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ASYLUM TRENDS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, FEBRUARY 2003

1. In 24 industrialized countries for which data were available, 28,160 asylum applications were submitted in February 2003, 14 per cent less than in January 2003, when 32,830 applications were lodged. In the 19 European asylum countries with available data, monthly applications fell by 13 per cent, in North America a decrease of 18 per cent was recorded, whereas Australia and New Zealand experienced a 14 per cent fall in new asylum claims (*Table 1*).
2. Of the 24 countries reporting data for January and February 2003, five countries experienced an increase in monthly asylum applications, whereas 19 countries reported a decrease. A relatively significant **increase** in monthly applications was reported by Finland (20%), Greece (42%) and Slovenia (20%). Conversely, important **decreases** in applications were reported by Belgium (-24%), Germany (-27%), Liechtenstein (-55%), Portugal (-55%), Romania (-21%), Spain (-46%), Switzerland (-25%) and Canada (-21%) (*Table 1*).
3. Compared to the first two months of 2002, the 24 countries included in this survey reported a 13 per cent decline in applications. The largest decrease was reported by countries in Central Europe (-45%) (*Table 1*).
4. In the 24 industrialized countries with available data, the fall in monthly applications was the result of a decline among all major nationalities. Monthly asylum claims lodged by Iraqi nationals, the main asylum-seeker nationality, fell by 16 per cent. Asylum claims lodged by Indonesian citizens more than tripled in February (+213%) due to a significant increase in applications lodged in the USA (*Table 2 and 3*).
5. Table 4 provides an overview of the number of monthly asylum applications submitted by Iraqi nationals since January 2002.

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Table 1. Monthly asylum applications lodged, January and February 2002 and 2003

A dash (-) indicates that the value is not available.

See notes below.

Country of asylum	2002				2003				Change Jan+Feb
	Jan.	Feb.	Total	change	Jan.	Feb.	Total	change	
Austria	2,956	2,401	5,357	-19%	-	-	-	..	..
Belgium	1,858	1,394	3,252	-25%	1,449	1,103	2,552	-24%	-22%
Bulgaria	350	324	674	-7%	167	137	304	-18%	-55%
Czech Rep.	1,332	678	2,010	-49%	685	-	685	..	..
Denmark	773	646	1,419	-16%	373	369	742	-1%	-48%
Finland	171	120	291	-30%	266	319	585	20%	101%
France	4,032	4,116	8,148	2%	3,653	4,260	7,913	17%	-3%
Germany	7,762	5,771	13,533	-26%	6,124	4,486	10,610	-27%	-22%
Greece	589	435	1,024	-26%	615	871	1,486	42%	45%
Hungary	612	527	1,139	-14%	228	234	462	3%	-59%
Ireland	838	763	1,601	-9%	979	947	1,926	-3%	20%
Liechtenstein	5	7	12	40%	11	5	16	-55%	33%
Luxembourg	47	39	86	-17%	79	-	79	..	..
Netherlands	2,377	1,972	4,349	-17%	1,234	1,042	2,276	-16%	-48%
Norway	1,513	1,385	2,898	-8%	1,190	1,163	2,353	-2%	-19%
Poland	227	292	519	29%	364	-	364	..	..
Portugal	28	12	40	-57%	11	5	16	-55%	-60%
Romania	129	97	226	-25%	80	63	143	-21%	-37%
Slovakia	751	662	1,413	-12%	442	386	828	-13%	-41%
Slovenia	39	59	98	51%	102	122	224	20%	129%
Spain	959	801	1,760	-16%	764	411	1,175	-46%	-33%
Sweden	2,637	2,242	4,879	-15%	3,112	2,514	5,626	-19%	15%
Switzerland	2,008	1,767	3,775	-12%	2,196	1,648	3,844	-25%	2%
United Kingdom	8,495	8,256	16,751	-3%	-	-	-	..	..
Canada	2,527	2,051	4,578	-19%	3,766	2,983	6,749	-21%	47%
USA	7,500	6,118	13,618	-18%	5,559	4,652	10,212	-16%	-25%
Australia	655	490	1,145	-25%	393	330	723	-16%	-37%
New Zealand	94	62	156	-34%	90	86	176	-4%	13%
Japan	18	18	36	0%	26	24	50	-8%	39%
EU-11	22,024	18,272	40,296	-17%	18,580	16,327	34,907	-12%	-13%
Western Europe	25,550	21,431	46,981	-16%	21,977	19,143	41,120	-13%	-12%
Central Europe	1,881	1,669	3,550	-11%	1,019	942	1,961	-8%	-45%
Europe	27,431	23,100	50,531	-16%	22,996	20,085	43,081	-13%	-15%
North America	10,027	8,169	18,196	-19%	9,325	7,635	16,961	-18%	-7%
Australia/New Z.	749	552	1,301	-26%	483	416	899	-14%	-31%
Total	38,225	31,839	70,064	-17%	32,830	28,160	60,991	-14%	-13%

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-11: European Union member countries listed for which February 2003 data were available.

