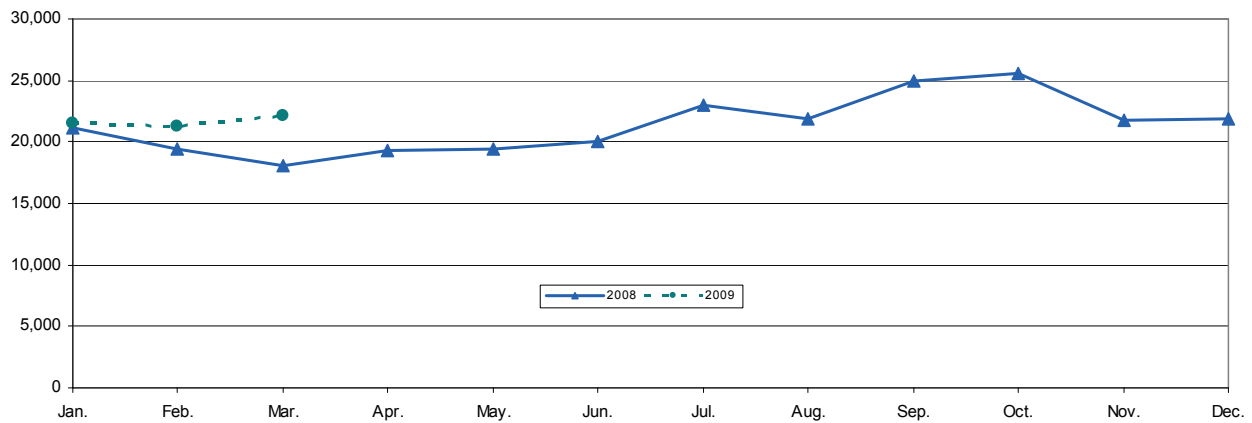


Asylum applicants and decisions on asylum applications in Q1 2009

Number of asylum applicants in January – March 2009 remained at a similar level as in the last months of 2008

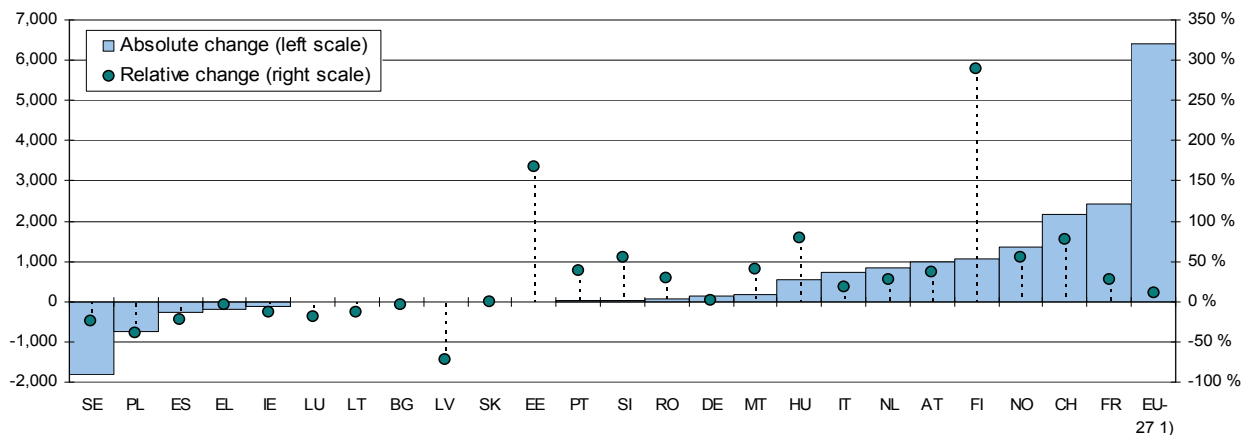
Figure 1: Asylum applicants, EU-27¹⁾, 2008 and January-March 2009



1) EU-27 aggregate estimated for January-March; data for UK refers only to new asylum applicants; data for CY relate to applications instead of applicants; BE, CZ, DK, CY: see country information in methodological notes. Source: Eurostat

6 000 more asylum applicants in the EU-27 in Q1 2009 compared to Q1 2008

Figure 2: Asylum applicants, absolute and relative change between Q1/09 and Q1/08



1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes BE, CZ and DK for which data is not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK and CY data relating to applications. Source: Eurostat.

