



UNHCR

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ASYLUM TRENDS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, APRIL 2003

1. In the 28 industrialized countries for which the March and April data were available¹, 32,590 asylum applications were submitted in April 2003, 3 per cent fewer than in March 2003, when 33,430 applications were lodged.
2. In the 23 European asylum countries with available data, monthly applications fell by 2 per cent, in North America a decrease of 3 per cent was recorded, whereas Australia and New Zealand experienced a 4 per cent fall in new asylum claims. The seven countries included in Central Europe reported a 20 per cent increase in monthly applications, following a doubling of claims lodged in Czech Republic (*Table 1*).
3. Of the 28 countries which reported data for March and April 2003, 11 countries experienced an increase in monthly asylum applications, whereas 17 countries reported a decrease. A relatively significant **increase** in monthly applications was reported by Czech Republic (102%), Romania (32%), Slovakia (51%), Slovenia (25%) and Japan (60%). Conversely, important **decreases** in monthly asylum flows were reported for Bulgaria (-43%), Hungary (-28%), Ireland (-25%) and Poland (-47%) (*Table 1*).
4. Among the ten major countries of origin in the 28 countries with available data, a decrease in monthly asylum claims was reported for asylum-seekers from Iraq (-12%), Turkey (-6%), Serbia and Montenegro (-5%), Nigeria (-16%) and Pakistan (-30%). Major countries of origin recording an increase in monthly asylum-seeker claims were Russian Federation (15%), China (11%), Afghanistan (40%) and the Democratic Rep. of the Congo (10%) (*Table 2*).
5. Table 3 and 4 provide an overview of monthly asylum applications lodged by origin and country of asylum for March (*Table 3*) and April 2003 (*Table 4*).

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

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

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.	Total	Jan/Feb	Feb/Mar	Mar/Apr
Austria	2,509	1,873	2,274	2,422	9,078	-25%	21%	7%
Belgium	1,449	1,103	1,276	1,188	5,016	-24%	16%	-7%
Bulgaria	167	137	122	69	495	-18%	-11%	-43%
Czech Rep.	685	704	588	1,188	3,165	3%	-16%	102%
Denmark	396	409	378	321	1,504	3%	-8%	-15%
Finland	266	319	183	167	935	20%	-43%	-9%
France	3,690	4,441	4,439	4,605	17,175	20%	0%	4%
Germany	6,124	4,486	4,329	4,012	18,951	-27%	-3%	-7%
Greece	615	871	760	666	2,912	42%	-13%	-12%
Hungary	228	234	183	131	776	3%	-22%	-28%
Ireland	979	947	892	667	3,485	-3%	-6%	-25%
Liechtenstein	11	5	8	5	29	-55%	60%	-38%
Luxembourg	79	107	112	127	425	35%	5%	13%
Netherlands	1,234	1,042	1,398	1,570	5,244	-16%	34%	12%
Norway	1,195	1,183	1,324	1,086	4,788	-1%	12%	-18%
Poland	364	337	706	372	1,779	-7%	109%	-47%
Portugal	11	5	6	18	40	-55%	20%	200%
Romania	80	63	129	170	442	-21%	105%	32%
Slovakia	442	386	421	636	1,885	-13%	9%	51%
Slovenia	102	122	61	76	361	20%	-50%	25%
Spain	764	411	372	332	1,879	-46%	-9%	-11%
Sweden	3,110	2,501	2,315	2,008	9,934	-20%	-7%	-13%
Switzerland	2,196	1,648	1,662	1,538	7,044	-25%	1%	-7%
United Kingdom	9,270	5,480	5,880	..	20,630	-41%	7%	..
Canada	3,765	2,974	3,017	2,955	12,711	-21%	1%	-2%
USA	5,560	4,650	5,970	5,760	21,940	-16%	28%	-4%
Australia	396	332	411	384	1,523	-16%	24%	-7%
New Zealand	90	86	74	81	331	-4%	-14%	9%
Japan	26	24	20	32	102	-8%	-17%	60%
EU-13	21,226	18,515	18,734	18,103	76,578	-13%	1%	-3%
Western Europe	24,628	21,351	21,728	20,732	88,439	-13%	2%	-5%
Central Europe	2,068	1,983	2,210	2,642	8,903	-4%	11%	20%
Europe	26,696	23,334	23,938	23,374	97,342	-13%	3%	-2%
North America	9,325	7,624	8,987	8,715	34,651	-18%	18%	-3%
Australia/New Z.	486	418	485	465	1,854	-14%	16%	-4%
Total	36,533	31,400	33,430	32,586	133,949	-14%	6%	-3%

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, Czech Rep., Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
Europe: All European countries listed except the UK (no complete data available).
Total: All countries listed for which data were available.

