

Asylum-seekers

1 □ 1996 Quarterly

April 1996

ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN EUROPE IN 1995

This publication is the first one of a quarterly bulletin on asylum-seeker statistics that will appear regularly as a joint publication by Eurostat and the Secretariat of the Inter-governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia (IGC). The collaboration between Eurostat and IGC was initiated with the publication of Statistics in Focus 1996-1 "Asylum-seekers in Europe 1985-1995".

For this first quarterly bulletin, IGC and Eurostat have decided to give an overview of the recent changes in the number of asylum applications in 1995 and the main trends of the last decade since we started our data collection. Emphasis is on changes in major groups of applicants, to the 15 European Union Member States and for comparative purposes the EFTA countries and the "Overseas states" (Australia, Canada and the United States). This first issue could be used as a background for reading the following issues which will address the most recent short-term evolutions based on monthly data.

Highlights*

- From 1985 to 1992, there was a steady upward trend in the number of asylum applications in Europe. The overall downward trend began in 1993 and continued in 1994 and 1995.
- In 1995, the total number of asylum applications in the 15 EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland decreased by almost 37 000 from some 325 000 in 1994 to some 290 000, an overall decrease of 11%. As regards the Overseas states, the total number of applications increased from 170 000 to 180 000, an increase of 4%.
- An increase from 1994 to 1995 in the number of asylum applications occurred in the UK (+13 000 or 30%) while a decrease occurred in the Netherlands (-23 000 or 44%).
- The overall decrease in 1995 in Europe is mostly due to fewer asylum applications from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Romania. Increases are mainly registered, for asylum seekers from Turkey, Iraq and Pakistan. However, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to dominate asylum applications in Europe.

* It should be noted that a significant number of Yugoslavs from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are under Temporary Protection or other status, and do not always appear in the data on asylum applications. Applicants coming from Bosnia, Croatia and FYROM can sometimes be erroneously included in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.



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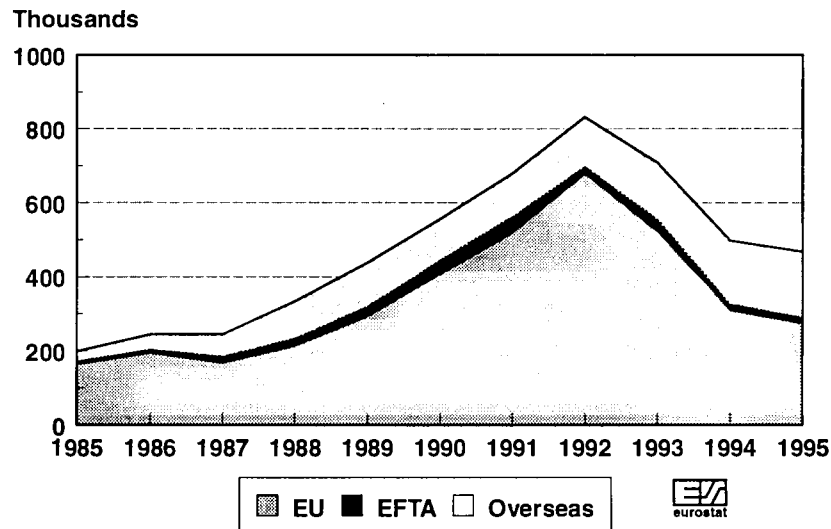
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**Figure 1:
Asylum applications, 1985-1995**



Decreases in the EU and increases in the Overseas states in 1995

468 000 asylum applications were registered in the 15 EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland, and Australia, Canada and the United States of America, in 1995. Of these applications, 270 000 were registered in the EU Member States, 20 000 in total for Norway and Switzerland and almost 180 000 in IGC's Overseas states combined (Australia, Canada and the United States of America).

More specifically, concerning the 15 EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland the total number of asylum applications is down from some 325 000 in 1994 to almost 290 000 in 1995, a decrease of 11%. However, as regards the Overseas states the total number of asylum applications is up from around 170 000 in 1994 to 180 000 in 1995, an increase of 4% reaching the highest level observed in the last decade.

The overall downward trend that started in Europe during 1993 thus continued in 1995. The overall level has been halved in only three years and the 1995 level is close to the 1989 level, three years before the peak of 1992 in the number of asylum applications in Europe (Figure 1).

