

## Around 261,000 asylum applicants from 151 different countries were registered in the EU-27 in 2009

### Characteristics of asylum seekers in Europe

More than half of the asylum applicants registered in the EU-27 in 2009 came from 10 countries while 141 countries account for the other half.

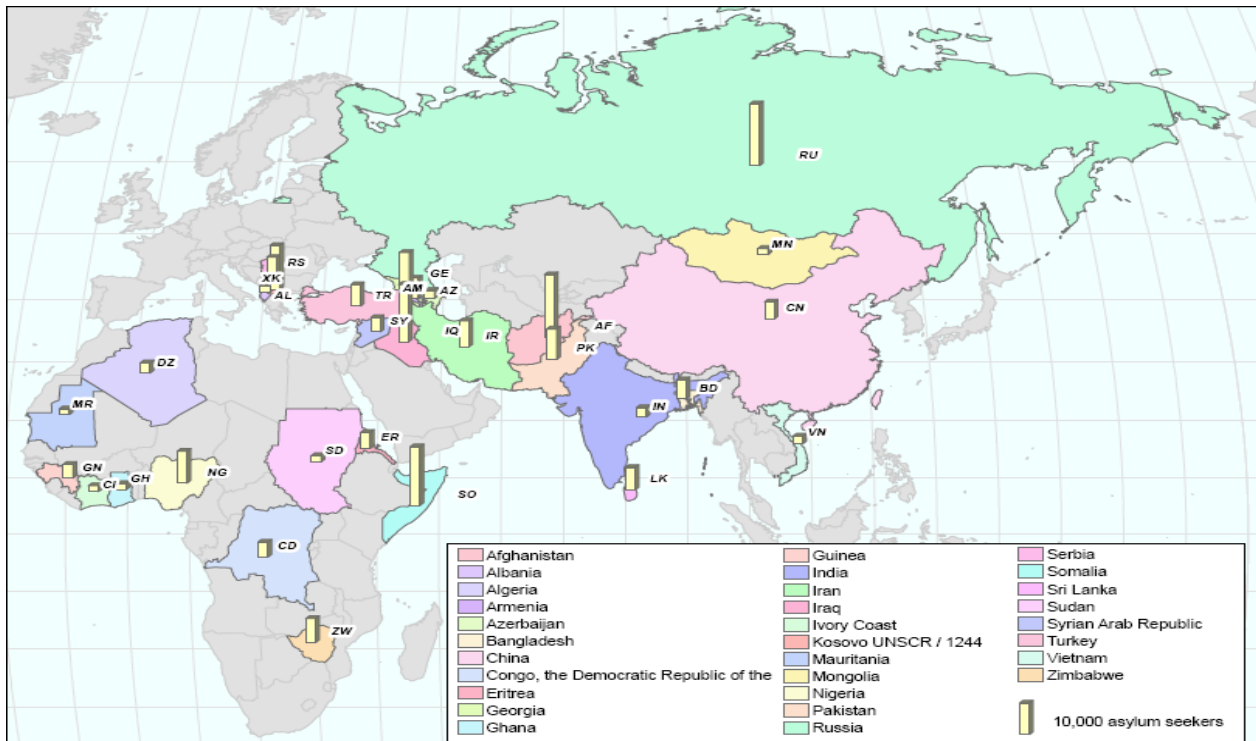
Certain groups of asylum applicants tend to seek asylum in a single country. In particular, almost all Zimbabweans who applied for asylum in the EU lodged an application in the United Kingdom.

More than 90% of applicants from Bangladesh, India, Algeria and Pakistan were men. Zimbabwe

was the only country of origin whose share of female applicants exceeded 50%.

Almost 60,500 asylum applicants in the EU-27 were minors, representing a quarter of the total number of asylum applicants. 12,210 asylum applicants were unaccompanied minors. The main country of origin of such applicants was Afghanistan with around 4,600 children representing 38% of all unaccompanied minors in the EU.

Figure 1: Main countries of origin of asylum applicants<sup>1</sup> in the EU-27, 2009



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyappctzm](#))

1) Please see 'Asylum applicant' and 'Country of origin' definitions in the methodological section.

