

Asylum statistics for the North East- as at March 2008



Produced by the “North of England Refugee Service” (NERS) & the “North East Strategic Migration Partnership” (NESMP).

This publication includes data for the 1st Quarter (Q1) of 2008, relating to January to March 2008.

It includes the most recently available information from regional, national and some European statistics on the number of asylum seekers and their circumstances. Please note that not all the information relates to the same period largely due to the different publication dates of the source material.

Further Information

Enquiries about this bulletin should be addressed to:
The Information and Statistics Officer,
North of England Refugee Service and NESMP,
2 Jesmond Road West,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE2 4PQ
Telephone: 0191-2457311 Ext: 208
0191-2116711

1. Summary	
i. Summary.....	3
2. Supported Asylum Seekers in the Region	
i. Asylum seekers supported by the local authorities.....	4
ii. Subsistence only (SO) supported asylum seekers.....	4
iii. Number of households in the North East by provider and region.....	5
3. Nationality of Supported Asylum seekers in Region	
a. Top ten Nationalities in the North East.....	6
4. Supported Asylum Seekers by Region – Including dependants	
a. Asylum seekers in different regions of the UK.....	7
b. Subsistence only supported asylum seekers in different regions of the UK.....	8
5. Asylum Applications - National	
a. Number of applications for the past 9 quarters	9
b. The top ten nationalities applying for asylum in quarter 1 of 2008.....	9
6. NASS Applications – National	
a. Number of NASS applications made in the past 9 quarters.....	10
b. Top ten nationalities applying for NASS support.....	10
7. Asylum Application Initial decisions – National	
a. Number of initial decisions made for the past 9 Quarters.....	11
b. Number of decisions made for the past 9 Quarters.....	11
c. Timeliness of Initial decisions	11
8. Applications and support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (Hard Case)	
a. Section 4 support description.....	12
b. Successful applications for Section 4.....	12
c. Top 10 nationalities successful application Q1 2008.....	12
9. Asylum Appeals – National	
a. Appeals received.....	13
b. Appeals determined.....	13
c. Appeals determined by Immigration (IAA)	13
d. Timeliness of Appeal decisions.....	13
10. Applications to European/Non European Countries	
a. Applications to European Countries/ Non European Countries 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 & Q1 2008.....	14
11. Asylum Seekers and refugees Worldwide 2nd Quarter 2007.....	15
12. Acknowledgements.....	18

Summary

1. As at the End of **March 2008** there were **3635** asylum seekers in the North East receiving either subsistence only support or in NASS accommodation. This is a decrease of **11.62%** or **478** from the end of **December 2007 (4113)**.
2. At the end of **March 2008** there were **3597** asylum seekers in the North East in NASS accommodation, a decrease of **11.7%** or **477** from **December 2007 (4074)**. **1318 (36.64%)**, were living in **Newcastle** [Page 4 and 5].
3. At the end of **March 2008** there were **38** asylum seekers receiving subsistence only support, an increase of **+2.63%** from **December 2007(39)**. **15 (38.46%)** were living in **Newcastle** [page 4] (NECARS figures).
4. The main nationalities of asylum seekers in the North East are **Iraqi** (14.5%), **Iranian** (12.84%), and **Zimbabwe** (6.93%). [Page 6] (NECARS figures).
5. The total number of asylum seekers in the UK who are supported by NASS (The National Asylum Support Service) is **33,865**, a decrease of **-23.89% (44,495)** from the previous quarter. The **North West** has the highest number with **5,740** followed by **Yorkshire and Humberside 5,670**, **Greater London** has dropped from 1st to third place with **5,555** [Page 7&8] (Home Office figures).
6. **6,595** Asylum applications in the quarter nationally (United Kingdom) this was **-4.56%** lower than the previous quarter, (**6,910**). The main countries of origin were “**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**” (**12.58%**), “**The Republic of Iraq**” (**10.61%**), “**The Republic of Zimbabwe**” (**9.7%**). And the “**Islamic Republic of Iran**” (**8.79%**) [Page 9] (Home Office figures).
7. The number applying for NASS support nationally was **4,770**, a decrease of **-3.24%** from the previous quarter **4,930**. The main nationalities applying for NASS support were “**Republic of Iraq**” with 715 applications (**14.99%**), the “**Islamic Republic of Iran**” with **615** applications (**12.89%**), **Eritrea** with **455** applications (**9.54%**) and Somalia with **405** applications (**8.49%**). [Page 10] (Home Office figures).
8. A total of **4,435** asylum applications received initial decisions, **-1.22%** lower than the previous quarter **4,490**. The number awaiting a decision was it was **8,800**; it was **6,900** at the end of December 2007; it was 4,800 at the end of September 2007; **4,500** at the End of **June 2007** and was **5,800** at the end of **March 2007**. **21%** of initial decisions were granted asylum in **Q1 2008** [Page 11] (Home Office figures).
9. Successful applications for Section 4 (‘Hard Case’) in Q1 2008 **1,895**; **+19.56%** higher than previous quarter **1,585** – with the largest group being Iraqis [Page 12] (Home Office figures).
10. **2,095** appeals were received in **Q1 2008**, **-19.73%** lower than previous quarter (**2,610**) and **3,000** appeals were ongoing in **Q1 2008**, in **Q4 of 2007** this figure was 4,000. [Page 13] (Home Office figures).
11. **58,000** applications received in countries in the EU27; in the 4th Quarter 2007 (October-December). Figures for all countries were not available at time of publication [Page 14] (Home Office figures).
12. **162,500** new asylum requests made during the Second half of 2007 (July-December) (Page 15)

Supported Asylum Seekers in the Region – including dependants

Asylum seekers supported by the local authorities

- In the North East there are 10 different Local Authorities where the majority of asylum seekers are accommodated. The Chart below shows individual asylum seekers supported in NASS accommodation.

