



BRIEFING PAPER

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Asylum Statistics

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Summary

Asylum is protection given by a country to someone fleeing from persecution in their own country. An asylum seeker is someone who has applied for asylum and is awaiting a decision on whether they will be granted refugee status. An asylum applicant who does not qualify for refugee status may still be granted leave to remain in the UK for humanitarian or other reasons. An asylum seeker whose application is refused at initial decision may appeal the decision through an appeals process and, if successful, may be granted leave to remain.

- Asylum seekers were around 5.3% of immigrants to the UK in 2015.
- The number of asylum applications to the UK peaked in 2002 at 84,132. After that the number fell sharply to reach a twenty year low point of 17,916 in 2010, before rising again to reach 32,733 in 2015.
- The percentage of asylum applicants refused at initial decision reached its highest point at 88% in 2004. Since then the percentage of applicants refused at initial decision has fallen to 60%.
- In the period from 2004 to 2015, around three-quarters of applicants refused asylum at initial decision lodged an appeal, but only around one quarter of those appeals were allowed.

In 2015, 35% of asylum applicants were nationals of African countries, 29% were nationals of Asian countries, 26% were nationals of countries in the Middle East, and 7% were from Europe.

- In 2015, there were six asylum applications for every 10,000 people resident in the UK. Across the EU28 there were 26 asylum applications for every 10,000 people. The UK is therefore below the average among EU countries for asylum applications per head of population, ranking 17th among EU28 countries on this measure.

1. Background

1.1 What is asylum?

Asylum is protection given by a country to someone fleeing from persecution in their own country. According to Article 1 of the 1951 United Nations Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who:

... owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country;¹

As a signatory to the Convention, the UK grants asylum to those who meet these criteria. The UK also adheres to the European Convention on Human Rights, which prevents the UK from sending someone to a country where there is a real risk they may be exposed to torture, or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

1.2 Who is an asylum seeker?

An asylum seeker is someone who has applied for asylum and is awaiting a decision on whether they will be granted refugee status. An asylum applicant who does not qualify for refugee status may still be granted leave to remain in the UK for humanitarian or other reasons. An asylum seeker whose application is refused at initial decision may appeal the decision through an appeals process. Asylum applicants initially refused refugee status may be granted leave to remain following an appeal.

1.3 What percentage of migrants are asylum seekers?

A long-term international migrant is someone who changes their country of usual residence for a period of at least a year. In 2015, there were around 631,000 long-term international immigrants into the UK; around 33,600 of these were asylum seekers, which was 5.3%.²

1.4 Sources of asylum statistics

Statistics on asylum seekers and refugees in the UK are published by the Home Office in their quarterly immigration statistics.³ These statistics contain data on the number of people applying for asylum and the outcomes of asylum applications.

¹ UNHCR, [United Nations Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees](#), Article 1

² ONS, [Long-Term International Migration 2015](#), Table 1.01 LTIM Components and Adjustments

³ Home Office, [Immigration statistics quarterly release](#)

5 Asylum Statistics

Home Office statistics distinguish between the number of main applicants for asylum, which represents the asylum caseload, and the number of main applicants and dependants, which represents the number of people covered by asylum applications.

Statistics on asylum seekers and refugees in European Union countries are published in the Home Office bulletin and by the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees in two annual reports: *Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries* and *Global Trends*.⁴

⁴ The latest editions are [Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries 2014](#) and [Global Trends 2014](#).

2. Asylum in the United Kingdom

2.1 Asylum applications and initial decisions

The number of asylum applications to the UK peaked in 2002 at 84,132. After that the number fell sharply to reach a twenty year low point of 17,916 in 2010, before rising slowly to reach 32,733 in 2015. These trends are illustrated in Charts 1 and 2 below.

