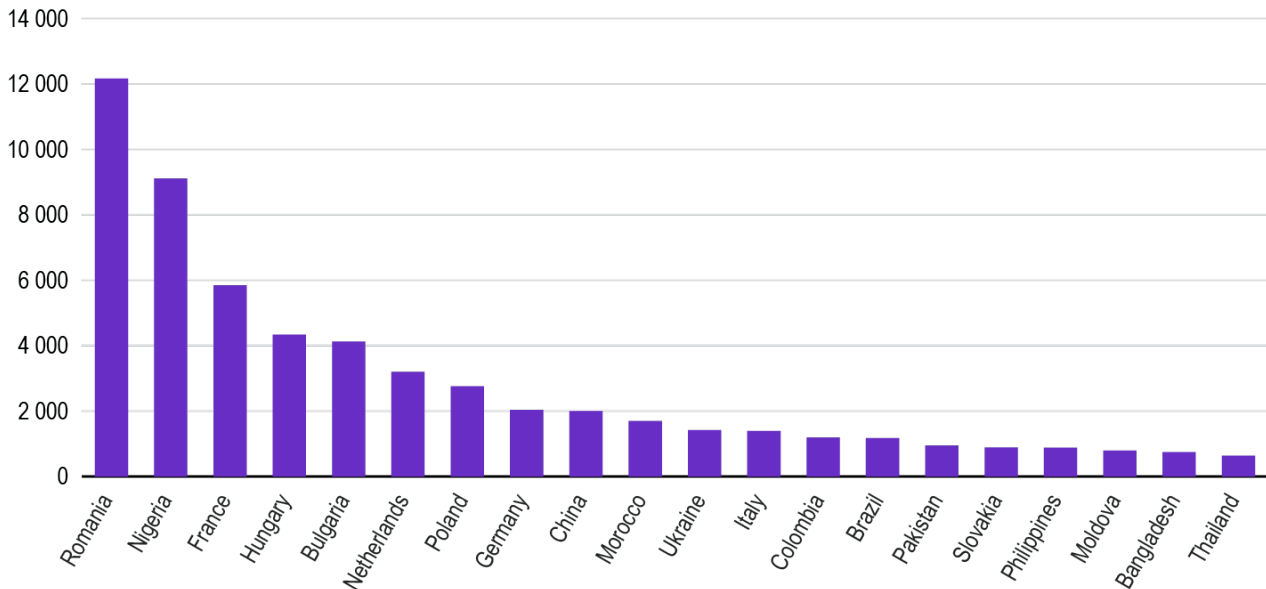
French nationals were the third most reported group, with 5 848 victims. Other reported EU nationals include citizens of Hungary (4 340), Bulgaria (4 125), Netherlands (3 200), Poland (2 759) and Germany (2 037). This shows that a significant proportion of trafficking victims are EU citizens.

Several non-EU nationals also featured prominently among the most frequently reported nationalities. Victims from China (2 008), Morocco (1 698), Ukraine (1 422), Colombia (1 199), Brazil (1 176), and Pakistan (949) accounted for a substantial proportion of victims.

Other notable countries of citizenship of the victims include Italy (1 392), Slovakia (889), Philippines (881), Moldova (792), Bangladesh (750) and Thailand (637).

**Figure 6**

**Total number of victims of trafficking in human beings by citizenship, 2013-2023**  
(number of persons)



Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made. Only known values are used.  
Source: Eurostat data collection on trafficking in human beings

eurostat 

With citizens of both EU and non-EU countries registered as victims, it is clear that trafficking affects persons from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and regions. The data also indicate that several of the most prevalent nationalities have consistently been in this category for the entire decade.

## Registered victims of trafficking in human beings and forms of exploitation

Trafficking in human beings can involve various forms of exploitation depending on the intended purpose of the crime. The most frequently reported forms include sexual exploitation and forced labour or services. There are other forms too, such as forced begging, criminal activities, benefit fraud and the removal of organs. These categories are not exhaustive; there may also be additional forms reported at national level. Data are collected for each form of exploitation where possible, and if victims are subjected to more than one form, multiple forms of exploitation may be recorded.

In the EU, sexual exploitation remained the most common recorded form of trafficking in human beings in the period 2013-2023. However, in recent years, a marked increase was seen in the proportion of victims subject to forced labour or services and other forms of exploitation (Figure 7).

