

ASYLUM AND REFUGEE ADMISSION IN INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses asylum and refugee trends in 38, mainly industrialised, countries in Europe, North America, Asia and Oceania. Although these countries are situated far apart geographically, most experience similar patterns in asylum and refugee movements, and their responses are sometimes comparable as well. As a group, the world's most affluent countries also play a major role in international refugee protection, either financially or by providing asylum and durable solutions. A third factor is that asylum and refugee issues in many of these countries are, or have recently become, part of the larger immigration issue. Finally, by taking a comprehensive look at Europe, this chapter documents the growth in the region's "asylum space".

Despite these broad similarities, the differences between the 38 countries are nevertheless substantial. For instance, whereas Australia, Canada and the United States have admitted refugees under their immigration programmes for decades, Europe is mostly confronted with asylum-seekers, many of whom end up staying. Within Europe, the experience of Western Europe, which has welcomed refugees for many years, is quite distinct from Central Europe, which was, until recently, a major area from which refugees originated.

The data used in this chapter was provided by national administrative bodies responsible for asylum, refugees and immigration, except for Cyprus and Turkey where UNHCR is the source. In the case of Japan and the Republic of Korea, government data was supplemented with UNHCR estimates. The Yearbook reflects the data as reported. Recognition rates are the only major

exception, which were calculated by UNHCR to ensure a minimum level of comparability. The sources and the classification of nationally reported categories are explained in Table VI.2.

CURRENT SITUATION

Asylum

Asylum applications are the main source of asylum-seeker arrival data. It should be noted, however, that such data is generated by administrative procedures designed for the processing of asylum applications, not for counting the arrival of foreigners. Typically, these systems count the number of applications, not the number of persons seeking asylum. A person submitting a second application is counted twice, whereas minor children are not recorded⁹.

BOX IV.1. UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM

Unaccompanied children (or unaccompanied minors) are children under 18 years of age, who have been separated from both parents and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible to do so. Recently, the UN widened the definition to include all separated children, regardless of whether they are accompanied. Most countries, however, continue to collect statistics on unaccompanied minors.

Not all countries report statistics on unaccompanied or separated children seeking asylum. Moreover, age definitions may vary. In Germany, unaccompanied minors are recorded until they have reached the age of 16, whereas most other countries use 17 as the upper age limit. Second, the age declared by the applicant is sometimes adjusted following verification. Third, different country policies and procedures may lead to differences in statistics, which do not always reflect the actual situation.

Some 13,000 unaccompanied or separated children applied for asylum in the countries of the European Union in 2001, 12 per cent more than in 2000. Forty-one per cent of these claims were registered in the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom received another 24 per cent. Unaccompanied minors constituted four per cent of all asylum-seekers in the EU during 2000-2001.

⁹ Visa systems, a common source of immigration statistics, have similar flaws. Foreigners are counted as new immigrants each time their visa is renewed. Also, the number of spouses and minor children is underestimated, because their stay is regulated by the visa of the principle applicant.

Although asylum claims generally coincide with actual arrivals, this is not always the case. For instance, although 5,400 Afghan nationals sought asylum at Austrian embassies or consular authorities in 2001, only a few were subsequently granted entry. In Australia, recent asylum data excludes claims processed offshore or on islands in the region. Someone may also seek asylum after he or she has already established residence in the country. In the United Kingdom, 65 per cent of the asylum applications submitted in 2001 were lodged by persons already residing in the country. "In-country" applicants include persons whose work or student visa has expired and who claim they cannot return due to the situation in their country of origin ("status changers").

In 2001, the 38 industrialised countries received 595,700 new applications for asylum, eight per cent more than in 2000, when 551,500 claims were submitted. The increase in the six non-European asylum countries was 31 per cent, whereas Europe's increase was limited to three per cent. The 15 member countries of the European Union (EU) received 388,400 applications, one per cent less than in 2000 (391,300). The seven Central European countries experienced a 33 per cent increase, Australia recorded a five per cent fall, whereas the United States recorded 45 per cent more applications (Annex C.2).

Monthly asylum applications peaked in August, September and October of 2001, when more than 50,000 claims were submitted in the 28 countries providing monthly data to UNHCR. In December, the level had fallen to 45,300, well below the annual average (Table IV.1, page 63).

The United Kingdom received the largest number of asylum-seekers (92,000) in 2001, followed by Germany (88,300) and the United States (83,200)¹⁰. Major receiving countries recording an important increase in annual applications included the Czech Republic (106%), Austria (65%), United States

(45%), Sweden (44%), Norway (36%) and Canada (29%), whereas Belgium (-42%), Italy (-38%) and the Netherlands (-26%) reported sharp decreases (Table IV.2, page 64).

The leading country of origin of asylum applicants in 2001 was Afghanistan, accounting for 10 per cent of all applications, followed by Iraq (9%), Turkey (6%), FR Yugoslavia (5%), China (4%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (4%), Russian Federation (3%), Sri Lanka (3%), India (3%) and Somalia (3%). Major relative increases in annual asylum applications were recorded by asylum-seekers from Mexico (109%)¹¹, Colombia (101%), Viet Nam (63%), Georgia (59%), Afghanistan (57%), Angola (53%) and Ukraine (52%). Countries of origin whose nationals filed significantly less applications included Poland (-57%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (-41%), FR Yugoslavia (-39%), Albania (-22%), Romania (-18%), the Syrian Arab Republic (-16%), Sri Lanka (-12%), Pakistan (-12%), China (-8%) and Sudan (-8%) (Annex C.5).