## In spite of significant changes at country of origin level, the overall number of asylum applicants in the EU-27 remained stable in 2009

In 2009, 260,730 asylum seekers lodged an application in the EU-27. Global statistics from UNHCR indicate that 922,500 asylum claims were registered in the world in 2009; 222,000 of these applications were lodged in South Africa. Compared with 2008, the annual number of asylum applicants remained broadly stable in the EU with a slight increase of less than 5,000 persons (1.8%).

This stability hides significant changes in certain Member States. Italy and Greece for instance saw a drop of around 12,700 and 4,000 asylum seekers respectively while the number of applicants in Germany, France and Belgium increased by 4,900, 5,800 and 6,500 respectively<sup>2</sup>.

Between 2008 and 2009, the main countries of origin of asylum applicants remained largely unchanged. Only 2 groups left the top 30: Mali and the group of Stateless persons dropped to the 38<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> positions while Albania and Mongolia entered the ranking in 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> positions.

In terms of absolute values, asylum seekers from Iraq recorded the largest decrease and dropped from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> position with a decrease of nearly 11,000 applicants, while the number of Afghans increased by around 6,500 becoming the main citizenship of asylum seekers in the EU-27 in 2009. Russia and Somalia remained in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> position though the number of applicants decreased by 1,000 in the first case and increased by 1,400 for the latter.

14,200 asylum seekers from Kosovo / UNSCR 1244 were reported representing the 5<sup>th</sup> largest group of origin of asylum seekers.

In terms of relative change, the most noticeable developments were for citizens of Georgia whose number of asylum seekers doubled compared to 2008 from approximately 5,100 to 10,500 applicants and for Zimbabweans with an increase of 63% reaching 7,800 applicants compared with 4,800 in 2008.

2) For more details, please refer to Figure 2 of [Asylum application and first instance decisions on asylum applications in Q4 2009](#)

## France received the highest number of asylum applicants in 2009

The distribution of applications across the EU suggests that the choice of the destination is not made at random but relies on several factors. According to UNHCR estimates<sup>3</sup>, most refugees remain in their region of origin and flee to neighbouring countries: in 2008 1.7 million refugees out of 10.5 million (16%) lived outside their region of origin.

**Table 1: Countries of origin of asylum seekers in the EU-27, 2008-2009**

EU-27	2009	2008	2008-2009 Change		2008 Ranking	Rank changes
			Abs.	Rel. (%)		
Non-EU	260,730	256,090	4,640	1.8	(-)	(-)
Afghanistan	20,410	13,870	6,540	47.2	(4)	(+3)
Russia	20,075	21,080	-1,005	-4.8	(2)	(0)
Somalia	19,070	17,645	1,425	8.1	(3)	(0)
Iraq	18,655	29,625	-10,970	-37.0	(1)	(-3)
Kosovo <sup>1)</sup>	14,240	.	.	.	(-)	(-)
Georgia	10,465	5,090	5,375	105.5	(13)	(+7)
Nigeria	10,345	11,910	-1,565	-13.2	(7)	(0)
Pakistan	9,920	12,465	-2,545	-20.4	(6)	(-2)
Iran	8,455	7,455	1,000	13.4	(8)	(-1)
Zimbabwe	7,810	4,795	3,015	62.9	(14)	(+4)
Sri Lanka	7,325	7,065	260	3.7	(11)	(0)
Turkey	6,930	7,330	-400	-5.5	(9)	(-3)
Armenia	6,825	4,580	2,245	48.9	(15)	(+2)
Bangladesh	6,255	6,650	-395	-5.9	(12)	(-2)
China	5,585	4,535	1,050	23.2	(17)	(+2)
Serbia <sup>1)</sup>	5,235	.	.	.	(-)	(-)
Eritrea	5,220	7,240	-2,020	-27.9	(10)	(-7)
Dem. Rep. Congo	4,910	4,580	330	7.3	(16)	(-2)
Syria	4,690	4,380	310	7.1	(18)	(-1)
Guinea	4,515	3,700	815	22.1	(20)	(0)
Algeria	3,370	3,345	25	0.8	(22)	(+1)
India	3,010	3,025	-15	-0.4	(23)	(+1)
Azerbaijan	2,580	2,060	520	25.1	(27)	(+4)
Vietnam	2,450	2,015	435	21.7	(29)	(+5)
Albania	2,035	1,310	725	55.4	(35)	*(+10)
Mongolia	2,010	1,545	465	29.9	(31)	*(+5)
Ivory Coast	1,995	3,650	-1,655	-45.4	(21)	(-6)
Sudan	1,985	2,060	-75	-3.6	(28)	(0)
Ghana	1,950	2,770	-820	-29.7	(24)	(-5)
Mauritania	1,855	1,620	235	14.6	(30)	(0)
Other	40,545	45,050	-	-	(-)	(-)

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyappctzm](#))

1) Until December 2008, asylum seekers from Kosovo / UNSCR 1244 were reported with Serbian citizens accounting for a total 13,645 applicants in 2008. Comparisons between 2008 and 2009 are thus impossible..