Chart 1: Applications for asylum in the UK, 000s, 1984-2015

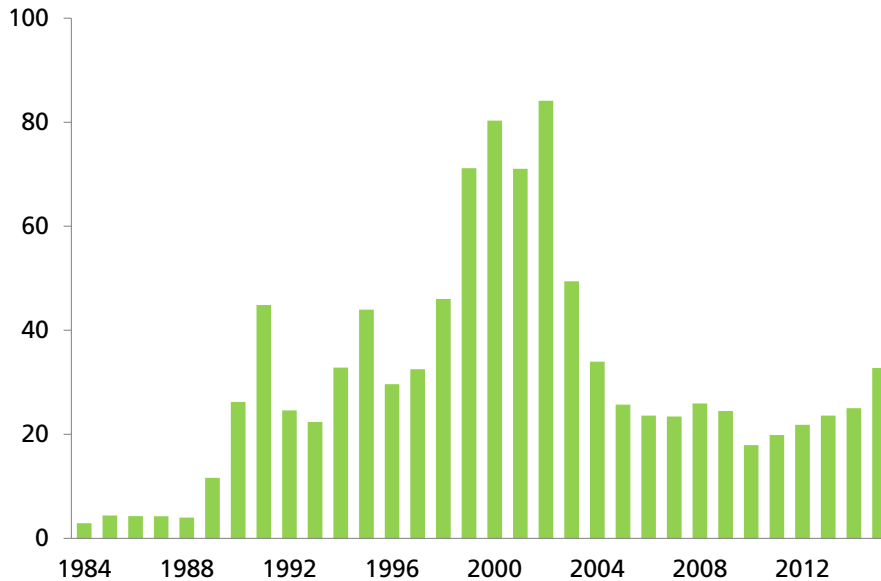
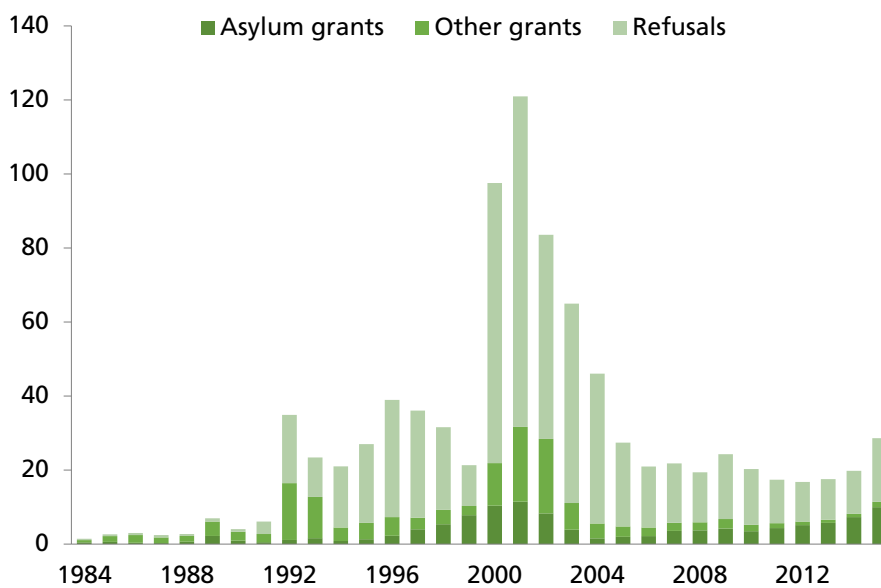


Chart 2: Initial decisions on asylum applications, 000s, 1984-2015



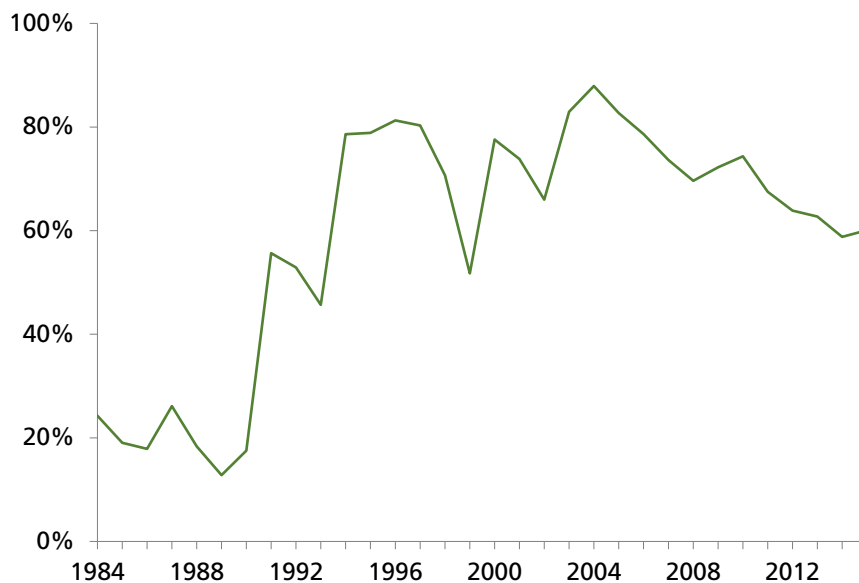
Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants only. 2. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. 3. Some people refused asylum at initial decision may be granted leave to remain following an appeal. 4. The data shown in these charts is set out in Appendix Table A1 at the end of this briefing.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_01

Chart 1 shows the number of applications for asylum by main applicants in each year from 1984 to 2015. Chart 2 shows the number of initial decisions during the same period, broken down into asylum grants, other grants, and refusals.

Chart 3 below shows the proportion of applications that were refused at initial decision for decisions made in each year from 1984 to 2015. The percentage of main applicants refused at initial decision reached its highest point at 88% in 2004. Since then the percentage of main applicants refused at initial decision has fallen to 60%.

Chart 3: Percentage of asylum applications refused at initial decision, 1984-2015



Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants only. 2. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. 3. Some people refused asylum at initial decision may be granted leave to remain following an appeal.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_01

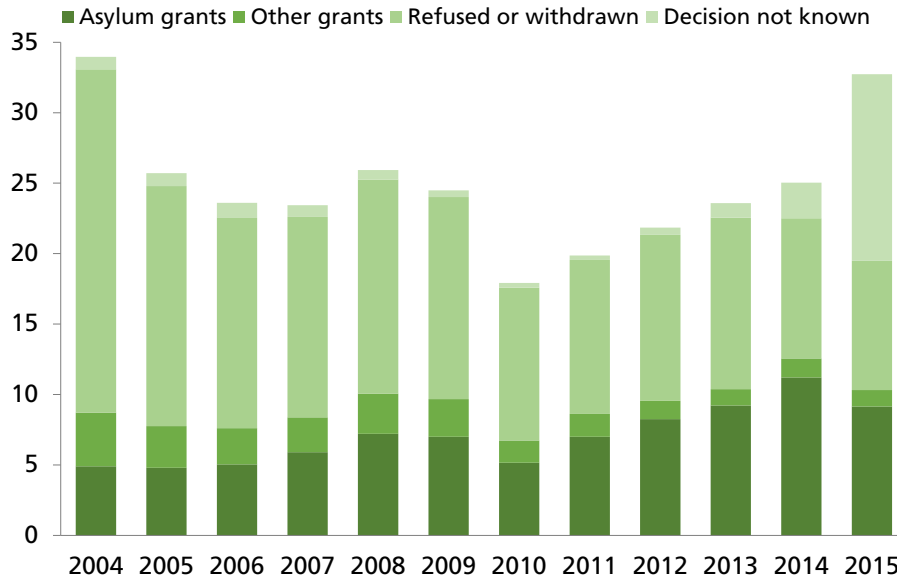
2.2 Final outcomes of asylum applications

