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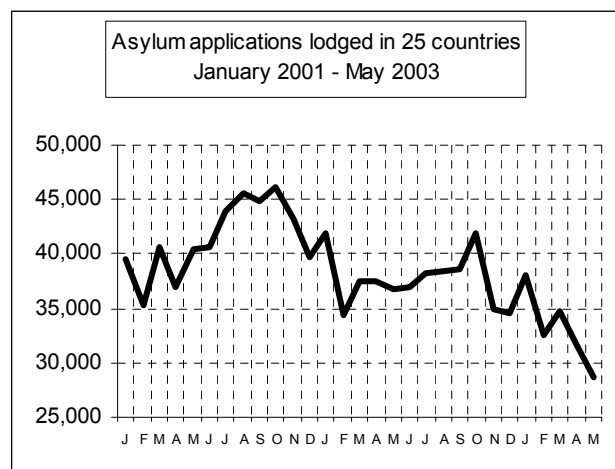
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ASYLUM TRENDS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, MAY 2003

1. In the 26 industrialized countries for which data for April and May were available¹, 28,600 asylum applications were submitted in May 2003, 10 per cent less than in April 2003, when 31,830 applications were lodged. Although the latest data for the largest asylum-seeker receiving country, the United Kingdom, are not yet available, this trend suggests that the monthly number of applications submitted in industrialized countries in May reached the lowest level of the past few years (see chart).

2. The fall in monthly applications was noticeable in all regions, ranging from -6 per cent in Western Europe to -19 per cent in North America (*Table 1*).



3. Of the 26 countries which reported data for April and May 2003, 9 countries experienced an increase in monthly asylum applications, whereas 17 countries reported a decrease. A relatively significant **increase** in monthly applications during May was reported by Bulgaria (36%) and Greece (57%). Conversely, important **decreases** in monthly asylum flows were reported for France (-33%), Portugal (-44%), Romania (-44%), New Zealand (-32%) and Japan (-38%) (*Table 1*).

4. Among the ten major countries of origin in the 26 countries with available data, a decrease in monthly asylum claims was reported for asylum-seekers from Iraq (-24%), Turkey (-15%), China (-3%), the Democratic Rep. of Congo (-24%) and the Islamic Rep. of Iran (-2%). Major countries of origin recording an increase in monthly asylum-seeker claims were Russian Federation (2%), Serbia and Montenegro (2%), Afghanistan (3%), Nigeria (3%) and India (6%). As a result of the sharp fall in Iraqi asylum claims, the Russian Federation became the main country of origin of asylum-seekers in the 26 asylum countries in May 2003 (*Table 2*).

5. Table 3 provides an overview of monthly asylum applications lodged by origin and country of asylum for May 2003.

Population Data Unit/PGDS
Geneva, 4 July 2003
<http://www.unhcr.org>

¹ All 29 asylum countries listed in Table 1, except Poland, United Kingdom (UK) and Australia.

Table 1. Monthly asylum applications lodged, 2003

Two dots (..) indicate that the value is not available.

* The regional groupings and Total include only those countries for which data are complete.

See Notes below.

