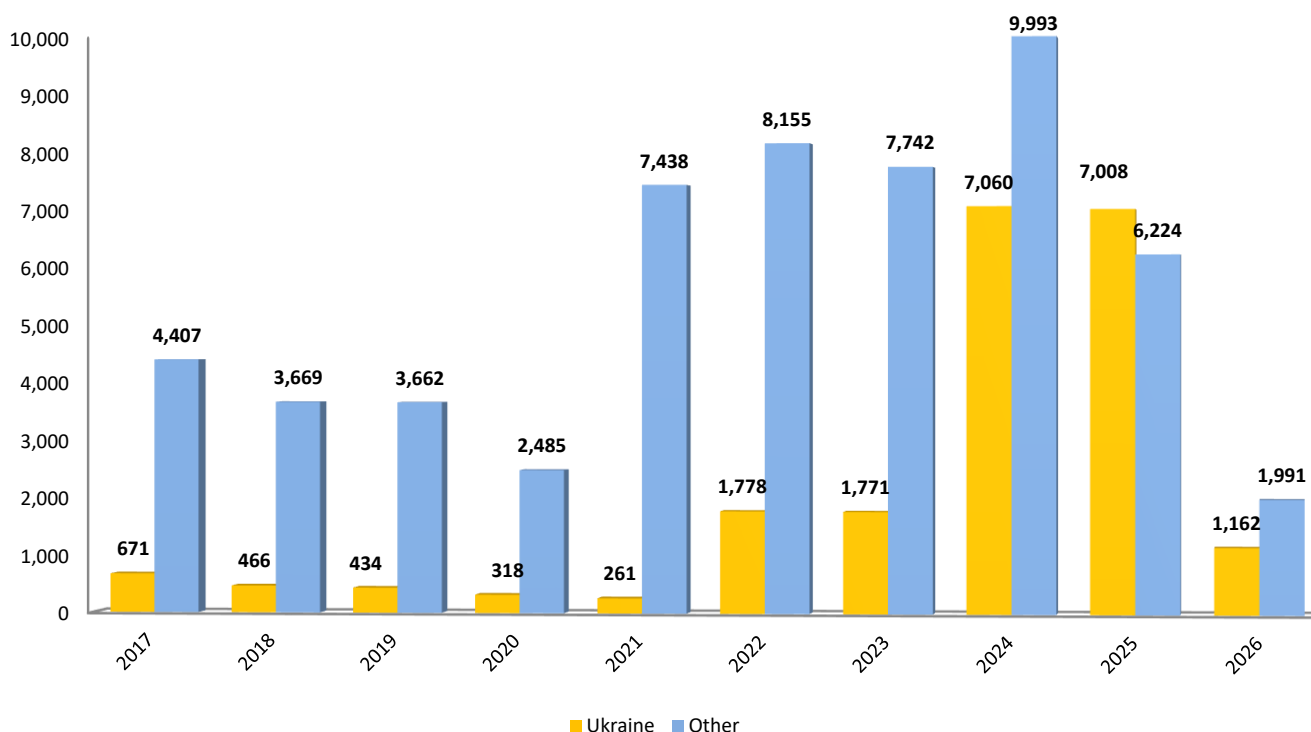


REPORT ON THE CITIZENS OF UKRAINE

(as of 1 July 2026)

International protection

1. Applicants



Applicants for international protection

Between 1 January and 1 July 2026, Ukrainian nationals submitted **1,162 applications** for international protection, accounting for nearly **37%** of all cases registered in Poland (3,153 applications). Despite this nationality group consistently representing one of the largest groups of applicants in Poland, the recognition rate for applications decided on the merits remained low, at **5%**.

This low recognition rate is a direct result of the predominance of negative decisions and discontinued proceedings. During the analyzed period, cases involving **2,300 people** were either rejected or discontinued. As of 1 July 2026, applications concerning approximately **2,500 Ukrainian nationals** remain pending before the Head of the Office for Foreigners.

Table 1: Applicants for international protection 2017-2026

Year	Ukraine	Other	Total
2017	671	4 407	5 078
2018	466	3 669	4 135
2019	434	3 662	4 096
2020	318	2 485	2 803
2021	261	7 438	7 699
2022	1 778	8 155	9 933
2023	1 771	7 742	9 513
2024	7 060	9 993	17 053
2025	7 008	6 224	13 232
2026	1 162	1 991	3 153
Total	20 929	55 766	76 695

Reception assistance

A total of **2,300 Ukrainian** nationals are covered by reception assistance provided by the Head of the Office for Foreigners. In contrast to the broader population of temporary protection beneficiaries in Poland, this specific group is characterized by a majority of males (**55%**) over females (**45%**).

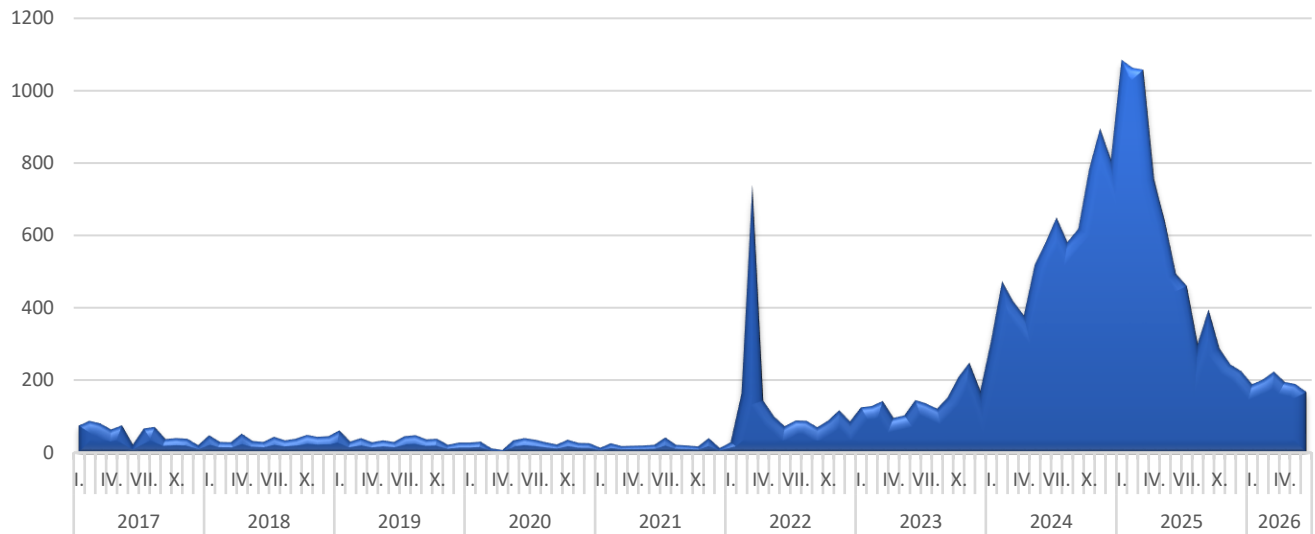
Forms of support:

- Accommodation centres: 1.3 thousand persons (provided with full accommodation, board and medical care).
- Independent stay outside reception centres: 1 thousand persons (receiving a monthly financial allowance to cover their accommodation and living costs).

