



Theme 3
Population and social conditions
Series B
Short-term statistics



Asylum-seekers

1 1997

Quarterly

ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN EUROPE IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1996

This issue provides an overview of the evolution of asylum seeking in Europe during the first nine months of 1996 and a comparison with the situation during the first nine months of 1995. The focus is on changes within and between the reporting countries.

Highlights*

- The total number of asylum applications in the EU member states during the period January-September 1996 was some 164 000. This compares with 192 000 for the same period in 1995, representing a decrease of 28 000 or around 15%. The overall downward trend that began across the EU in 1993 therefore continued in the first nine months of 1996.
- Germany remained the country with the largest number of applications accounting for some 87 000 of all applications registered in the EU. The most significant changes in the third quarter of 1996 were seen in Denmark and Belgium where the highest number of asylum-seekers were registered on a quarterly basis since 1993 and 1994 respectively. Significant decreases continued in the Netherlands, France and Sweden.

This first quarterly bulletin on asylum-seeker statistics for 1997 is a product of the continued collaboration between Eurostat and the Secretariat of the Inter-governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia (IGC), initiated with the publication of Statistics in Focus 1996-1 "Asylum-seekers in Europe 1985-95".

* 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 the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia can sometimes be erroneously included in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

L-2920 Luxembourg — Tél. 4301-1 — Télex COMEUR LU 3423

B-1049 Bruxelles, rue de la Loi 200 — Tél. 299 11 11

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The Secretariat of the IGC

The Secretariat of the Inter-governmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia (IGC) arranges meetings, prepares documents, provides statistics and analytical reports to the following governments: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is an informal non-decision making forum for information exchange and policy concertation for 9 EU Member States, 2 EFTA (Norway and Switzerland) and 3 Overseas states (Australia, Canada and USA).

For further information please contact:

Mike Bisi (IGC) Tel: (41) 22 979 93 62 Fax: (41) 22 979 90 58

Thomas Mortensen (IGC) Tel: (45) 35 30 80 33 Fax: (45) 35 30 84 80

EUROSTAT

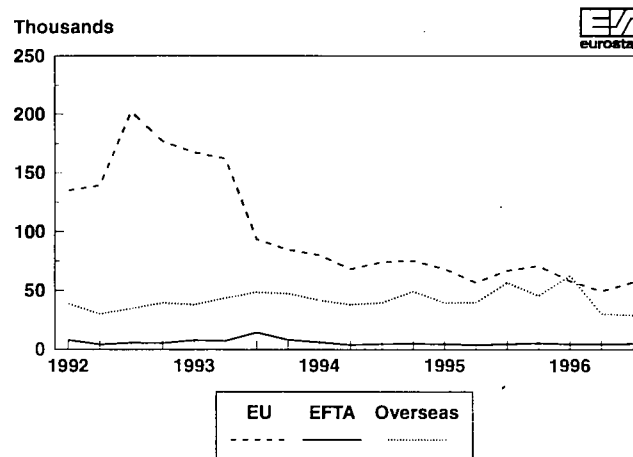
Directorate E: Social Statistics, Regional and Geographic Information

For further information please contact:

Thana Chrissanthaki (Eurostat) Tel: (352) 4301-32087 Fax: (352) 4301-34415/34029

This publication has been produced by Ann Singleton and Thomas Mortensen.

Figure 1:
Asylum applications by quarter, 1992-1996



Decreases in the EU 15 during the first nine months of 1996.

57 000 asylum applications were recorded in the 15 EU Member States in the third quarter of 1996 compared with 58 000 and 49 000 in the first and second quarters respectively. In total, 164 000 asylum applications were recorded in the EU in the first nine months of 1996 and 14 000 applications in Norway and Switzerland (Figure 1).

Data for the 15 EU Member States do not include Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg or Portugal. The numbers for these countries are comparatively low.

Compared with the overall number of asylum applications for the first nine months of 1995, a slight decrease was noted in 1996 (some 28 000 or 15%

in the number of asylum applications to the EU Member States). The overall trend that started in 1993 thus continued but would in general seem to have been less pronounced in the first nine months of 1996 than in the whole of 1994 or 1995.

Compared with 1995, the relative position of the three most important receiving countries remains unchanged. Germany was the recipient country of the largest number of asylum claims (53%), followed by the United Kingdom (13%) and the Netherlands (10%). These three countries, Germany, the UK and the Netherlands accounted for more than two thirds of all asylum claims in the EU during the first nine months of 1996.