Increasingly, asylum claims are being reconsidered for the purposes of review or appeal. In the 29 countries listed in Table IV.2, 243,800 applications were reviewed, representing 29 per cent of all applications in 2001 (851,600). Whereas the annual number of first applications increased by nine per cent, the number of reconsidered applications in these countries rose twice as fast (19%). Statistics on reconsidered applications are relatively new and have several limitations. First, the reasons for reconsidering an asylum case may not be the same in different countries. Second, the appeal process is differently organised in the various countries and data are not always available or comparable. Third, some countries count reconsidered cases only as decisions, whereas other countries include these cases also in their application data.

In the 38 countries considered here, 90,900 asylum-seekers were granted refugee status on the basis of the 1951 Convention or its 1967 Protocol in first instance during 2001, virtually the same level as in 2000 (90,000). In addition, 29,300 asylum-seekers were granted Convention refugee status after review or appeal, an increase of 77 per cent compared to 2000 (16,500) and a clear sign of the increasing role of the appeal process. A further 57,000

¹⁰ UNHCR estimate, based on an average of 1.4 persons per asylum case.

¹¹ These applications were primarily lodged by Mexicans residing in the United States, who intended to prolong their stay.

asylum-seekers were allowed to stay for humanitarian reasons in first instance, an increase of 10 per cent compared to 2000 (51,800). Finally, 7,600 asylum-seekers were granted humanitarian status after their claim was reassessed, representing an increase of 58 per cent compared to 2000 (4,800).

Chart IV.1. Total number of asylum-seekers allowed to stay, 2000-2001

Country	2000	2001	Change
United Kingdom	42,200	51,100	21%
United States	34,400	39,900	16%
Switzerland	25,200	23,400	-7%
Germany	13,000	26,100	101%
Canada	14,000	13,300	-5%
Netherlands	9,700	8,700	-10%
France	7,000	9,700	39%
Sweden	9,000	6,800	-24%
Australia	5,000	4,500	-10%
Denmark	3,900	5,100	31%

Source: Table IV.2

Combining all four categories, 184,800 asylum-seekers were admitted in the 38 countries during 2001, 13 per cent more than in 2000 (163,100). Two-thirds of all admitted asylum-seekers were granted Convention refugee status (120,100). Europe granted refugee or humanitarian status to 138,100 asylum-seekers in 2001, 75 per cent of the total number of asylum-seekers admitted in the 38 countries and a 15 per cent rise compared to 2000 (119,800). Although some European countries admit asylum-seekers on humanitarian grounds, the 1951 Convention remains the main basis for refugee protection. In 2001, 53 per cent of all asylum-seekers who were admitted in Europe (138,100) were granted Convention refugee status (73,500), virtually the same proportion as in 2000 (53%) (Chart IV.1; Annexes C.11, C.12, C.14 and C.15).

In Europe, 73,500 asylum-seekers were granted Convention refugee status in first instance or following review in 2001, 16 per cent more than in 2000 (63,300). The annual number of persons allowed to remain for humanitarian reasons increased by 14 per cent, from 56,500 to 64,500 cases. In 2001, EU member countries admitted 115,800 Convention refugees and humanitarian cases, 36 per cent more than in 2000 (92,000).

Box IV.2. WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT ASYLUM AND MIGRATION IN EUROPE?

Most European countries do not record the reason for stay (such as settlement, work, asylum, study, family reunion and formation) in their immigration statistics. And if they do, data are only roughly indicative of actual trends and barely comparable between countries. In addition to data gaps (such as excluding groups not subject to immigration control), there are issues of definition (who is an immigrant?) and classification (long-term or short-term migration) as well as limitations inherent to data sources (how to compare visa statistics with population register data).

Denmark. An overview of residence permits issued suggests that asylum-related migration, excluding family reunification, fell from 34,400 in 1991-1995 to 29,000 in 1996-2000. In 2000, 5,200 residence permits were issued to former asylum-seekers out of a total of number of permits of 34,900 (15%). However, this excludes family reunion of asylum-seekers and the visa free entry of Nordic citizens.

(Source: Danish Immigration Service, *Statistical Overview 2000*, page 36).

Sweden. During 1991-2000, 438,000 residence permits were issued, 157,000 of which were granted to Convention and other refugees (36%). Another 63,000 permits were issued to refugee dependants, bringing the total of asylum-related migration to 50 per cent. During the second part of the decade, total refugee migration (59,000) was much lower than during the first part (162,000). In 2000, 10,500 (23 per cent) of all residence permits were issued to refugees and another 3,500 (8%) to their dependants.

(Source: Swedish Migration Board, *Asylum-seekers and residence permits granted, 2000*, page 22).

United Kingdom. The number of asylum-seekers granted long-term residence status, excluding spouses and dependants, increased from 11,700 in 1991-1995 to 63,100 in 1996-2000. In 2000, 24,800 former asylum-seekers obtained long term residence. The contribution of asylum to total immigration is more difficult to ascertain. In 2000, 20 per cent of all persons admitted as immigrants were former asylum-seekers. However, data on asylum-seeker spouses and dependants are not available and thus excluded. If spouses and dependants of all immigrant groups are excluded, the proportion of asylum migration rises to 62 per cent.

(Source: Home Office, *Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2000*, page 83).

In the 26 countries with available data, the number of unresolved cases in first instance fell slightly, from 595,000 on 1 January to 580,000 on 31 December 2001 (-3%). Sixteen countries reported an increase in pending claims, whereas 10 countries reported a decrease. European countries recorded a decrease in undecided cases (-11%), whereas non-European countries reported a slight increase (3%). The number of pending cases was successfully reduced in Slovenia (-97%), United Kingdom (-56%), New Zealand (-33%) and a number of other countries. Countries experiencing a strong increase in undecided cases included Slovakia (714%), Cyprus (273%), Greece (162%), the Czech Republic (113%), Hungary (67%) and Sweden (63%), Austria (53%) and Canada (52%).