Demographic profile:

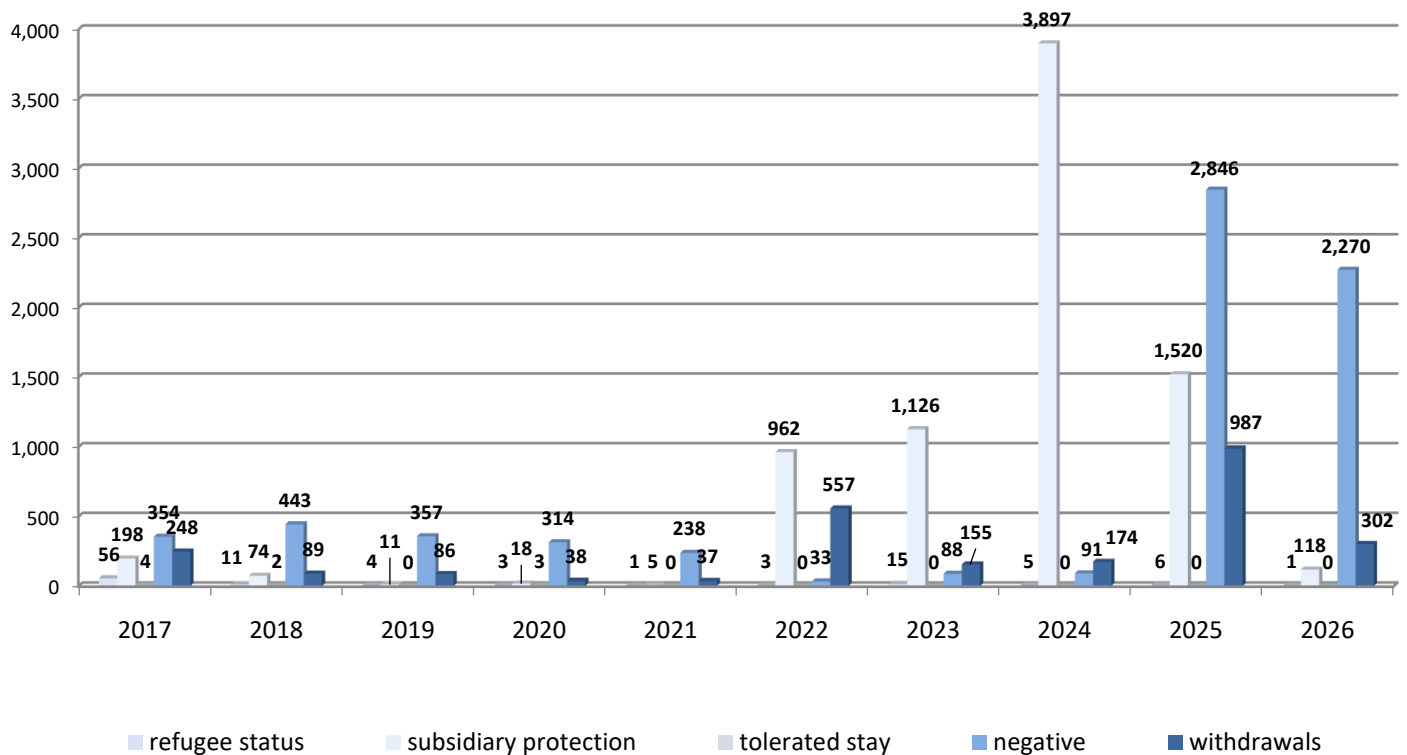
- Children and youth: 0.7 thousand individuals (representing 29% of the total group).
- Adults: 1.6 thousand individuals (accounting for 71% of the total group).

Ukrainian applicants for international protection 2017-2026



2. Decisions

International protection - Head of the Office for Foreigners decisions 2017-2026
(as of 1 July 2026)



Dominance of negative decisions:

The first half of 2026 saw the continuation of the trend observed in the previous year. Negative decisions remained the predominant type of substantive decision, with as many as **2,270** issued by 1 July, accounting for nearly **95%** of all decisions. This represents a marked increase in the share of negative decisions compared with the 2022–2024 period.

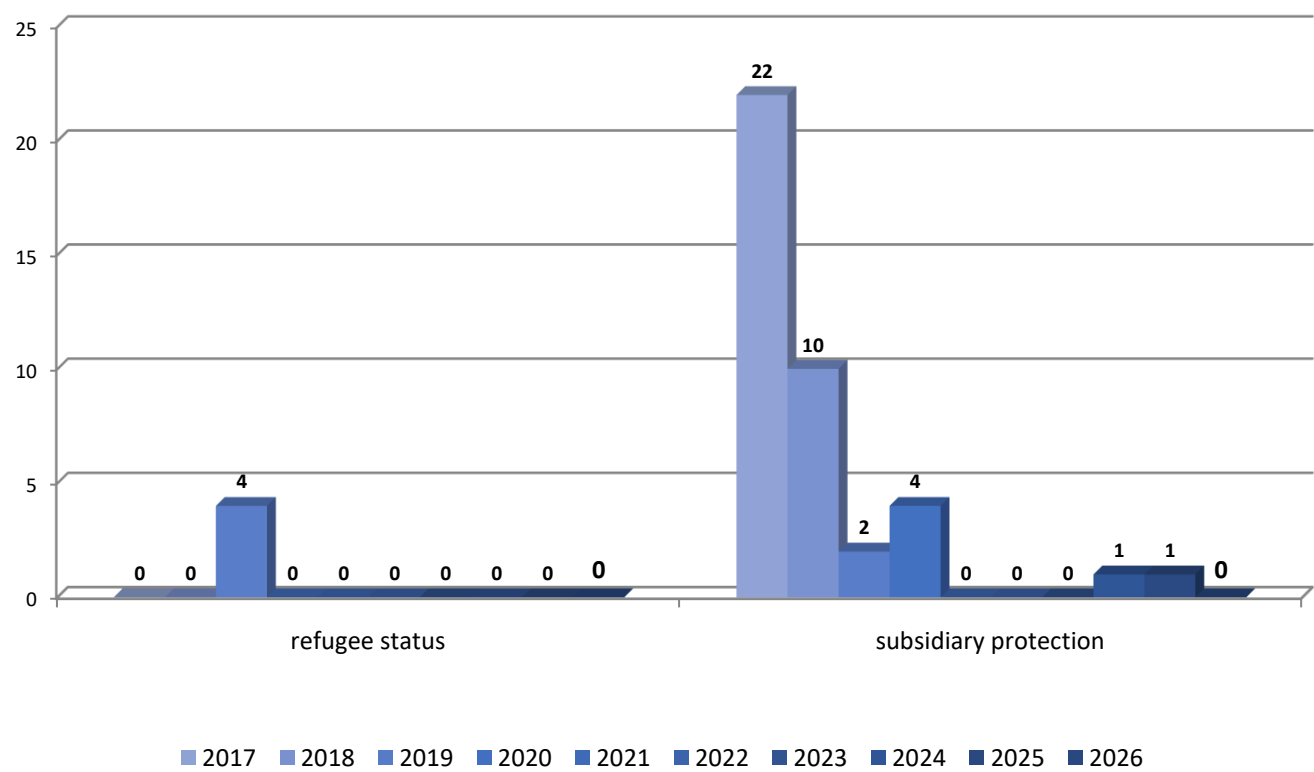
Subsidiary protection:

Following the record-high level of 2024, when 3,897 positive decisions were issued, the number of positive decisions has continued to decline markedly. In the first half of 2026, this form of protection was granted to just 118 persons.