\*' – New entry; '!' – Not available; '-' – Not applicable

The historical ties between countries of origin and destination, former colonies for instance, which often implies a certain knowledge of the language used in the host country, the presence of established ethnic communities, and the economic situation of the countries may also be taken into consideration by asylum seekers.

These pull factors largely overlap with the drivers

3) Source: UNHCR publication [Global trends 2008](#), [Global trends 2009](#).

of other non-asylum migration flows. However, other factors such as the perceived likelihood that the destination country will grant a protection

status or the benefits connected to a protection status in the country of destination are specific to asylum seekers.

**Table 2: Principal destination countries of the main groups of asylum seekers in the EU27+EFTA, 2009**

Afghanistan (%)			Russia (%)			Somalia (%)			Iraq (%)		
Norway	3,870	15.5	Poland	5,725	26.7	Netherlands	6,025	27.6	Germany	7,065	34.0
United Kingdom	3,590	14.3	France	3,785	17.7	Sweden	5,915	27.1	Sweden	2,310	11.1
Germany	3,455	13.8	Austria	3,565	16.7	Norway	1,900	8.7	Netherlands	2,165	10.4
Austria	2,215	8.8	Belgium	2,875	13.4	Italy	1,600	7.3	Belgium	1,535	7.4
Belgium	2,055	8.2	Germany	1,170	5.5	Malta	1,445	6.6	Norway	1,215	5.8
Other	9,855	39.4	Other	4,285	20.0	Other	4,955	22.7	Other	6,520	31.3
Kosovo <sup>1)</sup> (%)			Georgia (%)			Nigeria (%)			Pakistan (%)		
France	4,580	30.7	Poland	4,180	37.5	Italy	3,975	31.3	Greece	3,715	36.6
Belgium	2,515	16.8	Greece	2,170	19.5	Switzerland	1,785	14.0	United Kingdom	2,060	20.3
Germany	1,790	12.0	Austria	975	8.7	Austria	835	6.6	Italy	1,355	13.3
Hungary	1,785	12.0	Switzerland	640	5.7	United Kingdom	835	6.6	France	665	6.5
Austria	1,305	8.7	Germany	610	5.5	Greece	780	6.1	Germany	540	5.3
Other	2,960	19.8	Other	2,570	23.1	Other	4,505	35.4	Other	1,825	18.0
Iran (%)			Zimbabwe (%)			Sri Lanka (%)			Turkey (%)		
United Kingdom	2,175	23.4	United Kingdom	7,505	95.4	France	3,900	43.6	France	2,610	34.5
Germany	1,775	19.1	Ireland	90	1.1	United Kingdom	1,440	16.1	Germany	1,760	23.2
Sweden	1,140	12.3	Germany	75	1.0	Switzerland	1,415	15.8	Switzerland	560	7.4
Belgium	855	9.2	Italy	35	0.4	Germany	600	6.7	Austria	555	7.3