Because some asylum applicants who are initially refused asylum can appeal, the number of applicants granted leave to remain at initial decision does not reflect the number who are ultimately successful. For this reason, the Home Office publishes data on the final outcomes of asylum applications, which shows the outcomes for cohorts of asylum seekers applying in each year. Because it can take longer than a year for an asylum case to reach its final outcome, this data lags behind the data on initial decisions.

Table 1 shows the final outcomes for main applicants applying for asylum in each year from 2004 to 2015. This includes cases where the final outcome is not yet known (there are more of these cases in the most recent years). The data is illustrated in Charts 4 and 5. Chart 4 shows the number of main applicants for asylum in each year by final outcome, while Chart 5 shows the percentage of all cases with a known outcome that were either asylum grants, other grants, or were refused or withdrawn.

As the data shows, the percentage of cases with a known outcome that were refused or withdrawn has fallen, from 74% in 2004 to 47% in 2015. However, during the same period the number of applicants who were ultimately successful has remained relatively stable, averaging around 9,000 a year (including asylum grants and other grants).

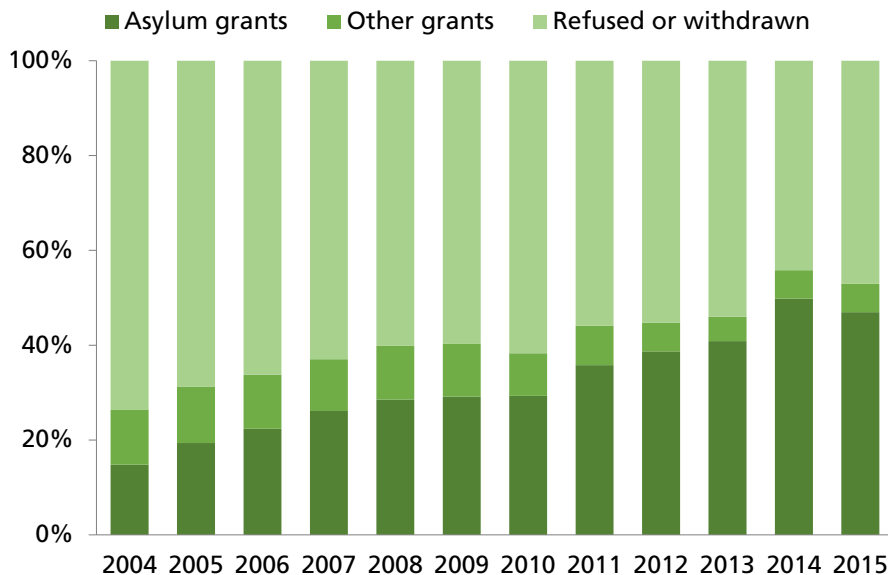
Chart 4: Final outcomes of asylum applications, 000s, at May 2016



Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants only. 2. Year relates to the period in which the application was made. 2. Excludes cases which were successful after appeal to the Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_06

Chart 5: Final outcomes of asylum applications as a percentage of known outcomes, at May 2016



Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants only. 2. Year relates to the period in which the application was made. 2. Excludes cases which were successful after appeal to the Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_06

Table 1: Final outcomes of asylum applications, at May 2016

Year	Number					As % of known outcomes		
	Main applicants	Asylum grants	Other grants	Refused or withdrawn	Outcome not known	Asylum grants	Other grants	Refused or withdrawn
2004	33,960	4,906	3,813	24,364	877	14.8%	11.5%	73.6%
2005	25,712	4,800	2,956	17,034	922	19.4%	11.9%	68.7%
2006	23,608	5,040	2,573	14,919	1,076	22.4%	11.4%	66.2%
2007	23,431	5,903	2,474	14,231	823	26.1%	10.9%	62.9%
2008	25,932	7,205	2,860	15,192	675	28.5%	11.3%	60.1%
2009	24,487	7,000	2,672	14,346	469	29.1%	11.1%	59.7%
2010	17,916	5,155	1,581	10,847	333	29.3%	9.0%	61.7%
2011	19,865	6,994	1,623	10,930	318	35.8%	8.3%	55.9%
2012	21,843	8,254	1,294	11,783	512	38.7%	6.1%	55.2%
2013	23,584	9,219	1,158	12,178	1,029	40.9%	5.1%	54.0%
2014	25,033	11,209	1,354	9,941	2,529	49.8%	6.0%	44.2%
2015	32,733	9,151	1,168	9,168	13,246	47.0%	6.0%	47.0%

Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants only. 2. Year relates to the period in which the application was made. 2. Excludes cases which were successful after appeal to the Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_06

2.3 Asylum appeals

Home Office data on the outcomes of asylum applications also shows the number of main applicants for asylum in each year that are refused at initial decision and go on to appeal.

