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ASYLUM TRENDS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES - JANUARY 2003

1. In 26 industrialized countries for which data were available, 33,820 asylum applications were submitted in January 2003, 6 per cent more than in December 2002, when 31,770 applications were lodged. In the 21 European asylum countries with available data, monthly applications rose with 4 per cent, in North America an increase of 12 per cent was recorded, whereas Australia and New Zealand experienced an 8 per cent rise (*Table 1*).
2. Of the 26 countries reporting data for December 2002 and January 2003, 16 experienced an increase in monthly asylum applications, whereas 10 countries reported a decrease. A relatively significant **increase** in monthly applications was reported by Bulgaria (169%), Finland (46%), Germany (30%), Greece (31%), Netherlands (34%), Spain (99%), Switzerland (28%), Canada (25%) and New Zealand (100%). Conversely, an important **decrease** in applications was reported by Hungary (-29%) and Slovakia (-60%) (*Table 1*).
3. In the 26 industrialized countries with available data, monthly asylum claims lodged by Iraqi nationals, the main asylum-seeker nationality, rose with 37 per cent. Another important monthly increase (113%) was recorded by Pakistani asylum-seekers, mostly due to a steep rise in applications in Canada (from 370 to 1000).
4. Detailed trends by country of asylum and origin are provided in Table 3 (December 2002) and 4 (January 2003).

*Bela Hovy, Head
Population Data Unit/PGDS
Geneva, 13 March 2003
<http://www.unhcr.org>*

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UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, GENEVA, MARCH 2003

Table 1. Monthly asylum applications lodged			
A dash (-) indicates that the value is not available.			
See notes below.			
Country of asylum	2002 Dec.	2003 Jan.	Monthly change
Austria	3,497	-	..
Belgium	1,539	1,449	-6%
Bulgaria	62	167	169%
Czech Rep.	681	685	1%
Denmark	383	341	-11%
Finland	182	266	46%
France	4,555	3,653	-20%
Germany	4,694	6,124	30%
Greece	469	615	31%
Hungary	319	228	-29%
Ireland	1,090	979	-10%
Liechtenstein	8	11	38%
Luxembourg	158	-	..
Netherlands	920	1,234	34%
Norway	1,220	1,172	-4%
Poland	442	364	-18%
Portugal	13	11	-15%
Romania	75	80	7%
Slovakia	1,114	442	-60%
Slovenia	96	102	6%
Spain	383	764	99%
Sweden	3,065	3,117	2%
Switzerland	1,714	2,196	28%
UK	8,591	-	..
Canada	2,988	3,747	25%
USA	5,291	5,559	5%
Australia	402	394	-2%
New Zealand	45	90	100%
Japan	20	26	30%
EU-11	17,293	18,553	7%
Western Europe	20,235	21,932	8%
Central Europe	2,789	2,068	-26%
Europe	23,024	24,000	4%
North America	8,279	9,306	12%
Australia/New Z.	447	484	8%
Total	31,770	33,816	6%
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 (Government est.)).			
USA. Data reflect no. of persons (no. of cases multiplied with 1.4). Source: INS.			
EU-11: European Union member countries listed for which January 2003 data were available.			
Western Europe: EU-11 plus Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.			
Central Europe: Bulgaria, Czech Rep., Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia .			
Europe: European countries listed for which January 2003 data were available.			
Total: All countries listed for which January 2003 data were available.			
Source: Governments, compiled by UNHCR (Population Data Unit/PGDS).			

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Table 2. Monthly asylum applications lodged by origin (Top-40)

Covering the 26 asylum listed in Table 1 which reported data for January 2003.

Totals between Table 1 and 2 differ because USA data by origin reflect the no. of cases.