Netherlands	585	6.3	Norway	35	0.4	Belgium	260	2.9	Italy	535	7.1
Other	2,765	29.7	Other	125	1.6	Other	1,340	15.0	Other	1,555	20.5
Armenia (%)			Bangladesh (%)			China (%)			Serbia (%)		
France	3,605	51.9	France	1,910	30.2	France	1,630	27.1	Belgium	1,020	16.4
Belgium	1,475	21.2	Greece	1,810	28.6	United Kingdom	1,440	23.9	France	980	15.8
Austria	445	6.4	Italy	1,330	21.0	Germany	405	6.7	Germany	855	13.7
Netherlands	370	5.3	United Kingdom	495	7.8	Greece	390	6.5	Austria	730	11.7
Germany	315	4.5	Cyprus	165	2.6	Austria	365	6.1	Sweden	585	9.4
Other	730	10.5	Other	615	9.7	Other	1,790	29.7	Other	2,055	33.0
Eritrea (%)			Dem. Rep. Congo (%)			Syria (%)			Guinea (%)		
Norway	2,665	27.4	France	3,165	60.9	Germany	1,145	21.3	France	1,890	38.6
Switzerland	1,725	17.7	Belgium	765	14.7	Greece	965	18.0	Belgium	1,230	25.1
United Kingdom	1,435	14.8	United Kingdom	240	4.6	Sweden	590	11.0	Switzerland	300	6.1
Sweden	1,035	10.6	Switzerland	180	3.5	Belgium	430	8.0	Netherlands	265	5.4
Italy	905	9.3	Germany	175	3.4	Switzerland	400	7.4	Germany	260	5.3
Other	1,960	20.2	Other	670	12.9	Other	1,850	34.4	Other	945	19.3
Algeria (%)			India (%)			Azerbaijan (%)			Vietnam (%)		
France	1,160	30.3	Germany	765	25.0	France	880	33.1	Germany	1,355	54.7
Germany	590	15.4	United Kingdom	705	23.0	Germany	745	28.0	United Kingdom	460	18.6
Switzerland	300	7.8	Austria	430	14.0	Sweden	485	18.2	Sweden	175	7.1
Belgium	295	7.7	Cyprus	300	9.8	Netherlands	140	5.3	Cyprus	85	3.4
United Kingdom	260	6.8	Greece	155	5.1	Austria	130	4.9	Hungary	75	3.0
Other	1,230	32.1	Other	710	23.2	Other	285	10.7	Other	325	13.1
Albania (%)			Mongolia (%)			Ivory Coast (%)			Sudan (%)		
France	560	26.8	Sweden	760	33.0	Italy	635	29.4	France	835	35.6
Greece	515	24.6	Austria	300	13.0	France	585	27.1	United Kingdom	255	10.9
Belgium	280	13.4	Switzerland	295	12.8	Spain	305	14.1	Norway	250	10.7
United Kingdom	225	10.8	France	245	10.6	Switzerland	135	6.3	Netherlands	140	6.0
Sweden	115	5.5	Netherlands	245	10.6	Netherlands	115	5.3	Germany	130	5.5
Other	390	18.7	Other	460	20.0	Other	380	17.6	Other	735	31.3
Ghana (%)			Mauritania (%)								
Italy	990	48.1	France	1,480	76.2						
Germany	230	11.2	Belgium	185	9.5						
United Kingdom	180	8.7	Italy	65	3.3						
Greece	155	7.5	Norway	45	2.3						
Ireland	80	3.9	Switzerland	40	2.1						
Other	425	20.7	Other	120	6.2						