As opposed to first instance applications, reconsidered cases are increasingly subject to delays in processing. In the 10 countries which reported statistics, the number of undecided asylum cases being reviewed increased by nine per cent during the year, from 167,100 to 181,800. Ireland, Japan, New Zealand and the United States, which reported a reduction in the backlog of first-instance cases, experienced an increase in cases pending at the appeal level. In the Czech Republic the volume of backlog cases in the appeal procedure rose three times as fast as the number of first instance cases. Germany experienced a modest backlog increase in both new and reconsidered cases. The Netherlands and Switzerland managed to reduce their backlog both in first instance and in appeal.

Box IV.3. RECOGNITION RATES: WHY THE CONFUSION?

The refugee recognition rate represents the proportion of successful applications for refugee status. If 10 out of 50 applications are recognized, the recognition rate equals 20 per cent. In practice, many cases are not decided during the period they are submitted. Therefore, unless the application date is known, a proper recognition rate cannot be calculated. This is the situation in many countries today.

An alternative method is to divide the number of positive decisions by the total number of decisions taken during a period. This rate does not calculate the proportion of successful applications, but the proportion of successful decisions. This rate offers the best opportunity for comparing national practices.

Some countries include in the total number of decision cases which are closed (rejected) on formal grounds, whereas in other countries these cases are not admitted to the procedure at all. To avoid discrepancies in recognition rates, the Yearbook uses as denominator the total number of positive and substantive negative decisions. Cases closed on other grounds are, when known, excluded from the denominator. For the purpose of international comparability, UNHCR has calculated the rates based on the above method and does not report nationally calculated rates.

UNHCR recognition rates are calculated separately for first instance and reconsidered applications.

In view of the complexity of asylum systems, it is difficult to prescribe one single calculation method. Considering that different recognition rates serve different purposes, it is important to explain the method which is being followed.

The above trends suggest that the decision-making process in first instance has become more efficient in some countries. At the same time, faster asylum decisions in first instance have led to increased delays in the appeal stage. Whether the total waiting time for asylum-seekers to receive a final decision has been reduced, a key policy objective of many governments, is difficult to establish from these data.

In the 38 industrialised countries, the total recognition rate amounted to 30.6 per cent in 2001, virtually unchanged from 2000 (30.2%). Of those asylum-seekers allowed to stay, 20 per cent were

Chart IV.2. Recognition rates by asylum region, 2000-2001

Region of asylum	Level of procedure	Refugee recognition rate		Total recognition rate	
		2000	2001	2000	2001
European Union	First	17.4	14.5	28.3	27.7
	Review*	11.0	19.0	17.4	26.5
	Total*	16.2	15.6	26.2	27.4
Europe	First	15.7	13.9	30.4	28.8
	Review*	10.2	18.8	16.2	25.8
	Total*	14.7	15.0	27.8	28.2
North America	First	49.2	48.1	49.2	48.1
	Review*	31.3	34.4	31.3	34.4
	Total*	44.3	44.7	44.3	44.7
Australia/	First	28.0	28.3	28.0	28.3
New Zealand	Review*	13.6	15.6	13.6	15.6
	Total*	23.3	23.8	23.3	23.8
Total	First	21.0	19.5	33.1	31.7
	Review*	14.9	21.2	19.2	26.7
	Total*	19.7	19.9	30.2	30.6

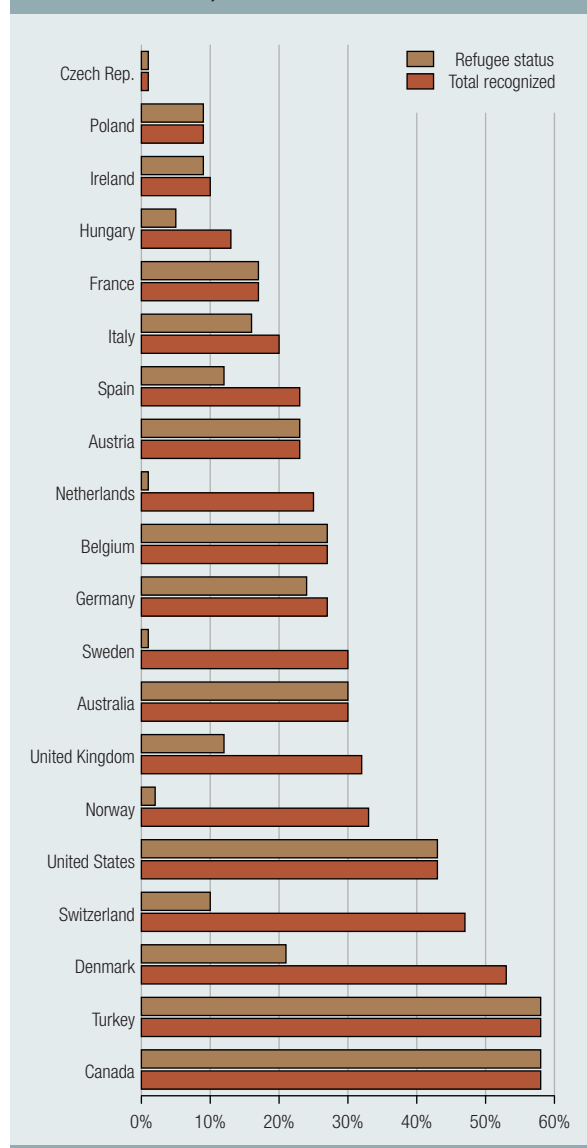
Note

* UNHCR calculated recognition rates include negative decisions in appeal.

admitted under the 1951 Convention, whereas 11 per cent were allowed to remain for humanitarian reasons. Total recognition rates in Europe are lower than in North America, but exceed those of Australia and New Zealand (see Chart IV.2).