Refugee status: It remains a form of protection that is only rarely granted to Ukrainian nationals. During the analysed period of 2026, it was granted to only one person, confirming the steady, minimal trend from previous years (six persons in 2025 and five persons in 2024).

Discontinuations of proceedings: After a record-breaking year in 2025 (987 discontinuations), 302 proceedings were closed in this manner in the first half of 2026. The persistence of this trend indicates the continuation of secondary movement patterns (applicants leaving the territory of Poland) or withdrawal from the procedure before a substantive decision is issued.

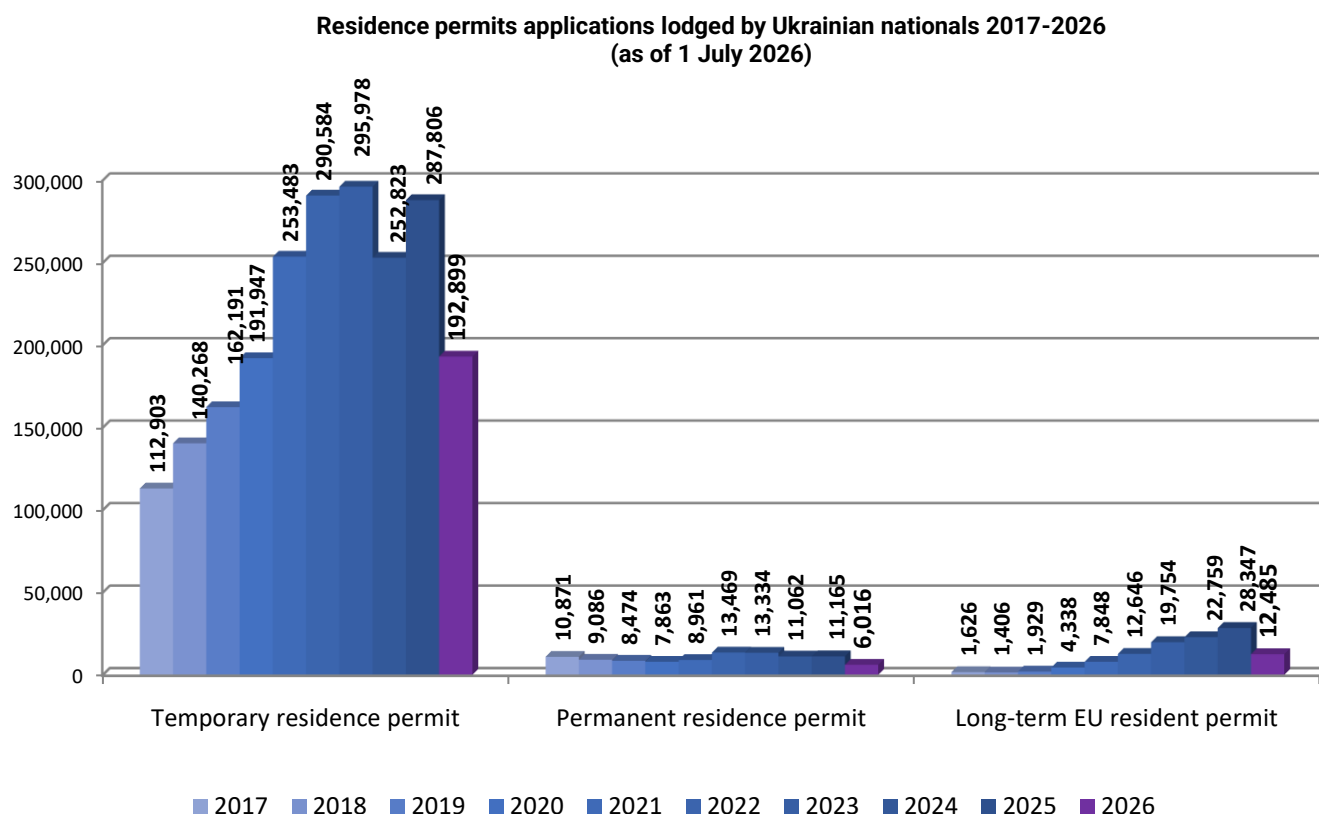
**International protection - Refugee Board - positive decisions 2017-2026
(as of 1 July 2026)**



Legalisation of stay

Data for the first half of 2026 indicate the continued high dynamics in the area of legalising the stay of Ukrainian nationals. This confirms the systematic transition of this group from the temporary protection scheme to temporary residence permits.

1. Applications and decisions



Applications for residence permits

Temporary residence:

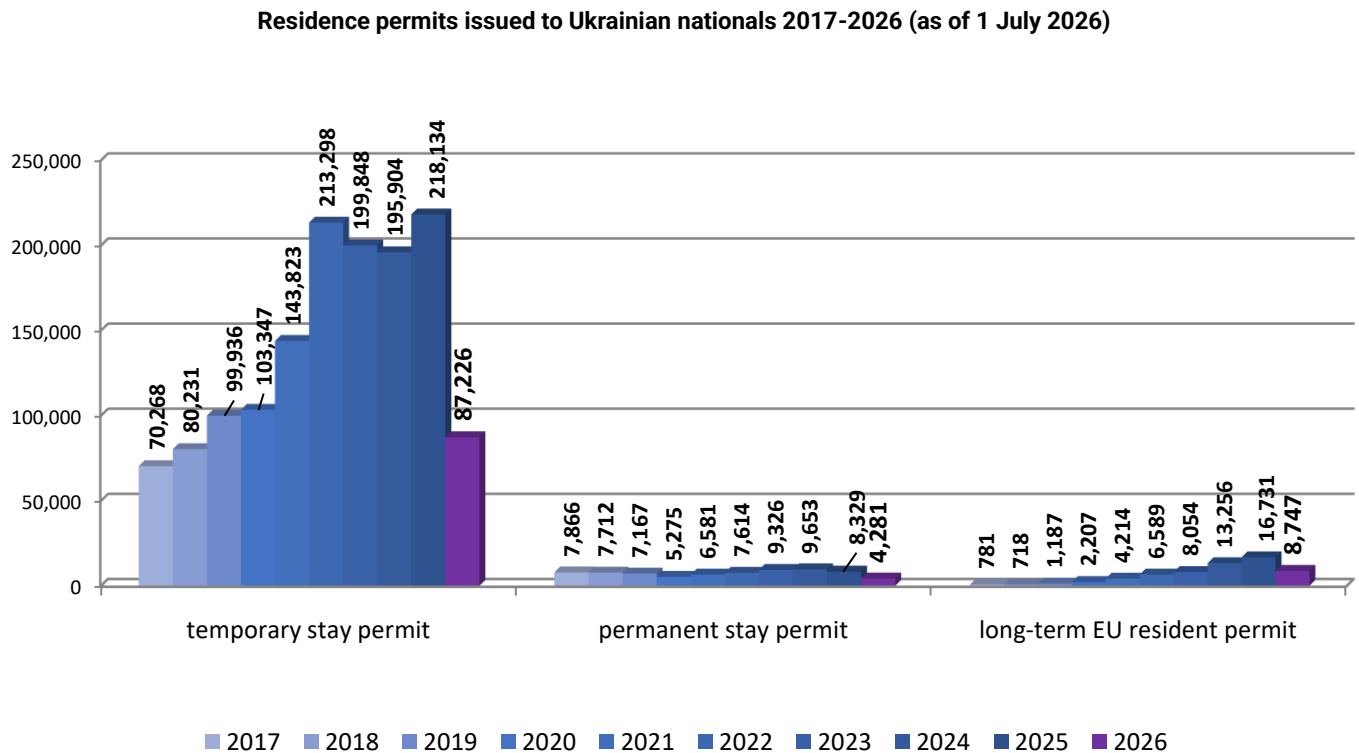
Since the beginning of the year, as many as **193,000 applications** have already been lodged (primarily for the purposes of employment or family reunification). At the current pace of inflows, 2026 has the potential to become a record year in terms of the number of temporary residence proceedings initiated since the beginning of statistical reporting.