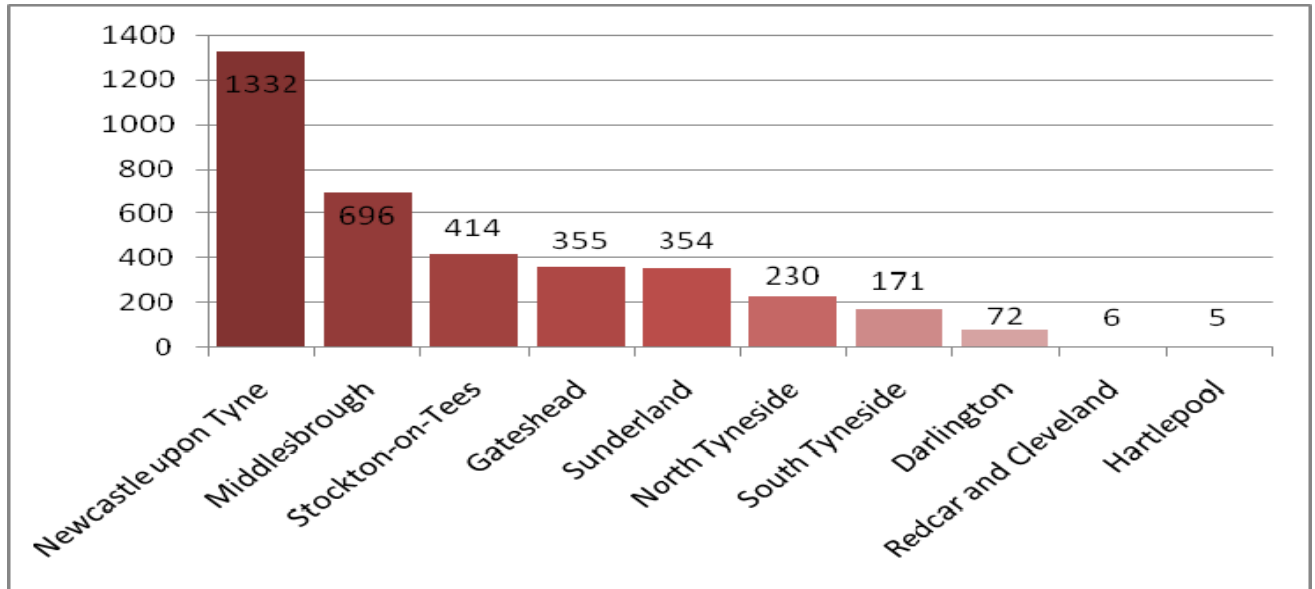


Figure 1

Subsistence Only (SO) supported Asylum seekers

There are **38*** (50 using Home office figures)¹ asylum seekers in the **North East** who are not in NASS accommodation and receive only subsistence (cash) support from NASS. In total there are **8,900** (Home office figures) clients getting only subsistence support throughout the country. The North East had **0.51%** of this number². **6,150 (69.1%)** of all asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support were located in London.

The table opposite shows by Local Authorities the number of individual asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support from NASS in the North East: This is taken from the figures provided by NESMP and NESPARS.

Figure 2

Local Authority*	Number of SO Individuals
Newcastle Upon Tyne	14
Middlesbrough	11
South Tyneside	3
Stockton on Tees	3
Sunderland	3
Gateshead	2
Hartlepool	1
North Tyneside	1
TOTAL	38

Note: *Figures based on NASS data which may differ from Home office provisional figures.

¹ Home office figures are often rounded up to the nearest 5 and small variations may be as a result of data being collected on different days "Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2008" Table 9.

² This percentage is based on Home office figures, Ibid.

Number of households in NASS accommodation in the North East

There were **2233** households made up of **3597** individuals in the North East at the start of April 2008. This table shows numbers of households & individuals in each Local Authority area sub-divided by accommodation providers:

Town	PROVIDER	Number of Households	Number of individuals
DARLINGTON			
	NESPARS (NECARS) ³	44	72
	Totals	44	72
GATESHEAD			
	Angel Group Housing	94	153
	Kimberley Group Housing	29	40
	NESPARS (NECARS) ³	131	160
	Totals	254	353
HARTLEPOOL			
	Kimberley Group Housing	2	4
	Totals	2	4
MIDDLESBROUGH			
	Angel Group Housing	105	138
	Kimberley Group Housing	248	369
	NESPARS (NECARS) ³	88	178
	Totals	441	685
NEWCASTLE upon TYNE			
	Angel Group Housing	263	406
	Kimberley Group Housing	63	100
	NESPARS (NECARS) ³	447	812
	Totals	773	1318
NORTH TYNESIDE			
	Angel Group Housing	38	57
	Kimberley Group Housing	91	172
	Totals	129	229
REDCAR and CLEVELAND			
	Angel Group Housing	3	3
	Kimberley Group Housing	1	3
	Totals	4	6
SOUTH TYNESIDE			
	Angel Group Housing	14	22
	Kimberley Group Housing	8	26
	NESPARS (NECARS) ³	46	120
	Totals	68	168
STOCKTON on TEES			
	Angel Group Housing	12	15
	Kimberley Group Housing	175	257
	NESPARS (NECARS) ³	79	139
	Totals	266	411
SUNDERLAND			
	Kimberley Group Housing	109	153
	NESPARS (NECARS) ³	143	198
	Totals	252	351
Grand Total		2233	3597

Figure 3

Note: Figures taken from NASS monthly figures as at the seventh April 2008 and not Home Office Statistics.

³ NECARS is now known as NECCAS and NESMP split from them in a restructure, however NASS have been still been recording it as NECARS.

Nationality of Supported Asylum Seekers in Region – including dependants

Top ten Nationalities in the North East

The totals below represent the number of asylum seekers residing in NASS accommodation at the start of April 2008⁴ or in receipt of subsistence only support.