In 2013, 4 231 victims were registered as trafficked for sexual exploitation, 1 063 victims for forced labour and 450 for other purposes. The number of victims of sexual exploitation has remained

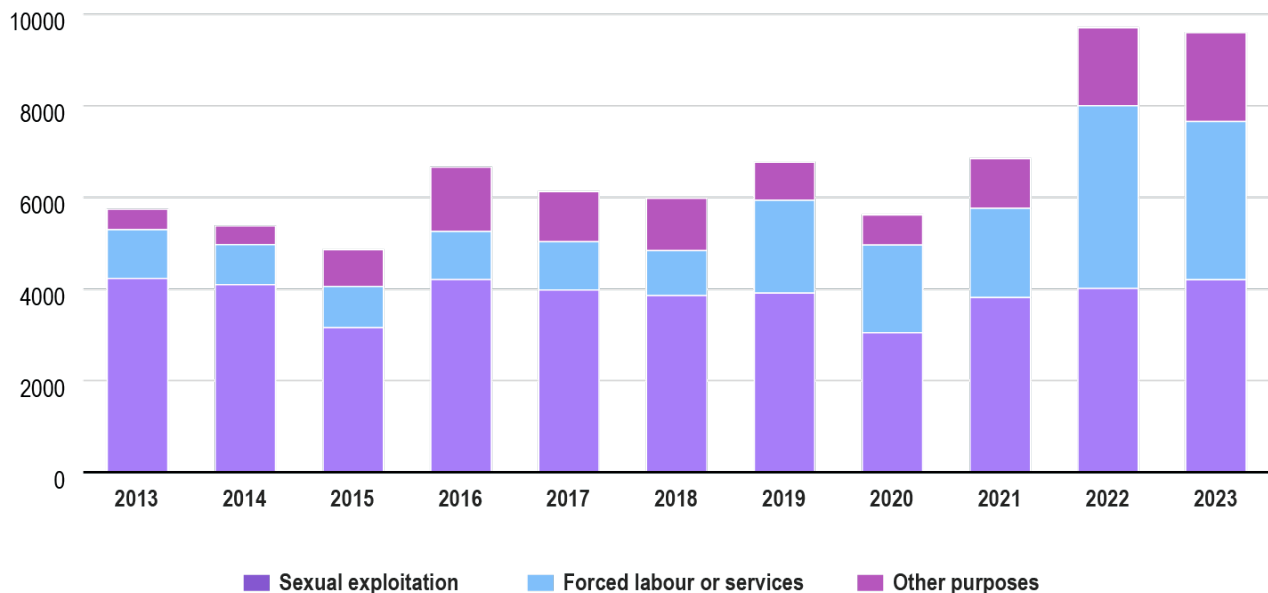
relatively stable – fluctuating around 4 000 annually – but the number of victims trafficked for forced labour and other purposes increased significantly from 2019 onwards.

By 2022, for the first time in the reporting period, the number of registered victims of forced labour (3 990) reached a similar level to the victims of sexual exploitation (4 014), and in 2023, remained comparably high at 3 457. Meanwhile, the number of victims exploited for other purposes – such as organ removal, benefit fraud, criminal activities and forced begging – more than doubled between 2013 (450) and 2023 (1 937).

These trends may reflect evolving trafficking patterns, improved detection and classification mechanisms, or changes in reporting practices.

**Figure 7**

**Forms of exploitation for registered victims of trafficking in human beings, EU, 2013 - 2023**  
(number of persons)



Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made. More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a victim. Other purposes including organ removal, benefit fraud, criminal activities and forced begging. Only known values are used.  
Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_vexp)

eurostat

When looking at the data on sexual exploitation and forced labour or services in the EU, there are clear differences between male and female victims over the reporting period 2013-2023 (Figure 8).

Women were mainly trafficked for sexual exploitation, while men were more often trafficked for forced labour or services. In 2023, 3 822 female victims of sexual exploitation were recorded, against 926 female victims of forced labour. In the same year, 2 189 male victims were registered for forced labour or services, and 263 male victims for sexual exploitation.