1) Kosovo / UNSCR 1244

Source: Eurostat ([migr.asyappctzm](http://migr.asyappctzm))

In 2009, France appeared among the top 5 destinations for 18 countries of origin and was ranked as the first destination country for 13 of the 30 main countries of origin of asylum seekers in the EU-27: Kosovo / UNSCR 1244, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Armenia, Bangladesh, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Albania, Sudan and Mauritania. Though Germany was among the main destinations of 22 different countries of origin, it was the primary destination only for Iraqi, Syrian, Indian, and Vietnamese applicants while Italy ranked first for Nigerian, Ivorian, and Ghanaian citizens.

### Certain groups of asylum applicants tend to seek asylum in a single country

In certain groups of asylum applicants, a large proportion of applicants tend to seek asylum in a single country. In 2009, the highest concentrations were registered for Zimbabweans in the United Kingdom (95%), Armenian and Congolese (Democratic Republic of the Congo) in France (51% and 61%, respectively), and Vietnamese in Germany (55%). Conversely, other groups of asylum seekers are not concentrated in a single country but spread over several. This can be observed for Afghans: 16% of which were registered in Norway, 14% each in the UK and Germany and around 9% each in Austria and Belgium.

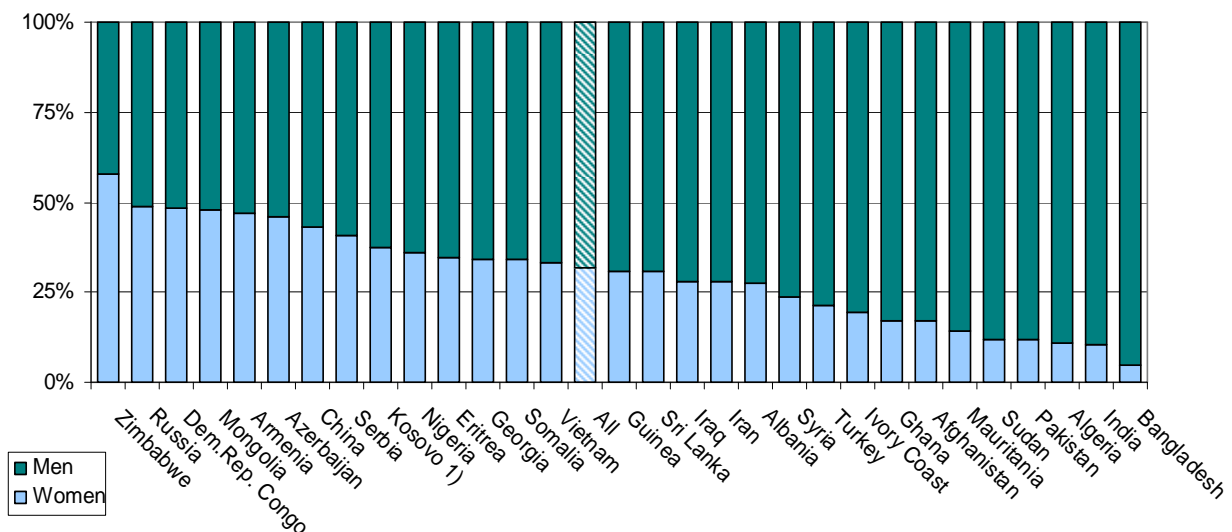
### More than 9 out of 10 Sudanese, Pakistani, Algerian, Indian and Bangladeshi applicants in the EU27 were men

Traditionally, asylum seekers are depicted as single young men. Although this picture may match the characteristics of the average asylum seeker in the EU-27 and certain groups of asylum seekers, this may not reflect the situation for some other countries of origin.

In the EU-27 in 2009, men represented 2 out of 3 asylum seekers and more than half of the persons seeking asylum were aged between 18 and 34. Nevertheless, the gender and age distribution of asylum seekers differs significantly across the EU.

The distribution in Figure 2 shows that the gender distribution at EU level differs significantly depending on the asylum seeker's country of origin and ranges from less than 1 woman out of 10 applicants for Bangladesh to almost 6 women out of 10 applicants for Zimbabwe. At EU level, more than 80% of the asylum seekers originating from Bangladesh, India, Algeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Ghana and Ivory Coast were men. However, for countries of origin such as Serbia, China, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Mongolia, Congo, Russia and Zimbabwe the share of male asylum applicants was between 50% and 60%. Among the countries of origin considered, the number of female applicants outnumbered men only for Zimbabwe.

Figure 2: Asylum applicants gender distribution by citizenship of origin at EU-27 level, 2009



1) Kosovo / UNSCR 1244

Source: Eurostat ([migr.asyappctzm](http://migr.asyappctzm))

## In the EU-27, more than 60,000 asylum applicants were minors in 2009

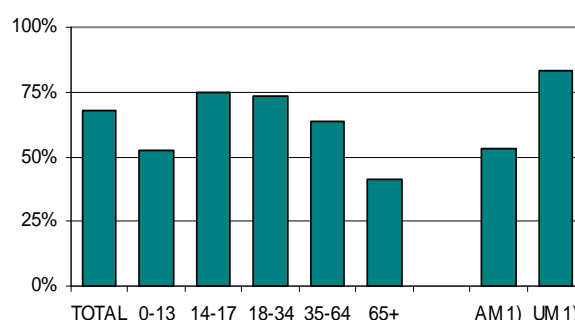
Out of each 20 asylum applicants in the EU-27, 5 were minors, 11 were young adults aged between 18 and 34 and the remaining 4 persons were aged 35 and older.

As seen with the gender distribution, very different age structures are observed depending on the origin of the asylum seekers (Table 3).

The share of minor applicants was significantly higher than the EU average for Afghanistan, Russia, Kosovo / UNSCR 1244, Serbia and Azerbaijan with more than 6 minors out of 20 applicants.