As at the start of April 2008:

- There were 76 different known Nationalities in the North East at the start of April 2008*

The top 20 nationalities in the North East region at the start of April 2008 are shown below:

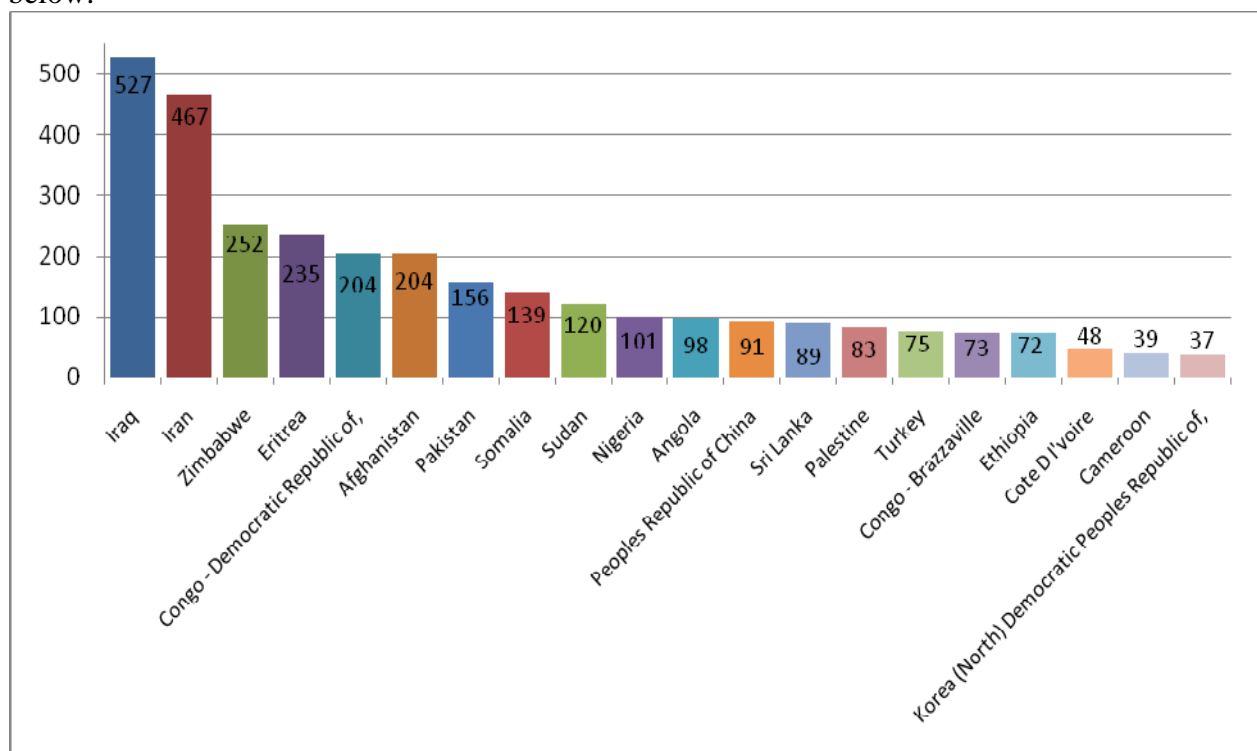


Figure 4

- *9 clients' nationalities are listed as unknown these are not counted in the 76, included are fifteen people from Kosovo and one from the "Western Sahara" (see notes below).
- Nationalities are Nationalities of political national entities (countries) recognised by the UK (including Kosovo which had special UN status, Kosovo is still constitutionally considered by Serbia a part of Serbia, however on the 17th of February the local parliament in Kosovo declared unilateral independence which was recognised by many member states of the United Nations including the United Kingdom. Also included is one person from the "Western Sahara" which is on a United Nations list of non self governing territories but is considered by many United Nations member states to be a part of Morocco and is a disputed area. It does not represent ethnic groups or autonomous/disputed nationalities within recognised political entities (with the exception of Kosovo and "Western Sahara").

⁴ Data taken on 7th April 2008.

Supported Asylum Seekers by Region – including dependants

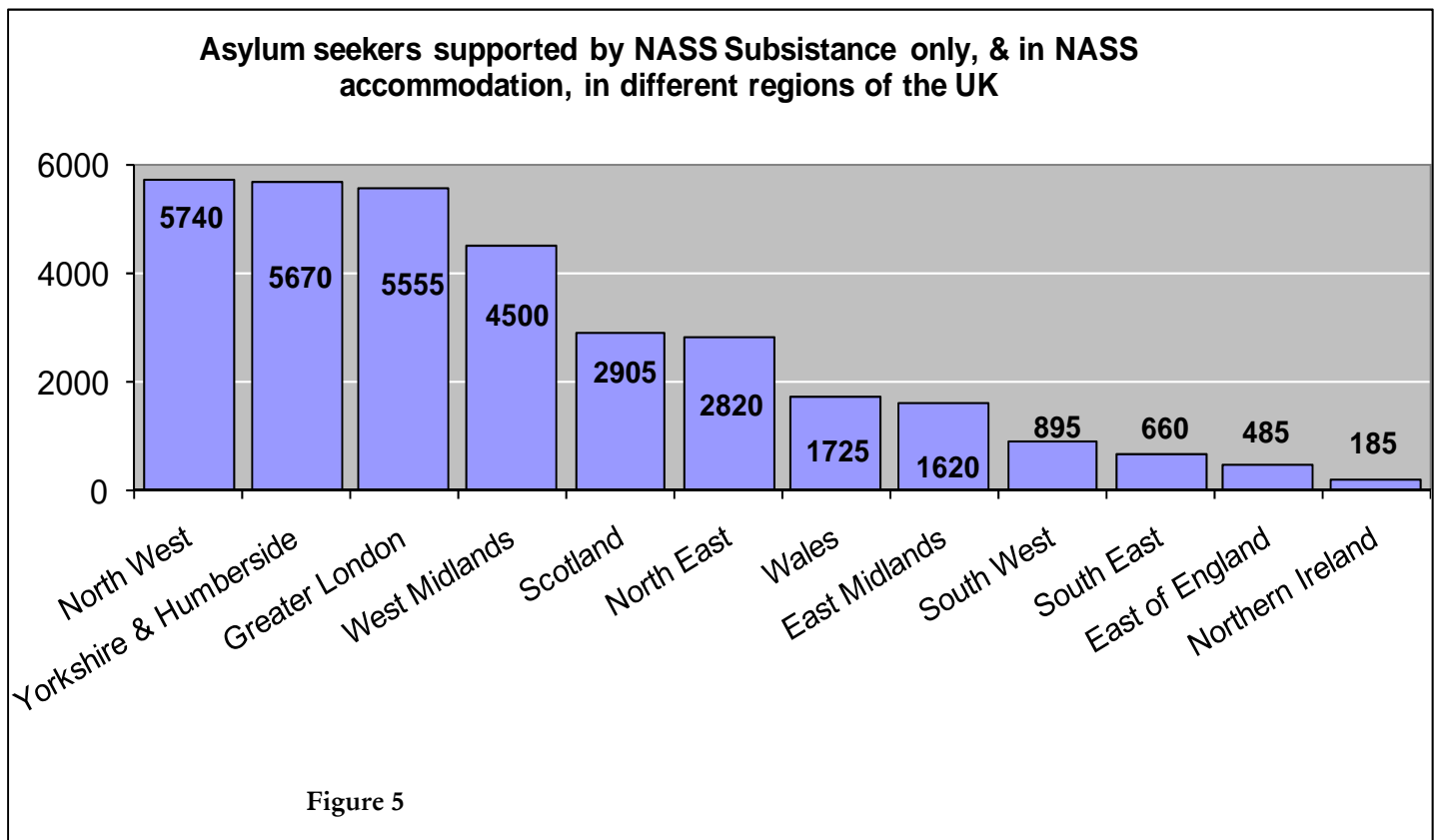
Asylum seekers in different regions of the UK