EU long-term residence:

An inflow of **12,500 applications** was recorded. This figure, recorded after only six months, significantly exceeds the annual totals observed in the pre-war years (2017–2021). It clearly indicates the advanced level of economic integration of this group and its intention to establish a long-term presence in Poland.

Permanent residence:

In the analysed period, **6,000 applications** were registered. This volume remains stable in relation to the average of the last five years, acting as a supplement to the dominant stream of labour migration (temporary residence).



Positive decisions

Analysis of the issued decisions confirms that 2026 is a period of intensive processing of both current caseloads and applications accumulated in preceding years.

Temporary residence (mass-scale):

It remains the dominant channel for the legalisation of stay. By 1 July of the current year, 87,000 positive decisions had been issued. Although this figure represents nearly 40% of the full-year total from the record-breaking year 2025 (218,000 decisions), the sustained high volume of outcomes reflects the continuous maximum workload of the departments for citizens and foreigners' affairs.

EU long-term residence (settlement trend):

This constitutes the most pronounced indicator of long-term integration. The issuance of nearly 9,000 positive decisions within just six months allows for a projection that the annual total will double breaking the previous historical record from 2025 (17,000 decisions). These data unequivocally confirm the evolution of the migration profile of Ukrainian nationals in Poland—from refugees and short-term migrants into permanent residents aiming to secure their long-term resident status.

Permanent residence:

In the analysed period, 4,300 positive decisions were issued. This channel maintains a stable position within the structure of legal residence pathways, serving as a complementary mechanism to the dynamically growing popularity of EU long-term resident status.

Table 2: Number of applicants for temporary residence permit by purpose of stay:

Purpose		Labour	Family	Education	Other	Total
2017	Ukraine	86 511	7 577	7 605	11 210	112 903
	Other	36 182	6 993	7 093	6 984	57 252
	Total	122 693	14 570	14 698	18 194	170 155
2018	Ukraine	107 297	12 061	6 178	14 732	140 268
	Other	41 533	7 984	8 146	6 711	64 374
	Total	148 830	20 045	14 324	21 443	204 642
2019	Ukraine	120 389	15 169	6 821	19 812	162 191
	Other	41 773	8 646	9 795	7 548	67 762
	Total	162 162	23 815	16 616	27 360	229 953
2020	Ukraine	153 762	14 908	5 782	17 487	191 939
	Other	43 959	7 770	9 809	6 613	68 151
	Total	197 721	22 678	15 591	24 100	260 090
2021	Ukraine	204 143	21 370	4 401	31 908	261 822
	Other	76 435	5 405	9 907	6 910	98 657
	Total	280 578	26 775	14 308	38 818	360 479
2022	Ukraine	239 202	23 621	3 947	23 814	290 584
	Other	128 206	19 910	15 613	22 960	186 689
	Total	367 408	43 531	19 560	46 774	477 273
2023	Ukraine	217 670	22 503	4 238	51 567	295 978
	Other	164 487	23 543	19 388	49 661	257 079
	Total	382 157	46 046	23 626	101 228	553 057
2024	Ukraine	211 308	27 505	1 837	12 173	252 823
	Other	160 951	14 516	16 661	15 965	208 093
	Total	372 259	42 021	18 498	28 138	460 916
2025	Ukraine	231 123	40 611	1 756	14 316	287 806
	Other	146 837	45 600	13 171	14 695	220 303
	Total	377 960	86 211	14 927	29 011	508 109
2026	Ukraine	149 421	23 312	911	19 255	192 899
	Other	75 974	8 885	5 760	2 509	93 128
	Total	225 395	32 197	6 671	21 764	286 027
Total		2 637 163	357 889	158 819	356 830	3 510 701

Structure of residence purposes

An analysis of data from the 2017–2026 period indicates a progressive dominance of employment-related purposes in the regularization of stay for Ukrainian nationals. Data for the first half of 2026 confirm this trend:

Employment as the foundation (77.5%): Out of the total of 193,000 applications concerning Ukrainian nationals, as many as 149,000 related to taking up or continuing employment. This remains the primary motive for residence, reflecting the strong integration of this group into the Polish labour market.

Family (12%): This is the second most significant reason for legalizing residence, accounting for 23,000 applications. The stable share of this category reflects the ongoing process of family reunification and social stabilisation in Poland.

Education (marginalisation – 0.5%): This category recorded a historically low level of only 911 applications. This represents a sharp decline compared to previous years, confirming that Ukrainian nationals are either opting for alternative pathways that offer broader rights (such as employment-based routes) or utilizing other simplified mechanisms (e.g. temporary protection).

Other purposes (10%): This category includes 19,000 applications. The high volume in this group is due to the inclusion of specific applications for a residence card issued to Ukrainian nationals (the so-called CUKR card) under the provisions of the Assistance Act (the Special Act). During the analysed period, these applications accounted for as many as 14,000 cases.

Table 3: Granted temporary residence permits 2017-2026 by the purpose of stay:

Purpose		Family	Education	Labour	Other	Total
2017	Ukraine	4 260	6 933	53 391	5 684	70 268
	Other	4 720	5 325	19 689	3 217	32 951
	Total	8 980	12 258	73 080	8 901	103 219
2018	Ukraine	7 506	6 095	58 394	8 236	80 231
	Other	5 693	5 655	17 874	4 602	33 824
	Total	13 199	11 750	76 268	12 838	114 055
2019	Ukraine	10 648	5 229	71 831	12 228	99 936
	Other	7 018	6 564	21 915	3 934	39 431
	Total	17 666	11 793	93 746	16 162	139 367
2020	Ukraine	12 231	5 246	74 824	11 047	103 347
	Other	7 083	5 782	24 804	3 377	41 046
	Total	21 745	10 907	113 481	16 789	144 393
2021	Ukraine	13 759	3 353	100 025	13 603	130 740
	Other	7 701	6 223	29 766	4 159	33 225
	Total	21 460	9 576	129 791	17 762	163 965
2022	Ukraine	16 196	2 486	178 434	16 182	213 298
	Other	11 447	8 751	60 845	8 140	89 183
	Total	27 643	11 237	239 279	24 322	302 481
2023	Ukraine	17 259	2 669	153 554	26 366	199 848
	Other	17 224	13 061	93 705	10 540	134 530
	Total	34 483	15 730	247 259	36 906	334 378
2024	Ukraine	18 793	1 328	148 731	27 052	195 904
	Other	14 829	9 064	77 506	12 882	114 281
	Total	33 622	10 392	226 237	39 934	310 185
2025	Ukraine	31 320	1 183	172 197	13 434	218 134
	Other	14 180	8 411	78 822	8 878	110 291
	Total	45 500	9 594	251 019	22 312	328 425
2026	Ukraine	13 136	409	67 272	6 409	87 226
	Other	7 407	1 922	34 429	3 262	47 020
	Total	20 543	2 331	101 701	9 671	134 246

Positive decisions by purpose

In the first half of 2026, a total of 87,000 temporary residence permits were issued to Ukrainian nationals. The structure of these decisions fully confirms the transformation of the migration model from a protection-driven model towards a settlement- and employment-oriented model:

Predominance of employment-related purposes (77%): The issuance of 67,000 decisions based on taking up employment further consolidates this purpose as the key foundation of Ukrainian nationals' presence in Poland.

