



# UNHCR

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## ASYLUM LEVELS AND TRENDS IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, JANUARY TO JUNE 2003

1. In 27 industrialized countries for which data were available<sup>1</sup>, 89,650 asylum applications were submitted during the second quarter of 2003, 8 per cent less than in the first quarter of 2003, when 97,580 applications were lodged. In the 22 European asylum countries with available data, the number of quarterly applications fell by 7 per cent, whereas the 13 European Union member countries, excluding the United Kingdom and Italy for which no data were available, recorded a 10 per cent fall. In the seven Central European countries, however, quarterly applications increased by 27 per cent (*Table 1*).

2. Compared to the first quarter of 2003, countries recording an important **increase** in asylum applications during the second quarter included Czech Republic (54%), Portugal (82%) and Slovakia (70%). Countries reporting a significant **decrease** in quarterly applications included Bulgaria (-40%), Ireland (-31%) and Spain (-31%) (*Table 1*).

3. Of the 27 countries reporting data for June 2003, 15 countries experienced an increase in **monthly** asylum applications, 11 countries reported a decrease, whereas in one country the number of applications received remained stable. A relatively significant **increase** in monthly applications was reported by Finland (82%), France (36%), Hungary (56%), Liechtenstein (143%), Slovenia (27%), and New Zealand (49%). Conversely, an important **decrease** in monthly applications was reported by The Netherlands (-40%) (*Table 1*).

4. As concerns the **nationality** of asylum-seekers, the 27 industrialized countries recorded a sharp fall in new Iraqi applications during the second quarter of 2003 (-35%). Due to a strong rise in Russian asylum-seekers (58%), the Russian Federation became the leading country of origin of asylum-seekers in the 27 industrialized during the second quarter of 2003. Among the leading asylum-seeker nationalities, the fall in quarterly applications submitted by Pakistan nationals (-52%) was noteworthy. During the second quarter of 2003, the number of Afghan asylum applications increased, however, by 29 per cent (*Table 2*).

5. In Europe, Liberian asylum applications rose from 310 during January to March to 489 during April to June 2003, an increase of 58 per cent (*Table 3*). Quarterly applications by origin and country of asylum for the period April to June 2003 are provided in Table 4.

Bela Hovy, Head  
Population Data Unit/PGDS  
Geneva, 13 August 2003  
<http://www.unhcr.org> (*Statistics*)

<sup>1</sup> Data for the United Kingdom (second quarter of 2003) and Norway (June 2003) were not available at the time this report was prepared.

**Table 1. Monthly asylum applications lodged, 2003**

Two dots (..) indicate that the value is not available.

\* The regional groupings and Total include only those countries for which data are complete. See notes below.

Country/region of asylum*										Change	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	May/June	Q1/Q2
Austria	2,509	1,873	2,274	2,422	2,798	2,905	14,781	6,656	8,125	4%	22%
Belgium	1,449	1,103	1,276	1,188	1,115	1,279	7,410	3,828	3,582	15%	-6%
Bulgaria	167	137	122	69	94	93	682	426	256	-1%	-40%
Czech Rep.	685	704	588	1,188	965	895	5,025	1,977	3,048	-7%	54%
Denmark	398	407	376	331	350	323	2,185	1,181	1,004	-8%	-15%
Finland	266	319	183	167	148	269	1,352	768	584	82%	-24%
France	3,662	4,406	4,422	4,605	3,083	4,182	24,360	12,490	11,870	36%	-5%
Germany	6,124	4,486	4,329	4,012	3,758	3,653	26,362	14,939	11,423	-3%	-24%
Greece	615	871	760	666	1,047	879	4,838	2,246	2,592	-16%	15%
Hungary	228	234	183	131	153	238	1,167	645	522	56%	-19%
Ireland	979	947	892	667	604	661	4,750	2,818	1,932	9%	-31%
Liechtenstein	11	5	8	5	7	17	53	24	29	143%	21%
Luxembourg	79	107	112	127	107	120	652	298	354	12%	19%
Netherlands	1,234	1,042	1,398	1,570	1,391	831	7,466	3,674	3,792	-40%	3%
Norway	1,195	1,183	1,324	1,086	989	-	5,777	3,702	..	..	..
Poland	364	337	706	372	527	415	2,721	1,407	1,314	-21%	-7%
Portugal	11	5	6	18	10	12	62	22	40	20%	82%
Romania	80	63	129	170	96	118	656	272	384	23%	41%
Slovakia	442	386	421	636	679	810	3,374	1,249	2,125	19%	70%
Slovenia	102	122	61	76	91	116	568	285	283	27%	-1%
Spain	764	411	372	332	395	345	2,619	1,547	1,072	-13%	-31%
Sweden	3,108	2,503	2,313	2,006	1,937	2,261	14,128	7,924	6,204	17%	-22%
Switzerland	2,196	1,648	1,662	1,538	1,767	1,563	10,374	5,506	4,868	-12%	-12%
UK	9,270	5,480	5,880	-	-	-	20,630	20,630	..	..	..
Canada	3,765	2,974	3,017	2,955	2,640	2,151	17,502	9,756	7,746	-19%	-21%
USA	5,560	4,650	5,970	5,760	4,410	4,940	31,290	16,180	15,110	12%	-7%
Australia	396	338	405	388	397	318	2,242	1,139	1,103	-20%	-3%
New Zealand	90	86	74	81	55	82	468	250	218	49%	-13%
Japan	26	24	20	32	20	20	142	70	72	0%	3%
EU-13	21,198	18,480	18,713	18,111	16,743	17,720	110,965	58,391	52,574	6%	-10%
Western Europe	23,405	20,133	20,383	19,654	18,517	19,300	121,392	63,921	57,471	4%	-10%
Central Europe	2,068	1,983	2,210	2,642	2,605	2,685	14,193	6,261	7,932	3%	27%
Europe	25,473	22,116	22,593	22,296	21,122	21,985	135,585	70,182	65,403	4%	-7%
North America	9,325	7,624	8,987	8,715	7,050	7,091	48,792	25,936	22,856	1%	-12%
Total	35,310	30,188	32,079	31,512	28,644	29,496	187,229	97,577	89,652	3%	-8%