Table 2: Appeal outcomes of asylum applications, at May 2016

Year	Main applicants	Initially refused asylum, HP or DL	Appeals lodged	Appeal outcomes				Appeals lodged as % of refused	Allowed as % of appeal outcomes
				Appeals allowed	Appeals dismissed	Appeals withdrawn	Appeal outcome not known		
2004	33,960	27,266	21,282	3,949	16,506	765	62	78.1%	18.6%
2005	25,712	19,241	14,276	3,030	10,599	523	124	74.2%	21.4%
2006	23,608	16,460	11,584	2,565	8,413	497	109	70.4%	22.4%
2007	23,431	14,926	10,648	2,289	7,570	414	375	71.3%	22.3%
2008	25,932	15,192	12,168	3,160	8,221	504	283	80.1%	26.6%
2009	24,487	15,437	13,253	3,994	8,582	507	170	85.9%	30.5%
2010	17,916	11,593	9,322	2,490	6,243	441	148	80.4%	27.1%
2011	19,865	11,538	9,174	2,506	5,908	625	135	79.5%	27.7%
2012	21,843	12,069	8,935	2,559	5,518	615	243	74.0%	29.4%
2013	23,584	12,819	9,458	2,658	5,859	499	442	73.8%	29.5%
2014	25,033	12,053	9,363	2,885	4,843	370	1,265	77.7%	35.6%
2015	32,733	14,201	8,949	995	1,475	136	6,343	63.0%	38.2%

Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants only. 2. Year relates to the period in which the application was made. 2. Excludes cases which were successful after appeal to the Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_06

Table 2 shows the number of main applicants for asylum in each year from 2004 to 2015, the number of these that were refused at initial decision, the number of those refused that appealed, and the number given each outcome, where the outcome is known.

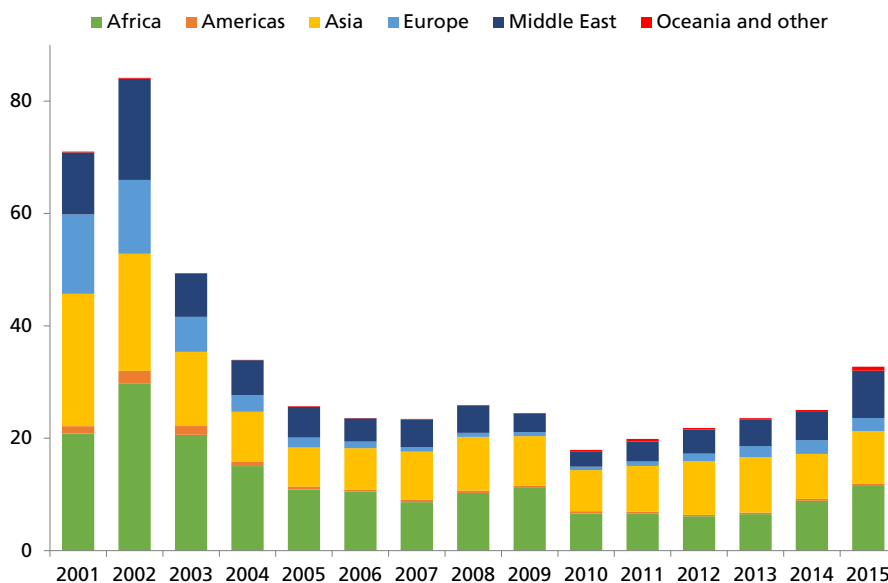
In the period from 2004 to 2014, around three-quarters of main applicants refused asylum at initial decision lodged an appeal, but only around one quarter of those appeals were allowed.

2.4 From where do asylum seekers come to the UK?

In 2015, 35% of main applicants were nationals of African countries, 29% were nationals of Asian countries, 26% were nationals of countries in the Middle East,⁵ and 7% were from Europe. Less than 3% of main applicants were from countries in the Americas, Oceania, and other parts of the world.

Chart 6 shows the broad nationalities of main applicants for asylum in each year from 2001 to 2015.

Chart 6: Main asylum applicants by nationality, 000s, 2001-15



Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants only.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_01

In 2015, the countries from which the largest number of asylum applicants came to the UK were Eritrea (3,695), Iran (3,242), Sudan (2,912), Syria (2,539) and Pakistan (2,470).

Syria's rank on this measure increased from 27th in 2010 to 4th in 2015. In 2010 there were 127 main applicants for asylum from Syria, compared with 2,539 in 2015.