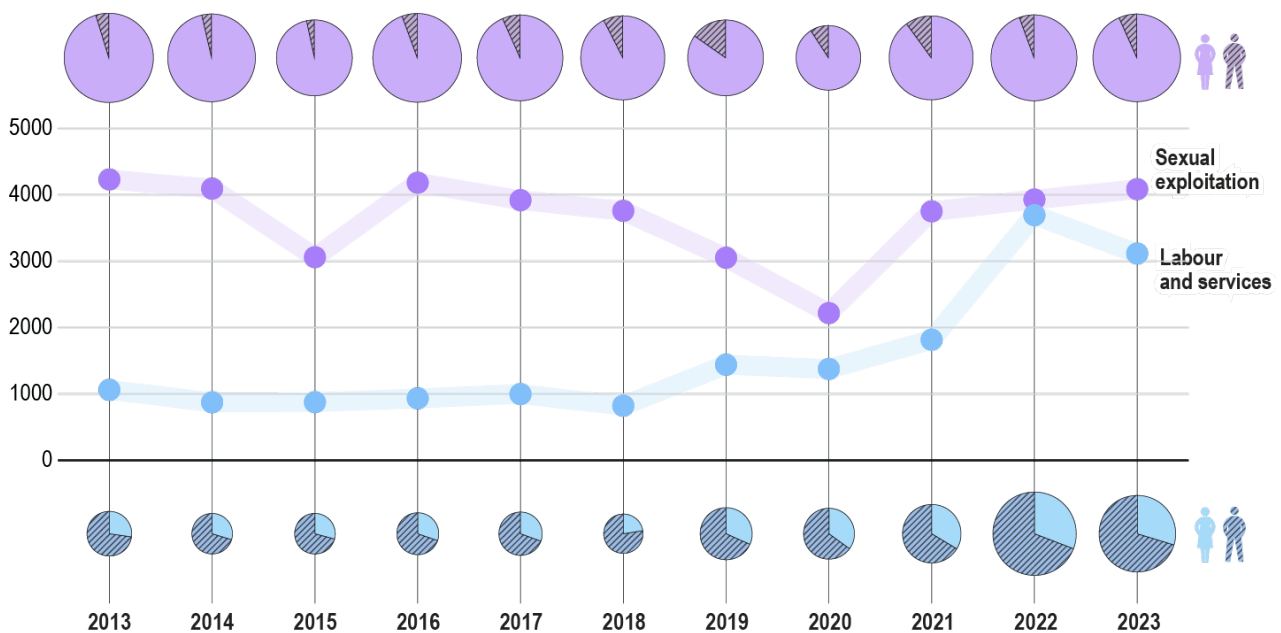
This is a consistent finding throughout the period. Every year, the biggest group of victims of trafficking was female victims of sexual exploitation. However, the number of women trafficked for forced labour has steadily increased, particularly since 2019.

The number of male victims of forced labour also grew significantly – from 771 in 2013 to 2 549 in 2022 – confirming that this form of exploitation mainly affects men.

**Figure 8**

**Victims of sexual exploitation and exploitation for labour and services by sex, EU, 2013-2023**

(number of persons)



Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made. More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a victim. Only known values are used.  
Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_expsxa)

eurostat

These figures confirm that women are the main victims of sexual exploitation, while men are the main victims of forced labour or services.

**Victims by form of exploitation and citizenship**

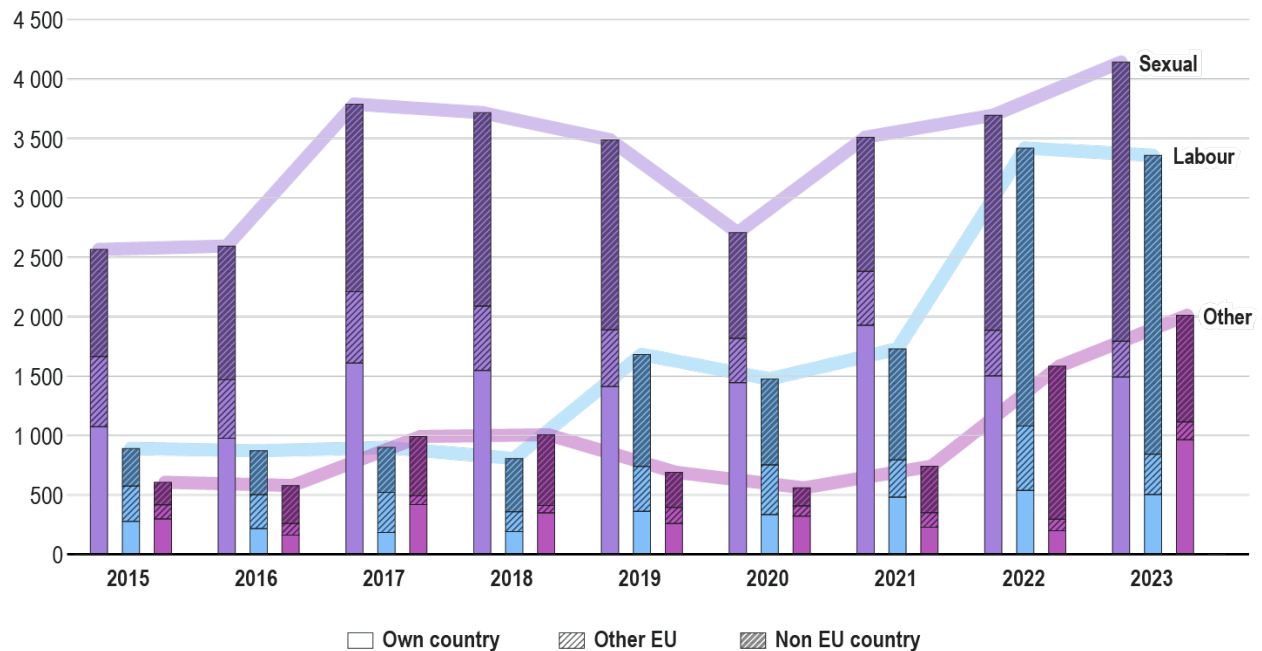
From 2015 to 2023, there were notable differences in the forms of exploitation experienced by victims of trafficking in human beings in the EU, particularly notable when broken down by citizenship (Figure 9). During this period, sexual exploitation was the most prevalent form until 2021, especially among victims from the reporting country, with the number of victims in this category consistently above 1 400 annually. However, a shift emerged from 2022 onwards, as the number of victims trafficked for forced labour began to exceed those trafficked for sexual exploitation, mainly due to a significant rise in cases involving non-EU nationals.