Country of asylum	2002 Dec.	2003 Jan.	Total	Monthly change
Iraq	2,231	3,050	5,281	37%
Turkey	1,810	1,872	3,682	3%
Yugoslavia, FR	1,804	1,790	3,594	-1%
China	1,791	1,483	3,274	-17%
Russian Federation	1,372	1,440	2,812	5%
Nigeria	1,027	1,014	2,041	-1%
Pakistan	632	1,344	1,976	113%
DR Congo	932	789	1,721	-15%
India	882	724	1,606	-18%
Afghanistan	830	763	1,593	-8%
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	640	762	1,402	19%
Colombia	722	625	1,347	-13%
Mexico	528	622	1,150	18%
Algeria	479	657	1,136	37%
Somalia	525	609	1,134	16%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	461	524	985	14%
Georgia	506	471	977	-7%
Cameroon	429	514	943	20%
Bulgaria	368	529	897	44%
Ukraine	409	443	852	8%
Haiti	435	411	846	-6%
Sri Lanka	400	378	778	-6%
Armenia	421	351	772	-17%
Côte d'Ivoire	309	410	719	33%
Azerbaijan	349	343	692	-2%
Romania	313	367	680	17%
Mauritania	345	307	652	-11%
Angola	326	302	628	-7%
Viet Nam	309	318	627	3%
Bangladesh	342	228	570	-33%
Guinea	256	296	552	16%
Syrian Arab Rep.	249	303	552	22%
Albania	274	271	545	-1%
Congo	291	249	540	-14%
Belarus	317	202	519	-36%
Stateless (excl. Pal.)	243	257	500	6%
Sierra Leone	229	249	478	9%
Sudan	213	263	476	23%
Ethiopia	229	246	475	7%
Togo	250	212	462	-15%
Other	5,780	6,240	12,020	8%
Total	30,258	32,228	62,486	7%

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Table 3. Asylum applications submitted by country of asylum and origin, December 2002 (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
Iraq	434	59	12	13	44	*	66	616	299	79	25	-	7	78
Turkey	249	67	-	-	5	7	744	624	19	*	5	-	*	32
China	56	22	-	29	*	*	203	199	*	13	10	-	*	15
Yugoslavia, FR	178	95	*	-	54	26	154	395	-	9	9	*	80	26
India	684	15	-	44	8	*	45	203	-	*	-	-	-	13
Russian Fed.	228	95	-	69	18	15	147	228	*	*	15	-	20	20
Afghanistan	288	47	13	*	102	*	46	139	39	134	-	-	-	27
Nigeria	112	12	14	*	6	*	88	82	23	8	436	-	-	47
DR Congo	*	193	-	-	-	*	464	56	*	-	31	-	*	29
Somalia	23	13	-	*	24	7	11	17	*	14	14	-	-	45
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	51	86	7	-	12	*	13	199	28	5	*	-	*	44
Bangladesh	481	*	-	-	*	*	38	10	7	8	5	-	-	*
Pakistan	40	14	*	*	*	-	48	78	6	*	*	-	-	*
Colombia	-	*	-	-	-	-	7	9	-	-	-	-	-	7
Georgia	121	38	-	58	*	-	143	75	*	9	13	*	*	21
Algeria	42	33	*	15	5	5	195	64	*	*	8	-	*	5
Sri Lanka	15	7	-	-	*	-	176	23	*	*	-	-	-	6
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bosnia and H.	24	13	-	-	7	8	68	68	-	-	7	-	9	7
Ukraine	28	13	-	119	*	5	56	41	-	*	30	-	*	*

Origin	NOR	POL	POR	ROM	SVK	SVN	SPA	SWE	SWI	GBR	CAN	USA	AUL	NZL	JPN
Iraq	147	-	-	26	92	28	23	476	98	1,020	9	32	6	-	-
Turkey	16	*	-	7	10	8	*	63	109	300	68	11	*	-	5
China	8	-	-	5	406	7	*	*	28	325	223	519	86	*	5
Yugoslavia, FR	184	-	-	-	*	12	*	518	270	95	16	25	*	-	-
India	*	50	-	13	159	*	-	9	13	130	96	143	59	*	-
Russian Fed.	88	326	-	-	64	-	8	131	33	35	26	80	5	-	-
Afghanistan	104	19	-	-	83	-	-	45	10	335	10	8	*	-	-
Nigeria	14	*	-	-	*	*	152	18	57	100	57	-	*	-	*
DR Congo	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	5	74	265	60	12	-	-	-
Somalia	164	-	-	*	18	-	*	126	31	630	20	15	-	-	-
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	27	*	-	*	7	6	*	65	25	290	30	70	*	5	-
Bangladesh	8	-	-	*	157	-	*	19	32	85	25	7	*	-	*
Pakistan	14	5	-	*	14	*	*	*	19	195	370	35	-	-	-
Colombia	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	7	5	40	180	470	5	-	-
Georgia	8	*	-	*	*	-	5	36	66	-	6	15	-	-	-
Algeria	27	-	-	-	-	18	39	14	41	70	*	-	-	*	-
Sri Lanka	*	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	32	135	134	-	7	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142	385	*	-	-
Bosnia and H.	35	-	-	-	-	*	*	134	105	-	*	-	*	-	-
Ukraine	13	5	-	-	*	-	*	52	14	50	32	15	*	-	-