Countries with the highest total recognition rates in first instance during 2001 were Canada (58%), Turkey (58%) and Denmark (53%), whereas the lowest rates were recorded by Ireland (10%), Poland (9%) and the Czech Republic (1%). As noted earlier, there may be various factors responsible for these differences, such as nationality, date of arrival or ethnic origin. Virtually all recognised asylum-seekers in the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden were granted humanitarian status (see Chart IV.3).

CHART IV.3. RECOGNITION RATES IN FIRST INSTANCE, 2001



Approval rates in first instance (32%) tend to be more favourable than in appeal (27%). In 2001, the total recognition rate in first instance was higher than in appeal in nine countries, whereas in four countries it was lower. The picture in 2000 was similar with 11 countries recording first instance recognition rates higher than in appeal and only four countries reporting the opposite situation.

The largest number of asylum-seekers admitted either as refugees or on humanitarian grounds in first instance or review came from Afghanistan (29,000), Iraq (23,000), FR Yugoslavia (16,300), Sri Lanka (13,600) and Somalia (9,100). These were also the five main nationalities being admitted in 2000. Admission of asylum-seekers is significantly less diversified than initial applications. In 2001, the main four nationalities being granted asylum accounted for half of all asylum-seeker admissions. Countries of origin recording a significant decrease in annual admissions were Croatia (-68%), Cambodia (-41%), Guatemala (-39%), Somalia (-39%), Bangladesh (-30%), Algeria (-29%), Peru (-28%) and Nigeria (-28%). Asylum-seeker origins experiencing a strong rise in annual admissions were Afghanistan (168%), Burundi (119%), Sierra Leone (105%), Colombia (59%), Haiti (57%), Russian Federation (54%) and Romania (50%).

Resettlement

A limited number of countries admit refugees on a permanent basis through resettlement from first asylum countries. These refugees are mostly selected by countries of permanent settlement on the basis of national immigration criteria. In 2001, total resettlement arrivals fell by eight per cent to 92,100. Most countries reported lower resettlement arrivals in 2001, including the main resettlement countries Australia (-18%), Canada (-9%) and the United States (-6%) (see Chart IV.4).

Annual refugee resettlement arrivals reflect a shift away from refugees originating in Europe (25%) to Africa (10%) and Asia (6%). Despite a 24 per cent fall in annual resettlement departures, refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina remained the largest group being resettled during 2001 (17%), followed by nationals from the Islamic Republic of Iran (9%), Sudan (9%) and Afghanistan (9%). A steep rise in resettlement in 2001 was recorded by refugees from Sierra Leone (80%),

Chart IV.4. Resettlement arrivals, 2000-2001*

Country	2000	2001	+/-
United States**	72,520	68,430	-6%
Canada	13,520	12,250	-9%
Australia	7,880	6,450	-18%
Norway	1,480	1,270	-14%
Sweden	1,500	1,090	-27%
Finland	760	740	-3%
New Zealand	700	760	9%
Denmark	460	530	15%
Netherlands	200	630	215%
Japan	140	40	-71%
Ireland	40	50	25%
Iceland	20	20	0%
Total	99,220	92,260	-7%

* Source: Governments. ** Incl. family reunion.

Afghanistan (43%), Sudan (40%) and Liberia (33%). Countries of origin whose nationals benefited significantly less from resettlement included Croatia (-61%), DR Congo (-57%), FR Yugoslavia (-51%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (-24%).

TRENDS

Asylum

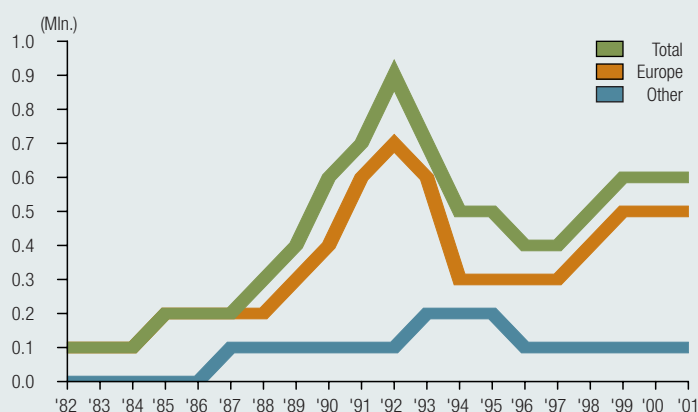
Over the past 20 years, 8.7 million new asylum applications were submitted in the 38 countries considered here, 6.7 million (77%) of which were lodged in Europe. The 15 countries of the European Union received 5.9 million asylum-seekers. The average annual number of asylum applications increased by 151 per cent, from 225,000 in the 1980s to 564,000 applications in the 1990s. Asylum applications peaked at 858,000 in 1992, after which they fell to 378,000 in 1997. Since then, the figure

has steadily increased to reach 596,000 in 2001, reflecting continued instability in a number of countries of origin (see Chart IV.5).

Up to the mid-1990s, Germany received a third or more of all asylum-seekers. In 1997-2001, Germany continued to receive the highest number of asylum claims, but its share in the total number of submitted claims dropped sharply to 18 per cent. The share of the United States, the second largest recipient of asylum-seekers in 1982-1986, fell to nine per cent in 1997-2001. This fall did not to trigger a significant rise in applications in Canada: the share of Canada in total applications rose recently from four to six per cent, well below the level of the 1980s (8%).