In 2022 and 2023, more than 2 300 non-EU victims were registered as trafficked for forced labour, and fewer than 1 900 non-EU victims were recorded as trafficked for sexual exploitation. This indicates that labour exploitation affecting migrant populations in the EU is on an upwards trend. The number of victims exploited for other purposes including benefit fraud, forced begging and criminal activities also increased, particularly among non-EU and own-country nationals.

**Figure 9**

**Victims of trafficking in human beings by citizenship and form of exploitation, EU, 2015-2023**

(number of persons)



Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made. More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a victim. Other purposes including organ removal, benefit fraud, criminal activities and forced begging.  
Source: Eurostat data collection on trafficking in human beings



# 3

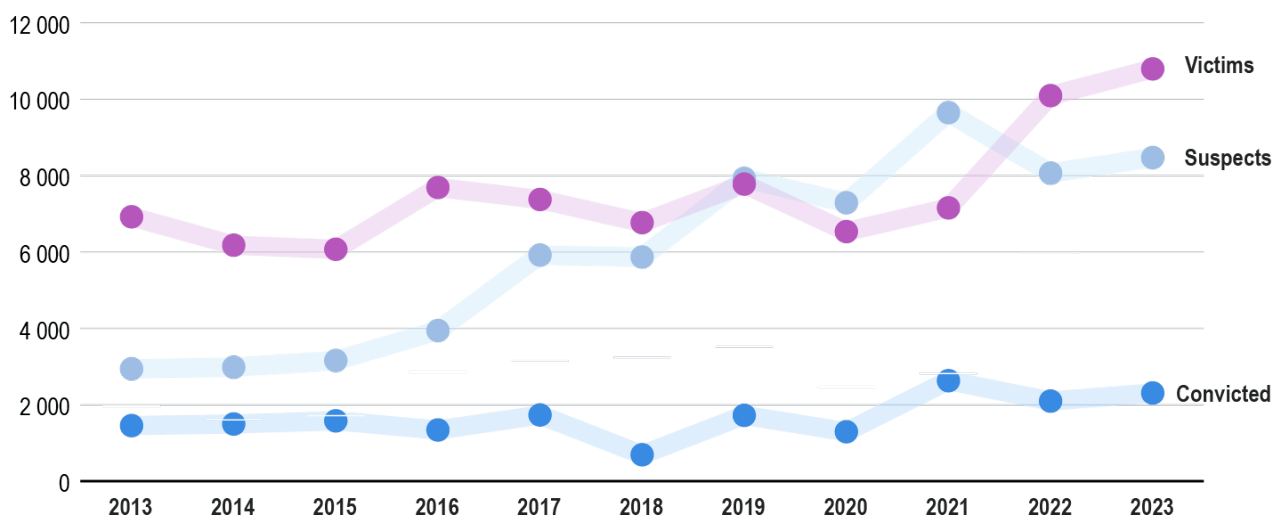
## Persons involved in trafficking human beings

### Persons involved in trafficking human beings

In the EU, the number of victims, suspects and convicted individuals recorded in the trafficking of human beings has increased markedly over the period 2013-2023 (Figure 10).

**Figure 10**

**Persons involved in trafficking in human beings by legal status, EU, 2013-2023**  
(number of persons)



Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made.  
Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat

The number of registered victims fluctuated during the period, with a general increase in recent years. Starting at 6 922 in 2013, the number dropped to 6 071 in 2015, then increased to 7 777 in

2019. After falling temporarily in 2020 (to 6 534), the number of victims rose sharply, reaching 10 093 in 2022 and 10 793 in 2023 – the highest levels in the reference period.

