

SWEDEN

1 Arrivals

1 Total number of applications for asylum lodged, with monthly breakdown and percentage variation between years

Table 1:

Month	2003	2004	Variation +/- (%)
January	3 128	2 310	- 26.2 %
February	2 500	1 941	- 22.4 %
March	2 315	1 980	- 14.5 %
April	2 006	1 799	- 10.3 %
May	1 936	1 519	- 21.5 %
June	2 256	1 894	- 16.0 %
July	2 650	1 844	- 30.4 %
August	3 138	2 165	- 31.0 %
Sept.	3 157	2 203	-30.0 %
October	3 094	1 836	-40.7 %
November	2 465	1 773	-28.1 %
December	2 710	1 900	- 29.9 %
Total	31,355	23,161	- 26.1 %

Source: Migration Board Statistics

2 Breakdown according to the country of origin/nationality of applicant, with percentage variation

Table 2:

Country	2003	2004	Variation +/- (%)
Afghanistan	811	903	+ 11.3 %
Azerbaijan	1 032	1 041	+ 0.9 %
Belarus	901	519	- 42.4 %
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 397	785	- 43.8 %
Eritrea	641	395	- 38.4 %
Iraq	2 700	1 456	- 46.1 %
Iran	787	660	- 16.1 %
Macedonia	470	429	- 8.7 %
Russian Federation	1 360	1 287	- 5.4 %
Serbia and Montenegro	5 305	4 022	- 24.2 %
Somalia	3 069	905	- 70.5 %
Syria	666	411	- 38.3 %
Turkey	733	445	-39.3 %
Asylum seekers without citizenship	1 787	1 578	- 11.2 %
Others	10 597	8 325	- 21.4 %

Source: Migration Board statistics

3 Persons arriving under family reunification procedure

22,337 persons arrived under family reunification procedures during 2004, no nationality breakdown is available.

4 Refugees arriving as part of a resettlement programme

1,822.

Nationality breakdown:

Table 3:

Country	2004
Afghanistan	318
Albania	2
Angola	1
Azerbaijan	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5
Burma	137
Burundi	8
China	12
Colombia	138
Cuba	1
DRC	26
Eritrea	18
Ethiopia	12
Georgia	8
Iraq	38
Iran	627
Lebanon	4
Liberia	38
Nigeria	3
Peru	4
Russian Federation	155
Rwanda	20
Serbia and Montenegro	1
Sierra Leone	35
Somalia	42
Sudan	75
Syria	7
Turkey	12
Turkmenistan	13
Ukraine	2
Vietnam	10
Asylum seekers without citizenship	5
Others	40

Source: Migration Board statistics

5 Unaccompanied minors

388.

Nationality breakdown:

Table 4:

European Council on Refugees and Exiles - Country Report 2004 – Sweden

Country	2004
Afghanistan	35
Algeria	3
Armenia	6
Albania	5
Angola	4
Azerbaijan	9
Bangladesh	2
Belarus	4
Bosnia & Hezegovina	12
Bulgaria	10
Burma	1
Burundi	18
Cameroon	1
Chile	1
China	27
Dem Republic of Congo	2
Eritrea	8
Ethiopia	4
Georgia	4
Guinea	1
India	1
Iraq	26
Iran	9
Israel	1
Kazakhstan	3
Kenya	2
Kyrgystan	3
Lebanon	6
Liberia	1
Libya	1
Macedonia	8
Moldavia	3
Morocco	4
Republic of Congo	1
Romania	2
Russian Federation	14
Rwanda	3
Serbia and Montenegro	43
Somalia	62
Syria	2
Tunisia	4
Turkey	2
Turkmenistan	1
Ukraine	2
Uzbekistan	2
Vietnam	5
Unaccompanied Minors without citizenship	12
Others	8

Source: Migration Board Statistics

2 Recognition Rates

6 The statuses accorded at first instance and appeal stages as an absolute number and percentage of overall decisions

Table 5:

Statuses	2003		2004	
	First instance Number	Appeal %	First instance Number	Appeal %
No status awarded	22 656	80.4	27 876	86.6
Convention status	647	2.3	546	1.7
Subsidiary status	545	1.9	729	2.3
Humanitarian protection	4326	15.4	3043	9.4
Total	28,174	100	32,194	100

Source: Migrations Board and Aliens Appeals Board statistics

Comments

At the appeal stage there are no statistics available to show the breakdown of the different statuses accorded. However, 7 % of appealed cases were approved during 2003 and 6 % during 2004.