Table 1:
Asylum applications, 1985-1995

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
EUR 15	159 176	191 020	163 471	209 841	289 114	403 496
Belgium ¹	5 387	7 644	5 976	4 510	8 188	12 945
Denmark ²	8 698	9 299	2 726	4 668	4 588	5 292
Germany ³	73 832	99 650	57 379	103 076	121 318	193 063
Greece ⁴	1 400	4 300	7 000	8 400	4 033	10 569
Spain ⁵	2 300	2 300	2 500	4 516	4 077	8 647
France ⁶	28 925	26 290	27 672	34 352	61 422	54 813
Ireland	:	:	50	49	36	62
Italy ¹	5 400	6 500	11 000	1 300	2 240	3 570
Luxembourg	78	92	98	44	87	114
Netherlands	5 644	5 865	13 460	7 486	13 898	21 208
Austria ⁷	6 724	8 639	11 406	15 790	21 822	22 789
Portugal	70	118	178	252	116	61
Finland	18	23	49	64	179	2 743
Sweden	14 500	14 600	18 114	19 595	30 335	29 420
United Kingdom	6 200	5 700	5 863	5 739	16 775	38 200
EFTA	10 532	11 268	19 533	23 328	28 868	39 805
Iceland	:	:	7	:	10	7
Norway	829	2 722	8 613	6 602	4 433	3 962
Switzerland ⁸	9 703	8 546	10 913	16 726	24 425	35 836
Overseas states	28 400	41 900	61 100	102 000	120 434	113 775
Australia	:	:	:	:	500	3 800
Canada	8 400	23 000	35 000	45 000	19 934	36 375
USA	20 000	18 900	26 100	57 000	100 000	73 600

These notes refer to the years 1985-1993

1 Excluding dependent children

2 Excluding applications outside Denmark and rejected applications at the border

3 Including dependent children if the parents requested asylum for them

4 Figures for 1989-1992 are the sum of the applications registered with the Greek authorities and those registered with UNHCR

Only two EU countries register an increase

Seven EU Member States followed the overall downward trend in 1995 while two EU Member States witnessed an increase and three remained stable in 1995. A significant increase in the number of asylum applications occurred in the UK (+13 000 or 30%) while a major decrease occurred in the Netherlands (-23 000 or 44%) in 1995. Consequently, the UK took over from Netherlands as second most important receiving country in the EU in 1995.

Germany stands out, by far, as the recipient of the largest number of asylum claims in the EU. The stable number

of claims in Germany in 1995 combined with the overall downward trend in Europe increased Germany's share slightly from 41% in 1994 to 47% in 1995 of all asylum claims in the EU. For the period 1985-1995, the German share was on average around 50% despite the fact that in the peak years 1992 and 1993 it reached more than 60%.

The distribution of the total number of asylum applications broken down on a quarterly basis in 1995 shows that the lowest levels were registered in the 2nd quarter (April-June) and the highest in the 4th quarter of the year (October-December).

**Table 1:
Asylum applications, 1985-1995**

1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 ^P	
514 428	674 056	516 710	306 532	270 862	EUR 15
15 444	17 675	26 717	14 340	11 409	Belgium ¹
4 609	13 884	14 347	6 651	5 112	Denmark ²
256 112	438 191	322 599	127 210	127 937	Germany ³
5 944	3 822	862	1 107	:	Greece ⁴
8 138	11 712	12 645	10 230	4 429	Spain ⁵
47 380	28 872	27 564	26 044	20 170	France ⁶
31	:	91	355	:	Ireland
24 490	2 589	1 323	1 834	1 732	Italy ¹
238	120	225	:	:	Luxembourg
21 615	20 346	35 399	52 576	29 258	Netherlands
27 306	16 238	4 744	5 082	5 920	Austria ⁷
233	655	2 090	614	:	Portugal
2 137	3 634	2 023	839	854	Finland
27 351	84 018	37 581	18 640	9 046	Sweden
73 400	32 300	28 500	42 200	55 000*	United Kingdom
46 217	23 213	37 615	19 513	18 481	EFTA
19	15	:	:	:	Iceland
4 569	5 238	12 876	3 379	1 460	Norway
41 629	17 960	24 739	16 134	17 021	Switzerland ⁸
119 347	135 959	155 236	168 433	178 736	Overseas states
17 000	4 114	4 576	4 215	5 235	Australia
32 347	37 748	21 066	21 710	25 631	Canada
70 000	94 097	129 594	142 433	147 870	USA