**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-13: European Union member countries excluding Italy and the UK (no or no complete data available).

Western Europe: EU-13 plus Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

Central Europe: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Europe: All European countries listed except Norway and the UK (no complete data available).

Total: All countries listed for which complete data were available.

Source: Governments, compiled by UNHCR (Population Data Unit/PGDS).

**Table 2. Asylum applications lodged in industrialized countries by origin, Jan-Jun 2003 (Top-40)**

Covering the 27 asylum countries listed in Table 1 with complete data.

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

Origin	Absolute			Rank			Change
	Q1	Q2	Total	Q1	Q2	Change	
Iraq	8,479	5,550	14,029	1	2	-1	-35%
Russian Federation	4,592	7,269	11,861	4	1	3	58%
Turkey	5,770	4,851	10,621	2	4	-2	-16%
Serbia and Montenegro	5,232	4,857	10,089	3	3	0	-7%
China	4,100	4,260	8,360	5	5	0	4%
Nigeria	3,378	2,958	6,336	7	6	1	-12%
Pakistan	3,804	1,829	5,633	6	11	-5	-52%
India	2,739	2,809	5,548	8	7	1	3%
Afghanistan	2,125	2,735	4,860	10	8	2	29%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2,419	2,259	4,678	9	9	0	-7%
Islamic Rep. of Iran	2,040	1,852	3,892	11	10	1	-9%
Colombia	1,812	1,683	3,495	12	13	-1	-7%
Algeria	1,719	1,549	3,268	14	14	0	-10%
Georgia	1,566	1,690	3,256	15	12	3	8%
Mexico	1,782	1,278	3,060	13	17	-4	-28%
Indonesia	1,351	1,284	2,635	17	16	1	-5%
Cameroon	1,354	1,193	2,547	16	20	-4	-12%
Somalia	1,147	1,381	2,528	22	15	7	20%
Ukraine	1,291	1,130	2,421	18	22	-4	-12%
Haiti	1,071	1,263	2,334	25	18	7	18%
Bangladesh	1,168	1,146	2,314	21	21	0	-2%
Armenia	1,072	1,194	2,266	24	19	5	11%
Sri Lanka	1,086	1,108	2,194	23	23	0	2%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,251	940	2,191	19	25	-6	-25%
Côte d'Ivoire	1,251	909	2,160	19	26	-7	-27%
Rep. of Moldova	763	1,020	1,783	37	24	13	34%
Mauritania	894	844	1,738	29	28	1	-6%
Viet Nam	914	787	1,701	28	30	-2	-14%
Guinea	792	889	1,681	34	27	7	12%
Albania	819	812	1,631	31	29	2	-1%
Angola	837	740	1,577	30	31	-1	-12%
Romania	990	563	1,553	27	39	-12	-43%
Azerbaijan	810	721	1,531	32	33	-1	-11%
Belarus	774	723	1,497	35	32	3	-7%
Congo	807	665	1,472	33	34	-1	-18%
Slovakia	770	629	1,399	36	36	0	-18%
Syrian Arab Rep.	751	636	1,387	38	35	3	-15%
Bulgaria	1,021	305	1,326	26	40	-14	-70%
Sierra Leone	713	569	1,282	39	37	2	-20%
Ethiopia	624	568	1,192	40	38	2	-9%
Other	17,077	15,891	32,968				-7%
Total	92,955	85,339	178,294				-8%