	Q1 2008			Q2 2008			Q3 2008			Q4 2008				2008			Q1 2009			Applicants per million inhabitants ¹⁾
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.-Mar. 2009	Applicants per million inhabitants ¹⁾			
	21,090	19,450	18,100	19,345	19,385	20,010	22,945	21,845	24,975	25,630	21,730	21,895	21,560	21,300	22,180	65,035				
BE	1,460	1,250	1,080	1,115	1,130	1,290	1,415	1,345	1,485	1,655	1,400	1,320	1,590	1,590	1,570	4,720	795	180		
BG	85	90	60	55	75	50	60	35	80	65	50	40	70	65	90	230	30	30		
CZ	210	190	180	135	100	115	110	115	120	175	115	85	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	
DK	240	175	130	160	155	145	135	210	250	255	275	245	2,375	2,375	2,375	2,375	2,375	2,375	2,375	
DE	3,055	2,400	2,030	2,230	2,035	2,125	2,225	2,040	2,450	2,370	2,100	1,880	26,945	26,945	26,945	26,945	26,945	26,945	26,945	
EE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	15	0	5	10	5	5	5	
IE	330	295	300	300	300	330	340	335	360	355	325	300	3,865	3,865	3,865	3,865	3,865	3,865	3,865	
GR	1,685	1,725	1,505	1,715	1,790	1,745	1,740	1,420	1,700	1,650	1,430	1,780	19,885	19,885	19,885	19,885	19,885	19,885	19,885	
ES	370	440	335	460	420	345	370	290	345	435	365	335	4,515	4,515	4,515	4,515	4,515	4,515	4,515	
FR	2,860	3,240	2,910	3,485	2,830	3,280	3,355	3,270	4,000	4,625	3,635	4,350	41,845	41,845	41,845	41,845	41,845	41,845	41,845	
IT	1,170	1,105	1,800	1,780	2,850	2,680	3,870	3,785	3,395	3,260	2,740	1,705	30,145	30,145	30,145	30,145	30,145	30,145	30,145	
CY	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
LV	0	0	5	0	0	5	0	10	0	20	10	5	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	
LT	50	20	45	60	50	35	35	25	55	50	35	60	520	30	40	35	100	30	30	
LU	45	25	30	45	20	35	40	55	70	30	35	25	455	25	25	30	80	165	165	
HU	240	240	225	175	195	150	160	240	445	445	340	320	3,175	280	495	485	1,260	125	125	
MT	220	150	110	200	190	230	365	270	260	190	205	215	2,605	220	225	225	670	1,635	1,635	
NL	1,060	1,050	1,020	1,085	1,160	1,310	1,445	1,440	1,615	1,645	1,250	1,175	15,255	1,300	1,280	1,385	3,965	240	240	
AT	1,105	880	805	885	830	805	1,075	1,160	1,280	1,405	1,225	1,300	12,750	1,215	1,255	1,315	3,785	455	455	
PL	490	760	655	735	585	565	585	665	1,040	795	725	915	8,515	370	345	450	1,165	30	30	
PT	5	15	10	15	10	35	5	20	10	15	10	5	160	15	10	15	45	5	5	
RO	50	60	110	45	55	85	160	90	110	125	125	160	1,180	95	125	65	285	15	15	
SI	15	15	10	15	45	10	15	10	25	30	40	25	260	40	10	20	70	35	35	
SK	45	60	65	75	75	90	75	80	85	120	65	65	905	55	45	70	170	30	30	
FI	160	100	110	135	200	245	280	375	450	630	515	570	3,770	525	450	470	1,445	270	270	
SE	3,220	2,245	1,680	1,880	1,780	1,655	1,920	1,975	2,205	2,270	1,900	2,140	24,875	1,940	1,675	1,735	5,345	580	580	
UK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
IS	5	5	0	5	10	5	10	5	10	10	5	0	75	:	:	:	:	:	:	
NO	865	785	830	850	995	1,070	1,435	1,700	1,545	1,455	1,450	1,450	14,430	1,345	1,185	1,300	3,835	810	810	
CH	1,050	860	880	1,085	900	1,170	1,095	1,605	1,705	2,115	2,055	2,085	16,605	2,265	1,365	1,310	4,940	650	650	
LI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0	5	10	20	510	510	

1) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2008.

2) EU-27 total estimated and includes CY, UK data and estimates for BE, CZ and DK. UK data includes only new asylum applicants. CY data relate to applications. BE, CZ, DK and CY see country information in methodological notes.

Source: Eurostat

Table 2: New asylum applicants, Q1/08-Q1/09 (rounded figures)