Country/region of asylum*	2003						2003 (monthly change)			
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total	Jan/Feb	Feb/Mar	Mar/Apr	Apr/May
Austria	2,509	1,873	2,274	2,422	2,773	11,851	-25%	21%	7%	14%
Belgium	1,449	1,103	1,276	1,188	1,115	6,131	-24%	16%	-7%	-6%
Bulgaria	167	137	122	69	94	589	-18%	-11%	-43%	36%
Czech Rep.	685	704	588	1,188	965	4,130	3%	-16%	102%	-19%
Denmark	396	409	378	321	298	1,802	3%	-8%	-15%	-7%
Finland	266	319	183	167	148	1,083	20%	-43%	-9%	-11%
France	3,690	4,441	4,439	4,605	3,083	20,258	20%	0%	4%	-33%
Germany	6,124	4,486	4,329	4,012	3,758	22,709	-27%	-3%	-7%	-6%
Greece	615	871	760	666	1,047	3,959	42%	-13%	-12%	57%
Hungary	228	234	183	131	153	929	3%	-22%	-28%	17%
Ireland	979	947	892	667	604	4,089	-3%	-6%	-25%	-9%
Liechtenstein	11	5	8	5	7	36	-55%	60%	-38%	40%
Luxembourg	79	107	112	127	107	532	35%	5%	13%	-16%
Netherlands	1,234	1,042	1,398	1,570	1,391	6,635	-16%	34%	12%	-11%
Norway	1,195	1,183	1,324	1,086	989	5,777	-1%	12%	-18%	-9%
Poland	364	337	706	372	..	1,779	-7%	109%	-47%	..
Portugal	11	5	6	18	10	50	-55%	20%	200%	-44%
Romania	80	63	129	170	96	538	-21%	105%	32%	-44%
Slovakia	442	386	421	636	679	2,564	-13%	9%	51%	7%
Slovenia	102	122	61	76	91	452	20%	-50%	25%	20%
Spain	764	411	372	332	395	2,274	-46%	-9%	-11%	19%
Sweden	3,110	2,501	2,315	2,008	1,922	11,856	-20%	-7%	-13%	-4%
Switzerland	2,196	1,648	1,662	1,538	1,767	8,811	-25%	1%	-7%	15%
United Kingdom	9,270	5,480	5,880	20,630	-41%	7%
Canada	3,765	2,974	3,017	2,955	2,637	15,348	-21%	1%	-2%	-11%
USA	5,560	4,650	5,970	5,760	4,410	26,350	-16%	28%	-4%	-23%
Australia	396	332	411	384	..	1,523	-16%	24%	-7%	..
New Zealand	90	86	74	81	55	386	-4%	-14%	9%	-32%
Japan	26	24	20	32	20	122	-8%	-17%	60%	-38%
EU-13	21,226	18,515	18,734	18,103	16,651	93,229	-13%	1%	-3%	-8%
Western Europe	24,628	21,351	21,728	20,732	19,414	107,853	-13%	2%	-5%	-6%
Central Europe	1,704	1,646	1,504	2,270	2,078	9,202	-3%	-9%	51%	-8%
Europe	26,332	22,997	23,232	23,002	21,492	117,055	-13%	1%	-1%	-7%
North America	9,325	7,624	8,987	8,715	7,047	41,698	-18%	18%	-3%	-19%
Total	35,773	30,731	32,313	31,830	28,614	159,261	-14%	5%	-1%	-10%

Notes

All figures are provisional and subject to change.

Germany and USA: new applications only.

UK. Data reflect no. of persons (no. of cases multiplied with 1.289 (official estimate).

USA. Data reflect no. of persons (no. of cases multiplied with 1.4). Source: INS.

EU-13: European Union member countries excluding Italy and the UK (no or no complete data available).

Western Europe: EU-13 plus Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Central Europe: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Europe: All European countries listed except Poland and the UK (no complete data available).

Total: All countries listed for which complete data were available.

Source: Governments, compiled by UNHCR (Population Data Unit/PGDS).

Table 2. Monthly asylum applications lodged by origin, April-May 2003 (Top-40)
 Covering the 26 asylum countries listed in Table 1 with complete data.
 Totals between Table 1 and 2 differ because USA data by origin reflect the no. of cases.

Origin	Absolute			Rank			Monthly change
	Apr.	May	Total	Apr.	May	Change	
Iraq	2,475	1,874	4,349	1	2	-1	-24%
Russian Federation	1,994	2,027	4,021	2	1	1	2%
Serbia and Montenegro	1,733	1,761	3,494	4	3	1	2%
Turkey	1,745	1,478	3,223	3	4	-1	-15%
China	1,349	1,303	2,652	5	5	0	-3%
Afghanistan	1,003	1,038	2,041	6	6	0	3%
Nigeria	987	1,013	2,000	7	7	0	3%
India	807	859	1,666	10	8	2	6%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	870	662	1,532	9	9	0	-24%
Islamic Rep. of Iran	669	654	1,323	12	10	2	-2%
Pakistan	717	566	1,283	11	11	0	-21%
Colombia	660	550	1,210	13	13	0	-17%
Georgia	594	537	1,131	14	14	0	-10%
Somalia	539	566	1,105	16	11	5	5%
Algeria	588	513	1,101	15	15	0	-13%
Indonesia	883	190	1,073	8	38	-30	-78%
Mexico	421	469	890	19	16	3	11%
Haiti	491	353	844	17	21	-4	-28%
Cameroon	449	393	842	18	19	-1	-12%
Bangladesh	354	398	752	22	17	5	12%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	410	335	745	20	22	-2	-18%
Ukraine	404	331	735	21	23	-2	-18%
Armenia	329	396	725	25	18	7	20%
Sri Lanka	323	365	688	27	20	7	13%
Rep. of Moldova	328	330	658	26	24	2	1%
Côte d'Ivoire	349	284	633	24	28	-4	-19%
Guinea	281	315	596	30	25	5	12%
Albania	281	295	576	30	26	4	5%
Mauritania	354	217	571	22	33	-11	-39%
Viet Nam	257	295	552	33	26	7	15%
Angola	304	225	529	28	31	-3	-26%
Belarus	286	223	509	29	32	-3	-22%
Azerbaijan	230	236	466	34	29	5	3%
Congo	268	195	463	32	37	-5	-27%
Syrian Arab Rep.	212	229	441	38	30	8	8%
Ethiopia	210	213	423	39	34	5	1%
Slovakia	207	212	419	40	35	5	2%
Sudan	214	197	411	36	36	0	-8%
Sierra Leone	214	188	402	36	39	-3	-12%
FYR Macedonia	230	169	399	34	40	-6	-27%
Other	5,168	4,902	10,070				-5%
Total	30,187	27,356	57,543				-9%