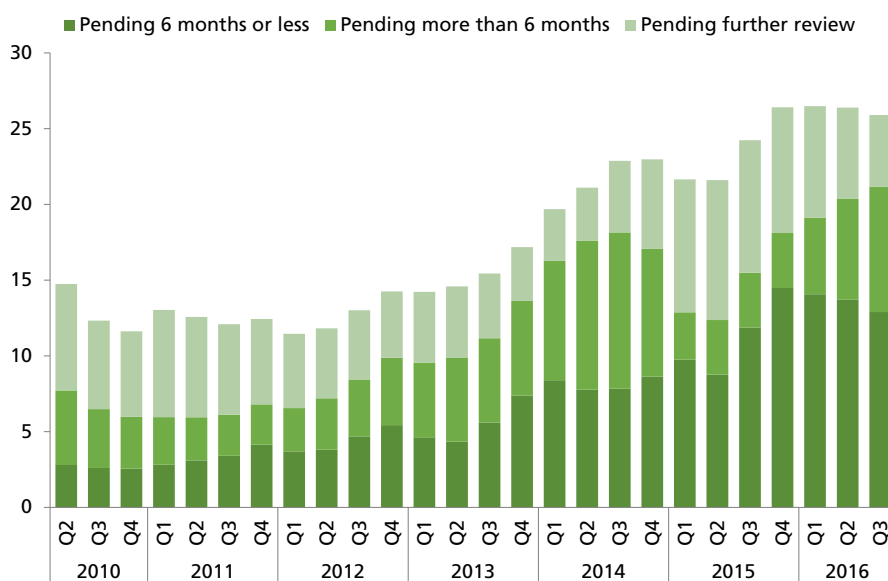
⁵ Afghanistan is included in figures for Asia, while Iran is included in the figures for the Middle East.

2.5 How long do asylum applications take?

There are different measures of the time it takes to process asylum applications and the backlog of cases that has built up. Two measures that have been the focus of attention in recent years are the number of asylum applications awaiting an initial decision and the number of cases awaiting conclusion. Since 2001 the attention shifted from the former to the latter, as a backlog of cases awaiting an initial decision in 2001 became a backlog of cases awaiting conclusion in 2006.

In June 2010, the Home Office introduced a new time series for measuring the backlog of asylum applications, based on the UK Border Agency (UKBA) administrative database. This new series counts the number of applications for asylum lodged since 1 April 2006 which are still under consideration at the end of each quarter. It includes cases pending an initial decision (whether for more or less than six months) and those pending further judicial appeal, but excludes those who have lodged a judicial review.

Chart 7: Pending asylum cases received since April 2006, 000s, 2010-16



Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants only. 2. 'Pending' cases are those asylum applications, including fresh claims, lodged since 1 April 2006 which are still under consideration at the end of the reference period.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_01_q

According to the new series, the total number of pending cases received for asylum since 2006 was 25,902 at the end of September 2016. This was slightly smaller than in the year ending June 2016, but not much smaller than the number of pending cases in the year ending March 2016 (26,492) which was the highest number of pending cases at the end of any quarter since the new series started in June 2010.

2.6 How many dependents accompany asylum seekers?

In 2015 the total number of dependants accompanying or subsequently joining main asylum applicants prior to an initial decision being made was 7,235, compared with 7,311 in 2014. Including dependants, the total number of applicants for asylum received during 2015 was 39,968, up by 24% from 2014 (32,344) and up by 34% from 2013 (29,875).

In 2015 the number of main applicants and dependants was 1.22 times higher than the number of main applicants alone. This ratio has been relatively stable over time: typically there is around one dependent for every four main applicants for asylum in each year.⁶

⁶ [Home Office Immigration Statistics, July to September 2016](#), Asylum Tables, as_01 and as_02

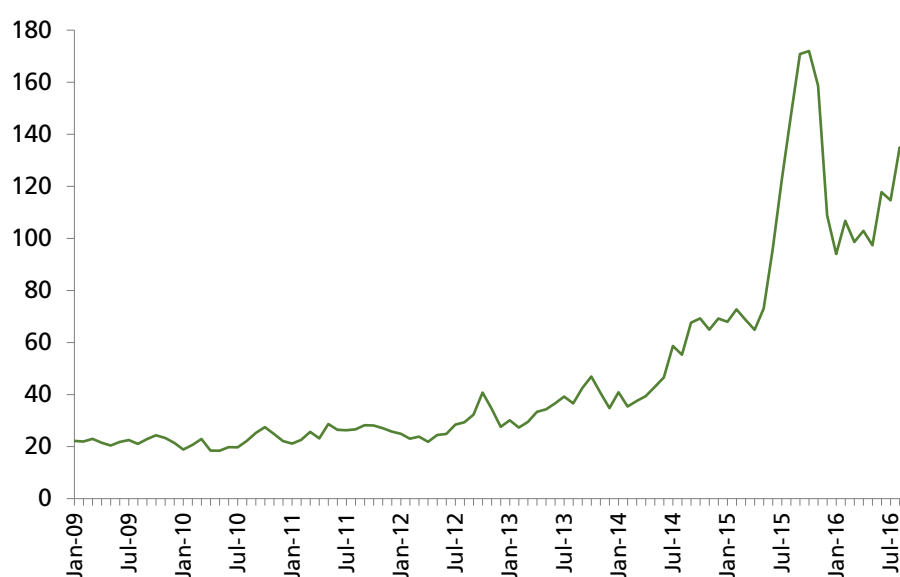
3. Asylum in the European Union

3.1 Asylum applications in EU countries

The number of asylum applications in EU countries has increased during the last five years. This increase has been partly, but not wholly, driven by the refugee crisis arising from the Syrian civil war.

Chart 8 below shows the number of people applying for asylum in EU countries in each month from January 2009 to September 2016. These figures include both main applicants and dependents.