Stabilisation of family ties (15%): A total of 13,000 positive decisions were issued for family reunification. This represents roughly 42% of the previous record year (31,000 decisions). This category remains the second most important pillar of legal residence, reflecting the increasing settlement of this population in the country.

Education in decline (0.5%): Similarly to the statistics on applications, the number of positive decisions issued for the purpose of education remains marginal, amounting to only 409. This confirms that students and pupils choose alternative pathways (like employment) or other forms of legal stay.

Other purposes (7.5%): This category comprises 6,400 positive decisions issued, representing an important complement to the legalisation structure (including, among others, decisions issued on the basis of the provisions of the Assistance Act).

Contemporary Ukrainian migration in 2026 is based almost entirely on two main pillars: the economic dimension (employment) and the social dimension (family). Together, these two pillars account for as much as 92% of all positive residence decisions.

Temporary protection

The temporary protection mechanism (confirmed by an active "UKR" status in the PESEL register) remains the primary instrument for legalising the stay of individuals fleeing armed conflict. Despite an ongoing transition towards temporary residence based on employment, 959,000 Ukrainian nationals still hold active temporary protection status.

Demographic profile of beneficiaries:

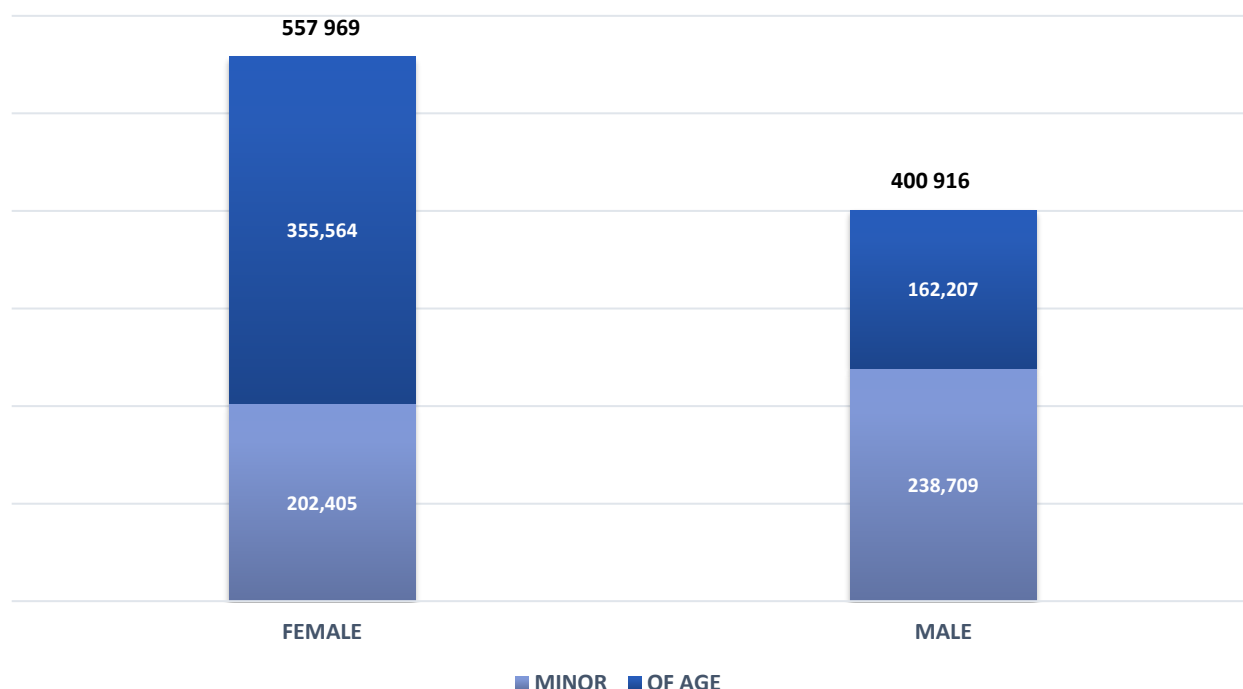
Pronounced feminization (58%): The population covered by temporary protection is characterized by a significant gender imbalance, with women accounting for 558 thousand of all beneficiaries. Among adults (518 thousand people in total), this imbalance is even more pronounced: women represent as much as 69% of all persons of legal age (356 thousand individuals).

A high proportion of children in the population (46%): Minors account for nearly half of the entire population covered by temporary protection, reaching 441 thousand individuals.

Reversed gender-age profile: The age structure differs substantially depending on the gender of beneficiaries. Among women, adults constitute the dominant group, accounting for 64% (356 thousand individuals) of the total female population. Among men (**401 thousand individuals in total**), the pattern is reversed – children and adolescents constitute the majority, representing as much as 60% (239 thousand individuals) of the male population.

The presented data clearly demonstrate that temporary protection primarily serves as a socio-legal safeguard for mothers with children. Adult men account for only 17% of the total population registered under the UKR status. This demographic group is considerably more likely to regularize their stay in Poland through general migration procedures, primarily by obtaining temporary residence and work permits.

Temporary protection in Poland (as of 1 July 2026)



Evolution of legal status and phasing-out of the Special Act

The year 2026 represents a pivotal moment in the systemic transformation of the legal status of Ukrainian citizens in Poland. This period is characterized by a controlled transition away from ad hoc reception instruments towards the stabilization of residence status.

Extension of temporary protection: Under the amended provisions, the period of legal stay for Ukrainian nationals covered by temporary protection (PESEL UKR status) has been extended until 4 March 2027. This ensures continuity of legal residence, healthcare access, and labour market integration.

Implementation of dedicated CUKR residence cards: On 4 May 2026, a simplified migration status conversion process was launched. Temporary protection beneficiaries can transition out of the ad hoc UKR status to secure a special temporary residence permit. This is confirmed by a 3-year residence card annotated "Former holder of temporary protection" (CUKR). This entitlement applies to individuals who held an uninterrupted UKR status as of 4 June 2025 and can demonstrate continuous UKR status for at least 365 days at the time of application. The procedure exempts applicants from documenting their purpose of stay or sources of income.