Table 3. Applications submitted by country of asylum and origin, May 2003 (Top-20)

An asterisk (*) indicates that value is between 1 and 4.

Origin	AUS	BEL	BUL	CZE	DEN	FIN	FRA	GFR	GRE	HUN	IRE	LIE	LUX	NET	NOR
Russian Federation	607	85	-	465	9	20	137	234	-	6	*	-	*	9	81
Iraq	102	19	8	*	29	9	41	244	428	17	5	-	5	582	42
Serbia and Montenegro	207	96	-	*	69	47	86	358	-	*	5	*	38	20	152
Turkey	231	29	6	*	5	12	399	456	11	*	-	-	*	48	11
China	59	36	-	73	5	-	233	225	*	9	7	-	-	19	5
Afghanistan	437	20	29	16	30	*	32	121	57	45	*	-	-	24	118
Nigeria	148	19	12	*	*	*	59	87	92	6	242	-	5	43	15
India	196	16	-	24	*	-	46	168	6	5	-	-	-	5	-
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	10	128	-	-	-	*	309	58	*	-	15	-	*	19	*
Islamic Rep. of Iran	75	51	9	-	11	*	10	160	91	*	5	-	-	55	26
Somalia	6	5	17	*	28	*	*	15	9	*	12	-	*	32	128
Pakistan	32	21	-	-	*	-	44	66	99	-	8	-	-	8	13
Colombia	-	*	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Georgia	125	27	-	13	*	-	78	78	*	37	10	-	8	11	21
Algeria	16	29	-	*	*	*	169	82	-	*	6	-	*	9	15
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	12	*	-	-	*	*	54	5	34	*	-	-	-	*	5
Armenia	85	7	10	*	*	-	36	57	*	*	*	-	*	9	-
Cameroon	6	52	-	-	-	*	58	71	*	-	-	-	*	8	8
Sri Lanka	8	*	-	6	*	-	96	19	5	-	-	-	-	*	*

Origin	POL	POR	ROM	SVK	SVN	SPA	SWE	SWI	GBR	CAN	USA	AUL	NZL	JPN	TOT
Russian Federation	-	-	-	112	*	8	103	28	-	24	90	-	-	-	2,027
Iraq	-	*	23	14	9	*	155	115	-	6	14	-	*	-	1,874
Serbia and Montenegro	-	-	*	*	22	*	352	277	-	*	17	-	-	-	1,761
Turkey	-	-	9	5	14	*	66	129	-	35	-	-	-	*	1,478
China	-	-	14	67	-	-	8	30	-	124	378	-	6	*	1,303
Afghanistan	-	-	*	41	-	*	34	18	-	7	5	-	-	-	1,038
Nigeria	-	*	-	-	-	122	37	63	-	50	-	-	*	-	1,013
India	-	-	8	174	-	-	5	22	-	82	94	-	*	-	859
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	55	-	41	6	-	-	*	662
Islamic Rep. of Iran	-	-	9	9	*	-	50	21	-	18	33	-	13	*	654
Somalia	-	-	20	-	-	14	192	34	-	31	10	-	*	-	566
Pakistan	-	-	*	28	7	*	10	23	-	180	19	-	*	*	566
Colombia	-	*	-	-	-	46	*	*	-	172	312	-	-	*	550
Georgia	-	-	-	*	12	*	34	58	-	*	12	-	-	-	537
Algeria	-	-	*	*	17	38	14	94	-	6	-	-	*	-	513
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	269	-	-	-	469
Bangladesh	-	-	*	91	-	-	29	19	-	128	11	-	-	-	398
Armenia	-	-	*	45	-	14	27	23	-	*	64	-	-	-	396
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	-	8	*	28	-	18	127	-	-	-	393
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	56	-	151	9	-	*	*	365