Chart 8: Total monthly asylum applications in EU countries, 000s, January 2009 – September 2016



Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants and dependants. 2. Figures on asylum applications in Croatia are included from January 2013; however, the numbers are small (see Table 4 below). Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex: monthly data [[migr_asyappctzm](#)]

The total number of people applying for asylum in EU countries increased from a monthly average of 21,000 in the year ending September 2010 to 119,000 in the year ending September 2016. Asylum applications in EU countries reached their highest level in October 2015 at 172,000, falling back to 94,000 in January 2016. Since then they have increased to 121,000 in September 2016.

Table 3 below shows the number of asylum applications received in European Union countries during the last five calendar years. Total asylum applications in EU countries increased from 309,000 in 2011 to 1.32 million in 2015.

In 2015, Germany received the largest number of asylum applicants among EU countries (477,000), followed by Hungary (177,000), Sweden (163,000), Austria (88,000), Italy (84,000). Together, these top five countries received 75% of asylum applications in the EU28.

Table 3: Asylum applications in EU countries, 2011-2015

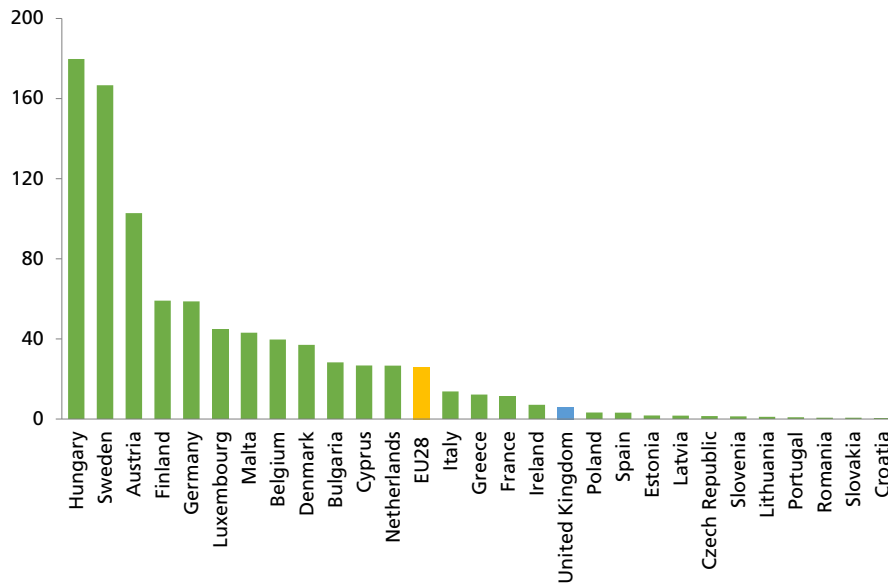
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Austria	14,400	17,400	17,500	28,000	88,200
Belgium	31,900	28,100	21,000	22,700	44,700
Bulgaria	900	1,400	7,100	11,100	20,400
Croatia	-	-	1,100	500	200
Cyprus	1,800	1,600	1,300	1,700	2,300
Czech Republic	700	700	700	1,100	1,500
Denmark	3,900	6,000	7,200	14,700	20,900
Estonia	100	100	100	200	200
Finland	2,900	3,100	3,200	3,600	32,300
France	57,300	61,400	66,300	64,300	75,800
Germany	53,200	77,500	126,700	202,600	476,500
Greece	9,300	9,600	8,200	9,400	13,200
Hungary	1,700	2,200	18,900	42,800	177,100
Ireland	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,500	3,300
Italy	40,300	17,300	26,600	64,600	83,500
Latvia	300	200	200	400	300
Lithuania	500	600	400	400	300
Luxembourg	2,100	2,100	1,100	1,100	2,500
Malta	1,900	2,100	2,200	1,400	1,900
Netherlands	14,600	13,100	13,100	24,500	45,000
Poland	6,900	10,800	15,200	8,000	12,200
Portugal	300	300	500	400	900
Romania	1,700	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,300
Slovakia	500	700	400	300	300
Slovenia	400	300	300	400	300
Spain	3,400	2,600	4,500	5,600	14,800
Sweden	29,600	43,900	54,300	81,200	162,500
United Kingdom	26,900	28,800	30,600	32,800	38,800
Total EU15	291,600	312,100	381,700	557,200	1,102,800
Total EU25	306,400	331,400	421,400	613,900	1,299,200
Total EU27	309,000	335,300	430,000	626,500	1,320,900
Total EU28	-	-	431,100	627,000	1,321,100

Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants and dependants. 2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and may not sum to the totals shown due to independent rounding.

Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex: monthly data [[migr_asyappctzm](#)]

Chart 9 shows the number of asylum applications in EU countries per 10,000 population in 2015. During this period Hungary had the largest number of asylum applications per 10,000 people (180), followed by Sweden (167), Austria (103), Finland (59), and Germany (59).

In 2015, there were six asylum applications for every 10,000 people resident in the UK. Across the EU28 there were 26 asylum applications for every 10,000 people. The UK is therefore below the average among EU countries for asylum applications per head of population, ranking 17th among EU28 countries on this measure.