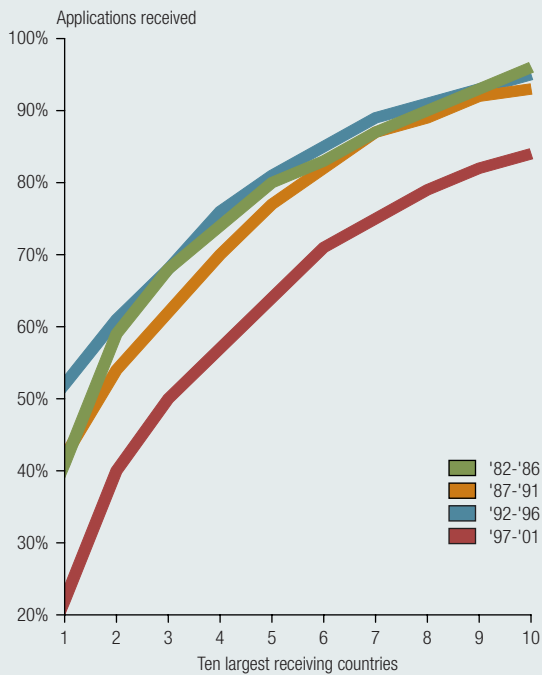
In Europe, the recent decline in applications in Germany coincided with a strong rise in applications in the United Kingdom and, to a lesser degree, in Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. The United Kingdom, which received few asylum-seekers during the 1980s, became the second largest receiving country during 1997-2001, accounting for 15 per cent of all claims. During the entire 20-year period, however, Germany received three and a half times more applications than the United Kingdom. France, the fourth largest recipient of asylum-seekers during the 20-year period, was the only country which experienced a notable reduction in its influx in the 1990s (-19%). The relatively high share of the Netherlands since 1997 (8%) compensated low arrivals in the 1980s, bringing its total intake of asylum-seekers in line with Switzerland and Sweden for the entire period (5%).

CHART IV.5. ASYLUM APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED, 1982-2001



A second major development in Europe is the expansion of what is commonly called the “asylum space”. The number of countries receiving at least 1,000 asylum applicants per year doubled from 12 in 1982-1986 to 24 in 1997-2001. The most significant expansion took place in 1997-2001 when the number of main receiving countries increased by seven. Countries which became new recipients of asylum-seekers included affluent economies on the European geographical periphery (Finland, Ireland, Norway), smaller European countries (Luxembourg, Liechtenstein), Central Europe (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and the Baltic States (Lithuania) (see Chart IV.6).

CHART IV.6. ASYLUM BURDEN-SHARING IN EUROPE, 1982-2001



The changing role of Central Europe is particularly noteworthy. During the final years of the communist era, Central Europe had become a major source of asylum-seekers, who lodged 95,700 applications in 1982-1986 (11% of all claims) and 445,300 applications in 1987-1991 (20%). In the 1990s, the region became a destination for asylum-seekers, receiving 20,600 applications in 1992-1996 and 137,200 in 1997-2001. The growing number of asylum-seeker applications in Central Europe is an encouraging sign of new State parties to the 1951 Convention assuming their obligations towards refugees and, in doing so, contributing to international burden sharing. Since the early 1990s, UNHCR has actively supported Central European countries in building local capacities to receive and assist refugees (see Chart IV.7).

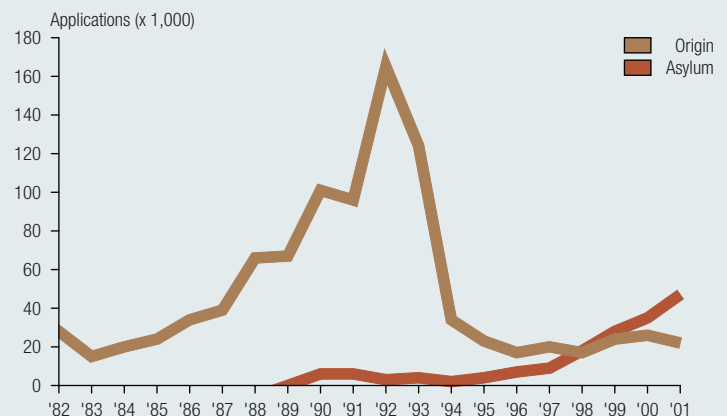
Although the changing role of Central Europe in refugee protection is undeniable, its current situation differs from that of Western Europe in two major respects. First, sizeable numbers of Central European citizens continue to seek asylum, albeit at significantly lower levels than a decade ago. During 1997-2001, 108,600 asylum-seekers from Central Europe requested asylum in industrialised countries. Second, Central Europe has a relatively high proportion of asylum cases

which have been closed without a positive or negative decision. Since 1992, half or more of all applications were closed in Slovenia (95%), Slovakia (88%), the Czech Republic (63%), Hungary (51%) and Poland (49%). Although asylum cases may be closed for various reasons, the exceptionally high rates of closed cases in Central Europe suggest that a substantial proportion of asylum-seekers do not stay in the region, but move on to countries in Western Europe. Central Europe has thus become a major region of transit for asylum-seekers coming from the former USSR, Afghanistan and other countries.

Almost 2 million asylum-seekers have been officially admitted into the countries considered here since 1982, 1.6 million of whom were allowed to stay in Europe (80%). This excludes war refugees granted temporary protection who did not apply for asylum.

Recognised asylum-seekers are more evenly distributed between host countries than initial applications. Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, France and USA each received between 10 and 15 per cent of all recognised asylum-seekers over the past two decades, while the share of Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland was between seven and nine per cent. France and Austria were the only two countries which admitted fewer refugees in the 1990s than in the 1980s. Countries showing the largest relative increase in recognised asylum-seekers in the 1990s were the Netherlands (970%), Switzerland (940%) and the United Kingdom (530%) (see Chart IV.8).