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

Table 2. Monthly asylum applications lodged by origin, March - April 2003 (Top-40)							
Covering the 28 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
	Mar.	Apr.	Total	Mar.	Apr.	Change	
Iraq	2,843	2,498	5,341	1	1	0	-12%
Russian Federation	2,001	2,306	4,307	2	2	0	15%
Turkey	1,857	1,748	3,605	3	3	0	-6%
Serbia and Montenegro	1,831	1,735	3,566	4	4	0	-5%
China	1,277	1,423	2,700	5	5	0	11%
Nigeria	1,181	990	2,171	6	7	-1	-16%
Pakistan	1,051	731	1,782	7	11	-4	-30%
India	884	882	1,766	8	9	-1	0%
Afghanistan	718	1,003	1,721	10	6	4	40%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	790	870	1,660	9	10	-1	10%
Indonesia	708	901	1,609	11	8	3	27%
Islamic Rep. of Iran	699	670	1,369	12	12	0	-4%
Colombia	681	663	1,344	13	13	0	-3%
Georgia	535	595	1,130	16	14	2	11%
Algeria	523	591	1,114	17	15	2	13%
Mexico	600	421	1,021	14	19	-5	-30%
Somalia	458	539	997	19	16	3	18%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	545	410	955	15	21	-6	-25%
Cameroon	476	449	925	18	18	0	-6%
Ukraine	443	411	854	20	20	0	-7%
Haiti	337	491	828	25	17	8	46%
Côte d'Ivoire	443	349	792	20	24	-4	-21%
Armenia	380	345	725	22	25	-3	-9%
Bangladesh	355	369	724	23	22	1	4%
Sri Lanka	354	334	688	24	26	-2	-6%
Mauritania	316	354	670	28	23	5	12%
Angola	309	304	613	30	28	2	-2%
Belarus	320	291	611	26	29	-3	-9%
Albania	317	282	599	27	30	-3	-11%
Rep. of Moldova	257	328	585	35	27	8	28%
Congo	305	269	574	31	32	-1	-12%
Viet Nam	314	260	574	29	33	-4	-17%
Guinea	269	281	550	34	31	3	4%
Slovakia	303	207	510	32	39	-7	-32%
Azerbaijan	249	230	479	36	34	2	-8%
Romania	274	205	479	33	40	-7	-25%
FYR Macedonia	218	230	448	38	34	4	6%
Ethiopia	221	211	432	37	38	-1	-5%
Sierra Leone	213	214	427	39	37	2	0%
Syrian Arab Rep.	208	216	424	40	36	4	4%
Other	5,661	5,337	10,998				-6%
Total	31,724	30,943	62,667				-2%

Table 3. Applications submitted by country of asylum and origin, March 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
Iraq	250	29	16	11	50	15	53	592	345	37	28	-	*	545	131
Turkey	273	56	*	-	9	9	670	521	7	9	*	-	*	41	20
Russian Federation	263	98	*	62	10	29	175	186	6	30	6	*	7	19	170
Serbia and Montenegro	205	112	-	-	64	17	159	388	-	13	10	*	33	31	152
China	50	58	-	26	7	-	220	207	7	7	6	-	-	24	6
Nigeria	199	17	11	*	*	6	111	87	39	*	380	-	5	38	14
Pakistan	21	24	*	-	*	*	50	50	55	5	-	-	-	16	8
India	226	19	*	*	5	-	60	130	*	*	*	-	-	27	*
Afghanistan	70	22	33	6	64	-	65	120	98	15	*	-	-	49	86
Islamic Rep. of Iran	60	55	15	*	8	8	12	135	51	14	*	-	-	48	65
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	*	140	-	-	*	5	427	62	*	*	18	-	*	7	*
Somalia	8	7	7	-	28	5	8	23	18	6	7	-	*	24	125
Colombia	-	*	-	-	-	-	15	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Algeria	12	29	-	9	9	*	180	89	-	*	*	-	6	8	15
Bosnia and Herzegovina	16	*	-	-	24	10	52	68	-	-	*	-	*	20	136
Georgia	113	18	-	25	-	-	95	98	-	20	9	*	-	14	8
Côte d'Ivoire	*	28	-	*	*	-	175	56	-	-	8	-	*	45	*
Ukraine	48	12	-	140	*	*	64	26	-	*	25	-	-	5	11