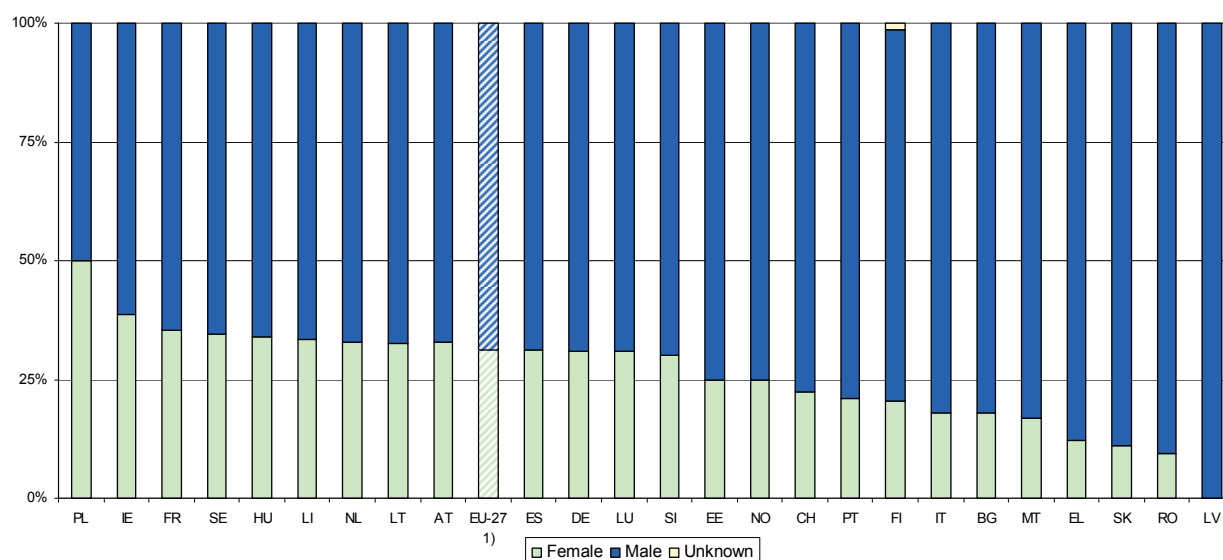
	Q1 2008			Q2 2008			Q3 2008			Q4 2008				Q1 2009				New applicants per million inhabitants ¹⁾	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	2008	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.-Mar. 2009		
EU27	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
BE	1,070	870	750	770	820	915	965	980	1,065	1,250	1,035	900	11,395	:	:	:	:	:	
BG	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
CZ	155	150	135	100	60	55	50	60	70	110	65	45	1,050	:	:	:	:	:	
DK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
DE	2,395	1,820	1,545	1,695	1,600	1,670	1,795	1,660	1,965	1,945	1,730	1,545	21,365	2,340	1,935	1,995	6,275	75	
EE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	15	0	5	5	5	5	
IE	315	290	295	295	295	320	330	330	360	355	325	300	3,805	250	270	270	790	180	
GR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FR	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	2,815	3,645	3,510	9,970	155
IT	1,170	1,105	1,800	1,780	2,850	2,680	3,870	3,785	3,395	3,260	2,740	1,705	30,145	1,985	1,365	1,445	4,795	80	
CY	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LV	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	10	0	20	10	5	50	0	0	0	0	0	
LT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	15	15	10	40	10
LU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
HU	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
MT	220	150	110	200	190	230	365	270	260	190	205	215	2,605	220	225	225	670	1,635	
NL	905	860	885	925	1,010	1,165	1,270	1,285	1,445	1,435	1,105	1,080	13,380	1,170	1,145	1,300	3,620	220	
AT	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PL	360	635	510	565	460	480	490	585	950	710	645	810	7,200	310	290	415	1,015	25	
PT	5	15	10	15	10	35	5	20	10	15	10	5	160	15	10	15	45	5	
RO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SI	15	15	10	15	45	10	15	10	25	25	35	20	240	40	10	15	65	30	
SK	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
FI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
SE	3,195	2,210	1,645	1,840	1,750	1,630	1,895	1,935	2,150	2,195	1,850	2,065	24,365	1,865	1,595	1,645	5,110	555	
UK	2,705	2,510	2,490	2,270	2,185	2,385	2,755	2,385	2,845	2,815	2,565	2,635	30,545	3,255	3,215	3,815	10,285	170	
IS	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
NO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
CH	900	755	775	975	815	1,045	990	1,490	1,580	1,960	1,920	1,980	15,180	2,125	1,265	1,175	4,565	600	
LI	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

1) Relative to population as of 1st of January 2008.

Source: Eurostat

Around 70% of applicants are male, the majority aged 18-34

Figure 3: Asylum applicants by gender, 1st quarter 2009 (in %)



1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes BE, CZ and DK for which data is not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK and CY data relating to applications. Source: Eurostat

Table 3: Asylum applicants by age group, 1st quarter 2009 (rounded data)

	Total (absolute value)	Distribution of age groups as a share of total (in %)					
		0-13	14-17	18-34	35-64	65 and over	Unknown
EU-27 ¹⁾	59,910	14.5	6.5	58.8	19.4	0.7	0.1
Belgium	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bulgaria	230	8.3	4.8	61.0	22.4	3.5	0.0
Czech Republic	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Germany	7,635	20.2	8.2	54.8	16.0	0.8	0.0
Estonia	10	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ireland	795	25.2	6.4	52.9	15.2	0.3	0.0
Greece	4,720	1.2	3.4	78.9	16.4	0.0	0.0
Spain	895	6.9	2.7	73.4	16.7	0.3	0.0
France	11,445	14.2	2.5	56.0	26.4	0.9	0.0
Italy	4,795	0.1	3.0	83.5	13.1	0.0	0.3
Cyprus	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Latvia	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lithuania	100	27.7	5.9	44.6	21.8	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	80	13.6	6.2	61.7	18.5	0.0	0.0
Hungary	1,260	33.4	6.8	45.7	14.1	0.0	0.0
Malta	670	2.8	7.9	83.7	5.5	0.0	0.0
Netherlands	3,965	18.0	10.4	54.8	16.1	0.7	0.0
Austria	3,785	27.5	8.7	47.7	15.6	0.5	0.0
Poland	1,165	37.3	3.9	37.2	20.9	0.6	0.1
Portugal	45	9.3	2.3	53.5	34.9	0.0	0.0
Romania	285	4.2	6.0	73.2	16.2	0.4	0.0
Slovenia	70	28.6	10.0	37.1	24.3	0.0	0.0
Slovakia	170	3.5	7.6	54.7	29.4	4.7	0.0
Finland	1,445	7.6	14.9	61.8	13.4	0.7	1.5
Sweden	5,345	16.9	9.2	53.2	19.4	1.4	0.0
United Kingdom	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	3,835	13.5	14.2	58.7	13.1	0.5	0.0
Switzerland	4,940	15.0	7.0	65.3	12.2	0.5	0.0
Liechtenstein	20	5.6	0.0	33.3	44.4	5.6	11.1