The totals below represent the numbers of asylum seekers who are currently in NASS accommodation or are in receipt of subsistence (cash) only support. They reflect the numbers of new applicants granted support and exclude applications for those for whom support has ceased. These figures do not include asylum seekers who are not supported by NASS.

As at the end of March 2008:

- **6,820** asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support.
- **25,940** asylum seekers were supported in NASS accommodation.
- **1,105** asylum seekers were supported in initial accommodation
- Thus a total **33,865** asylum seekers were in receipt of NASS support as at the end of Q1 of 2008 which is **23.89%** lower than the previous quarter (December-07 =44,495).

The chart below shows the number of asylum seekers supported by NASS Subsistence only, and by accommodation and subsistence, in different regions of the UK as at the end of March 2008.



- ♦ The regions with the highest populations of asylum seekers supported by NASS in order of numbers were: North West (17.52%), Yorkshire and Humberside (17.31%), Greater London (16.96%), West Midlands (13.74%), Scotland (8.87%), the **North East** is in sixth place with **8.61%** of all the asylum seekers supported by NASS in the UK.

- ◆ Below is a table showing the number of asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support and clients in NASS accommodation by region:

Government Office Region (GOR)	In receipt of Subsistence only support	Supported in NASS accommodation
North West	375	5,365
Yorkshire and Humberside	285	5,385
Greater London	4,650	905
West Midlands	480	4,120
Scotland	90	2,815
North East*	50	2,770
Wales	50	1,675
East Midlands	255	1,365
South West	80	5,365
South East	370	290
East of England	225	260
Northern Ireland	5	180

Figure 6

- *Taken from the Home office report and not NASS monthly figures.

(The 777 discrepancy between those supported in NASS accommodation in the North East provided by NASS earlier in this report and the Home office figures in Figure 6 is in part due to the Home office rounding of figures, part due to the different days the “snapshots” of those in accommodation, and part due to those in “initial accommodation” not being recorded on the subsistence or dispersal statics used. The different dates and rounding of figures also explains the discrepancy of 12 from the Home Office figure 50, and NASS figure 38).

Asylum applications – National

Number of applications for the past 9 quarters

- **Applications: 6,595 this is 4.56% lower than previous quarter (6,910)**

Applications for asylum (excluding dependants) in the UK decreased by **-4.56%** in Q1 2008 to 6,595 from in Q4 2007 (6,910), in that quarter it had increased by 5.09% from the previous quarter, and is **+9.82%** more than Q1 2007 (6,005).

Including dependants the number of applications to the UK decreased by **-5.34%** in Q1 2008 (7,705) from Q4 2007 (8,140).

The Chart below shows the number of applications by primary applicants not including dependants for the past 9 quarters (since Q1 2006):

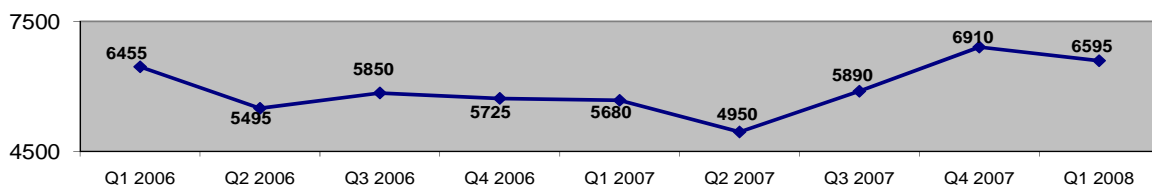


Figure 7⁵

The top ten nationalities applying for asylum in Q1 of 2008

The largest nationality applying for asylum in Q1 of 2008 was Afghanistan 830 applications up from being the 3rd largest point of origin in Q4 2007 up by **+18.57%** from 700 to 830. Iraq was the largest point of origin in Q4 2007 and is in Q1 2008 the second largest down by 3.35% from 725 to 700. Below shows the top 10 nationalities applying for asylum in the UK in Q3 2007:

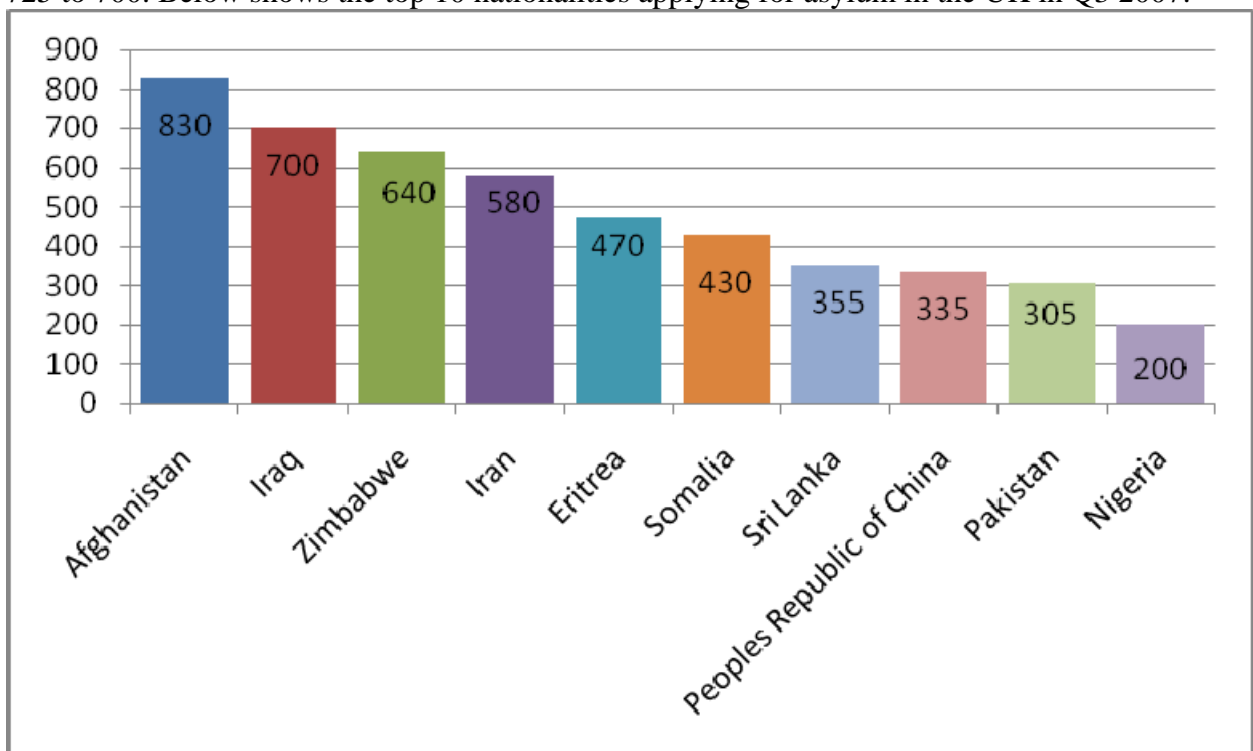


Figure 8

⁵ Any Modifications in figure 7 on the figures previously published in the earlier reports is due to later home office revisions.

NASS applications - National

Number of NASS applications made in the past 9 quarters

- **Total applications: 4,770 in Q1 2008 which was -3.24% lower than previous quarter.**
 - The number of applications for NASS support in Q1 2007 was 4,770 **+3.24%** on Q4 2007 which was 4,930(excluding dependents) **+18.94%** higher than Q3 (4,145) which in turn was **+9.08%** higher than Q2 2007 (3,800) and **+4.26%** higher than Q1 2007 (4,575).
 - In Q1 2008 3,920 (82%) of applications were from single adults and 850 (18%) from family groups. In Q4 2007, 3,300 (80%) applications were from single adults and 850 (20%) were from family groups.

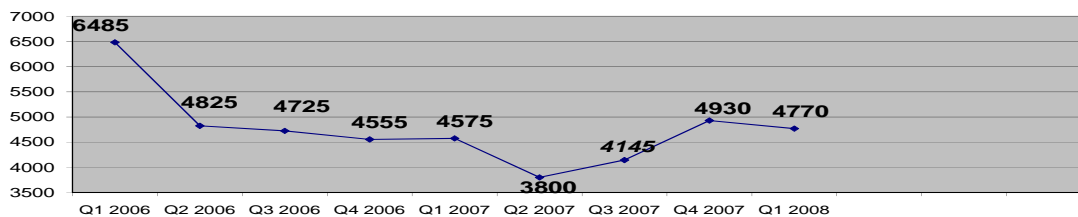


Figure 9

- **Support type:**
 - In Q1 2008 **3,290** (69%) of applications were for accommodation and subsistence support this is a decrease of **-4.5%** on Q4 2007 and **940** (20%) of applications were for subsistence only support a decrease of **-6%**. In Q4 2007, **3,445** (70%) applications were for accommodation and subsistence support this was an increase of **21.52%** on Q3 (2,835) and **1,000** (20%) of applications were for subsistence only support an increase of **25%** on Q3 (850).
 - The remaining 11% of applications this quarter were classified as invalid or unknown.

Top Ten Nationalities applying for NASS support:

In the last quarter applications rose from five of the top ten nationalities and fell from four and remained the same from one.

Applications from **Iraq** rose by **+6.72%**, **Afghanistan** rose by **+27.78%**, **Sri Lanka** by **+29.73%** **Pakistan** rose by **11.11%**. Applications from **Iran** fell by **-7.52%**, **Eritrea** by **-27.2%**, **Somalia** by **-3.57%** and applications from the **“Peoples Republic of China”** fell by **-26.47%**. Applications from **Zimbabwe** remained the same.

Figure 10

Republic of Iraq	715
Islamic Republic of Iran	615
Eritrea	455
Somalia	405
Zimbabwe	375
Afghanistan	345
Sri Lanka	240
Pakistan	200
Peoples Republic of China	125
Nigeria	95
Others	1,195
Total	4,770

* Figures from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2008 United Kingdom (p7)

Asylum application initial decisions – National⁶

Number of decisions made for the past 9 quarters

• Initial Decisions in Q1 2008: 4,435; 1.22% lower than previous quarter

- 4,435 initial decisions were made in Q1 2008, **-1.22%** lower than in Q4 2007 (4,490) and lower than the level of applications.
- The number of cases (excluding dependants) awaiting an initial decision was 8,800 at the end of March 2008 (6,900 at the end of December 2007, 4,800 at the end of September 2007, 4,500 at the end of June 2007, 4,900 at the end of March 2007).
- 21% of initial decisions in Q1 2008 were to grant asylum compared with 16% of initial decisions in Q4 2007, and 17% for Q3 2007. 11% of initial decisions granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave compared with 10% of Q4 and 9% for Q3. 68% were refusals compared to 73% of initial decisions in Q4 2007 and 71% for Q3.