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Table 4. Asylum applications submitted by country of asylum and origin, January 2003 (Top-20)

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

Origin	BEL	BUL	CZE	DEN	FIN	FRA	GFR	GRE	HUN	IRE	LIE	NET	NOR
Iraq	62	58	7	49	23	135	1,022	262	69	26	-	283	168
Turkey	58	12	-	6	16	576	737	18	*	*	-	51	24
Yugoslavia, FR	97	-	*	50	23	109	483	-	16	7	7	14	198
China	39	-	112	5	-	125	208	-	13	9	-	11	9
Russian Fed.	88	-	61	34	35	150	400	6	5	12	-	20	74
Pakistan	22	*	*	7	*	32	108	38	*	*	-	*	10
Nigeria	10	14	*	*	*	63	109	16	*	374	-	56	8
DR Congo	156	-	*	-	*	373	61	*	-	40	-	24	8
Afghanistan	67	58	*	40	-	37	211	90	34	-	-	41	76
Iran (Islamic Rep.)	75	11	-	*	*	9	271	48	15	*	-	63	34
India	12	*	46	*	-	51	160	47	11	*	-	5	-
Algeria	41	*	*	*	*	171	131	-	-	*	-	12	21
Colombia	*	-	-	-	-	13	*	-	-	-	-	*	*
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	16	-	*	23	9	6	38	-	*	7	-	37	180
Bulgaria	9	-	5	-	82	*	90	-	-	*	-	*	16
Bosnia and H.	19	-	-	21	13	47	70	-	*	*	-	13	47
Cameroon	52	-	-	-	*	45	127	-	-	21	-	16	*
Georgia	26	-	24	-	-	93	135	*	20	*	-	10	9
Ukraine	14	-	128	*	10	63	47	-	-	30	-	11	9

Origin	POL	POR	ROM	SVK	SVN	SPA	SWE	SWI	CAN	USA	AUL	NZL	JPN
Iraq	9	-	34	40	34	64	452	202	11	28	6	6	-
Turkey	7	-	*	-	12	-	68	214	39	9	6	-	14
Yugoslavia, FR	-	*	-	*	*	*	422	322	5	25	*	-	-
China	-	-	10	146	*	-	5	40	158	483	102	*	5
Russian Fed.	256	-	-	41	*	12	85	37	27	89	*	-	-
Pakistan	6	-	*	*	*	*	*	19	998	72	*	-	-
Nigeria	*	-	*	-	-	215	23	41	54	14	*	*	-
DR Congo	-	-	-	-	-	12	18	41	37	14	-	*	-
Afghanistan	15	-	-	18	-	*	46	22	*	-	*	-	-
Iran (Islamic Rep.)	*	-	6	12	13	-	54	25	43	47	6	21	-
India	18	-	18	69	-	-	6	21	85	104	49	14	-
Algeria	*	-	-	*	11	129	36	75	5	10	-	-	-
Colombia	-	-	-	-	-	24	7	-	121	454	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	209	413	-	-	-
Somalia	-	-	-	29	-	8	148	48	35	21	-	*	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-	*	-	*	247	53	14	-	*	-	-
Bosnia and H.	-	-	-	*	*	-	174	114	*	-	-	-	-
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	-	40	*	31	12	163	*	-	*
Georgia	*	-	-	-	-	20	41	74	*	8	-	-	-
Ukraine	5	*	-	*	-	6	59	12	28	15	-	-	-