1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes BE, CZ and DK for which data is not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK and CY data relating to applications. Source: Eurostat

Notes:

* - Age distribution is not calculated for those countries where the number of applicants was lower than 10 during the reference period.

Table 4: Five main citizenships of asylum applicants, 1st quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

BELGIUM		BULGARIA		CZECH REPUBLIC	
Not available		Iraq	95	Not available	
		Afghanistan	25		
		Iran	15		
		Somalia	10		
		Syrian Arab Republic	5		
		Other	75		
DENMARK		GERMANY		ESTONIA	
Not available		Iraq	1,960	Georgia	*
		Afghanistan	655	Stateless	*
		Turkey	450	Belarus	*
		Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	405	CD	*
		Vietnam	400	Uganda	*
		Other	3,765	Other	*
IRELAND		GREECE		SPAIN	
Nigeria	185	Pakistan	1,170	Nigeria	150
Pakistan	80	Bangladesh	735	Ivory Coast	120
China	50	Georgia	570	Somalia	90
Zimbabwe	35	Afghanistan	565	Colombia	70
CD	35	Syrian Arab Republic	270	Algeria	25
Other	405	Other	1,405	Other	440
FRANCE		ITALY		CYPRUS¹⁾	
Sri Lanka	1,050	Nigeria	1,355	Syrian Arab Republic	90
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	980	Bangladesh	535	PS	65
Armenia	960	Pakistan	385	Sri Lanka	65
Russia	860	Somalia	340	Iran	50
Turkey	760	Gambia	225	India	45
Other	6,830	Other	1,950	Other	400
LATVIA		LITHUANIA		LUXEMBOURG	
Belarus	*	Russia	75	Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	30
Iraq	*	Georgia	5	Iran	10
		Belarus	5	Russia	5
		Afghanistan	5	Bosnia and Herzegovina	5
		Vietnam	5	Cameroon	5
Other	0	Other	10	Other	30
HUNGARY		MALTA		NETHERLANDS	
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	690	Somalia	490	Somalia	1,435
Serbia	235	Eritrea	70	Iraq	660
Afghanistan	70	Nigeria	30	Afghanistan	395
Turkey	25	Sudan	25	Unknown	175
MK	25	Ethiopia	10	Iran	115
Other	215	Other	50	Other	1,185
AUSTRIA		POLAND		PORTUGAL	
Russia	875	Russia	1,035	Mauritania	10
Afghanistan	500	Armenia	20	Colombia	5
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	330	Ukraine	20	Ukraine	5
Serbia	230	Vietnam	15	Eritrea	5
Nigeria	180	Georgia	10	Guinea	5
Other	1,675	Other	65	Other	15
ROMANIA		SLOVENIA		SLOVAKIA	
Pakistan	40	Bosnia and Herzegovina	20	Pakistan	25
Afghanistan	40	Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	10	India	20
Iraq	30	Croatia	10	Georgia	15
India	25	Serbia	10	China	15
Bangladesh	25	Turkey	5	Moldova	10
Other	120	Other	15	Other	85
FINLAND		SWEDEN		UNITED KINGDOM²⁾	
Iraq	555	Somalia	890	Zimbabwe	3,875
Somalia	345	Iraq	635	Afghanistan	1,105
Afghanistan	100	Afghanistan	335	Iran	515
Russia	65	Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	335	Eritrea	495
Iran	50	Mongolia	310	Pakistan	485
Other	325	Other	2,840	Other	3,810
		EU-27³⁾			
		Iraq	5,045		
		Somalia	4,140		
		Afghanistan	4,125		
		Zimbabwe	3,965		
		Russia	3,585		
		Other	39,050		

LIECHTENSTEIN		NORWAY		SWITZERLAND	
Ukraine	5	Afghanistan	725	Eritrea	780
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244	5	Iraq	465	Sri Lanka	455
Russia	*	Eritrea	440	Nigeria	430
Stateless	*	Somalia	415	Somalia	400
Bosnia and Herzegovina	*	Stateless	280	Iraq	335
Other	5	Other	1,515	Other	2,535

1) Data relates to cases.

2) New asylum applicants only.

3) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes BE, CZ and DK for which data is not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK and CY data relating to applications.

Source: Eurostat

Notes:

* - represents 2 or fewer applicants recorded in the reference period

CD - Congo, the Democratic Republic of the; MK – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; PS - Palestinian territory occupied.