The trend in the number of suspects has also been generally upwards, rising from 2 942 in 2013 to a peak of 9 647 in 2021. Since then, the numbers decreased slightly but remained high, with 8 064 suspects recorded in 2022 and 8 471 in 2023. A sharp increase was observed between 2016 and 2017, followed by another rise between 2020 and 2021.

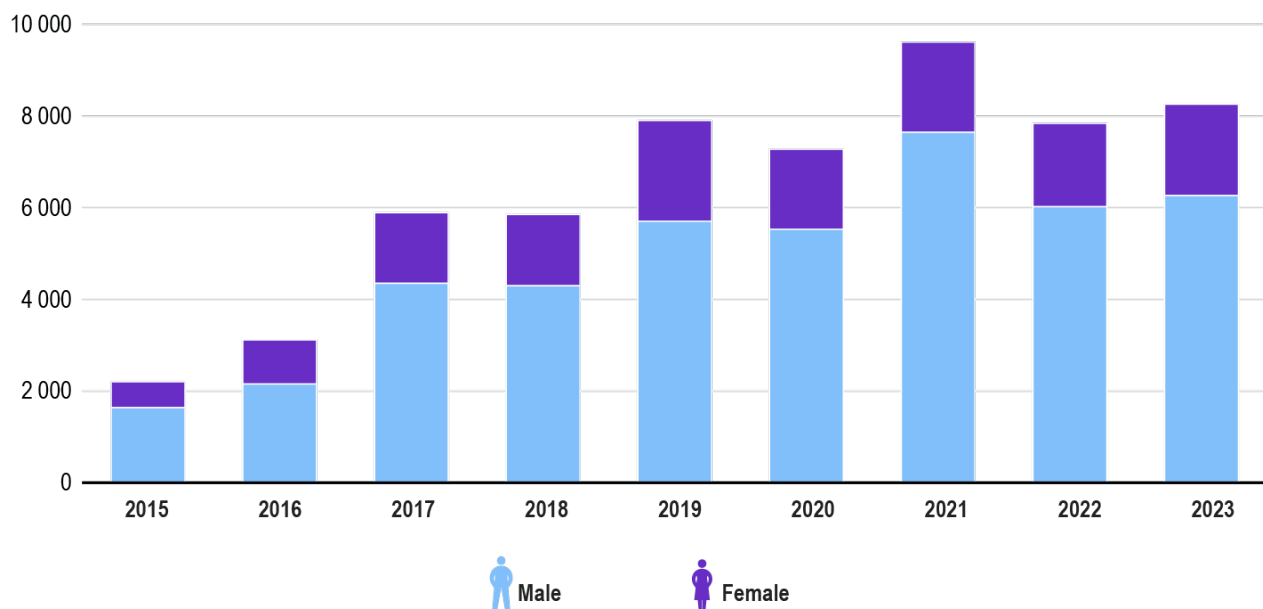
The number of persons convicted of trafficking also varied over this period. Between 2013 and 2015, the figures remained relatively stable at around 1 450 to 1 580. A significant drop occurred in 2018 (693 convictions), followed by a gradual increase. The highest number of convictions was recorded in 2021 (2 631), followed by 2 097 in 2022 and 2 309 in 2023.

Overall, the data show that, while the number of victims and suspects generally increased over the reporting period, the number of convictions did not follow a consistent upward trend and remains lower than the number of identified suspects.

### Suspects by sex

In the EU, during the period 2015-2023, the majority of individuals suspected of trafficking in human beings were male. There were a significantly higher number of male suspects than female suspects each year (Figure 11).

**Figure 11**  
**Persons suspected of the crime of trafficking in human beings by sex, EU, 2013-2023**  
(number of persons)



Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made.  
Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat

In 2015, 1 636 male suspects were recorded, against 567 female suspects. This gap widened in

the following years to peak in 2021, when 7 642 male suspects and 1 972 female suspects were registered. The figures for 2023 show a similar ratio, with 6 262 male suspects and 1 996 female suspects.

Despite year-to-year fluctuations, the number of female suspects remained within a relatively narrower range, from 567 to 2 199 over the nine-year period. By contrast, the number of male suspects rose consistently from 2015 to 2021, followed by a moderate decline.

These findings indicate a persistent sex gap in suspects of trafficking, with the majority of suspects identified by national authorities in all years over the reporting period being men.