Origin	POL	POR	ROM	SVK	SVN	SPA	SWE	SWI	GBR	CAN	USA	AUL	NZL	JPN	TOT
Iraq	19	-	72	51	*	19	358	138	710	12	35	20	9	*	3,553
Turkey	-	-	-	-	*	*	60	132	185	33	-	*	-	*	2,042
Russian Federation	558	-	*	155	-	10	80	33	25	13	83	*	-	-	2,026
Serbia and Montenegro	-	-	*	-	14	-	360	230	90	6	30	*	-	-	1,921
China	-	-	17	*	-	-	10	29	315	89	412	93	*	*	1,592
Nigeria	*	-	-	-	*	122	31	39	110	64	-	*	*	-	1,291
Pakistan	6	-	-	10	-	-	10	16	150	701	67	6	*	-	1,201
India	34	-	10	82	-	-	10	10	185	94	106	51	*	*	1,069
Afghanistan	12	-	*	14	-	-	33	8	245	5	-	12	-	*	963
Islamic Rep. of Iran	*	-	9	23	6	*	49	10	200	38	51	16	13	*	899
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	*	-	-	-	-	*	10	56	105	39	13	-	-	-	895
Somalia	-	-	-	-	-	5	134	31	335	5	14	-	*	-	793
Colombia	-	-	-	-	-	37	*	7	30	158	453	-	-	-	711
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	34	649	14	*	-	708
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	217	379	-	-	-	600
Algeria	*	-	-	-	*	47	34	69	40	7	-	-	-	-	563
Bosnia and Herzegovina	*	-	-	-	*	-	107	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	545
Georgia	-	*	-	*	-	*	31	78	-	*	15	-	-	-	535
Côte d'Ivoire	-	-	-	-	-	7	8	34	50	7	64	-	-	-	493
Ukraine	15	*	-	*	-	*	41	8	35	22	12	*	-	-	478

Table 4. Applications submitted by country of asylum and origin, April 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
Iraq	174	35	18	-	38	18	55	446	267	6	13	-	*	731	73
Russian Federation	289	101	-	733	16	6	182	188	*	8	5	-	6	23	95
Turkey	251	42	5	-	*	24	595	526	20	7	-	-	*	39	12
Serbia and Montenegro	202	77	-	-	46	20	118	391	-	5	13	*	47	27	144
China	62	15	-	54	6	-	294	225	-	14	*	-	-	23	10
Afghanistan	444	22	11	*	50	7	46	127	19	*	*	-	-	39	136
Nigeria	134	15	5	*	*	*	122	93	32	*	268	-	*	32	23
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	181	12	-	*	*	*	83	120	5	10	*	-	*	6	*
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	*	156	-	-	-	-	483	45	*	-	30	-	-	22	*
Pakistan	22	24	-	-	*	-	68	49	53	8	-	-	-	8	7
Islamic Rep. of Iran	63	65	8	-	7	-	13	151	64	21	*	-	*	63	39
Colombia	*	*	-	-	-	-	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Georgia	98	28	-	33	7	*	115	84	-	12	6	-	-	10	22
Algeria	15	28	*	*	5	*	221	123	*	*	5	-	8	13	15
Somalia	24	7	16	*	19	-	*	20	49	*	15	-	-	38	122
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	168	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cameroon	10	54	-	-	*	-	93	91	*	*	18	-	-	*	5
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukraine	26	9	-	161	*	*	63	18	-	*	20	-	*	9	9

Origin	POL	POR	ROM	SVK	SVN	SPA	SWE	SWI	GBR	CAN	USA	AUL	NZL	JPN	TOT
Iraq	14	-	84	81	14	23	252	114	-	13	14	9	5	-	2,498
Russian Federation	309	-	-	115	-	12	84	39	-	21	70	*	-	-	2,306
Turkey	-	-	*	*	-	8	42	120	-	36	-	*	-	11	1,748
Serbia and Montenegro	-	-	-	*	12	-	404	190	-	13	20	*	-	-	1,735
China	-	-	18	108	-	*	6	25	-	138	344	74	*	-	1,423
Afghanistan	-	-	9	13	-	*	39	22	-	11	-	-	-	-	1,003
Nigeria	*	-	-	*	-	108	25	44	-	57	14	*	-	*	990
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	834	18	-	-	901
India	*	-	13	114	-	-	10	10	-	106	124	73	*	-	882
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	-	-	-	-	-	9	*	46	-	49	19	-	-	-	870
Pakistan	9	-	*	19	*	-	8	15	-	381	45	5	-	*	731
Islamic Rep. of Iran	-	-	9	21	*	*	53	17	-	15	34	*	14	*	670
Colombia	-	*	-	-	-	20	*	*	-	214	399	*	-	*	663
Georgia	*	*	-	13	11	*	49	78	-	8	15	-	-	-	595
Algeria	*	-	*	-	5	38	23	77	-	*	-	*	-	-	591
Somalia	-	-	8	5	-	-	152	29	-	22	8	-	*	-	539
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	304	-	-	-	491
Cameroon	-	-	*	-	-	5	*	19	-	5	137	-	-	-	449
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	241	-	-	-	421
Ukraine	7	-	-	8	-	*	34	5	-	20	11	-	-	-	411