The number of Zimbabweans asylum seekers in the EU-27 triples in Q1 2009

Table 5: Ten main citizenships of asylum seekers in the EU-27¹⁾ by number of applicants, 3rd quarter 2008 - 1st quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

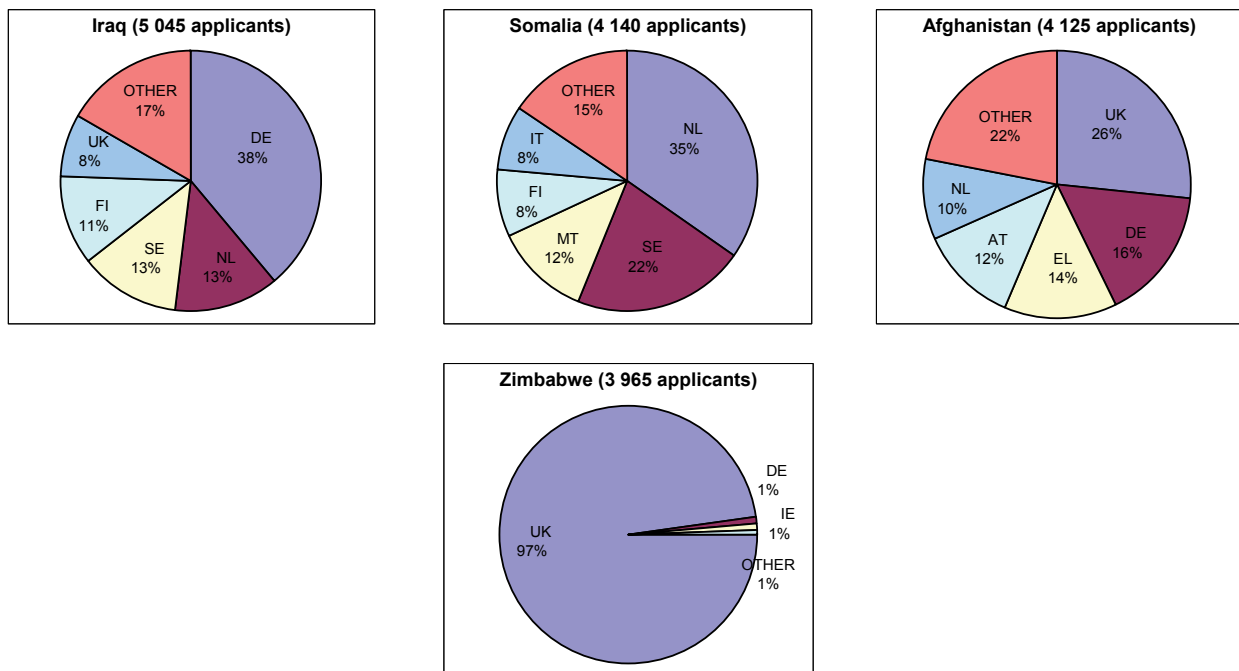
	Q1 2009	Q4 2008		Q3 2008	
	Number of applicants	Number of applicants	Rank	Number of applicants	Rank
Iraq	5,045	6,630	(1)	7,270	(1)
Somalia	4,140	4,755	(3)	5,575	(2)
Afghanistan	4,125	4,055	(5)	3,880	(4)
Zimbabwe	3,965	1,235	(15)	1,495	(12)
Russia	3,585	5,820	(2)	5,370	(3)
Nigeria	2,915	3,580	(6)	3,700	(5)
Kosovo / UNSCR 1244 ²⁾	2,890	:	(:)	:	(:)
Pakistan	2,655	3,235	(7)	3,095	(7)
Bangladesh	2,110	2,170	(10)	1,400	(15)
Sri Lanka	2,025	1,940	(11)	1,575	(11)
Other	26,460	35,840	(-)	36,410	(-)

1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes BE, CZ, DK for which data is not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK and CY data relating to applications.

2) In 2008, Kosovo / UNSCR 1244 citizen were included with Serbia citizen.

Source: Eurostat

Figure 4: Distribution of the 4 main countries of citizenship of asylum seekers in the EU-27¹⁾ by receiving country, 1st quarter 2009



1) EU-27 aggregate estimated; excludes BE, CZ, DK for which data is not available; includes only new asylum applicants for the UK and CY data relating to applications.

Source: Eurostat

France issued the highest number of first instance decisions in Q1 2009

Table 6: First instance decisions by citizenship in selected Member States¹⁾, 1st quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