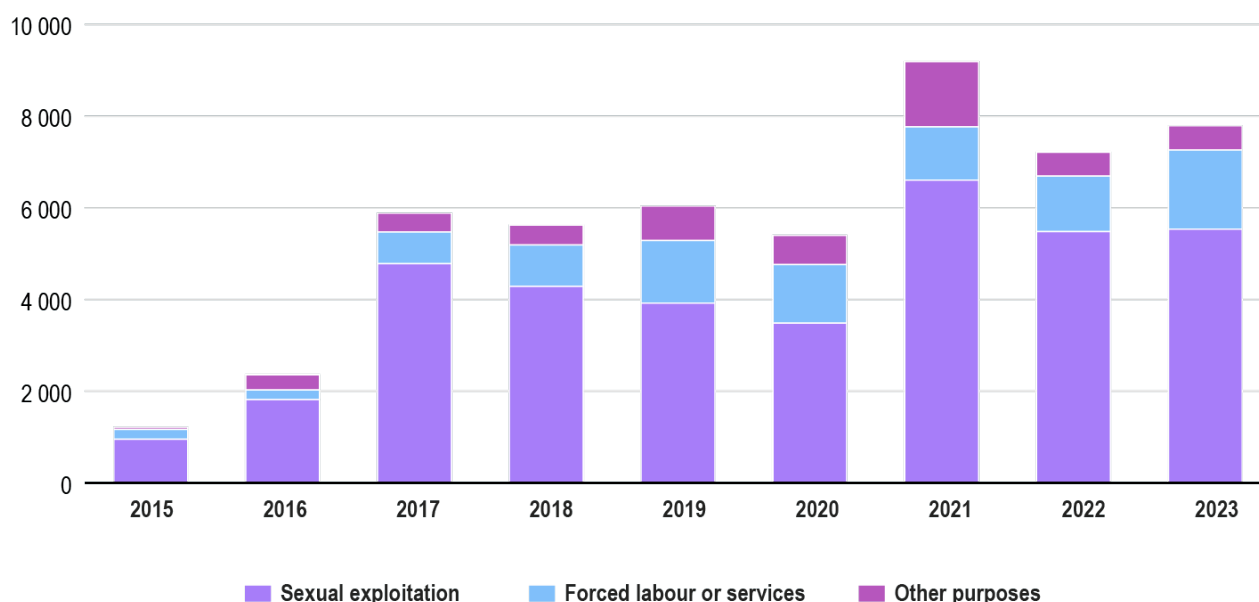
### Forms of exploitation by suspects

During the period 2015-2023, most individuals suspected of trafficking in human beings in the EU were linked to cases of sexual exploitation. However, the number of suspects connected to forced labour or services, and other forms of exploitation, also increased over time (Figure 12).

Sexual exploitation remained the most common form of exploitation throughout the period. In 2015, 949 suspects were registered for this form. The number of suspects then increased sharply, peaking at 6 604 in 2021, before slightly decreasing to 5 531 in 2023. Throughout the period, the majority of cases involving suspects involved sexual exploitation.

**Figure 12**

**Forms of exploitation for suspects of trafficking in human beings, EU, 2015-2023**  
(number of persons)



Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made. More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a suspect. Other purposes including organ removal, benefit fraud, criminal activities and forced begging.  
Source: Eurostat data collection on trafficking in human beings

Forced labour or services showed a clear upward trend. In 2015, 215 individuals were suspected

of engaging in this form of exploitation. The number rose steadily to reach 1 725 in 2023 – the highest level recorded during the period.

Other forms of exploitation, including criminal activities, forced begging, benefit fraud and organ removal, were less common but still significant. The number of individuals suspected of engaging in these forms of trafficking increased from 48 in 2015 to a peak of 1 425 in 2021, before falling back to 531 in 2023.

While sexual exploitation remains the most frequent form of trafficking associated with suspects, forced labour and other forms have become more prominent in recent years. These patterns may reflect shifts in criminal activity or improvements in law enforcement and crime detection across a broader range of types of exploitation.

# 4

## Conclusions

### Conclusions

This publication reports on the findings of the main indicators for trafficking in human beings in the EU published by Eurostat since 2013. It examines trends in the number of victims and traffickers and looks at various aspects such as their sex, age, citizenship and forms of exploitation.

The number of registered victims of trafficking in human beings has clearly increased over the years. This increase may reflect changes in victim identification methods, improvements in national data collection practices or actual increases in the level of trafficking. As the figures are based on officially registered victims, they do not necessarily reflect the full extent of the phenomenon.

The data on trafficking in human beings collected in the EU over this period show that the number of female victims was significantly higher than that of male victims, with sexual exploitation being the most common form of exploitation. However, this has begun to change in recent years, with an increasing proportion of male victims and a reduction in the proportion of sexual exploitation compared to other forms of exploitation.