5 Excluding dependents

6 Excluding children and some accompanying adults

7 Excluding displaced persons from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia who benefit exceptional leave to stay

8 Partly excluding rejected persons at the border (especially those lacking proper identity papers)

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Turkey and Bosnia-Herzegovina continue to dominate

From 1994 to 1995 changes can be seen among the ten major sending countries to Europe (Figures 2 and 3). Significant decreases were seen in the number of asylum applications from Romania (from 21 000 in 1994 to 11 000 in 1995), Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (24 000 and 73 000 in 1994, whereas the figures were respectively, 16 000 and 41 000 in 1995), all countries with proximity to Europe. However, increases were noted, especially in Germany, of asylum applications from Turkey (from 25 000 in 1994 to 33 000 in 1995 for the whole of the EU, Norway and Switzerland), Iraq (from 7 000 in 1994 to 14 000 in

1995) and Pakistan (from almost 4 000 in 1994 to more than 8 000 in 1995). Afghanistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka remained stable in 1995.

Yugoslavs from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remained the most important citizenship group claiming asylum in Europe in 1995. Also, Turks remained second and Bosnians third in position in 1995. However, the decrease in the number of applications from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia combined with the increase in the number of applications from Turkey reduced the gap between these two major sending countries and resulted in a fairly stable total number of applicants from some 77 000 in 1994 to some 74 000 in 1995.

Table 2:
Major sending countries: applications to Europe, 1995^P



	B	DK	D	E	F	I	NL
Total	11 409	5 112	127 937	4 429	20 170	1 732	29 258
Fed. Rep. Yugoslavia	2 685	223	26 227	9	679	50	1 555
Turkey	581	74	25 514	101	1 523	71	700
Bosnia Herzegovina	-	448	4 932	80	347	-	4 223
Iraq	-	477	6 880	88	202	180	2 431
Sri Lanka	-	223	6 048	8	1 033	5	1 316
Afghanistan	-	238	7 515	9	87	24	1 912
Romania	915	46	3 522	847	3 738	409	378
Somalia	-	1 007	-	36	89	18	3 977
Iran	-	138	3 908	245	124	104	2 698
Pakistan	378	117	3 116	186	535	57	236
Other	6 850	2 121	40 275	2 820	11 813	814	9 832

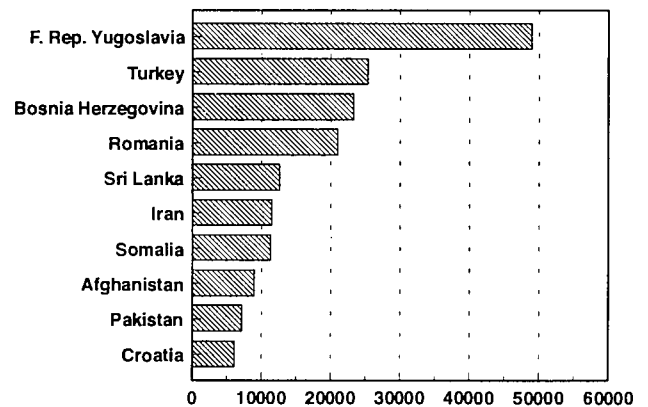
Compared with 1994 important changes appeared in the ranking of sending countries at the lower part of the Top 10 list in 1995 (Figures 2 and 3). Croatia left the Top 10 list in 1995 and was replaced by Iraq. Iraq saw the biggest upward change in ranking in 1995, Iran and Romania saw the biggest downward change in ranking in 1995.

Major changes can be associated with changes in Germany

Significant changes in EU in 1995 were associated with changes in Germany. The rise in the number of asylum claims registered in 1995 from Turkey, Iraq and Pakistan reflected increases mainly in Germany. Concurrently, the drop in the applications from Romania, Bosnia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia can also be associated with major decreases in the applications in Germany.

Although the distribution of Bosnians and Yugoslavs from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia differ in European countries, they continue to dominate the statistics in 1995 as major groups of applicants in many European countries. However, a new pattern beginning in 1994 can be detected in Europe with Somalia as major sending

Figure 2: Largest citizenship groups of applicants in Europe, 1994



country to the Nordic countries (except for Sweden) and Romania as major sending country to France, Italy and Spain. Furthermore, Nigeria remained the major sending country in the UK.