At EU level, the gender distribution tends to be more balanced for asylum applicants aged less than 13 than for asylum applicants aged 14-17 or 18-34 for which around 15 out of 20 applicants were men. Women outnumbered men only in the group of asylum seekers aged 65 and over though this group is relatively small and accounts for only around 1,800 individuals in total (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Share of male applicants in the EU-27 by age group, 2009**



1) AM: Accompanied minors; UM: unaccompanied minors.  
Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyappctzm](#), [migr\\_asyunaa](#))

## 12,210 applicants were considered to be unaccompanied minors in the EU-27 in 2009

When interpreting the share of minor applicants, it is important to distinguish between accompanied minors and applicants considered to be unaccompanied.

**Table 3: Asylum applicants age<sup>1)</sup> distribution by citizenship of origin at EU-27 level, 2009 (%)**

	Total	Minors					18-34	35-64	65 and over
		All	Accompanied	Unaccompanied	0-13	14-17			
Non-EU	260,730	23.2	18.5	4.7	16.2	7.0	56.6	19.3	0.7
Afghanistan	20,410	39.3	16.8	22.5	13.9	25.4	51.4	8.4	0.7
Russia	20,075	44.8	42.5	2.3	39.8	5.0	33.6	20.5	1.0
Somalia	19,070	25.0	15.5	9.4	13.4	11.6	62.0	12.0	0.8
Iraq	18,655	25.1	20.6	4.4	17.4	7.7	56.9	16.4	1.5
Kosovo <sup>2)</sup>	14,240	34.7	33.9	0.8	30.1	4.7	48.4	16.3	0.6
Georgia	10,465	15.3	14.5	0.9	12.6	2.7	58.6	25.6	0.5
Nigeria	10,345	12.0	8.8	3.2	7.7	4.3	76.5	11.3	*
Pakistan	9,920	11.9	11.1	0.7	7.9	3.9	66.7	20.8	0.4
Iran	8,455	16.1	12.4	3.7	10.0	6.1	57.1	25.7	0.9
Zimbabwe	7,810	20.3	19.7	0.6	17.2	3.0	45.6	32.8	0.5
Sri Lanka	7,325	14.8	13.0	1.8	11.9	2.9	57.4	25.7	2.0
Turkey	6,930	14.8	13.1	1.7	11.6	3.2	67.5	17.3	0.2
Armenia	6,825	25.3	24.8	0.5	20.0	5.3	41.5	31.2	1.9
Bangladesh	6,255	5.2	3.9	1.3	2.7	2.5	77.1	17.4	0.2
China	5,585	8.9	6.8	2.1	6.3	2.7	53.5	36.5	0.3
Serbia	5,235	36.6	35.3	1.3	30.6	6.0	41.4	21.5	0.4
Eritrea	5,220	16.0	8.1	7.8	7.8	8.1	70.0	12.9	1.0
Dem. Rep. Congo	4,910	23.9	19.9	4.0	17.8	6.1	53.2	22.0	0.9
Syria	4,690	22.7	21.1	1.6	18.3	4.4	61.8	14.7	0.7
Guinea	4,515	19.2	12.2	7.0	10.4	8.8	70.4	10.2	*
Algeria	3,370	10.2	5.8	4.4	5.2	5.0	67.5	21.9	0.3
India	3,010	6.7	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.6	73.8	18.9	*
Azerbaijan	2,580	30.3	29.5	0.8	25.1	5.2	39.3	29.2	1.2
Vietnam	2,450	15.0	8.2	6.8	6.8	8.2	65.6	19.1	*
Albania	2,035	18.4	13.9	4.6	11.8	6.6	63.5	16.9	1.2
Mongolia	2,010	19.2	16.4	2.8	15.4	3.8	53.9	26.3	0.6
Ivory Coast	1,995	9.4	6.6	2.8	6.2	3.2	76.7	13.8	*
Sudan	1,985	9.7	6.9	2.9	5.8	3.9	77.6	12.4	*
Ghana	1,950	9.6	7.3	2.4	6.4	3.2	68.4	21.1	*
Mauritania	1,855	8.4	7.9	0.5	6.0	2.4	65.1	26.4	*

1) Due to asylum applicants whose age is unknown, the sum of the shares may not equal 100%.