Children make up a considerable proportion of victims too (13% in 2023). The total number of child victims has increased, but the proportion has remained relatively stable throughout the period.

The citizenship of victims registered in the EU consistently includes both EU and non-EU countries. This underscores the fact that trafficking affects victims from a wide range of backgrounds and regions. The data also indicate that several of the most frequently reported nationalities of victims were consistently recorded throughout the entire reference period of 2013 to 2023.

# Annex – Tables

## Annex – Tables

**Table 1**

**Victims of trafficking in human beings by Member State, EU, 2013, 2023**  
(number of persons)

	2013	2023
Belgium	116	159
Bulgaria	540	66
Czechia	87	20
Denmark	76	112
Germany	603	808
Estonia	24	41
Ireland	44	53
Greece	102	533
Spain	264	497
France	871	2 143
Croatia	31	21
Italy	743	2 051
Cyprus	140	33
Latvia	22	24
Lithuania	47	15
Luxembourg	8	104
Hungary	176	144
Malta	11	6
Netherlands	1 425	868
Austria	72	428
Poland	222	1 043
Portugal	191	410
Romania	896	451
Slovenia	40	21
Slovakia	30	44
Finland	56	224
Sweden	85	474

Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made.

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat 

**Table 2****Victims of trafficking in human beings by sex, EU, 2013-2023**

(number of persons, %)

	Female	Male	Female, %	Male, %
2013	4 917	1 177	80.7	19.3
2014	4 693	970	82.9	17.1
2015	3 781	1 076	77.8	22.2
2016	5 078	1 455	77.7	22.3
2017	5 308	1 577	77.1	22.9
2018	4 871	1 644	74.8	25.2
2019	4 895	2 654	64.8	35.2
2020	4 206	2 025	67.5	32.5
2021	4 567	2 105	68.5	31.5
2022	6 071	3 595	62.8	37.2
2023	6 159	3 463	64.0	36.0

Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made.

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat **Table 3****Victims of trafficking in human beings by age, EU, 2013-2023**

(number of persons)

	Adults	Children	Adults, %	Children, %
2013	4 171	939	81.6	18.4
2014	4 161	962	81.2	18.8
2015	3 537	1 147	75.5	24.5
2016	4 921	1 327	78.8	21.2
2017	5 604	1 641	77.3	22.7
2018	5 251	1 424	78.7	21.3
2019	5 935	1 524	79.6	20.4
2020	4 765	1 504	76.0	24.0
2021	5 366	1 686	76.1	23.9
2022	7 901	1 380	85.1	14.9
2023	8 796	1 358	86.6	13.4

Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made. Only known values are used.

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_vsage)

eurostat 



**Table 4****Victims of trafficking in human beings by citizenship, EU, 2013-2023**

(number of persons, %)

	Non EU country	Other EU	Own country	Non EU country, %	Other EU, %	Own country, %
2013	1 964	1 942	2 608	30.2	29.8	40.0
2014	1 607	1 805	2 444	27.4	30.8	41.7
2015	1 716	1 156	1 405	40.1	27.0	32.9
2016	2 856	1 214	1 735	49.2	20.9	29.9
2017	3 152	1 236	2 512	45.7	17.9	36.4
2018	3 242	916	2 252	50.6	14.3	35.1
2019	3 518	1 140	2 576	48.6	15.8	35.6
2020	2 461	1 046	2 568	40.5	17.2	42.3
2021	2 817	1 035	3 077	40.7	14.9	44.4
2022	5 965	1 117	2 378	63.1	11.8	25.1
2023	6 642	817	2 901	64.1	7.9	28.0

Note: Totals for responding countries. No adjustments were made. Only known values are used.

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_vctz)

eurostat **Table 5****Forms of exploitation for registered victims of trafficking in human beings, EU, 2013 - 20223**

(number, %)

	Sexual exploitation	Forced labour or services	Other purposes	Sexual exploitation, %	Forced labour or services, %	Other purposes, %
2013	4 231	1 063	450	73.7	18.5	7.8
2014	4 093	875	408	76.1	16.3	7.6
2015	3 157	900	799	65.0	18.5	16.5
2016	4 208	1 047	1 407	63.2	15.7	21.1
2017	3 979	1 052	1 097	64.9	17.2	17.9
2018	3 857	980	1 144	64.5	16.4	19.1
2019	3 909	2 028	830	57.8	30.0	12.3
2020	3 047	1 912	658	54.2	34.0	11.7
2021	3 811	1 950	1 083	55.7	28.5	15.8
2022	4 014	3 990	1 699	41.4	41.1	17.5
2023	4 201	3 457	1 937	43.8	36.0	20.2

Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values.