7 Refugee recognition rates (1951 Convention: as an absolute number and as a percentage of total decisions) according to country of origin, at first instance and appeal stages

Table 6:

Country of origin	2003		2004	
	First instance Number	Appeal %	First instance Number	Appeal %
Afghanistan	22	3.4	19	3.5
Albania	2	0.3	0	0
Algeria	6	0.9	0	0
Armenia	0	0	2	0.4
Azerbaijan	12	1.9	19	3.5
Belarus	9	1.4	4	0.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	14	2.2	8	1.5
Bulgaria	4	0.6	0	0
Burma	2	0.3	1	0.2
Burundi	1	0.2	0	0
China	7	1.1	13	2.4
Colombia	2	0.3	0	0
Cuba	0	0	4	0.7
Ecuador	1	0.2	0	0
Egypt	4	0.6	0	0
Eritrea	4	0.6	20	3.7
Ethiopia	3	0.5	0	0
Honduras	2	0.3	0	0
Iraq	24	3.7	10	1.8
Iran	84	13.0	79	14.
Jordan	0	0	1	0.2
Kazakhstan	12	1.9	4	0.7
Kyrgystan	5	0.8	1	0.2

European Council on Refugees and Exiles - Country Report 2004 – Sweden

Lebanon	8	1.2	1	0.2
Liberia	4	0.6	0	0
Libya	0	0	4	0.7
Pakistan	7	1.1	0	0
Russian Federation	32	4.9	15	2.7
Rwanda	2	0.3	0	0
Serbia and Montenegro	238	36.8	189	34.
Somalia	4	3.7	72	13.
Syria	51	7.9	37	6.8
Turkey	25	3.9	3	0.5
Turkmenistan	0	0	5	0.9
Ukraine	4	0.6	0	0
Uzbekistan	10	1.5	7	1.3
Asylum seekers without	8	1.2	11	2.0
Other	14	2.2	15	2.7
Total	647	100	546	100

Source: Migrations Board statistics

Comments

There are no country of origin based statistics available at the appeal stage.

8 Subsidiary and other status granted (as an absolute number and as a percentage of total decisions) according to country of origin, at first instance and appeal stages

Table 7:

Country of origin	2003		2004			
	First instance Number	%	Appeal Number	%	First instance Number	Appeal Number
			N/A			N/A
Afghanistan	67	1.4			155	4.1
Albania	11	0.2			16	0.4
Algeria	16	0.3			0	0
Angola	11	0.2			10	0.3
Armenia	45	1.0			48	1.3
Azerbaijan	29	0.6			85	2.3
Bangladesh	38	0.8			28	0.7
Belarus	0	0			20	0.5
Bosnia & Herzegovina	669	14.4			239	6.4
Bulgaria	6	0.1			0	0
Burma	5	0.1			10	0.3
Burundi	152	3.3			243	6.5
China	6	0.1			5	0.1
Colombia	10	0.2			14	0.4
Croatia	21	0.5			0	0
Cuba	0	0			5	0.1
DRC	11	0.2			16	0.4
Ecuador	25	0.5			11	0.3
Egypt	9	0.2			11	0.3
Eritrea	28	0.6			95	2.5

European Council on Refugees and Exiles - Country Report 2004 – Sweden

Ethiopia	3	0.06	15	0.4
Georgia	27	0.6	18	0.5
Honduras	4	0.09	0	0
Iraq	1 168	25.1	336	9.0
Iran	113	2.4	126	3.4
Jordan	17	0.4	13	0.3
Kazakhstan	38	0.8	58	1.5
Kyrgystan	13	0.3	33	0.9
Lebanon	30	0.6	20	0.5
Liberia	5	0.1	0	0
Libya	0	0	7	0.2
Macedonia	18	0.4	22	0.6
Mongolia	0	0	9	0.2
Nigeria	0	0	4	0.1
Pakistan	17	0.4	10	0.3
Peru	6	0.1	11	0.3
Republic of Congo	2	0.04	0	0
Russian Federation	107	2.3	168	4.5
Rwanda	1	0.02	5	0.1
Serbia and Montenegro	622	13.4	485	13.0
Sierra Leone	2	0.04	5	0.1
Somalia	446	9.6	572	15.3
Sudan	7	0.2	17	0.5
Syria	95	2.0	72	1.9
Turkey	62	1.3	67	1.8
Turkmenistan	9	0.2	5	0.1
Ukraine	12	0.3	25	0.7
Uzbekistan	49	1.1	81	2.2
Vietnam	0	0	5	0.1
Asylum seekers without Citizenship	524	11.3	465	12.4
Other	100	2.1	84	2.2
Total	4,656	100	3,749	100

Source: Migrations Board statistics

Comments

At appeal stage there are no statistics available that show the breakdown by country of origin. However, 7 % of appealed cases were approved during 2003 and 6 % during 2004.

3 Returns, Removals, Detention and Dismissed Claims

9 Persons returned on safe third country grounds

385.

10 Persons returned on safe country of origin grounds

4,385 persons were returned on safe country of origin grounds (manifestly unfounded claims).

11 Number of applications determined inadmissible

None.

12 Number of asylum seekers denied entry to the territory

None.

13 Number of asylum seekers detained, the maximum length of and grounds for detention

During 2004, 4,440 asylum seekers were kept in detention (according to Swedish law, there are no absolute time limits for detention).