2) Kosovo / UNSCR 1244

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyappctzm](#), [migr\\_asyunaa](#))



An unaccompanied minor<sup>4</sup> is a person below the age of 18 who arrives on the territory of a Member State unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them or a minor who is left unaccompanied after having entered the territory of a Member State. Out of the 60,000 minor asylum applicants, 12,210 were unaccompanied minors. Among the 5 minors out of each 20 asylum applicants in the EU-27 mentioned earlier, 1 is an unaccompanied minor.

On 6th May 2010, the European Commission presented an Action Plan for Unaccompanied minors, who are the most exposed and vulnerable victims of migration. This plan aims at setting up a coordinated approach and commits all Member States to grant high standards of reception, protection and integration for unaccompanied minors. As a complement to this action plan, the European Migration Network has produced a comprehensive [EU comparative study](#) on the Policies on Reception, Return and Integration arrangements for unaccompanied minors.

**Table 4: Unaccompanied minors in the EU-27 by citizenship of origin, 2009**

	TOTAL	0-13	14-15	16-17	Unknown
<b>Non-EU</b>	<b>12,210</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>6,565</b>	<b>1,095</b>
Afghanistan	4,600	365	1,690	2,010	535
Russia	470	275	55	135	*
Somalia	1,800	230	535	955	80
Iraq	830	30	125	565	110
Kosovo <sup>1)</sup>	110	20	25	70	*
Georgia	90	15	15	60	*
Nigeria	330	5	60	255	15
Pakistan	75	10	20	40	5
Iran	315	10	70	165	70
Zimbabwe	50	10	5	25	5
Sri Lanka	130	35	30	60	5
Turkey	120	10	25	80	*
Armenia	30	5	5	20	0
Bangladesh	80	25	15	35	5
China	120	5	15	80	25
Serbia	70	10	15	45	0
Eritrea	410	25	70	260	50
Dem. Rep. Congo	195	20	25	155	0
Syria	75	5	15	45	15
Guinea	320	15	50	240	10
Algeria	150	5	40	75	30
India	95	*	25	55	15
Azerbaijan	20	*	5	15	0
Vietnam	165	5	45	95	25
Albania	95	5	20	50	20
Mongolia	55	5	20	30	*
Ivory Coasts	55	5	5	45	*
Sudan	55	*	10	35	10
Ghana	45	0	5	40	5
Mauritania	10	0	5	5	*

1) Kosovo / UNSCR 1244

\* - 1 or 2 applicants

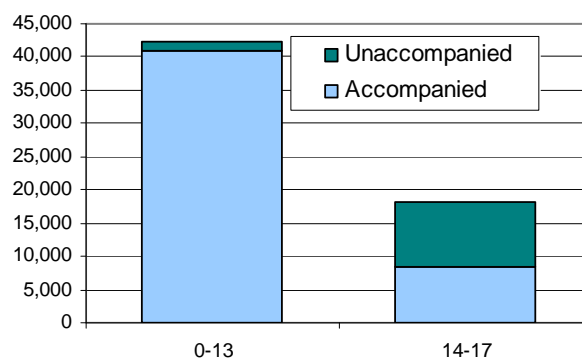
Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyunaa](#))

In 2009, the five main countries of origin of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers were Afghanistan (4,600), Somalia (1,800), Iraq (830), Eritrea (410) and Nigeria (330).

Unaccompanied minors are predominantly male (Figure 3).

The number of asylum seekers considered to be unaccompanied is not proportional to the number of applicants or minor applicants. Russia, Kosovo / UNSCR 1244 and Azerbaijan for instance have a high share of minor asylum applicants (44.8%, 34.7% and 30.3%) while the share of unaccompanied minors for these groups represents less than 2.5% of the total number of applicants. On the contrary, for Afghans, Somalis Eritrean, Vietnamese, and Guinean, the share of unaccompanied applicants among minors is significant.

**Figure 4: Accompanied and unaccompanied minors in the EU-27 by age, 2009**



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyappctzm](#), [migr\\_asyunaa](#))

On average, only 3% of the asylum applicants aged less than 13 were unaccompanied minors. This still represented 1,255 unaccompanied children (Table 4, Figure 4).

There were 9,875 unaccompanied asylum seekers aged 14-17. Although the share of unaccompanied minors aged 14-17 among asylum applicants of the same age varies greatly depending on the country of origin, at EU level more than half of the asylum seekers aged between 14 and 17 were unaccompanied minors.

4) Source: [European Migration Network Glossary](#).