No adjustments were made. More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a victim.

Other purposes including organ removal, benefit fraud, criminal activities and forced begging. Only known values are used.

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_vexp)

eurostat 



**Table 6****Victims of sexual exploitation and exploitation for labour and services by sex, EU, 2013-2023**

(number of persons)

	Females		Males	
	Sexual exploitation	Labour and services	Sexual exploitation	Labour and services
2013	4 036	292	195	771
2014	3 953	262	140	613
2015	2 959	258	102	619
2016	3 951	285	231	650
2017	3 667	307	252	692
2018	3 482	186	276	638
2019	2 592	459	460	982
2020	2 016	484	203	894
2021	3 383	615	368	1 203
2022	3 717	1 145	212	2 549
2023	3 822	926	263	2 189

Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made.

More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a victim. Only known values are used.

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_expsxa)

eurostat **Table 7****Victims of trafficking in human beings by citizenship and form of exploitation, EU, 2015-2023**

(number)

	Own Country			Other EU country			Non-EU country		
	Sexual	Labour	Other	Sexual	Labour	Other	Sexual	Labour	Other
2015	1 073	278	298	592	297	119	900	316	189
2016	977	217	161	492	284	98	1 125	370	320
2017	1 610	184	419	599	338	73	1 579	377	499
2018	1 547	191	349	541	167	62	1 628	448	595
2019	1 411	362	258	477	378	137	1 600	942	295
2020	1 444	334	322	373	418	85	890	723	152
2021	1 928	480	228	452	314	123	1 130	934	391
2022	1 502	538	198	382	542	97	1 811	2 338	1 288
2023	1 493	503	964	301	339	150	2 348	2 515	897

Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made. More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a victim.

Other purposes including organ removal, benefit fraud, criminal activities and forced begging.

Source: Eurostat data collection on trafficking in human beings

eurostat 

**Table 8****Persons involved in trafficking in human beings by legal status, EU, 2013-2023**

(number)

	Victims	Suspects	Convicted
2013	6 922	2 942	1 455
2014	6 178	2 983	1 497
2015	6 071	3 159	1 580
2016	7 689	3 943	1 341
2017	7 374	5 919	1 734
2018	6 769	5 868	693
2019	7 777	7 924	1 724
2020	6 534	7 290	1 295
2021	7 155	9 647	2 631
2022	10 093	8 064	2 097
2023	10 793	8 471	2 309

Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat **Table 9****Persons suspected of the crime of trafficking in human beings by sex, EU, 2013-2023**

(number, %)

	Male	Female	Male, %	Female, %
2015	1 636	567	74.3	25.7
2016	2 151	964	69.1	30.9
2017	4 351	1 538	73.9	26.1
2018	4 298	1 553	73.5	26.5
2019	5 704	2 199	72.2	27.8
2020	5 530	1 744	76.0	24.0
2021	7 642	1 972	79.5	20.5
2022	6 022	1 818	76.8	23.2
2023	6 262	1 996	75.8	24.2

Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made

Source: Eurostat (crim\_thb\_sex)

eurostat 

**Table 10****Forms of exploitation for suspects of trafficking in human beings, EU, 2015-2023**

(number, %)

	Sexual exploitation	Forced labour or services	Other purposes	Sexual exploitation, %	Forced labour or services, %	Other purposes, %
<b>2015</b>	949	215	48	78.3	17.7	4.0
<b>2016</b>	1 815	208	331	77.1	8.8	14.1
<b>2017</b>	4 781	689	414	81.3	11.7	7.0
<b>2018</b>	4 287	900	434	76.3	16.0	7.7
<b>2019</b>	3 922	1 364	753	64.9	22.6	12.5
<b>2020</b>	3 482	1 280	634	64.5	23.7	11.7
<b>2021</b>	6 604	1 158	1 425	71.9	12.6	15.5
<b>2022</b>	5 482	1 207	519	76.1	16.7	7.2
<b>2023</b>	5 531	1 725	531	71.0	22.2	6.8

Note: Calculated on responding countries and on known values. No adjustments were made.

More than one form of exploitation can be recorded for a suspect.

Other purposes including organ removal, benefit fraud, criminal activities and forced begging.

Source: Eurostat data collection on trafficking in human beings

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# Trafficking in human beings in the EU: main findings 2013-2023

*This publication marks the 10th anniversary of publishing statistics based on administrative data on trafficking in human beings in the EU, covering the period from 2013 to 2023. It provides an overview and offers insights into the evolving patterns of trafficking in human beings. The data highlight the reported number of victims, described by gender, age, citizenship, and type of exploitation, as well as the number of registered suspects and convicted individuals.*

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