GERMANY				GREECE					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections		
Iraq	1,460	Sri Lanka	30	Turkey	410	Iraq	5	Pakistan	1,100
Iran	120	Iran	5	Iraq	390	* Bangladesh	5	Bangladesh	690
Sri Lanka	75	Eritrea	5	Vietnam	315	* Somalia	5	* Georgia	415
Other	355	Other	10	Other	2,765	* Other	5	Other	1,890
FRANCE				ITALY					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections		
Iraq	175	Mali	85	Turkey	605	Eritrea	105	Somalia	790
CD	105	Guinea	15	Sri Lanka	565	Somalia	95	Eritrea	420
Sri Lanka	95	Ivory Coast	10	CD	545	Ghana	45	Ghana	455
Other	635	Other	55	Other	5,540	Sudan	45	Afghanistan	115
						Ivory Coast	35	Gambia	295
						Other	250	Other	1,745
SWEDEN				UNITED KINGDOM					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections		
Somalia	140	Somalia	475	Iraq	35	Iraq	1,465	Zimbabwe	1,160
Iraq	100	Iraq	265	Somalia	30	Somalia	420	Afghanistan	300
Eritrea	25	Afghanistan	80	Afghanistan	30	XK	285	Iraq	65
Other	85	Other	135	Other	65	Other	2,265	Iran	50
								Myanmar	5
								Other	205
								Other	5
								Other	2,595
OTHER EU MS				EU-27					
Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejections	Refugee status ²⁾	Subsidiary protection ²⁾	Humanitarian reasons ³⁾	Rejections ²⁾		
Russia	250	Russia	1,080	Somalia	570	Iraq	1,100	Iraq	1,940
Iraq	130	Somalia	715	Iraq	230	Russia	720	Zimbabwe	1,160
Afghanistan	60	Iraq	355	Afghanistan	60	Somalia	525	Eritrea	515
Other	370	Other	515	Other	390	Other	3,880	Iraq	3,030
								Other	2,385
								Other	790
								Other	25,625

1) Countries selected here are those with the highest number of 1st instance decisions.

2) No data available for BE, CZ, DK and ES.

3) No data available for BE, BG, CZ, DK, ES and AT.

Source: Eurostat

Notes:

CD - Congo, the Democratic Republic of the; XK – Kosovo / UNSCR 1244.

Table 7: First instance decisions by outcome, 1st quarter 2009 (rounded figures)

	Total decisions	Total positive decisions	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	Rejected
EU-27 ¹⁾	48,570	14,760	6,645	6,235	1,880	33,810
Belgium	:	:	:	:	-	:
Bulgaria	:	:	10	50	:	65
Czech Republic	:	:	:	:	:	:
Denmark	:	:	:	:	:	:
Germany	5,930	2,055	2,005	50	0	3,880
Estonia	10	0	0	0	0	5
Ireland	1,085	220	40	5	180	865
Greece	4,140	40	5	20	15	4,100
Spain	:	:	:	:	:	:
France	8,430	1,175	1,015	160	-	7,255
Italy	6,855	2,680	500	1,750	430	4,175
Cyprus ²⁾	755	75	20	40	15	680
Latvia	15	0	0	0	0	15
Lithuania	70	30	10	20	-	40
Luxembourg	110	30	30	0	0	75
Hungary	390	90	35	15	40	300
Malta	700	530	5	520	5	175
Netherlands	3,780	1,680	125	575	980	2,100
Austria	:	:	445	220	:	710
Poland	1,695	1,100	60	1,030	5	595
Portugal	30	20	5	15	-	10
Romania	205	40	20	0	15	165
Slovenia	45	0	0	0	0	45
Slovakia	45	35	5	30	0	10
Finland	525	160	5	135	15	365
Sweden	5,905	1,470	350	960	160	4,435
United Kingdom	6,360	2,615	1,965	630	20	3,740
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	3,130	1,300	460	455	385	1,830
Switzerland	2,815	1,625	445	625	560	1,185
Liechtenstein	10	0	0	-	0	10

1) As a sum of available data.

2) Rejections decided in January are not included.