Mandatory digitisation of proceedings (MOS system): The implementation of the reforms coincided with the full transition to an electronic document management system. As of 27 April 2026, applications for temporary residence, permanent residence, and EU long-term resident status may be submitted exclusively through electronic channels via the Case Handling Module (MOS) portal. Traditional paper applications will strictly be left without consideration. This digitisation aims to relieve the departments for foreigners' affairs in voivodeship offices through automated data completeness verification.

Phasing out of support instruments: In line with the adopted strategy of migrant self-reliance, selected forms of ad hoc social assistance were gradually phased out, including compensation payments to private entities providing accommodation and meals. This measure accelerated the full integration of beneficiaries into the Polish labour market and facilitated the transition towards commercial, market-based housing rental arrangements.

Table 4: TOP10 most numerous citizenships by total of persons registered for temporary protection in 2026

CITIZENSHIP	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
UKRAINE	20 085	21 460	41 545
RUSSIA	21	18	39
GEORGIA	3	6	9
MOLDOVA	3	5	8
UNITED STATES	4	3	7
BELARUS	2	3	5
AZERBAIJAN	0	3	3
ARMENIA	1	1	2
INDIA	1	1	2
VIETNAM	1	1	2
OTHER	3	8	11
TOTAL	20 124	21 509	41 633

New registrations for temporary protection (2026)

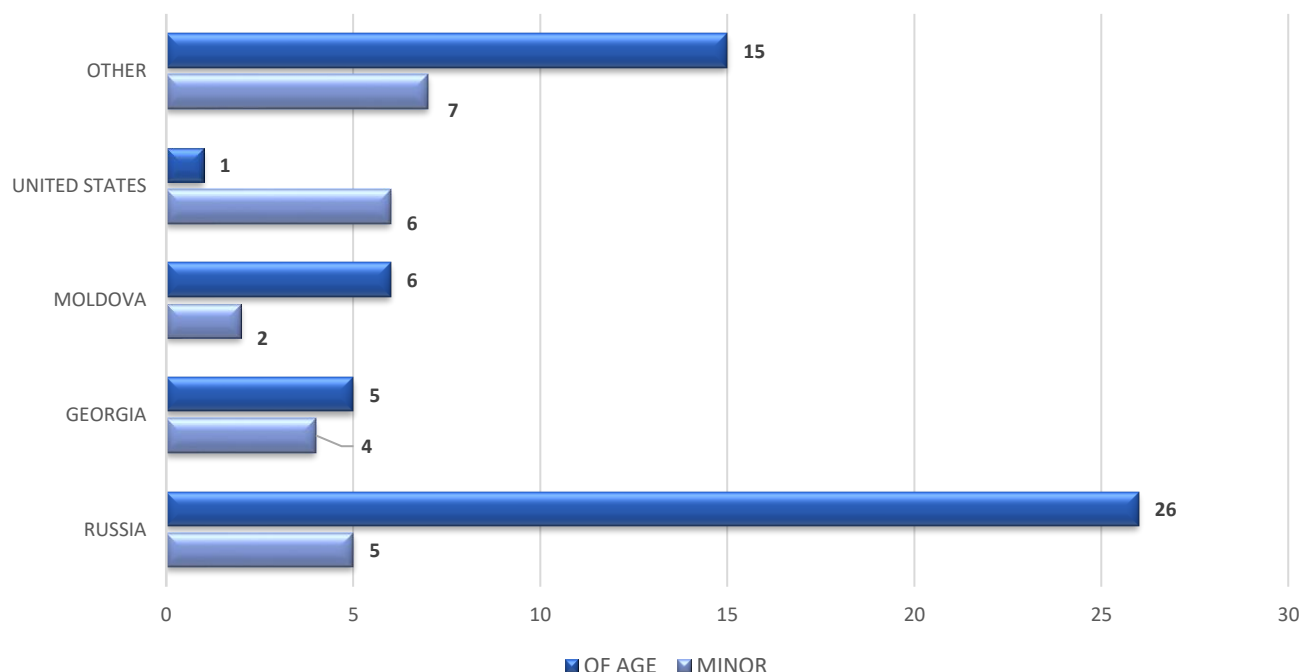
Between 1 January and 30 June 2026, a total of 41,600 individuals were granted temporary protection status in Poland. A detailed data analysis reveals two key phenomena: the absolute dominance of Ukrainian nationals and a radical shift in the demographic profile of newly registered migrants.

Nationality structure: Ukrainian nationals account for 99.8% of all new registrations (41,500 persons). The inflow of persons holding other citizenships is of a purely incidental nature. This group consists primarily of citizens of Russia (39 persons), Georgia (9), Moldova (8), and the United States (7). The presence of third-country nationals in this register results almost exclusively from their family ties with Ukrainian citizens.

Reversal of the gender trend (male predominance): In contrast to the historically highly feminized PESEL UKR register (where women account for 58%), among persons registering for the first time in the first half of 2026, a predominance of men was observed. Men accounted for 52% (22 thousand individuals) of new arrivals, compared with a 48% share of women (20 thousand individuals).

The above data demonstrate that the current migration inflow in 2026 has entirely lost its original initial emergency wartime profile, which was dominated by mothers with children. It has instead shifted towards a migration pattern with a more balanced gender structure and a noticeable male predominance. The share of citizens of countries other than Ukraine remains statistically marginal.

Citizens of other countries registered in the PESEL register for temporary protection in 2026



Registration of young men aged 18–22 in the PESEL System

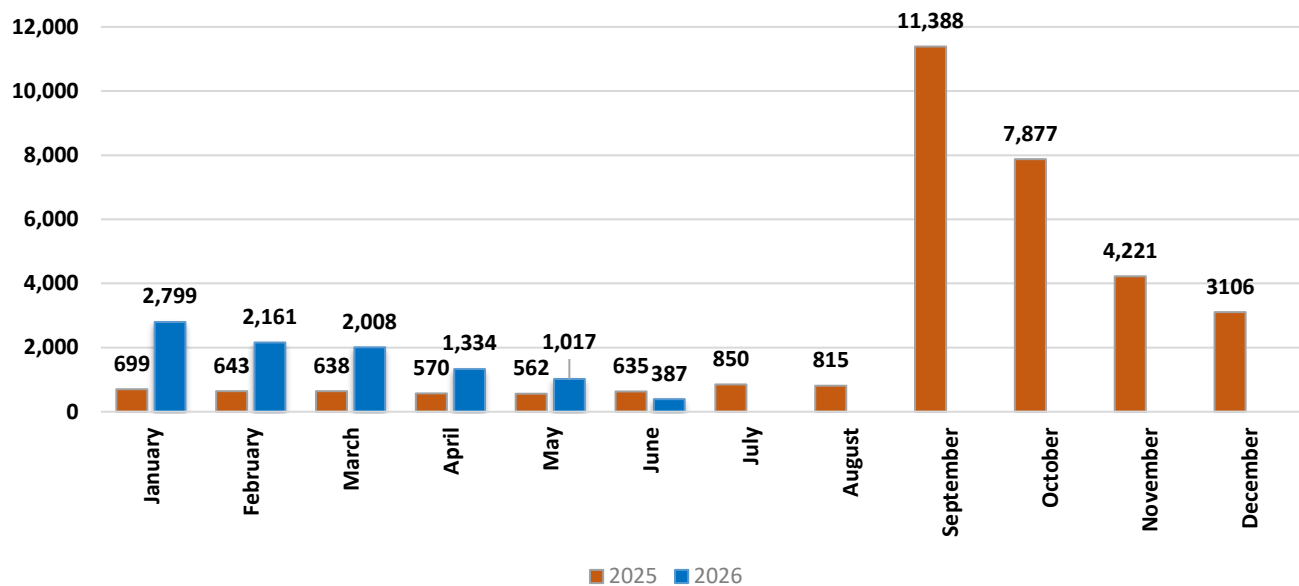
Data for the first half of 2026 confirm the continued high registration dynamics among Ukrainian male citizens aged 18–22, while also indicating a clear weakening of this dynamic towards the end of the analysed period. This phenomenon is a direct consequence of amendments to Ukrainian mobilisation legislation introduced in the second half of 2025, which accelerated the outward migration among young men seeking to avoid mobilization procedures.