Chart 9: Asylum applications per 10,000 population in EU countries, 2015

Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants and dependants. 2. Population is for 1 Jan 2015.
Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex: monthly data [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], Population by age and sex [[demo_pjan](#)]

3.2 From where do asylum seekers come to the EU?

Table 4 below shows the ten largest groups of foreign nationals applying for asylum in EU countries in 2015. The largest groups were nationals of Syria (368,000), Afghanistan (181,000), Iraq (125,000), Kosovo (73,000), and Albania (68,000).

Table 4: Asylum applications in EU countries by nationality, Top ten nationalities, 2015

	Number	As % of all applications
Syria	368,400	27.9%
Afghanistan	181,300	13.7%
Iraq	124,900	9.5%
Kosovo ^A	72,500	5.5%
Albania	67,700	5.1%
Pakistan	47,900	3.6%
Eritrea	34,100	2.6%
Nigeria	31,100	2.4%
Serbia	30,100	2.3%
Iran	26,600	2.0%
All applications	1,321,640	100.0%

Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants and dependants. 2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. A. Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99.
Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex: monthly data [[migr_asyappctzm](#)]

3.3 Grants of asylum in EU countries

Table 5 shows first instance decisions on asylum applications in EU countries in 2015, including the number of grants and refusals. Here, grants include all positive decisions on asylum applications, not just those granted refugee status.

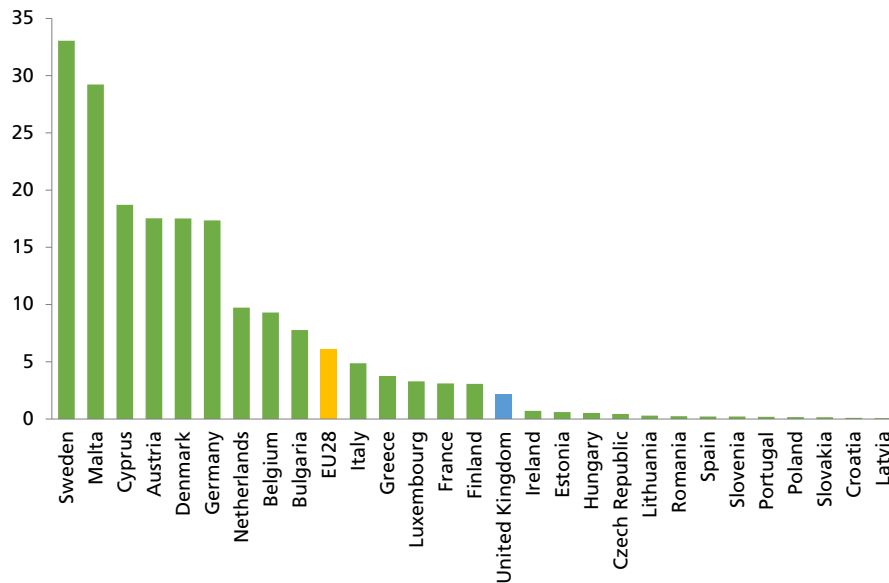
Table 5: First instance decisions on asylum applications in EU countries, 2015

	Grants	Refusals	Total
Austria	15,000	6,100	21,100
Belgium	10,500	9,000	19,500
Bulgaria	5,600	600	6,200
Croatia	0	200	200
Cyprus	1,600	500	2,100
Czech Republic	500	900	1,300
Denmark	9,900	2,300	12,300
Estonia	100	100	200
Finland	1,700	1,300	3,000
France	20,600	57,300	77,900
Germany	140,900	108,400	249,400
Greece	4,000	5,600	9,600
Hungary	500	2,900	3,400
Ireland	300	700	1,000
Italy	29,600	41,700	71,300
Latvia	0	200	200
Lithuania	100	100	200
Luxembourg	200	600	800
Malta	1,300	200	1,500
Netherlands	16,500	4,000	20,500
Poland	600	2,900	3,500
Portugal	200	200	400
Romania	500	800	1,300
Slovakia	100	100	100
Slovenia	0	100	100
Spain	1,000	2,200	3,200
Sweden	32,200	12,500	44,700
United Kingdom	13,900	24,400	38,300
Total EU15	296,600	276,200	572,800
Total EU25	286,300	278,100	585,500
Total EU28	307,500	285,700	593,100

Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants and dependants. 2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and may not sum to the totals shown due to independent rounding. 3. First instance decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made during the same period. Source: Eurostat, First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex: quarterly data [[migr_asydcfstq](#)]

In 2015, Germany granted the largest number of positive asylum decisions among EU countries (141,000), followed by Sweden (32,000), Italy (30,000), France (21,000) and Netherlands (17,000).

Chart 10: Positive first instance asylum decisions per 10,000 population in EU28 countries, 2015



Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants and dependants. 2. First instance decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made during the same period.

Source: Eurostat, First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex: quarterly data [[migr_asydcfstq](#)]

Chart 10 shows the number of positive asylum decisions granted at first instance per 10,000 population in EU countries in 2015. During this period Sweden granted the largest number of positive first instance asylum decisions per 10,000 people (33), followed by Malta (29), Cyprus (19), Austria (18), and Denmark (18).

In 2015, the UK granted two positive asylum decisions at first instance for every 10,000 people. Across the EU28 there were six such grants for every 10,000 people. The UK is therefore below the average among EU countries for positive first instance asylum grants per head of population, ranking 15th among EU28 countries on this measure.