CHART IV.7. CENTRAL EUROPE: FROM REGION OF ORIGIN TO REGION OF ASYLUM, 1982-2001



Of the 26 countries which have admitted asylum-seekers on the basis of humanitarian considerations in at least one year since 1992, 13 admitted more than 1,000 humanitarian cases. In these 13 countries, the proportion of Convention refugees in total asylum-seeker admissions increased from 40 per cent during 1992-1996 to 48 per cent in 1997-2001.

Chart IV.8. Total number of asylum-seekers admitted, 1982-2001 (thousands)

Convention refugee status and persons admitted for humanitarian reasons

Country of asylum	'82-'86	'87-'91	'92-'96	'97-'01	Total
Germany	36.9	40.0	104.4	86.4	267.6
United Kingdom	12.1	24.1	69.8	158.0	263.9
Sweden	33.4	78.9	89.3	36.4	238.0
France	68.5	64.2	43.1	33.2	209.0
United States	27.3	22.8	43.0	103.6	196.8
Canada	5.2	37.3	65.9	63.2	171.6
Netherlands	4.9	9.0	88.2	60.1	162.1
Switzerland	4.1	8.0	56.8	69.0	137.9
Denmark	13.9	14.3	32.4	21.0	81.6
Austria	25.4	9.1	5.9	6.7	47.1
Other	13.5	47.3	47.5	78.9	187.2
European Union	207.0	252.5	449.0	428.9	1,337.3
Western Europe	212.5	276.9	516.7	511.5	1,517.6
Central Europe	-	4.5	3.8	9.7	18.0
Europe	212.5	294.2	530.7	533.0	1,570.5
North America	32.5	60.1	109.0	166.8	368.4
Australia and New Zealand	-	0.5	6.6	16.4	23.5
Total	245.2	354.9	646.3	716.4	1,962.7

The proportion of refugees accepted under the 1951 Convention fell during the 1980s and reached its lowest level during the Bosnian crisis in the early 1990s. Since then, the proportion of asylum-

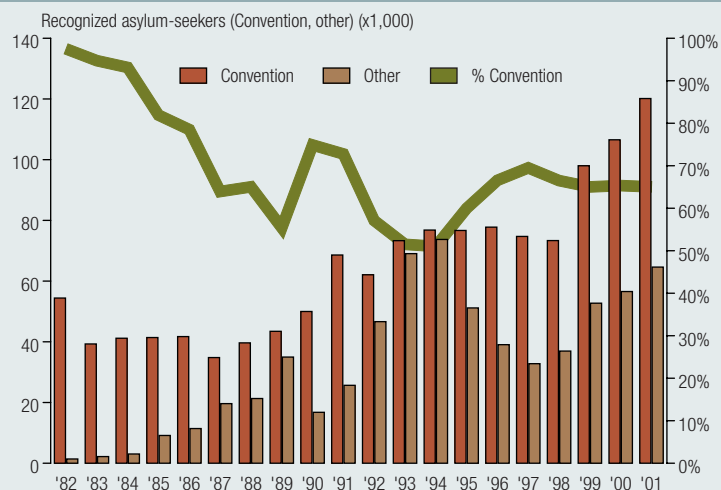
seekers admitted as Convention refugees increased from around 50 per cent to some 65 per cent in the past few years. With two-third of all admitted asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status since 1982, the 1951 Convention remains an essential tool in today's refugee protection in the 38 countries considered here (see Chart IV.9).

Relatively few nationalities account for the majority of asylum-seekers being admitted as Convention refugees or for humanitarian reasons. During 1992-2001, the largest number of admitted asylum-seekers originated from Iraq (152,000), FR Yugoslavia (150,000)¹², Bosnia and Herzegovina (108,800), Somalia (99,600), Sri Lanka (97,400), Afghanistan (89,800), Turkey (76,100) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (65,000). Together, these eight nationalities accounted for 67 per cent of all asylum-seeker admissions.

Resettlement

During 1992-2001, industrialised countries resettled 1.2 million refugees, the same level as during the previous 10 years. The United States was the main resettlement country, receiving 77 per cent of all arrivals, followed by Canada (10%) and Australia (8%). Almost half of all refugees being resettled by the industrialised countries came from Europe (49%), one-third came from Asia (34%), whereas 10 per cent originated from Africa. The Russian Federation¹³ was the major country of origin of resettled refugees (24%), followed by Viet Nam (19%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (17%).

CHART IV.9. THE 1951 CONVENTION: ITS CONTINUED RELEVANCE



Total admissions

Taking into account all sources of protection, it is estimated that 3.1 million refugees were admitted in the industrialised countries during 1992-2001, of whom 1.7 million were granted protection in Europe. These estimates include asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee or humanitarian status, resettled refugees and refugees granted temporary protection. Some refugees, particularly those granted temporary protection, have returned. On a per capita basis, Switzerland received the largest number of refugees (23.4 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants), followed by Sweden (16.6), Denmark (13.8), Norway (12.2) and the Netherlands (9.6) (Annex C.34).

¹² Including citizens of former Yugoslavia

¹³ Including citizens of the former USSR

Table IV.1 Monthly asylum applications submitted in selected industrialised countries, 2001

Provisional data, subject to change.