Semi-annual increase in the scale of the phenomenon: The average monthly number of registrations in the first half of 2026 reached a high level of 1.6 thousand individuals, driven by the increased inflow observed during the first months of the year. Compared with the average recorded in the corresponding first half of 2025 (approximately 0.6 thousand per month), this represents an almost threefold increase in the intensity of migration inflows within this specific age-and-gender category.

Clear trend reversal (wave dissipation): Following the natural and gradual decline in inflows after the record level observed in September 2025 (11.4 thousand registrations), end-of-period data indicate a substantial slowdown in migration. The number of registrations in June 2026 amounted to only 400 individuals, representing a 39% decrease compared with the corresponding period of the previous year (635 registrations in June 2025).

The presented analysis demonstrates that the migration pressure triggered by the mobilisation reform in Ukraine was rapid but time-limited in nature. Following the sharp increase at the turn of 2025/2026, the migration potential of this specific group had become visibly depleted by mid-2026.

Monthly number of Ukrainian men aged 18–22 registered in the PESEL register in 2025–2026
(as of July 1, 2026)



Integration challenges and barriers in 2026

Against the backdrop of the evolving nature of migration – shifting from a refugee-dominated model to a settlement-oriented one (reflected in the unprecedented volume of applications for temporary and EU long-term residence) – the following structural barriers have been identified:

Brain waste: Complex and protracted procedures for the recognition and nostrification of diplomas and professional qualifications constitute a significant barrier to labour market entry. Consequently, a substantial proportion of Ukrainian nationals are employed below their actual skill level, generating losses for the national economy and constraining GDP growth.

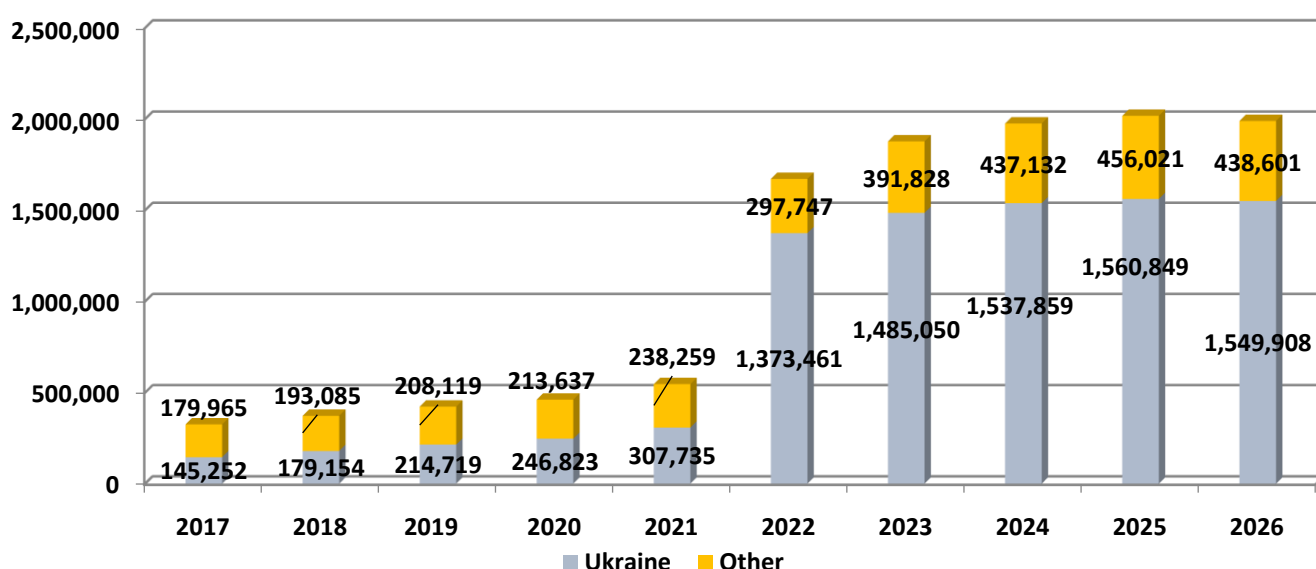
Deficit in advanced language proficiency: The lack of professional and specialized Polish language skills (B2/C1 level) remains the primary obstacle to entering regulated professions, as well securing higher-level positions in public administration and corporate management.

Childcare burdens: Due to the strong feminisation of the adult temporary protection population (women represent 69% of adults with UKR status), the full labour market activation of this group directly depends on capacity and accessibility of institutional childcare (nurseries and kindergartens). Systemic gaps in this area force some migrant women to withdraw from employment or to take up part-time work, often in the informal economy.

General profile of the diaspora

Poland maintains its status as one of the primary countries of residence for Ukrainian nationals within the European Union. As of 1 July 2026, 1.55 million Ukrainian nationals hold valid documents authorising their stay in the Republic of Poland. This group dominates national migration registers, accounting for 78% of all foreigners holding valid residence titles in Poland (1.99 million persons in total). Data for the first half of 2026 indicate a clear deceleration of the previous inflow dynamics and the entry of the diaspora population into a stabilization phase, showing a minimal decline compared to the record-breaking year of 2025.

Number of valid residence permits (as of 1 July 2026)