The Migration Board can decide to place an asylum-seeker in detention (keep him locked up in special premises) if:

- 1) his/her identity is unclear;
- 2) detention is necessary for the investigation of his/her right to stay in Sweden;
- 3) it is likely that he/she will be refused entry or expelled, or that is necessary for the enforcement of an existing refusal of entry or expulsion order. In principle, detention under 3 can only be ordered if there are reasons to presume that the person will otherwise go into hiding or will engage in criminal activities in Sweden. Detention under paragraph 2 is limited to 48 hours. In other cases, it is limited to two weeks unless there are exceptional grounds for a longer period. However, if the refusal of entry or the expulsion order has already been made, the detention period may last up to two months, and even longer if there are exceptional grounds. Due to the possibility of extending the detention on exceptional grounds, there is no limitation at all to the overall detention period. A decision concerning detention may be appealed to the County Administrative Court. The appeal is presented to the Migration Board which forwards it to the County Administrative Court.

14 Deportations of rejected asylum seekers

During 2004, 10,807 persons were returned to their country of origin with the assistance of the Migration Board and 2,351 persons were returned to their country of origin by force by the police. No nationality breakdown is available.

15 Details of assisted return programmes, and numbers of those returned

No information available.

16 Number of asylum seekers sent back to the Member State responsible for examining the asylum application under the Dublin II Regulation

During 2004, 4,225 asylum seekers were sent back to the member state responsible for examining the asylum application under the Dublin II Regulation (2003:425). There are no available statistics regarding persons who have been transferred to Sweden.

4 Specific Refugee Groups

17 Developments regarding refugee groups of particular concern

Changes in Somali practice:

Previously, Somali asylum seekers were initially granted a temporary residence of 12 months and later permanent residence, mainly on humanitarian grounds. During 2004 the policy changed and it is now considered that most Somalis can be returned to Somalia. An expulsion may, however, only be carried out if the person can be reintegrated with his or her clan. This means that no deportation will actually take place before a return programme has been built up in cooperation with the IOM.

5 Legal and Procedural Developments

18 New legislation passed

During 2004, the most important changes to the Swedish Aliens Act were:

1. Upon request from the prosecutor in charge of a preliminary investigation, a temporary residence permit can be granted if it is necessary to carry out the preliminary investigation and/or the main proceedings (Swedish Aliens Act 2, Section 4a).
2. When the Migration Board, the Aliens Appeals Board or the Swedish government decides to reject an asylum application, the decision must state the country to which the asylum seeker should be returned or deported (Swedish Aliens Act 4, Section 12a).

19 Changes in refugee determination procedure, appeal or deportation procedures

No developments.

20 Important case-law relating to the qualification for refugee status and other forms of protection

No developments.

21 Development s in the use of the exclusion clauses of the Refugee Convention in the context of the national security debate

No developments.

22 Developments regarding readmission and cooperation agreements

No developments.

6 The Social Dimension

23 Changes in the reception system

No developments.

24 Changes in the social welfare policy relevant to refugees

No developments.

25 Changes in policy relating to refugee integration

There were no comprehensive changes in Swedish policy relating to refugee integration. Since the Swedish municipalities are in charge of implementing the integration policy however, there could have been local changes to refugee integration policy.

26 Changes in family reunion policy

No developments.

7 Other Policy Developments

27 Developments in resettlement policy

No developments.

28 Developments in return policy

No developments, apart from different project operations that were carried out by the Swedish Migration Board. Geographically, the projects during 2004 were orientated towards Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 projects), Iraq (1 project) and Somalia (1 project).

29 Developments in border control measures

No developments.

30 Other developments in refugee policy

No developments.

8 Political Context

31 Government in power during 2004

The Social Democrats, who have been in government since the 1920s, are still in power under Prime Minister Göran Persson. In Parliament, the Social Democrats enjoy the support of the Left Party (ex-communists) and the Green Party.

32 Governmental policy vis-à-vis EU developments

There were no major changes in the governmental policy vis-à-vis EU developments. The Swedish people rejected participation in the EMU at a national referendum in 2003 and no new referendum is planned for the foreseeable future.

33 Asylum in the national political agenda

During 2004, a governmental committee worked on the proposal “New system for appeals and procedures in aliens and citizenship cases” and a draft for a new Aliens Act, which will replace the 1989 Aliens Act.

The proposal contains a new appeals system in which The Aliens Appeals Board will be closed and replaced by a procedure in the courts. In the future, decisions by the Swedish Migration Board can be appealed to migration appeals tribunals and, after being granted leave to appeal, to a precedent-setting migration higher appeals tribunal as the court of last resort.

European Council on Refugees and Exiles - Country Report 2004 – Sweden

The main purpose of the new Act is that the different grounds for residence permits will be more clearly defined and grounds for protection given more prominence. The proposal also contains draft amendments to the Citizenship Act and the Act concerning Special Controls in respect of Aliens.

Biography

Anna Löfgren, Ggeorge Joseph

SWEDISH REFUGEE ADVICE CENTRE
CARITAS SWEDEN

The Swedish Refugee Advice Centre offers legal advice on asylum, family reunification, Swedish citizenship and other matters concerning the Swedish aliens' act.

Caritas Sweden is the relief organisation of the catholic church especially committed to and involved in preserving Europe as a place of refuge and protection for those who are persecuted and as a place where non-nationals are treated with respect; eliminating the causes of forced migration and promoting the integration of all.

WWW.RADGIVNINGSBYRAN.ORG
info@radgivningsbyran.org

WWW.CARITAS.SE
caritas@caritas.se