**Table 3. Asylum applications lodged in Europe by origin, Jan-Jun 2003 (Top-40)**

Covering the 22 European asylum countries listed in Table 1 with complete data.

Origin	Absolute			Rank			Change
	Q1	Q2	Total	Q1	Q2	Change	
Iraq	8,290	5,453	13,743	1	2	-1	-34%
Russian Federation	4,275	6,955	11,230	4	1	3	63%
Turkey	5,620	4,727	10,347	2	4	-2	-16%
Serbia and Montenegro	5,130	4,780	9,910	3	3	0	-7%
Nigeria	3,210	2,763	5,973	5	5	0	-14%
China	2,238	2,627	4,865	7	7	0	17%
Afghanistan	2,092	2,706	4,798	8	6	2	29%
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	2,264	2,097	4,361	6	8	-2	-7%
India	2,010	2,037	4,047	9	9	0	1%
Islamic Rep. of Iran	1,719	1,649	3,368	10	10	0	-4%
Algeria	1,681	1,533	3,214	11	12	-1	-9%
Georgia	1,525	1,641	3,166	12	11	1	8%
Somalia	1,037	1,276	2,313	16	13	3	23%
Ukraine	1,181	1,035	2,216	14	14	0	-12%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,250	936	2,186	13	18	-5	-25%
Pakistan	944	1,027	1,971	19	15	4	9%
Armenia	859	979	1,838	23	17	6	14%
Côte d'Ivoire	1,061	738	1,799	15	22	-7	-30%
Rep. of Moldova	750	1,002	1,752	27	16	11	34%
Bangladesh	960	744	1,704	18	21	-3	-23%
Cameroon	879	783	1,662	22	19	3	-11%
Viet Nam	884	758	1,642	21	20	1	-14%
Angola	809	722	1,531	24	23	1	-11%
Sri Lanka	768	655	1,423	25	25	0	-15%
Azerbaijan	743	646	1,389	28	27	1	-13%
Slovakia	761	618	1,379	26	29	-3	-19%
Romania	913	460	1,373	20	37	-17	-50%
Belarus	720	631	1,351	29	28	1	-12%
Mauritania	672	649	1,321	32	26	6	-3%
Guinea	582	715	1,297	34	24	10	23%
Congo	712	573	1,285	30	31	-1	-20%
Syrian Arab Rep.	697	583	1,280	31	30	1	-16%
Bulgaria	980	244	1,224	17	40	-23	-75%
FYR Macedonia	572	538	1,110	36	32	4	-6%
Sierra Leone	614	463	1,077	33	36	-3	-25%
Sudan	576	494	1,070	35	33	2	-14%
Albania	503	494	997	37	33	4	-2%
Togo	438	412	850	38	38	0	-6%
Liberia	310	489	799	40	35	5	58%
Mongolia	402	376	778	39	39	0	-6%
Other	8,551	7,395	15,946				-14%
Total	70,182	65,403	135,585				-7%

**Table 4. Applications submitted by country of asylum and origin, second quarter 2003 (Top-20)**

Covering the 27 asylum countries listed in Table 1 with complete data.