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2022-2023
2023-2024
2024-2025

Table 2:
Major sending countries: applications to Europe, 1995

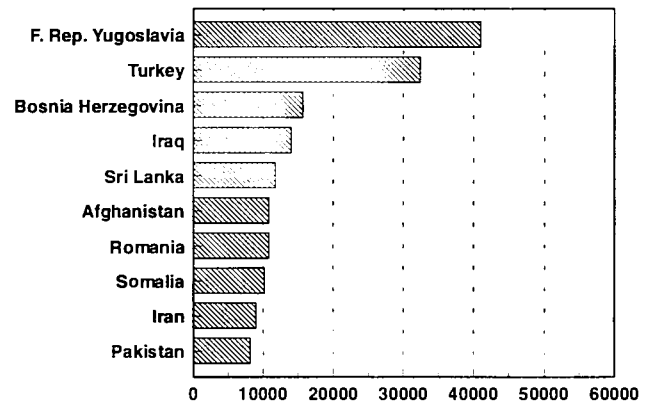
A	FIN	S	UK*	N	CH	Total	
5 920	854	9 046	55 000	1 460	17 021	289 348	Total
1 371	37	1 012	1 565	142	5 491	41 046	Fed. Rep. Yugoslavia
509	43	269	1 820	35	1 293	32 533	Turkey
1 050	10	1 059	-	106	3 534	15 789	Bosnia Herzegovina
659	78	1 782	930	99	321	14 127	Iraq
19	17	57	2 070	90	1 024	11 910	Sri Lanka
141	3	324	580	10	114	10 957	Afghanistan
91	15	84	770	10	82	10 907	Romania
34	134	890	3 465	189	476	10 315	Somalia
485	67	450	615	163	110	9 107	Iran
114	12	81	2 915	31	437	8 215	Pakistan
1 447	438	3 038	40 270	585	4 139	124 442	Other

Applications from Bulgarians played a significant role in Germany in the beginning of the 1990s but this is not the case any more in 1995. In addition, the sudden inflow of asylum claims from Cuba to Sweden in 1994 was stopped in 1995. The number of Algerians claiming asylum primarily in France remained stable in 1995. On the other hand, the number of Chinese asylum applications in France are on the increase since 1994.

Claims from Europe decrease and claims from the Middle East increase

Claims from Europe went down from some 45% in 1994 to one third of all claims in Europe in 1995. Claims from Middle East countries have continued upward from 10% of all asylum applications in Europe in 1993, 20% in 1994 and in 1995 some 30% of all claims in Europe. Africa continued ranking third in importance with some 20% of all asylum claims to Europe, unchanged from 1994.

Figure 3: Largest citizenship groups of applicants in Europe, 1995



For further information:

Eurostat

Migration Statistics 1995

Asylum-seekers and refugees, a statistical report; Volume 1, EU Member States, 1994

Asylum-seekers and refugees, a statistical report; Volume 2, EFTA countries, 1994

Statistics in Focus "Population and Social Conditions":

1994-7 Non-nationals form over four percent of total population in the European Union

1995-3 International migration flows in selected EU countries - 1992

1995-11 Acquisition of citizenship by naturalisation in the European Union - 1993

1996-1 Asylum-seekers in Europe 1985-1995

IGC

Summary Description of Asylum Procedures in States in Europe, North America and Australia, October 1995 (Blue Book)

Report on Temporary Protection in States in Europe, North America and Australia, August 1995 (Purple Book)

Illegal Aliens: A Preliminary Study, June 1995 (Red Book)

Definitions, abbreviations and symbols:

For more information on definitions, see Eurostat's publications on Asylum-seekers and IGC's Blue Book

EUR 15: Belgium (B), Denmark (DK), Germany (D), Greece (GR), Spain (E), France (F), Ireland (IRL), Italy (I), Luxembourg (L), Netherlands (NL), Austria (A), Portugal (P), Finland (FIN), Sweden (S) and United Kingdom (UK).

EFTA countries: Iceland (IS), Liechtenstein (FL), Norway (N) and Switzerland (CH).

Overseas states: Australia, Canada and USA.

: No further breakdown available

- Zero

p Provisional figures

* Estimates

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