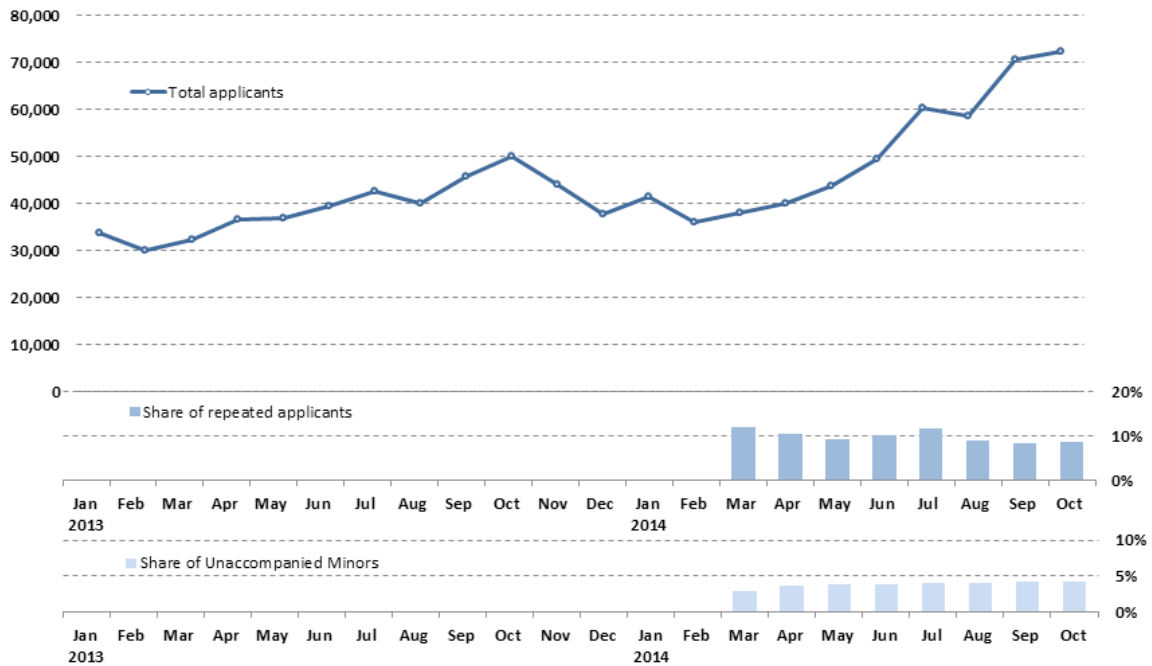


Latest asylum trends and main countries of origin

1. Number of applicants for international protection in EU+¹

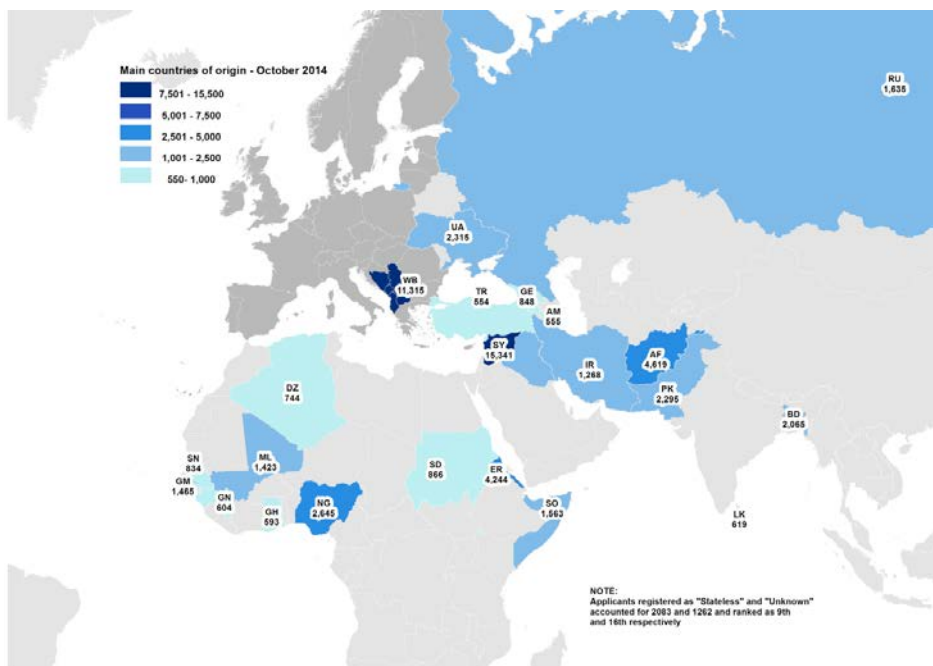
Monthly trend of asylum applicants, January 2013 to October 2014