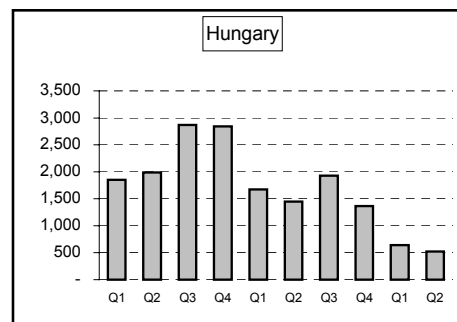
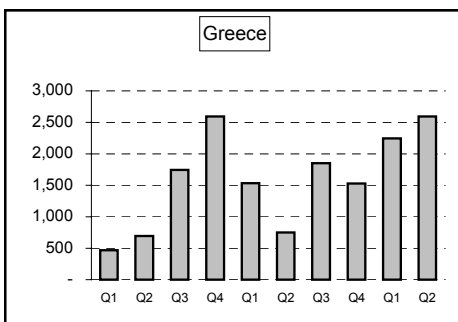
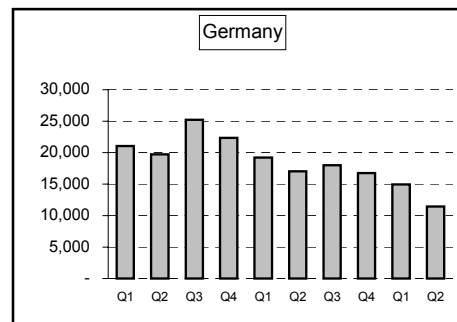
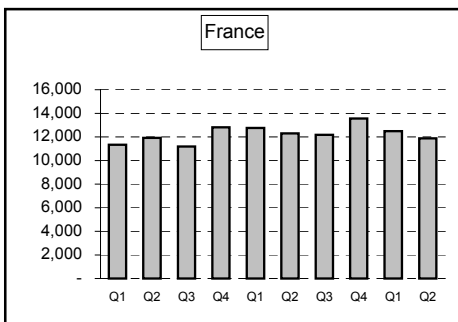
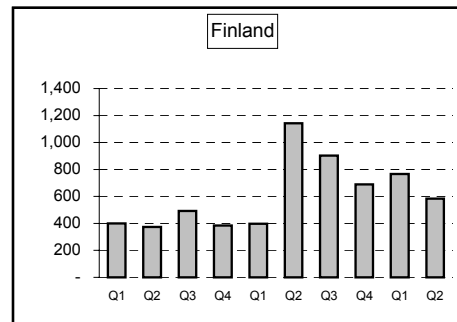
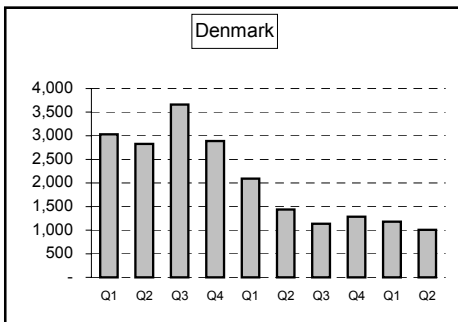
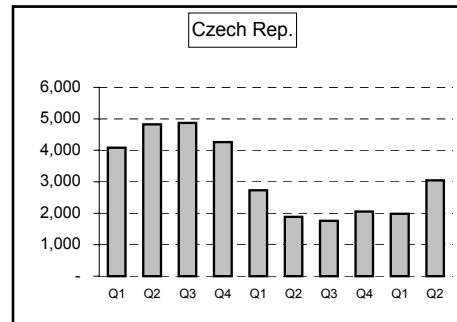
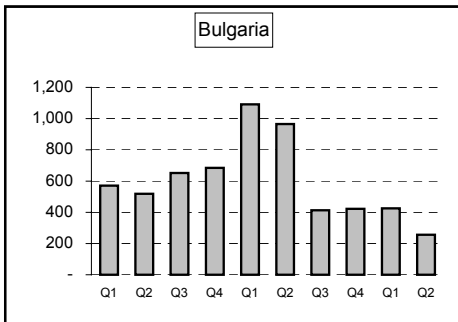
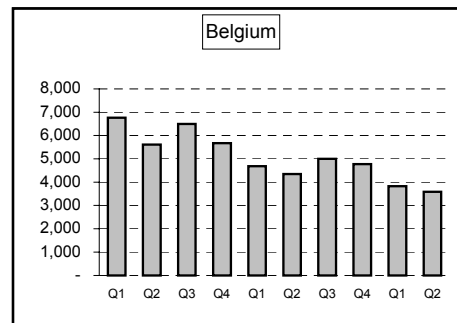
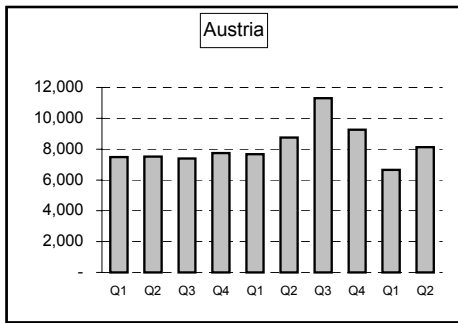
An asterisk (\*) indicates that value is between 1 and 4.