The Chart below demonstrates the number of decisions made for the past 8 quarters⁷:



	Q1 2006	Q2 2006	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008
Granted Asylum	626	448	415	670	885	840	915	900	915
Exceptional leave	751	548	445	550	565	520	595	400	460
Refused	4,883	3,984	3,695	3,930	4,525	4,535	3,685	3,165	3,035

Figure 11 Number of decisions made for the past 9 quarters

The Chart below shows the number of Initial decisions made for the period from Q1 of 2006 to Q1 of 2008:

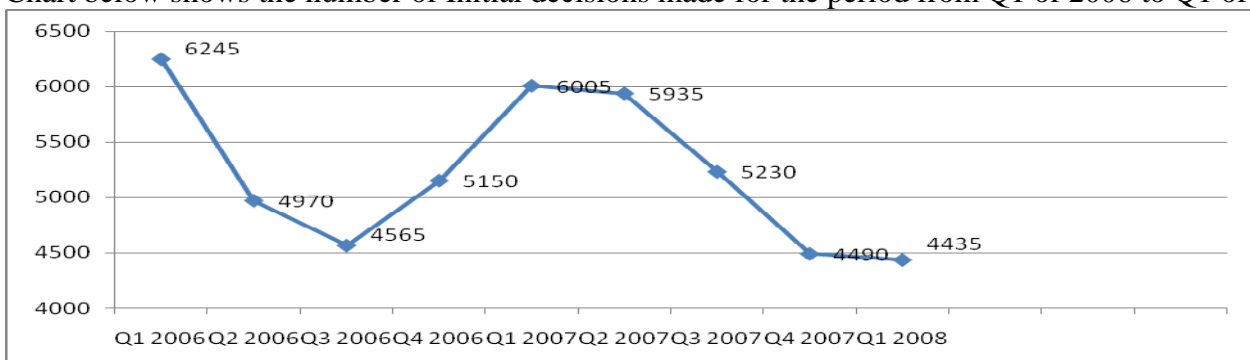


Figure 12

Timeliness of Initial Decisions

- 23% of applications received in Q4 had initial decisions reached and served within two months⁸, compared with 43% in Q3 and 57% in Q4 2006⁹.

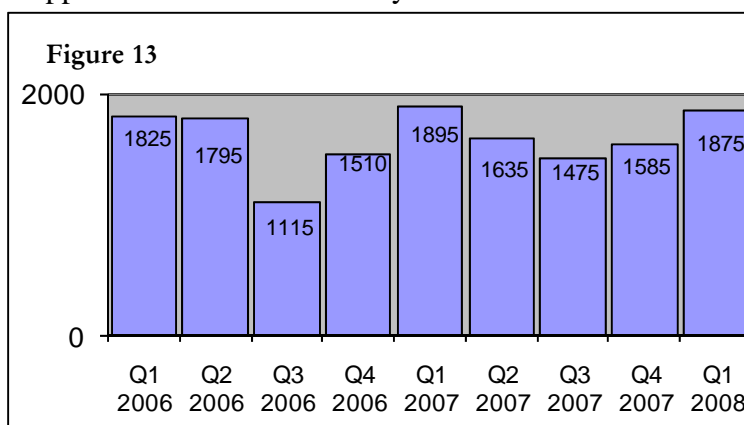
⁶ All figures on this page come from p3 and Table 1 Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2008 United Kingdom except for timelines of initial decisions.

⁷ Due to home office rounding this totals 4410 not 4435.

⁸ "Two Months" is defined as 61 days.

Support under section 4 ('Hard Case') of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is provided in the form of accommodation and food, and other basic essential items. Individuals are generally eligible for section 4 support if their asylum application has been finally determined as refused, but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the United Kingdom. These reasons are:

- Taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or place themselves in a position in which they can leave the UK; or
 - unable to leave UK by reason of a physical impediment to travel or some medical reason; or
 - unable to leave UK because there is no current viable route of return to the country of origin; or
 - taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or place themselves in a position in which they can leave the UK; or
 - permission has been obtained to proceed with a judicial review against a decision relating to the person's asylum claim; or the provision of support is otherwise necessary to avoid a breach of the person's human rights.
- The number of successful applications for section 4 support in Q1 2008 was (1,875) **+18.3%** higher than in Q4 2007 (1,585).
 - Nationals of Iraq accounted for the highest number of failed asylum seekers in receipt of section 4 support, 2,930 (31% of those supported). This is a trend that began in quarter 3 2006.
 - As at the end of Q4 (end of December 2007) 9,500 excluding dependants, were in receipt of section 4('Hard Case') support, 1.54% higher than at the end of Q4 (end of December) (9,365).



Top 10 Nationalities supported Q1 2008

Iraq	2,930
Iran	890
Eritrea	795
Sudan	635
Zimbabwe	565
Dem. Rep Congo	500
Somalia	485
Peoples Republic of China	370
Ethiopia	275
Congo - Brazzaville	270
Others	1,650
Total	9,365

Figure 14

* Figures on this page from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2008 United Kingdom (p9)

⁹ Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2008 United Kingdom -<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq108.pdf>

Asylum appeals - National

On 4 April 2005, the commencement of section 26 of *The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004* introduced the appeals system under the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). All outstanding work from the Immigration Appellate Authority has been transferred to an equivalent appeal stage within the AIT, in line with transitional provisions. Data on determinations refer to cases dealt with by Immigration Judges. All appeals figures are provisional and subject to change.

Appeals received

- ◆ Appeals received by AIT in Q1: 2,095, this is **-19.73%** lower than previous quarter (2,610)

Appeals determined

- Appeals determined decreased in Q1 2008 were 2440 a decrease of **-22.29%** on Q4 2007 which was down by **-23.32%** to 3,140 from 4,095 in Q3, and was 4.99% higher than in Q4 2006 (3,305).
- The proportion of appeals dismissed was 72% in Q1 2008, 70% in Q4 2007 in Q3 this figure was 73%, whilst 25% of appeals were allowed, the figure in Q2 and Q3 was 23%.
- The total asylum work in progress at the AIT at the end of Q1 (March) 2008 was 3,000, in Q4 (December) 2007 was 4,000 in Q2 and Q3 of 2007 this figure was 5,000.

Appeals determined by Immigration (IAA/AIT)

The Chart below shows the number of appeals determined by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT), formerly called Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) Adjudicators

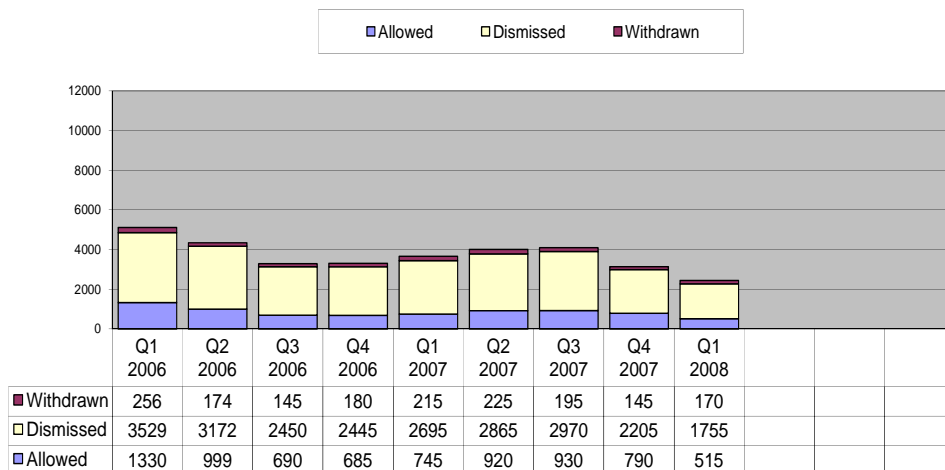


Figure 15

- Figures on this page from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2008 United Kingdom (p4) and from Table 5

Applications to European Countries/ Non European Countries 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007

10

Applications received for asylum in Europe and elsewhere, including dependants, for 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and Q1 to Q4 of 2007.