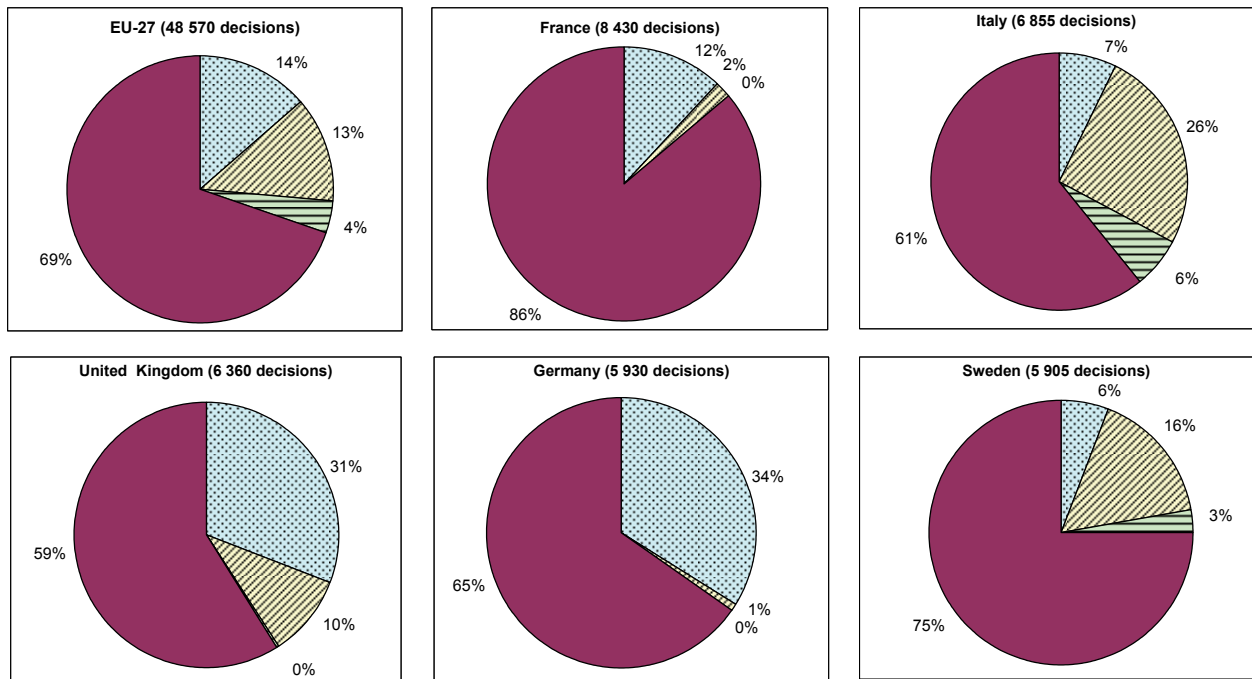
Source: Eurostat

'-' not applicable

':' not available

About three out of ten applicants obtain protection in EU at first instance

Figure 5: First instance decisions by outcome, selected Member States¹⁾, 1st quarter 2009



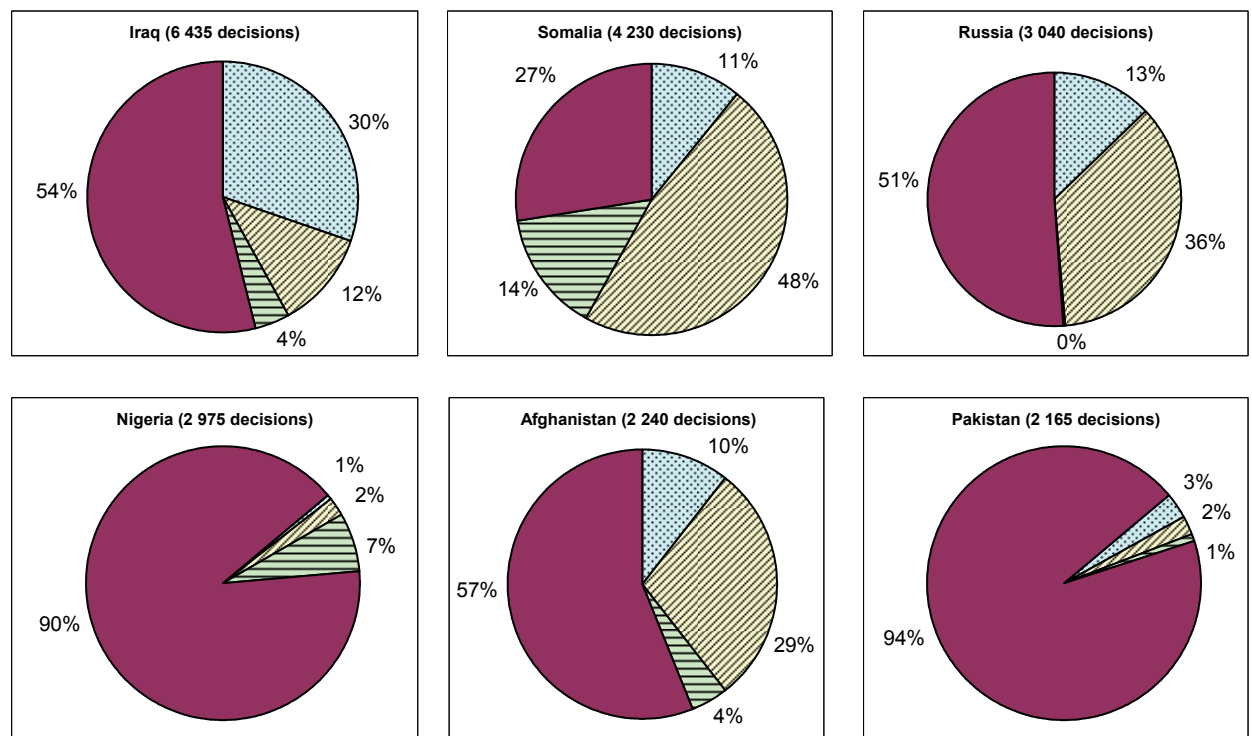
1) Countries selected here are those with the highest number of decisions.

2) EU-27: Refugee status, subsidiary protection and rejections: no data available for BE, CZ, DK and ES.
Humanitarian reasons: no data available for BE, BG, CZ, DK, ES and AT.

Source: Eurostat

Refugee status
 Subsidiary protection
 Humanitarian reasons
 Rejections

Figure 6: First instance decisions in EU-27¹⁾ for the main countries of citizenship by outcome, 1st quarter 2009



1) EU-27: Refugee status, subsidiary protection and rejections: no data available for BE, CZ, DK and ES.
Humanitarian reasons: no data available for BE, BG, CZ, DK, ES and AT.