Origin	AUS	BEL	BUL	CZE	DEN	FIN	FRA	GFR	GRE	HUN	IRE	LIE	LUX	NET
Russian Federation	1,783	314	*	1,492	73	58	508	740	*	21	13	8	9	52
Iraq	333	66	30	8	108	34	119	896	1,074	56	21	-	6	1,510
Serbia and Montenegro	590	268	-	5	158	150	344	1,108	-	18	34	*	132	81
Turkey	715	119	13	*	11	41	1,552	1,462	46	16	*	-	*	118
China	167	74	-	268	14	*	908	661	7	25	24	-	*	53
Nigeria	422	52	19	14	9	12	297	254	187	11	763	-	14	101
India	617	52	-	43	12	*	203	450	14	20	*	-	*	15
Afghanistan	1,119	74	107	31	107	17	116	335	130	103	6	-	*	106
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	19	415	-	*	*	*	1,163	159	13	-	58	-	5	52
Islamic Rep. of Iran	219	173	25	*	25	8	37	433	224	39	17	-	*	152
Pakistan	107	72	-	*	6	-	162	186	217	10	16	-	-	23
Georgia	387	77	-	73	12	*	323	234	6	85	22	-	8	31
Colombia	*	18	-	-	-	-	22	7	-	-	-	-	-	6
Algeria	43	88	*	9	11	9	574	284	*	19	19	-	21	26
Somalia	47	25	33	*	82	10	10	53	64	32	47	-	*	95
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	312	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armenia	195	51	13	5	*	5	178	176	*	13	5	-	*	42
Cameroon	24	151	-	-	*	*	214	237	5	*	28	-	*	21

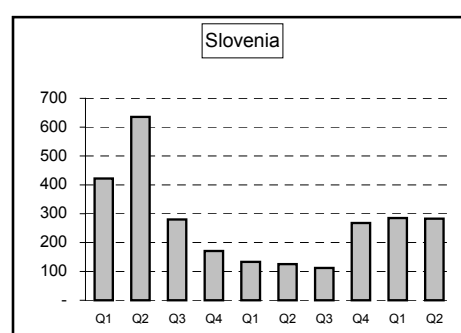
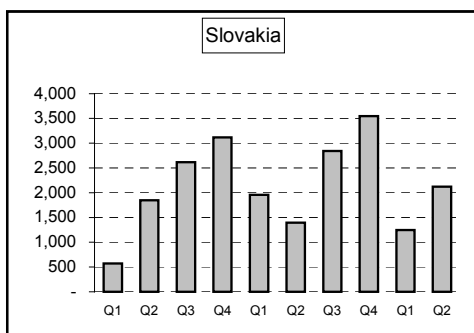
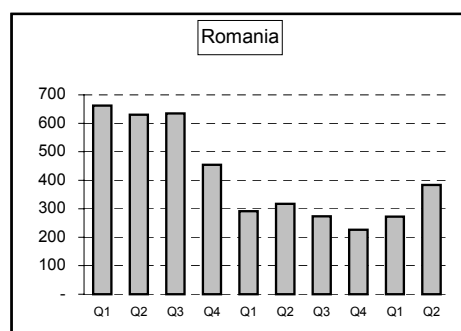
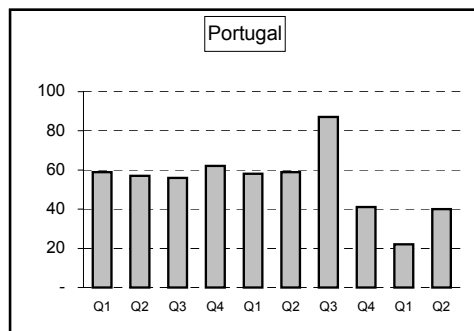
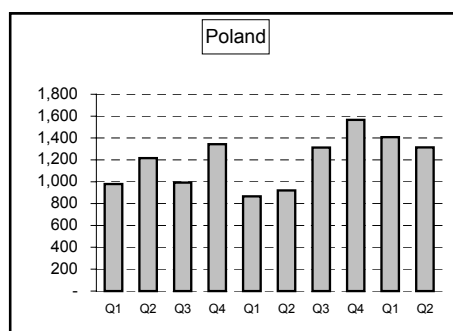
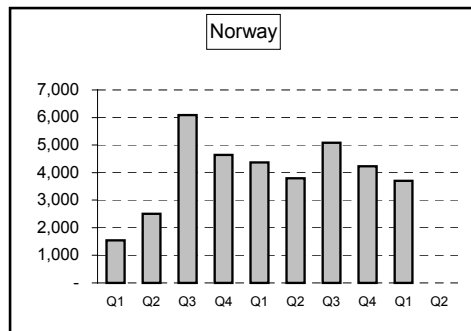
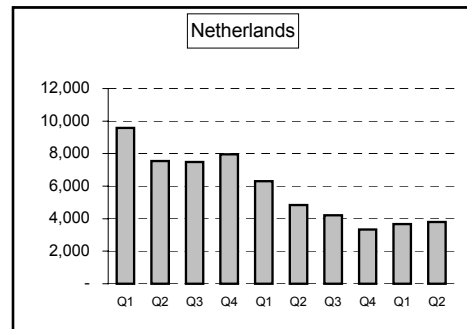
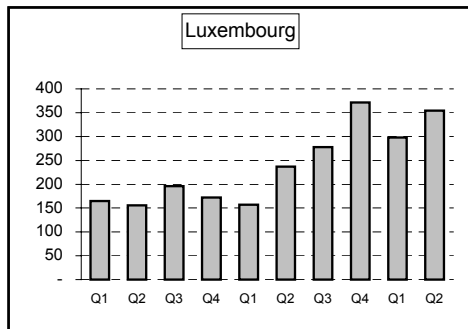
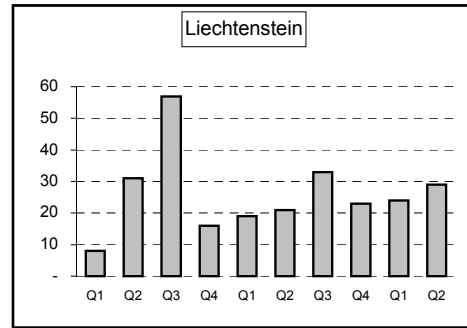
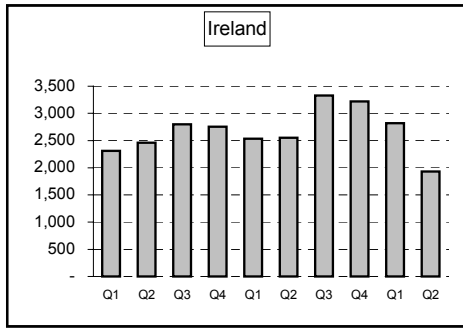
  