## Methodology

### DATA SOURCES

The data used for this publication are provided to Eurostat by the Ministries of Interior, Justice or immigration agencies of the Member States. Data are based entirely on relevant administrative sources. These data are supplied by Member States according to the provisions of Article 4 of the [Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#), of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection.

All data presented in this publication are rounded to the nearest 5.

All data presented in this publication are provisional and may be a subject of change.

### DEFINITIONS AND COVERAGE

**'Asylum applicant'** means a person having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such application as a family member during the reference period. 'Application for international protection' means an application for international protection as defined in Art.2(g) of [Council Directive 2004/83/EC](#), i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrespective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at border, or from inside the country, and irrespective of whether the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally. In deciding when to regard an asylum application as having been lodged, the principles expressed in Article 4(1) of [Council Regulation 2003/343/EC](#) should be applied, i.e. 'An application for asylum shall be deemed to have been lodged once a form submitted by the applicant for asylum or a report prepared by the authorities has reached the competent authorities of the Member State concerned. Where an application is not made in writing, the time elapsing between the statement of intention and the preparation of a report should be as short as possible'. Applications submitted by persons who are subsequently found to be a subject of a Dublin procedure (Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003) are included in the number of asylum applications. Within the same reference period every person being a subject of asylum application is counted only once, therefore repeat applications are not recorded if the first application has been lodged in the same reference period. However, such a repeat application will be recorded if lodged in a different reference month. It means that the aggregation of the monthly figures may overestimate the number of persons applying for international protection within the aggregated period (quarter or year).

In some Member States (e.g. IT, MT) due to restrictions of the asylum procedure (e.g. time limits for lodging repeat application) repeat applications may be very rare.

**'Country of origin'** As defined by Art 4 of the [Regulation \(EC\) No 862/2007](#), statistics on asylum applications are disaggregated by citizenship. Though the country of citizenship may not match the country of origin, the latter term has been used in this SiF for reasons of simplicity.

**'Unaccompanied minor'** means a third-country national or stateless person below the age of eighteen, who arrives on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them whether by law or custom, and for as long as they are not effectively taken into the care of such a person, or minors who are left unaccompanied after they have entered the territory of the Member States.

### COUNTRY INFORMATION

Statistics on asylum applications in Cyprus relate to the number of administrative cases instead of individuals. This may result in underestimation of the actual number of applications, as one administrative case may cover several family members being a subject of this application.

The annual number of asylum applications for the United Kingdom has been calculated as the aggregate of new asylum applicants registered from January to June 2009 and new and repeated applicants recorded from July to December 2009.

Statistics on unaccompanied minors from Denmark were only disaggregated by the following age groups '0-13', '14-15' and 'Unknown'. As a consequence, unaccompanied minors aged 16-17 registered in Denmark were included in the 'Unknown' category.

### ABBREVIATIONS

Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE), the United Kingdom (UK), Iceland (IS), Lichtenstein (LI), Norway (NO) and Switzerland (CH).

Afghanistan (AF), Russia (RU), Somalia (SO), Iraq (IQ), Kosovo/UNSCR 1244 (XK), Georgia (GE), Nigeria (NG), Pakistan (PK), Iran (IR), Zimbabwe (ZW), Sri Lanka (LK), Turkey (TR), Armenia (AM), Bangladesh (BD), China (CN), Serbia (RS), Eritrea (ER), Congo, Democratic Republic of the (CD), Syrian Arab republic (SY), Guinea (GN), Algeria (DZ), India (IN), Azerbaijan (AZ), Vietnam (VN), Albania (AL), Mongolia (MN), Ivory Coasts (IC), Sudan (SD), Ghana (GH) and Mauritania (MR).

### EU ASYLUM POLICY

The Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security (DG JLS) is responsible for developing EU policies on asylum. For more information please see:

[http://www.ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/index\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/index_en.htm)

## Further information

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Eurostat Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

Data on "Population statistics – International migration and asylum"  
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

More information about "International migration and asylum"  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/publications/migration\\_asylum](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/publications/migration_asylum)

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### Journalists can contact the media support service:

Bech Building Office A4/125 L - 2920 Luxembourg  
Tel. (352) 4301 33408 Fax (352) 4301 35349  
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### European Statistical Data Support:

With the members of the 'European statistical system', Eurostat has set up a network of support centres in nearly all Member States and in some EFTA countries.

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