Source: Eurostat

Refugee status
 Subsidiary protection
 Humanitarian reasons
 Rejections

Methodology

DATA SOURCES

The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States. Data are based entirely on relevant administrative sources. Apart from statistics on new asylum applicants, these data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.

All data presented in this publication are rounded to the nearest 5.

All data presented in this publication are provisional (except for otherwise stated) and may be a subject of change.

DEFINITIONS AND COVERAGE

'Asylum applicant' means a person having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such application as a family member during the reference period. 'Application for international protection' means an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(g) of Council Directive 2004/83/EC, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally. In deciding when to regard an asylum application as having been lodged, the principles expressed in Article 4(1) of Council Regulation 2003/343/EC should be applied, i.e. 'An application for asylum shall be deemed to have been lodged once a form submitted by the applicant for asylum or a report prepared by the authorities has reached the competent authorities of the Member State concerned. Where an application is not made in writing, the time elapsing between the statement of intention and the preparation of a report should be as short as possible'. Applications submitted by persons who are subsequently found to be a subject of a Dublin procedure (Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003) are included in the number of asylum applications. Within the same reference period every person being a subject of asylum application is counted only once, therefore repeat applications are not recorded if the first application has been lodged in the same reference period. However, such a repeat application will be recorded if lodged in a different reference month. It means that the aggregation of the monthly figures may overestimate the number of persons applying for international protection within the aggregated period (quarter or year).

In some MS (e.g. IT, MT) due to restrictions of the asylum procedure (e.g. time limits for lodging repeat application) repeat applications may be very rare. Therefore the number of new asylum applicants may equal or almost equal the number of asylum applicants.

The number of asylum applicants and the number of first instance decisions during the same reference period differs. This is due to the time lag between the date of asylum application and the date of the decision on asylum application. The duration of this time lag may vary considerably depending on the national asylum procedure and the administrative workload. Asylum application lodged in one reference period may therefore result in a decision in a later period, while some asylum decisions reported for that period may relate to the applications lodged in previous reference periods.

'New asylum applicant' means a person having submitted an application for international protection for the first time. Applications submitted by persons who are subsequently found to be a subject of a Dublin procedure are included in the statistics on new asylum applicants if such persons are also a subject of first asylum application. All Member States are requested to supply these data but their provision is voluntary. As persons are counted once only, statistics on new asylum applicants may be used for preparation of annual aggregates.

Person being a subject of **'a pending application'** means a person who is the subject of application for international protection under consideration by the responsible national authority at the end of the reference period. It includes the number of persons with pending applications at all instances of the administrative and/or judicial procedure.

'Rejected applicant' means a person covered by a first instance decision rejecting an application for international protection, including decisions considering applications as inadmissible or as unfounded and decisions under priority and accelerated procedures, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period.

'Person granted refugee status at first instance' means a person covered by a first instance decision granting refugee status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Refugee status means status as defined in Art.2(d) of Directive 2004/83/EC within the meaning of Art.1 of the Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967. According to the Art.2(c) of that Directive refugee means a third country national who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group, is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or a stateless person, who, being outside of the country of former habitual residence for the same reasons as mentioned above, is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to return to it.

'Person granted subsidiary protection status at first instance' means a person covered by a first instance decision granting subsidiary protection status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. Subsidiary protection status means status as defined in Art.2(f) of Directive 2004/83/EC. According to the Art.2(e) of that Directive a person eligible for subsidiary protection means a third country national or a stateless person who does not qualify as a refugee but in respect of whom substantial grounds have been shown for believing that the person

concerned, if returned to his or her country of origin, or in the case of a stateless person, to his or her country of former habitual residence, would face a real risk of suffering serious harm and is unable, or, owing to such risk, unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.

'Person granted authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons at first instance' means a person covered by an other first instance decision granting authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during the reference period. It includes persons who are not eligible for international protection as currently defined in the first stage legal instruments, but are nonetheless protected against removal under the obligations that are imposed on all Member States by international refugee or human rights instruments or on the basis of principles flowing from such instruments. Examples of such categories include persons who are not removable on ill health grounds and unaccompanied minors.

'Dublin procedure' means a procedure according to the Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003, establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national.

COUNTRY INFORMATION

Monthly data for the period January to March 2009 for Belgium, Czech Republic and Denmark was not made available to Eurostat on time for this publication and have been estimated as the monthly mean of the number of applicants registered between January and December 2008.

Statistics on asylum applications in Cyprus relate to the number of administrative cases instead of individuals. This may result in underestimation of the actual number of applications, as one administrative case may cover several family members being a subject of this application.

ABBREVIATIONS

Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), the United Kingdom (UK), Iceland (IS), Lichtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

EU ASYLUM POLICY

The Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security (DG JLS) is responsible for developing EU policies on asylum. For more information please see:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/index_en.htm

Further information

European Statistical Data Support:

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>

Data

Data on "Population and Social conditions, Asylum":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

(Select "International Migration and asylum" and "Asylum")

More information about "Population and social conditions":

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/introduction>

European Statistical Data Support:

Contact details for this support network can be found on our Internet site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/>