Table 1:
Monthly number of asylum applications, 1995-1996



1995	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total (Jan-Jun)
EUR15	25 535	19 900	22 946	18 008	19 293	19 485	125 167
Belgium	972	1 021	1 113	889	890	804	5 689
Denmark	586	390	370	346	391	360	2 443
Germany ¹	12 139	9 212	10 991	8 500	9 396	9 130	59 368
Greece	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Spain ¹	556	503	568	379	416	465	2 887
France ²	2 739	1 983	2 341	1 673	1 417	1 619	11 772
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	188	235	234	203	169	110	1 139
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	3 022	2 360	2 689	2 036	1 973	2 302	14 382
Austria	479	348	434	382	429	449	2 521
Portugal	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Finland	97	68	63	58	73	61	420
Sweden	1 187	750	833	732	689	555	4 746
United Kingdom ¹	3 570	3 030	3 310	2 810	3 450	3 630	19 800
EFTA	1 611	1 452	1 493	1 003	1 347	1 532	8 438
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	138	112	140	92	75	99	656
Switzerland	1 473	1 340	1 353	911	1 272	1 433	7 782
Overseas states	15 022	13 178	11 410	10 445	13 775	15 428	79 258
Australia ¹	638	666	763	527	605	756	3 955
Canada	2 219	1 622	1 961	1 744	1 986	2 080	11 612
USA ¹	12 165	10 890	8 686	8 174	11 184	12 592	63 691
1996	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total (Jan-Jun)
EUR15	22 109	17 711	18 120	17 392	16 654	15 252	107 238
Belgium	1 024	773	890	985	924	893	5 489
Denmark	449	448	382	296	291	338	2 204
Germany ¹	12 050	9 292	9 121	9 458	9 334	8 234	57 489
Greece	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Spain ¹	468	402	362	381	417	372	2 402
France ²	1 500	1 219	1 343	1 364	1 245	1 240	7 911
Ireland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Italy	80	60	51	41	48	25	305
Luxembourg	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	1 901	1 650	1 646	1 669	1 645	1 514	10 025
Austria	624	542	709	629	535	468	3 507
Portugal	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Finland	60	76	50	47	70	28	331
Sweden	643	399	421	452	390	410	2 715
United Kingdom ¹	3 310	2 850	3 145	2 070	1 755	1 730	14 860
EFTA	1 487	1 465	1 505	1 421	1 443	1 568	8 889
Iceland	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Norway	102	88	113	107	90	173	673
Switzerland	1 385	1 377	1 392	1 314	1 353	1 395	8 216
Overseas states	21 869	25 593	14 898	10 989	10 820	8 483	92 652
Australia ¹	636	583	710	653	716	748	4 046
Canada	2 324	2 025	2 184	2 581	2 233	1 468	12 815
USA ¹	18 909	22 985	12 004	7 755	7 871	6 267	75 791

¹ Data on asylum applications do not include dependents

² Data do not include minor dependents

Table 1:
Monthly number of asylum applications, 1995-1996

Jul	Aug	Sep	Total (Jan-Sep)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	1995
20 405	23 003	23 432	192 007	25 358	25 424	20 135	262 924	EUR15
797	913	951	8 350	1 095	916	1 048	11 409	Belgium
399	457	487	3 786	537	418	363	5 104	Denmark
10 223	11 919	12 065	93 575	12 389	13 153	10 400	129 517	Germany ¹
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Greece
441	513	439	4 280	514	508	376	5 678	Spain ¹
1 709	1 485	1 479	16 445	1 844	1 402	724	20 415	France ²
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Ireland
104	71	89	1 403	140	108	101	1 752	Italy
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Luxembourg
2 143	2 349	2 423	21 297	2 885	2 751	2 325	29 258	Netherlands
410	539	669	4 139	582	653	546	5 920	Austria
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Portugal
60	96	87	663	64	65	57	849	Finland
704	771	723	6 944	713	735	655	9 047	Sweden
3 415	3 890	4 020	31 125	4 595	4 715	3 540	43 975	United Kingdom ¹
1 529	1 462	1 659	13 088	1 966	2 114	1 336	18 481	EFTA
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	Iceland
133	143	167	1 099	136	121	104	1 460	Norway
1 396	1 319	1 492	11 989	1 830	1 993	1 232	17 021	Switzerland
17 830	21 046	17 651	135 785	16 258	14 292	14 908	181 243	Overseas states
640	589	684	5 868	588	552	548	7 556	Australia ¹
2 111	2 585	2 557	18 865	2 515	2 305	2 132	25 817	Canada
15 079	17 872	14 410	111 052	13 155	11 435	12 228	147 870	USA ¹

Jul	Aug	Sep	Total (Jan-Sep)
18 697	18 193	19 811	163 939
1 057	1 054	1 117	8 717
581	699	619	4 103
9 511	9 548	10 742	87 290
:	:	:	:
470	439	325	3 636
1 506	1 325	1 430	12 172
:	:	:	:
32	66	63	466
:	:	:	:
1 867	1 837	2 163	15 892
546	565	754	5 372
:	:	:	:
74	62	84	551
539	459	506	4 219
2 514	2 139	2 008	21 521
1 498	1 595	1 826	13 808
:	:	:	:
125	138	220	1 156
1 373	1 457	1 606	12 652
9 754	10 128	8 957	121 491
773	792	879	6 490
2 090	2 351	2 178	19 434
6 891	6 985	5 900	95 567

Most of the EU reporting countries followed the overall downward trend in the first nine months of 1996 while three countries (Belgium, Denmark and Austria) witnessed an increase.

The most significant changes in the third quarter of 1996 were seen in Denmark and Belgium with the highest number of asylum seekers registered on a quarterly basis since 1993 and 1994 respectively. In Denmark especially there has been a reversal of the overall downward trend which began in mid-1993.

The number of asylum applications remained relatively stable in Germany. Although the absolute number is lower than that of the first nine months of 1995, its relative importance is small for Germany itself but has an impact on the total number of asylum applications in the whole of the EU. Significant decreases continued in the Netherlands, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom in the third quarter of 1996, compared with the third quarter of 1995.

For further information

Eurostat

Migration Statistics 1996

Asylum-seekers in Europe 1995, 1/1996

Asylum-seekers in Europe in the first six months of 1996, 2/1996

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 (EL), Spain (E), France (FR), 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 (Others): Australia, Canada and USA.

: No further breakdown available

- Zero

p Provisional figures

* Estimates

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