Note: the share of repeated applicants is the proportion of the total number of applicants for international protection. The share of UAM (unaccompanied minors) represents the proportion of asylum applicants claiming to be below the age of 18 years in the total number of applicants. It is important to emphasise that this term 'unaccompanied minor' here refers to applicants claiming to be minors and for whom an age assessment has not necessarily been carried out before provision of the data.

In October 2014, the total number of asylum applicants reached a new high of 72,342. Compared to September, the number of applicants rose by 2% and in the first 10 months of 2014 the total recorded in the EU+ is higher than the total recorded for the whole of 2013. Compared to the same month of last year, the increase was 44%. The trend so far in 2014 follows the same pattern as in 2013, but at a higher level. In October 2014, the share of repeated applicants was 8% of the monthly total, while the share of claimed Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) remained at 4%. The main nationalities of UAMs were Afghans, Syrians and Eritreans applying mainly in Sweden and Germany.

2. Top 25 countries of origin in EU+ in October 2014



While the number of Syrian applicants fell by 10% in October compared to September, Syrians continued to be the largest group of asylum applicants reported by EU+ countries, followed by nationals from all six Western Balkans² countries (considered together) and Afghans. The number of Eritrean applicants fell by 19% in October.

1 EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland.

2 Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (2), Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo (1) (This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Kosovo declaration of independence).

3. Latest country of origin trends

Syria: The 10% decrease in the number of Syrian applicants comes after consecutive increases over each of the last six months. The number of Syrians reached a peak in September 2014. The influx of Syrian applicants was spread throughout the EU+, with 21 Member States reporting Syrians in their top three countries of origin of asylum applicants.

Western Balkans (WB) nationals: Applications from WB nationals increased 19% compared to September 2014, marking a new highest ever level (11,315 applicants) since Eurostat data collection began in 2008. This increase was mostly due to the large number of Kosovars and Serbs reported by EU+ countries.

Eritrea: In October 2014, many countries reported lower numbers of Eritreans compared to September, with the number of applicants falling to 4,244 in EU+ countries as a whole. This continues the downward trend seen since the peak for Eritrean applicants reached in July (8,036).

Ukraine: The number of applicants with Ukrainian citizenship continued the upward trend that started in March 2014 and rose 16% compared to September. In recent months, applications for international protection were made by Ukrainian citizens in all 30 EU+ states.

Additional data and reports

Quarterly reports are available here: easo.europa.eu/asylum-trends-analysis/quarterly-report

Other EASO documentation is available here: easo.europa.eu/asylum-documentation/easo-publication-and-documentation

EASO at EU Presidency conference on managing asylum flows

On 18 and 19 November, the Italian Ministry of Interior organised, with the support of EASO, a conference entitled *'Managing Asylum Flows: Strengthening the Tools, Strengthening the System'* in Rome.

During the conference, EASO's Executive Director delivered the opening speech. In his address, he stressed the need to invest in each other, fostering solidarity and trust in the European Union.

The Executive Director held that asylum flows are of a complex nature, which does not allow for long-term forecasts both in the overall figures and the composition of the flows. To this end, EASO activated an information system called the Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) in order to enable Member States to be better prepared for coping with changing flows of asylum seekers. Experts from all Member States are contributing to the EPS.

The Executive Director also spoke about a

number of projects which EASO is currently undertaking in the context of the report of the Task Force Mediterranean (TFM), in particular the pilot project undertaken with Italy and Malta in cooperation with Frontex, Europol and Eurojust, which helps to understand the mechanisms on the phenomenon of facilitation of persons seeking international protection

which arrive by sea, and which regularly involve criminal networks.

On the second day of the conference, participants discussed further the management of asylum flows in different thematic workshops, such as on Country of Origin Information (COI).

The event was organised on the occasion of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which will expire at the end of 2014. The next country holding the Presidency of the Council will be Latvia, in the first six months of 2015.



More information is available on the Italian Ministry of Interior's website interno.gov.it and the Presidency's website italia2014.eu.