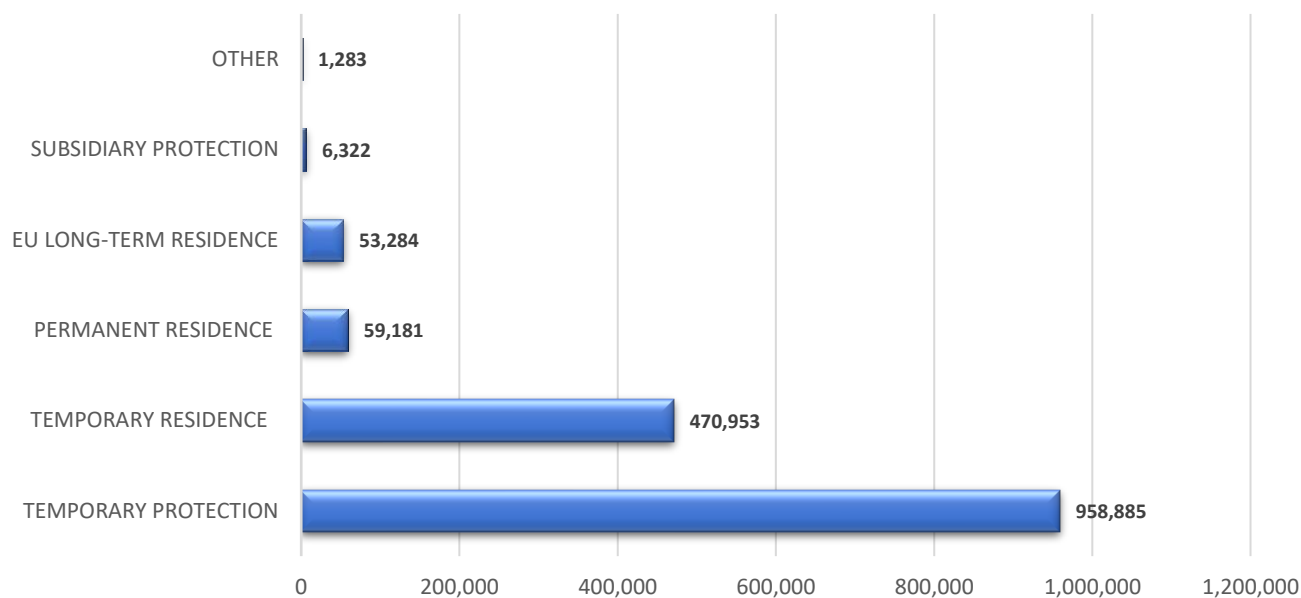


Population stabilization: Following a period of rapid growth triggered by the outbreak of the full-scale armed conflict (an increase of approximately 1.1 million people between 2021 and 2022), data for the first half of 2026 confirm a full stabilization of the Ukrainian diaspora within the 1.5–1.6 million range.

Year-on-year decline: Compared to the end of 2025, a slight decrease of approximately **0.7%** in active documents was recorded (a loss of 11,000 valid residence titles). This fact – occurring alongside a mass influx of new legalisation applications – unequivocally confirms a parallel outflow of migrants from national registers. It is primarily driven by return migration to Ukraine, relocation to other EU Member States, and ongoing naturalisation (acquisition of Polish citizenship).

Nationality dominance: The structure of foreigners in Poland remains highly monocentric. The population of Ukrainian nationals holding valid residence documents is currently **3.5 times larger** than the combined population of all other nationalities included in the register (438,600 persons).

The number of Ukrainian citizens with a valid document authorizing them to stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland as of July 1, 2026



Structure of residence titles

The system for regularizing the stay of Ukrainian nationals in Poland is evolving toward a hybrid model, combining ad hoc emergency instruments with standard immigration procedures primarily driven by employment.

The breakdown by type of residence titles currently in legal circulation is as follows:

Temporary protection: 959,000 persons (61.9%) – despite the passage of time and the availability of new legal pathways, the PESEL UKR register remains the dominant basis for the legal stay of war refugees in Poland.

Temporary residence: 471,000 persons (30.4%) – a key instrument for labour migration and family reunification; this volume is steadily increasing as it absorbs migrants transitioning out of temporary protection.

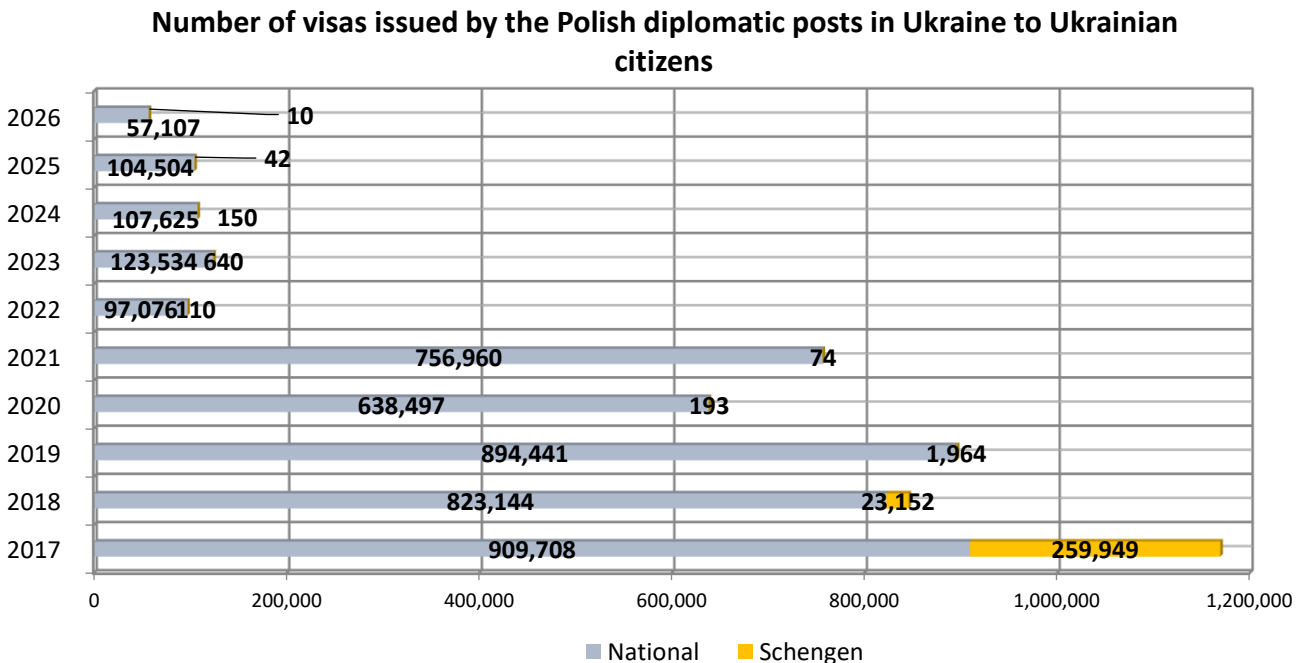
Permanent residence: 59,000 persons (3.8%) – covers migrants with the strongest, long-term ties to Poland, largely consisting of Pole's Card (Karta Polaka) holders and individuals of Polish origin.

EU long-term residence: 53,000 persons (3.4%) – a strategic category demonstrating an advanced stage of life stabilization and permanent economic integration in Poland.

Subsidiary protection: 6,000 persons (0.4%) – residence titles obtained through individual international protection proceedings.

Other statuses: 1,000 individuals (0.1%).

Data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicate a deep, structural decline in the number of visas issued to Ukrainian nationals after 2021. This shift is driven by a combination of geopolitical factors and fundamental changes in the national migration management model:

Shift in the migration legalisation model: The outbreak of full-scale armed conflict in 2022 led to a mass transition of migrants toward the extraordinary temporary protection mechanism (UKR status). This eliminated the need to apply for entry visas at consular posts, shifting the registration process directly to Polish internal administration authorities.

Marginalisation of Schengen visas: The chart illustrates the near-total disappearance of Schengen visas - dropping from 260,000 in 2017 to negligible numbers in subsequent years (only 10 visas in the first half of 2026). This is a direct, long-term consequence of the introduction visa-free travel for holders of Ukrainian biometric passports in June 2017.

Evolution and stabilization of national visa volumes: The number of national visas (Type D) issued dropped from approximately 757,000 in 2021 to around 104,000 in 2025. Data for the first half of 2026 (57,000 visas) suggest that this low trend is being sustained. This confirms that the traditional visa pathway has lost its status as the primary immigration channel in favour of internal procedures (temporary residence permits).