Origin	POL	POR	ROM	SVK	SVN	SPA	SWE	SWI	CAN	USA	AUL	NZL	JPN	TOT
Russian Federation	1,047	*	*	362	5	29	320	113	59	246	9	-	-	7,269
Iraq	18	*	133	138	42	25	527	308	29	45	14	9	-	5,550
Serbia and Montenegro	*	*	*	15	41	*	1,159	667	20	54	*	-	-	4,857
Turkey	*	-	12	13	45	11	160	380	93	-	11	-	20	4,851
China	-	-	59	260	-	*	20	83	357	1,047	210	18	*	4,260
Nigeria	*	*	-	*	-	350	99	152	156	14	21	*	*	2,958
India	50	-	50	424	*	5	20	55	256	311	189	15	*	2,809
Afghanistan	56	-	13	169	*	*	149	64	24	5	-	-	-	2,735
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	-	-	-	*	-	46	31	126	123	37	-	-	*	2,259
Islamic Rep. of Iran	-	-	22	30	6	*	170	60	48	104	9	34	8	1,852
Pakistan	42	*	6	77	16	5	25	54	699	87	10	*	5	1,829
Georgia	*	*	-	41	25	6	116	188	10	39	-	-	-	1,690
Colombia	-	*	-	-	-	95	10	6	504	1,003	*	*	*	1,683
Algeria	*	-	*	*	29	90	70	232	13	-	*	*	-	1,549
Somalia	5	-	37	33	-	32	572	91	74	26	*	*	-	1,381
Indonesia	-	*	-	-	-	-	*	-	88	1,127	63	*	*	1,284
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	534	743	-	-	-	1,278
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	906	-	-	-	1,263
Armenia	30	-	*	74	-	19	67	95	5	210	-	-	-	1,194
Cameroon	-	-	*	-	-	21	9	63	35	374	-	-	*	1,193

Quarterly applications submitted, 2001-2003



Quarterly applications submitted, 2001-2003



Quarterly applications submitted, 2001-2003