Country of asylum	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Australia	1,587	809	1,028	1,128	1,202	1,384	785	969	1,477	768	761	468
Austria	1,876	2,394	3,208	2,840	2,523	2,150	2,420	2,457	2,514	2,788	2,582	2,383
Belgium	3,239	1,734	1,788	1,773	1,960	1,879	2,096	2,349	2,053	2,277	1,714	1,687
Bulgaria	197	229	145	119	194	206	190	232	230	291	226	168
Canada	3,402	3,225	3,470	3,249	3,955	3,653	4,318	4,086	3,676	3,873	3,303	2,536
Czech Rep.	1,228	1,222	1,632	1,537	1,596	1,692	1,609	1,775	1,488	1,492	1,350	1,416
Denmark	1,166	897	968	1,030	953	842	1,084	1,403	1,171	1,138	1,038	713
Finland	122	109	169	172	90	111	177	198	118	164	102	119
France	3,015	3,771	4,545	4,067	4,066	3,794	4,195	3,666	3,328	4,441	4,238	4,137
Germany	7,583	6,220	7,251	6,182	6,941	6,609	8,093	9,138	8,000	8,764	8,006	5,576
Greece	121	106	241	92	171	431	519	618	607	426	544	1,623
Hungary	580	506	769	686	600	701	917	1,028	925	1,285	938	619
Ireland	840	706	763	741	837	882	961	983	855	892	904	960
Liechtenstein	4	4	-	8	8	15	22	16	19	7	5	4
Luxembourg	59	49	57	47	50	59	57	75	64	57	53	62
Netherlands	3,697	2,805	3,086	2,781	2,549	2,219	2,475	2,462	2,551	3,401	2,399	2,154
New Zealand	136	126	159	156	172	130	105	95	113	134	152	123
Norway	483	502	557	619	776	1,113	1,862	2,211	2,022	1,702	1,440	1,497
Poland	342	333	303	301	369	547	223	332	438	384	457	504
Portugal	24	17	18	21	18	18	25	25	6	19	15	28
Romania	142	223	297	189	234	207	247	218	169	218	113	123
Slovakia	131	175	266	580	640	625	491	1,100	1,026	933	1,074	1,110
Slovenia	188	84	150	153	336	146	107	117	56	36	58	77
Spain	833	810	745	683	631	640	736	619	841	978	859	844
Sweden	1,735	1,290	1,297	1,280	1,580	1,571	2,065	2,569	2,454	2,800	2,306	2,566
Switzerland	1,693	1,464	1,340	1,434	1,727	1,650	1,952	1,885	1,868	2,078	2,060	1,617
United Kingdom	8,220	7,120	7,480	6,440	6,830	6,820	7,900	8,600	7,800	8,270	7,640	7,290
United States*	4,974	4,686	5,500	4,698	5,536	6,684	5,117	4,370	6,119	4,028	5,111	4,887
Total	47,617	41,616	47,232	43,006	46,544	46,778	50,748	53,596	51,988	53,644	49,448	45,291
- European Union**	32,530	28,028	31,616	28,149	29,199	28,025	32,803	35,162	32,362	36,415	32,400	30,142
- Western Europe	34,710	29,998	33,513	30,210	31,710	30,803	36,639	39,274	36,271	40,202	35,905	33,260
- Central Europe	2,808	2,772	3,562	3,565	3,969	4,124	3,784	4,802	4,332	4,639	4,216	4,017
- Europe	37,518	32,770	37,075	33,775	35,679	34,927	40,423	44,076	40,603	44,841	40,121	37,277
- North America	8,376	7,911	8,970	7,947	9,491	10,337	9,435	8,456	9,795	7,901	8,414	7,423
- Australia/New Zealand	1,723	935	1,187	1,284	1,374	1,514	890	1,064	1,590	902	913	591

Notes

See Annex D.4 for regional classification.

* Figures for the United States refer to number of asylum cases. On average, there are some 1.4 persons per asylum case in the US.

** Excludes Italy for which no monthly data is available.

Table IV.2 Asylum applications, admission and pending cases, 2000-2001

See Table VI.2 for classification of nationally reported data and Chapter VI for the calculation method of the recognition rates.