Figure 16

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 Q1	2007 Q2	2007 Q3	2007 Q4
Austria	32,400	24,700	22,500	13,400	3,100	2,600	2,900	3,200
Belgium	19,300	17,500	18,200	13,200	3,200	3,100	2,900	3,400
Denmark	4,600	3,200	2,300	1,900	600	400	700	500
Finland	3,200	3,900	3,600	2,300	300	300	400	400(e)
France	62,000	65,600	59,200	30,700	7,700	7,000	6,800	7,700
Germany	50,600	35,600	28,900	21,000	4,600	3,900	5,300	5,300
Greece	8,200	4,500	9,100	12,300	7,400	7,100	5,500	5,100
Ireland	7,900	4,800	4,300	4,300	1,100	900	1,000	1,000(e)
Italy	13,500	9,700	9,500	10,300	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Luxembourg	1,500	1,600	800	500	100	100	100	100
Netherlands	13,400	9,800	12,300	14,500	1,700	1,400	1,800	2,200
Portugal	100	100	100	100	100	100	*	* (e)
Spain	5,900	5,600	5,000	5,300	2,300	1,900	1,400	1,800
Sweden	31,400	23,200	17,500	24,300	9,200	8,400	9,400	9,200
United Kingdom	60,000	40,600	30,800	28,300	6,800	5,900	7,100	8,100
Total EU15	313,900	250,300	224,200	182,400	48,100	43,200	45,500	48,100
Cyprus	4,400	9,900	7,700	4,500	1,700	1,600	1,400	2,100
Czech Republic	11,400	5,500	4,200	3,000	500	400	500	600
Estonia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hungary	2,400	1,600	1,600	2100	500	700	800	1,400
Latvia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Lithuania	200	200	100	100	*	*	*	* (e)
Malta	600	1,000	1,200	1,300	300	100	400	600
Poland	6,900	8,100	6,900	4,400	700	700	1,500	4,200
Slovakia	10,400	11,400	3,500	2,900	700	800	800	400
Slovenia	1,100	1,300	1,800	500	100	100	100	100
Total EU25	351,300	289,100	251,300	201,400	52,400	47,700	51,000	57,500
Bulgaria	1,500	1,100	800	600	200	200	200	300
Rumania	1,100	700	600	500	100	100	300	200
Total EU27	353,900	290,900	252,700	202,500	52,800	48,100	51,500	58,000
Other Europe								
Norway	15,600	7,900	5,400	5,300	1,200	1,200	1,900	2,100
Switzerland	21,000	14,200	10,100	10,500	3,000	2,400	2,300	2,700
Total Europe	390,600	313,100	268,200	218,300	57,000	51,700	55,700	62,900
Non-Europe								
Australia	4,300	3,300	3,200	3,500	900	1,000	1,000	1,000(e)
Canada	31,900	25,500	19,700	22,900	5,900	5,500	7,600	9,900(e)
USA	80,200	63,000	48,900	50,800	13,500	13,500	10,800	11,400
Grand Total	506,900	400,700	340,100	295,600	77,300	71,700	75,000	85,200

Figures rounded to the nearest 100 with * = between 1 and 49.

- Figures on this page from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 4th Quarter 2007 United Kingdom (table 23)

** Taken from the data available, however some countries still to submit additional data.

Asylum seekers and refugees worldwide

11

Asylum Levels in industrialized Countries 2007

This section is based on monthly asylum application data received from national asylum authorities in Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. The reports used to contain data from the 36 most industrialised countries but for 2007 this has been expanded to 43 industrialized countries are providing monthly statistics to UNHCR some industrialised countries such as Italy do not provide data on a monthly basis but on an annual basis, annual trends are taken from the top 51 countries.

- The number of asylum requests submitted in the 51 **industrialized countries** declined on a year on year basis since 2001, in the second half of 2006 it began to rise again, in the first half of 2007 it fell again and then in the second half it rose again by 8% to 162,500.
- 162,500 new asylum requests made during the Second half of 2007 (July-December). This is a decrease of 7.36% compared to the first half of 2007 (January-June) when the total was 150,500.
- In **Europe**, 63,548 new asylum applications were submitted during Quarter 4 2007, **+11.82%** higher than during Q3 2007 (56,830) and a **+7.4%** increase from Quarter 4 2006 (59,170). The 26 countries of the **European Union (EU)** covered by this report registered 57,509 new asylum applications submitted a **+12.73%** increase on Quarter 3 2007 (51,017). Compared to Quarter 4 2006 this was an increase of **+6.11%** (54,195). In 2007 **Greece** changed from the 9th largest recipient of asylum claims to the 6th, this was in part due to new arrivals from Iraq and part due to changes in procedures to speed up the registration of those waiting to register an asylum claim and clearing a claims backlog. Due to the increasingly cleared backlog in earlier quarters in the 4th quarter asylum claims fell **-7.2%** from 5,456 to 5,063 after a peak of 7,446 in Q1 2007, in Q1 2006 this total was only 1,536. **Cyprus** has also received many new arrivals including from Iraq, and like **Greece** has implemented changes in its registration procedures clearing an existing backlog, in Q4 2007 this reached a high of 2,108, in Q4 2006 this total was 1,499 however in Q3 2006 there were only 960 asylum claims in **Cyprus**.
- **Japan** and the **Republic of Korea** together registered a record high of 1,500 new applications predominantly from individuals from Myanmar (Burma) and Nepal.
- During Quarter 4 2007, **Europe** received 73.96% (63,548) of all asylum applications submitted in the 43 industrialized countries which provide monthly data to the UNHCR in Quarter 3 it was 74.22 % (56,830). This meant the total number of claims increased by 11.82%. **North America** received 24.19% of the total for Quarter 4, **Australia** and **New Zealand** received **1.25%** whilst **Japan** and the **Republic of Korea** accounted for the remainder of the asylum requests (0.6%) in the industrialised countries.
- In Quarter 4 2007 the asylum applications for the twelve new EU Member states increased from Q3 to Q4 by 2007 by 39.38% from 6,007 to 9,909, in Q4 2006 the total was 44.33% lower at 5,516%.