Western Europe: EU-11 plus Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Central Europe: Bulgaria, Hungary, 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, 2003 (Top-40)

Covering the 24 asylum listed in Table 1 which reported data for February 2003.

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

Origin	Absolute			Rank			Monthly change
	Jan.	Feb.	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Change	
Iraq	3,041	2,541	5,582	1	1	0	-16%
Turkey	1,867	1,606	3,473	2	3	-1	-14%
Serbia and Montenegro	1,795	1,671	3,466	3	2	1	-7%
Pakistan	1,336	1,311	2,647	5	4	1	-2%
China	1,371	1,128	2,499	4	5	-1	-18%
Russian Federation	1,123	953	2,076	6	7	-1	-15%
Nigeria	1,009	955	1,964	7	6	1	-5%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	796	834	1,630	8	8	0	5%
Afghanistan	759	645	1,404	10	9	1	-15%
Islamic Rep. of Iran	762	564	1,326	9	10	-1	-26%
India	657	541	1,198	11	12	-1	-18%
Mexico	623	559	1,182	14	11	3	-10%
Algeria	654	511	1,165	12	13	-1	-22%
Colombia	630	504	1,134	13	14	-1	-20%
Somalia	609	421	1,030	15	16	-1	-31%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	528	391	919	16	18	-2	-26%
Bulgaria	524	385	909	17	19	-2	-27%
Cameroon	514	356	870	18	21	-3	-31%
Georgia	444	395	839	19	17	2	-11%
Côte d'Ivoire	406	385	791	21	19	2	-5%
Haiti	412	324	736	20	24	-4	-21%
Romania	358	348	706	23	22	1	-3%
Sri Lanka	367	333	700	22	23	-1	-9%
Indonesia	155	485	640	40	15	25	213%
Armenia	339	264	603	25	26	-1	-22%
Mauritania	307	273	580	27	25	2	-11%
Azerbaijan	343	231	574	24	34	-10	-33%
Syrian Arab Rep.	297	243	540	29	31	-2	-18%
Angola	302	237	539	28	33	-5	-22%
Albania	272	243	515	32	31	1	-11%
Congo	248	259	507	35	27	8	4%
Guinea	296	209	505	30	38	-8	-29%
Lebanon	286	210	496	31	37	-6	-27%
Sierra Leone	249	245	494	34	30	4	-2%
Ukraine	313	181	494	26	39	-13	-42%
Bangladesh	228	247	475	38	29	9	8%
Ethiopia	246	217	463	36	36	0	-12%
Viet Nam	235	219	454	37	35	2	-7%
Belarus	188	259	447	39	27	12	38%
Sudan	263	165	428	33	40	-7	-37%
Other	6,090	4,983	11,073				-18%
Total	31,242	26,831	58,073				-14%

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

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

Origin	BEL	BUL	DEN	FIN	FRA	GFR	GRE	HUN	IRE	LIE	NET	NOR
Iraq	34	61	52	23	107	502	372	51	48	-	270	185
Serbia and Montenegro	81	*	58	39	103	411	*	9	16	-	27	163
Turkey	44	6	10	23	633	585	23	*	*	-	40	16
Pakistan	11	*	*	-	47	68	94	*	15	-	*	*
China	36	-	-	-	206	214	7	7	8	-	16	8
Nigeria	12	*	5	*	93	104	37	9	399	-	55	20
Russian Federation	71	-	17	14	134	208	8	*	21	-	30	112
DR Congo	154	-	-	*	460	55	*	*	36	-	19	*
Afghanistan	22	37	51	5	27	119	73	65	-	-	50	83
Islamic Rep. of Iran	37	11	11	*	14	161	54	19	*	-	45	22
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	16	8	15	-	46	159	*	-	-	-	10	*
Algeria	24	*	*	-	196	105	*	*	5	-	9	9
Colombia	-	-	-	-	5	*	-	-	-	-	*	-
Indonesia	*	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	8	-	20	6	11	15	-	18	10	-	23	95
Georgia	24	-	*	-	139	93	*	7	*	-	6	11
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8	-	30	*	47	56	-	-	*	-	7	76
Côte d'Ivoire	29	-	*	*	164	47	*	-	7	-	36	*
Bulgaria	17	-	8	139	7	23	-	-	-	-	*	21