Country of asylum	L ¹	Applied			Recognized			Humanitarian			Pending end-year			RRR ²		TRR ³	
		2000	2001	+/-	2000	2001	+/-	2000	2001	+/-	2000	2001	+/-	2000	2001	2000	2001
Australia	FI	13,065	12,366	-5%	4,050	3,364	-17%	-	-	..	4,921	5,743	17%	33%	30%	33%	30%
Australia	AR	7,654	6,924	-10%	945	1,100	16%	-	-	..	8,278	7,927	-4%	14%	17%	14%	17%
Austria		18,284	30,127	65%	1,002	1,152	15%	-	-	..	9,945	15,187	53%	17%	23%	17%	23%
Belgium	FI	42,691	24,549	-42%	1,192	898	-25%	750	-	-100%	-	-	..	23%	27%	38%	27%
Belgium	AR	-	1,479	..	189	259	37%	-	-	..	1,240	664	-46%	10%	14%	10%	14%
Bulgaria		1,755	2,428	38%	267	385	44%	421	1,185	181%	1,316	1,504	14%	22%	17%	57%	71%
Canada		34,252	44,038	29%	13,989	13,336	-5%	-	-	..	30,175	45,804	52%	58%	58%	58%	58%
Czech Rep.	FI	8,787	18,087	106%	88	75	-15%	-	-	..	4,625	9,874	113%	5%	1%	5%	1%
Czech Rep.	AR	1,411	3,004	113%	45	8	-82%	-	-	..	406	1,715	322%	5%	1%	5%	1%
Denmark	FI	10,347	8,336	-19%	1,202	1,847	54%	2,265	2,711	20%	5,200	-	-100%	17%	21%	49%	52%
Denmark	AR	-	-	..	125	163	30%	276	376	36%	-	-	..	6%	6%	20%	21%
Finland	FI	3,170	1,651	-48%	9	4	-56%	458	809	77%	-	-	..	1%	0%	62%	56%
Finland	AR	-	-	..	4	-	-100%	36	-	-100%	-	-	..	2%	..	19%	..
France	FI	38,747	47,291	22%	3,433	5,049	47%	-	-	..	-	-	..	12%	12%	12%	12%
France	AR	20,124	26,140	30%	1,844	2,380	29%	-	-	..	-	-	..	10%	11%	10%	11%
France	RA	1,028	1,369	33%	1,752	2,274	30%	-	-	..	-	-	..	100%	100%	100%	100%
France		-	-	..	-	-	..	-	-	..	-	34,551	..	..	..	..	..
Germany	NA	78,564	88,287	12%	10,894	17,547	61%	1,363	2,395	76%	43,791	56,111	28%	15%	24%	17%	27%
Germany	RA	39,084	30,019	-23%	552	5,172	837%	234	988	322%	26,475	29,422	11%	23%	71%	33%	85%
Greece		3,083	5,499	78%	222	147	-34%	160	148	-8%	2,379	6,224	162%	11%	11%	19%	22%
Hungary		7,801	9,554	22%	197	174	-12%	680	290	-57%	1,435	2,398	67%	5%	5%	23%	13%
Ireland	FI	11,096	10,325	-7%	211	456	116%	-	69	..	10,127	8,200	-19%	4%	9%	4%	10%
Ireland	AR	3,700	4,192	13%	395	478	21%	-	-	..	1,921	2,641	37%	14%	19%	14%	19%
Italy		15,564	9,620	-38%	1,649	2,102	27%	-	564	..	133	-	-100%	7%	16%	7%	20%
Japan	FI	216	353	63%	22	24	9%	39	67	72%	232	187	-19%	11%	6%	31%	25%
Japan	AR	-	184	..	-	2	..	-	-	..	79	141	78%	..	2%	..	2%
Luxembourg		628	686	9%	17	89	424%	42	353	740%	-	-	..	1%	5%	3%	22%
Netherlands	FI	43,895	32,579	-26%	896	244	-73%	5,968	5,161	-14%	25,506	22,298	-13%	12%	1%	89%	25%
Netherlands	AR	-	-	..	912	644	-29%	1,950	2,696	38%	47,740	34,662	-27%	5%	18%	17%	91%
Netherlands	JR	-	-	..	-	-	..	-	-	..	11,221	21,590	92%	..	..	..	..
New Zealand	FI	1,551	1,601	3%	235	467	99%	-	-	..	2,118	1,424	-33%	8%	19%	8%	19%
New Zealand	AR	-	-	..	60	35	-42%	-	-	..	219	493	125%	12%	6%	12%	6%
Norway	FI	10,842	14,782	36%	97	292	201%	2,856	4,036	41%	-	-	..	1%	2%	38%	33%
Norway	AR	-	-	..	4	-	-100%	353	-	-100%	-	-	..	0%	..	7%	..
Poland	FI	4,589	4,506	-2%	52	271	421%	-	-	..	-	-	..	2%	9%	2%	9%
Poland	AR	-	-	..	26	20	-23%	-	-	..	-	-	..	20%	59%	20%	59%
Portugal		224	232	4%	16	7	-56%	46	34	-26%	-	-	..	17%	15%	66%	85%
Romania		1,366	2,431	78%	85	83	-2%	86	38	-56%	-	-	..	6%	4%	12%	5%
Slovakia		1,556	8,151	424%	10	18	80%	-	-	..	387	3,151	714%	8%	12%	8%	12%
Slovenia		9,244	1,511	-84%	-	1	..	11	24	118%	8,834	305	-97%	0%	1%	8%	20%
Spain		7,926	9,489	20%	381	314	-18%	382	266	-30%	-	-	..	15%	12%	30%	23%
Sweden	FI	16,303	23,515	44%	343	165	-52%	6,647	4,330	-35%	10,800	17,600	63%	2%	1%	44%	30%
Sweden	AR	-	-	..	137	142	4%	1,918	2,208	15%	-	-	..	3%	2%	40%	30%
Switzerland	FI	17,611	20,633	17%	2,061	2,253	9%	16,966	8,922	-47%	15,137	14,603	-4%	5%	10%	43%	47%
Switzerland	AR	14,823	11,315	-24%	622	1,178	89%	-	-	..	12,332	11,051	-10%	10%	19%	10%	19%
Switzerland	CA	-	-	..	-	-	..	5,556	11,012	98%	-	-	..	0%	0%	100%	100%
United Kingdom ²	FI	98,800	92,000	-7%	12,135	14,410	19%	12,645	25,580	102%	87,800	38,800	-56%	14%	12%	29%	32%
United Kingdom	AR	46,190	74,365	61%	3,340	8,155	144%	-	-	..	-	-	..	18%	19%	18%	19%
United Kingdom	BL	-	-	..	-	-	..	14,054	-	-100%	-	-	..	0%	..	100%	..
United Kingdom	RA	-	-	..	-	1,700	..	-	1,300	..	-	-	..	..	17%	..	30%
United States ^{2 3}	IN	57,214	83,205	45%	24,486	28,969	18%	-	-	..	328,820	324,438	-1%	45%	44%	45%	44%
United States ^{2 3}	EO	71,019	84,773	19%	9,884	10,944	11%	-	-	..	57,215	71,439	25%	31%	34%	31%	34%

Notes
¹ L = Level in the procedure. See Table III.1 for explanation of codes. ² RRR = Refugee recognition rate. ³ TRR = Total refugee recognition rate.

² Pending applications end-year refers to number of cases.

³ Applications and recognitions (Executive Office for Immigration Review, 2001) estimated by UNHCR based on an average of 1.4 persons per asylum case.