3.4 Recognition rates by nationality in the EU

Table 6 shows recognition rates at first instance decision for the largest national groups whose asylum applications to EU countries were decided in 2015.

The recognition rate is the share of positive decisions in the total number of asylum decisions at a particular stage of the asylum procedure. As the Eurostat [glossary of statistics](#) explains:

Calculation of the overall recognition rate for all stages of the asylum procedure cannot be made due to lacking information linking the outcomes at first instance and final on appeal for each person concerned.

The figures here relate to the first instance decision and do not include decisions made on asylum appeals.

Table 6: Recognition rate at first instance asylum decision, Top 20 nationalities by number of asylum decisions, 2015

	Grants	Refusals	Recognition rate	Total FI decisions
Syria	162,090	4,590	97.2%	166,680
Albania	1,085	40,335	2.6%	41,425
Kosovo ^A	880	36,730	2.3%	37,610
Eritrea	27,045	3,070	89.8%	30,115
Iraq	22,355	3,725	85.7%	26,080
Serbia	350	21,515	1.6%	21,860
Afghanistan	12,925	6,395	67.0%	19,305
Pakistan	4,985	13,880	26.4%	18,870
Nigeria	4,425	13,660	24.5%	18,090
Russia	3,320	10,000	24.9%	13,325
Bangladesh	1,775	9,315	16.0%	11,090
Stateless	9,965	985	91.1%	10,940
Mali	3,060	7,410	29.2%	10,475
The Gambia	3,195	6,335	33.5%	9,530
Ukraine	2,810	6,625	29.8%	9,435
Somalia	5,500	3,230	63.0%	8,725
FYR Macedonia	90	8,375	1.1%	8,465
Iran	5,325	2,915	64.5%	8,250
Sudan	4,435	3,490	56.0%	7,920
DR Congo	1,645	6,260	20.8%	7,910
All nationalities	307,475	285,665	51.8%	593,140

Notes: 1. Figures are for main applicants and dependants. 2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown due to independent rounding. 3. First instance decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made during the same period. 4. Excludes asylum applicants of unknown nationality. A. Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

Source: Eurostat, First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex: quarterly data [[migr_asydcfstq](#)]

In 2015, 97% of Syrian nationals were granted a positive asylum decision at first instance. By contrast, less than 2% of Serbian nationals were granted a positive asylum decision at first instance. Among all nationalities the recognition rate at first instance was 52%.

4. Appendix

Table A1: Asylum applications and initial decisions, 1984-2015

Year	Applications	Initial decisions	Total grants	Grants		Refusals
				Asylum grants	Other grants	
1984	2,905	1,431	1,084	453	631	347
1985	4,389	2,635	2,133	574	1,559	502
1986	4,266	2,983	2,450	348	2,102	533
1987	4,256	2,432	1,797	266	1,531	635
1988	3,998	2,702	2,206	628	1,578	496
1989	11,640	6,955	6,070	2,210	3,860	890
1990	26,205	4,025	3,320	920	2,400	705
1991	44,840	6,075	2,695	505	2,190	3,380
1992	24,605	34,900	16,440	1,115	15,325	18,465
1993	22,370	23,405	12,715	1,590	11,125	10,690
1994	32,831	20,988	4,487	827	3,660	16,501
1995	43,963	27,006	5,705	1,294	4,411	21,301
1996	29,642	38,962	7,293	2,239	5,054	31,669
1997	32,502	36,044	7,100	3,986	3,114	28,944
1998	46,014	31,571	9,255	5,346	3,909	22,316
1999	71,158	21,307	10,283	7,816	2,467	11,024
2000	80,315	97,547	21,868	10,373	11,495	75,679
2001	71,027	120,949	31,641	11,449	20,192	89,308
2002	84,132	83,540	28,408	8,272	20,136	55,132
2003	49,407	64,941	11,074	3,863	7,211	53,867
2004	33,960	46,021	5,558	1,563	3,995	40,463
2005	25,712	27,393	4,739	1,941	2,798	22,654
2006	23,608	20,930	4,472	2,168	2,304	16,458
2007	23,431	21,775	5,743	3,545	2,198	16,032
2008	25,932	19,398	5,893	3,727	2,166	13,505
2009	24,487	24,287	6,742	4,188	2,554	17,545
2010	17,916	20,261	5,195	3,488	1,707	15,066
2011	19,865	17,380	5,649	4,312	1,337	11,731
2012	21,843	16,774	6,059	5,135	924	10,715
2013	23,584	17,543	6,542	5,736	806	11,001
2014	25,033	19,782	8,150	7,266	884	11,632
2015	32,733	28,622	11,421	9,975	1,446	17,201

Notes to Table A1

1. Figures are for main applicants only. 2. Other grants include humanitarian protection, discretionary leave, and grants under family and private life rules, which relate to the introduction of a new approach to Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, from 9 July 2012; Leave Outside the Rules, which was introduced for those refused asylum from 1 April 2013; and UASC leave, which was introduced for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children refused asylum but eligible for temporary leave from 1 April 2013. From April 2003, exceptional leave to remain was replaced with humanitarian protection and discretionary leave. 3. Figures from 1989 to 1993 are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum due to independent rounding. 4. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. 5. Some people refused asylum at initial decision may be granted leave to remain following an appeal.

Source: [Home Office Immigration Statistics, April to June 2016](#), Asylum Tables, Table as_01

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