Countries of asylum

- The **United States** has been the top asylum destination since Q3 2005. In 2007 the **United States** received 49,200 asylum claims which was 7,700 **(-5%)** less than in of 2006. The **United States** received 14.5% of all claims to the top 51 industrialised countries.

- **Sweden** was the second most common destination of asylum seekers in 2007 with 36,210 applications, followed by **France** with 29,150 and **Canada** with 28,340 claims.
- In the **United Kingdom**, the number of new asylum requests lodged during the fourth quarter of 2007 rose by **+14.81%** (to 8,140) Compared to the third quarter of 2007 (from 7,090) and by **+19.09%** compared to fourth quarter 2006 (6,835). In 2002 the UK was the main destination for asylum seekers in 2003 it was the second main destination. The **United Kingdom** now ranks the fifth largest asylum-seeker receiving country from the 51 industrialised countries falling from third 2006-2006 with 27,900 applications in 2007, followed by **Greece** (25,110) **Germany** (19,160), **Italy** (14,050) **Austria** (11,880) and **Belgium** (11,120).
- Out of the 43 Industrialised countries from Q3 2007 to Q4 2007, 27 countries experienced a rise in the number of new asylum claims lodged while 15 countries reported a fall, one country, **Montenegro**, had no change with no claims for asylum in quarters 3 or 4. Among those destination countries reporting larger percentage changes, those reporting increases in applications included **Éire (Republic of Ireland)** (+7%), **Estonia** (+100%), **Hungary** (+88%), **Republic of Korea** (+125%), **Poland** (+176%), **Japan** (+22%), & **Serbia** (+36%). Decreases included **Albania** (-33%), **Denmark** (-27%), **Germany** (-1%), **Latvia** (-89%), **Liechtenstein** (-20%), **Romania** (-36%), & **Turkey** (-21%).

Origin of asylum-seekers

- In the 43 monthly reporting industrialised asylum countries from the third quarter 2006, “Iraq” which in Quarter 4 2007 had 11,784 or 13.94% of all claims has been leading country of origin of asylum-seekers when it replaced “The Peoples Republic of China” as the leading country which became the second main country of origin for asylum seekers. “**The Peoples Republic of China**” remained as the second main country of origins until the second Quarter 2007 in the fourth Quarter of 2007 “**The Peoples Republic of China**” was the third main origin of asylum seekers with 4,424 applications. In the third Quarter 2007 the “**Russian Federation**” became the second main country of origin for asylum seekers, there were 7,937 asylum claims in the fourth Quarter. This was followed by “**Serbia**^{10*}” (3,814), “**Somalia**” (3,306), “**Pakistan**” 2,978 and “**Afghanistan**” (2,586). Other countries lodging more than 1,000 applications included **Armenia, Haiti, Columbia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Turkey, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic and Zimbabwe.**
- Among the top 40 countries of origin 11 countries recorded a decline in the number of asylum-seekers during from Q3 2007 to Q4 2007. Those recording a decline were “**Iraq**” (-2% to 11,784), **Pakistan** (-24% to 2,978), “**Mexico** (-1% to 2,250), “**India** (-13% to 1,057), “**Lebanon**” (-13% to 469) “**Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**” (-6% to 490) “**Cameroon** (-2% to 513) **Moldova** (-42% to 305), **Mongolia** (-7% to 387) and the **Ukraine** (-2% to 355). The number of “**Stateless**” persons applying for asylum fell -6% to 741.
- Among the top 40 countries of origin 29 countries recorded an increase in the number of asylum-seekers during from Q3 2007 to Q4 2007. The ten largest percentage increases were: “**Palestinian Territories**” (+112 to 775), **The Russian Federation** (+88% to 7,937), **Việt Nam** (+65% to 918), **Columbia** (+64% to 2,352), **Eritrea** (+38% to 2,421), **Syrian Arab Republic** (+36% to 1,524), **United States** (+33% to 787), **Albania** (+30% to 523), **Zimbabwe** (+29% to 1,022), and **Guatemala** (+23% to 531)%.

¹⁰ No separate data available for both countries until Q3 2007, **Montenegro** became Independent on June 3rd 2006 ending the “**Federal Republic of Serbia & Montenegro**”, figures reported for Serbia reported from some counties for Q3 2007 & Q4 2007 may contain figures for “**Serbia**” & “**Montenegro**”.

- During 2007 about 41% of the 45,247 asylum claims in the 43 countries which were logged by nationals from Iraq, were logged in **Sweden**.

Figure 17 Table of Country of Origin

Country of Origin	2005				2006				2007			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Iraq	5	5	5	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Russian Federation	2	3	1	1	4	3	3	3	5	5	2	2
Peoples Republic of China	3	2	3	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	3
“Serbia” & “Montenegro”¹¹	1	1	2	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Pakistan	14	7	8	10	12	12	10	8	3	3	6	5
Somalia	11	14	9	13	11	10	5	9	7	7	5	6
Mexico	22	21	14	15	18	11	9	11	9	6	8	7
Afghanistan	13	9	10	9	8	7	7	6	8	8	7	8
Islamic Republic of Iran	9	8	7	6	7	8	8	7	9	9	9	9
Sri Lanka	15	16	19	17	15	16	14	16	11	10	12	10

¹¹ Ibid.

Acknowledgements

Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2008 United Kingdom -
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq108.pdf>

Asylum levels and trends in industrialised countries, 2007 –
<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/STATISTICS/47daae862.pdf>

NECASS (Formerly NECARS) internal data on North East dispersals supplied to NERS. The actual date the database was run to generate the figures was 07/01/2008.