Recent migration flows to the EU
Detections of illegal border crossings in the EU (2020)

**Frontex**, the European border and coastguard agency, collects data on detections by national border-control authorities of illegal crossings of the EU’s external borders. External borders are those between Member States and third countries, as well as between Schengen Associated Countries (Norway, Iceland and Switzerland) and third countries.

Detections of illegal border crossings in the EU (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Detections 2020</th>
<th>Detections 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Mediterranean</td>
<td>17 228</td>
<td>25 673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Balkans</td>
<td>26 918</td>
<td>20 280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Mediterranean</td>
<td>23 029</td>
<td>50000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Mediterranean</td>
<td>55000</td>
<td>50000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Africa</td>
<td>23 029</td>
<td>50000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The map shows the different routes and the number of illegal entries into the EU in 2020 for each route. The table underneath shows the top 10 nationalities of migrants. On the right, the line chart shows the number of illegal crossings by six-monthly periods since 2014, and the pie chart the share that each route represents in the total in 2020. The five boxes below denote the monthly average number of illegal border crossings for each route since 2014. According to the figures, Western Africa was the second busiest route in 2020, with numbers increasing almost nine-fold compared to 2019. This is due to the increase in migrants of Moroccan and sub-Saharan nationality.
Missing migrants along the Mediterranean migratory routes

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) carries out the Missing Migrants project, aimed at compiling data on migrants who have died or gone missing, either at the external borders or in the migration process. It excludes, for instance, deaths in refugee camps or during return to a migrant’s homeland, or as a result of labour exploitation. Various sources of data are used such as relevant national authorities, IOM field missions, direct reporting by IOM and other organisations receiving survivors, and media reports. IOM and UNHCR make sure that data are consistent.

The map shows the number of deaths on the Mediterranean routes for the 2015-2020 period.

The bar chart below on the left compares the number of deaths for the last seven years. The line chart shows the evolution of the phenomenon by six-monthly periods.

The three boxes on the right represent the monthly average number of migrant deaths on the three Mediterranean routes in the last seven years, as well as an estimated gender breakdown.

It can be seen, for instance, that in 2015, despite the increase in migrant flows in the Eastern Mediterranean (see previous page), the Central Mediterranean remained the more deadly route, with nearly two deaths for every 100 travellers.

Notes: Data on fatalities are challenging to collect because reporting on deaths is poor, countless bodies are never found and the involvement of criminal actors means there may be fear among survivors to report deaths, and some deaths may be actively covered up. For instance, in 2015, over 50% of deaths recorded by the Missing Migrants Project refer to migrants who are presumed dead and whose bodies have not been found (mainly at sea). The sex of the deceased is unrecorded in over 80% of cases.

This Infographic updates and complements previous editions, the most recent of which was issued in April 2020 (PE 649.329).

Data source: Frontex and International Organization for Migration (IOM) Extraction date: data were extracted in May 2021.

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