Origin	POR	ROM	SVK	SVN	SPA	SWE	SWI	CAN	USA	AUL	NZL	JPN
Iraq	-	30	46	33	5	416	241	8	41	12	*	-
Serbia and Montenegro	-	-	*	10	-	459	260	6	20	5	-	-
Turkey	-	5	-	13	*	49	111	33	-	6	-	*
Pakistan	-	*	8	8	*	*	21	917	95	*	*	*
China	-	6	84	-	*	6	21	96	347	63	*	*
Nigeria	-	*	*	-	136	18	33	23	-	*	*	-
Russian Federation	-	-	86	-	13	96	42	21	69	9	-	-
DR Congo	-	-	-	-	*	6	48	33	12	-	-	-
Afghanistan	-	-	36	*	*	47	15	12	-	*	-	-
Islamic Rep. of Iran	-	*	6	26	*	46	19	21	41	6	14	*
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	186	373	-	-	-
India	-	6	29	*	*	*	22	86	78	50	*	*
Algeria	-	-	*	5	69	24	40	8	8	-	-	-
Colombia	*	-	*	-	37	*	10	140	300	-	-	-
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29	425	27	-	-
Somalia	-	-	*	-	6	128	50	14	14	*	*	-
Georgia	-	-	*	*	7	39	42	*	12	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	-	-	-	*	-	86	73	-	-	-	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	*	-	-	-	10	*	24	12	45	-	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	*	144	10	10	-	-	-	-

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Table 4. Monthly asylum applications lodged by Iraqi nationals in 29 industrialized countries, 2002-2003

Figures between 1 and 4 are indicated by an asterisk

Asylum country	2002												2003	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Austria	277	334	237	246	314	245	406	349	597	654	380	434	..	..
Belgium	45	50	38	33	22	28	37	37	28	35	49	59	62	34
Bulgaria	126	91	132	196	118	49	50	18	44	61	49	12	58	61
Czech Rep.	57	17	52	11	*	5	5	8	8	14	8	13	7	..
Denmark	181	168	134	76	97	43	51	48	65	84	41	44	55	52
Finland	7	12	7	6	11	7	5	12	14	12	11	*	23	23
France	19	14	14	12	11	17	13	15	11	22	28	66	135	107
Germany	1,591	1,012	799	780	628	726	757	910	1,000	841	707	616	1,022	502
Greece	236	117	250	58	111	210	208	263	223	287	305	299	262	372
Hungary	172	136	150	123	112	192	190	212	231	262	147	79	69	51
Ireland	*	6	10	*	5	16	9	7	22	24	19	25	26	48
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	12	*	8	5	-	*	-	-	-	7	-	..
Netherlands	79	100	53	69	65	118	99	102	86	102	71	78	283	270
Norway	152	106	79	108	111	84	147	132	149	201	208	147	171	185
Poland	*	-	*	*	17	18	14	17	12	46	*	-	9	..
Portugal	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-
Romania	33	40	23	46	79	28	41	12	16	18	19	26	34	30
Slovakia	206	166	102	60	96	65	85	96	55	141	81	92	40	46
Slovenia	-	11	*	*	28	-	17	*	-	18	21	28	34	33
Spain	9	*	10	-	6	5	8	-	*	14	5	23	64	5
Sweden	518	373	378	352	392	314	508	537	592	504	503	476	451	416
Switzerland	100	98	63	107	75	98	80	96	125	137	114	98	202	241
UK (cases)	730	1,135	975	975	1,335	1,115	1,285	1,365	1,655	1,875	1,480	1,020	..	..
Canada	23	14	13	18	22	29	9	42	21	15	20	9	11	8
USA (cases)	39	47	59	41	51	50	51	50	31	42	44	32	28	41
Australia	17	8	20	16	16	15	17	20	11	15	14	6	5	12
New Zealand	*	-	*	6	*	*	5	5	*	*	*	-	6	*
Japan	-	*	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-