



# European Migration Network

Annual Report on Migration and International  
Protection Statistics for  
Sweden

(Reference Year: 2009)

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SWEDEN  
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

*Provide a general introduction to your National Report, including its aims, structure. This could be aimed in particular to a reader interested only in the situation in your Member State.*

This report describes the statistical trends in Sweden on migration, international protection, refusals, apprehensions, residence permits and return, with data provided according to the Migratory Statistics Regulation 862/2007. The report is produced by the Swedish National Contact Point for EMN, the Swedish Migration Board, and the analysis relates to existing conditions in 2008.

**2. METHODOLOGY**

*Outline methodology followed in the production of your National Report, including in the verification of your statistics. Definitions used should be as given in Article 2 of the Migratory Statistics Regulation 862/2007 (hereinafter referred to as "the Regulation") and, referring to Article 9 of the Regulation, include the sources used for statistics, highlighting any that are different from those given in this Article, their reliability, any changes in scope and definitions compared to previous years, what (if any) caveats should be applied and any difficulties encountered. If possible, include also any experiences with regard to the provision of statistics in accordance with the Regulation.*

The data referred to in this report is based on data from EUROSTAT. It should however be noted that there are differences between national statistics and statistics compiled by EUROSTAT according to the Migratory Statistics Regulation 862/2007. Most of the national statistics from the Swedish Migration Board on legal migration are divided into permits according to national legislation and permits according to EU legislation rather than grouping the data in third country nationals and EU citizens. In data submitted to EUROSTAT according to the Migratory Statistics Regulation all EU citizens are excluded.

### **3. LEGAL IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION**

#### **3.1 International Migration, Usually Resident Population and Acquisition of Citizenship (Article 3)<sup>1</sup>**

*Note that, in accordance with Article 3 of the Migratory Statistics Regulation (862/2007), asylum applicants should be counted among flow and stock data if they stay effectively one year or more in your Member State (or if they intend to stay one year or more) like for other migrants. The statistics provided to the Commission (Eurostat) should be in accordance with this. However, if this is not the case for your Member State, provide a note explaining this and provide any supplementary statistics.<sup>2</sup>*

##### **3.1.1 International Migration Flows**

*With reference to Article 3(1 a and b) of the Regulation, describe developments/trends with regard to international migration, particularly in respect to:*

- (a) immigrants moving to your Member State, disaggregated according to groups of citizenship by age and sex; groups of country of birth by age and sex; groups of country of previous usual residence by age and sex;*
- (b) emigrants moving from your Member State disaggregated according to groups of citizenships; age; sex; groups of countries of next usual residence;*

*How did migration flows in your Member State change compared to the previous years, from 2002 onwards? Explain the reasons for important changes. Did the migration trends observed in this field reflect immigration policies at the time?*

**The fundamental rule that applies for a person to be considered an immigrant is that he/she intends to become resident in Sweden for one year or more. For foreign nationals, with the exception of Nordic citizens, it is also necessary for the persons to have been granted a residence permit in order for them to be registered as immigrants in the population register. To be treated as an emigrant, a person must intend to become resident abroad for one year or more.**

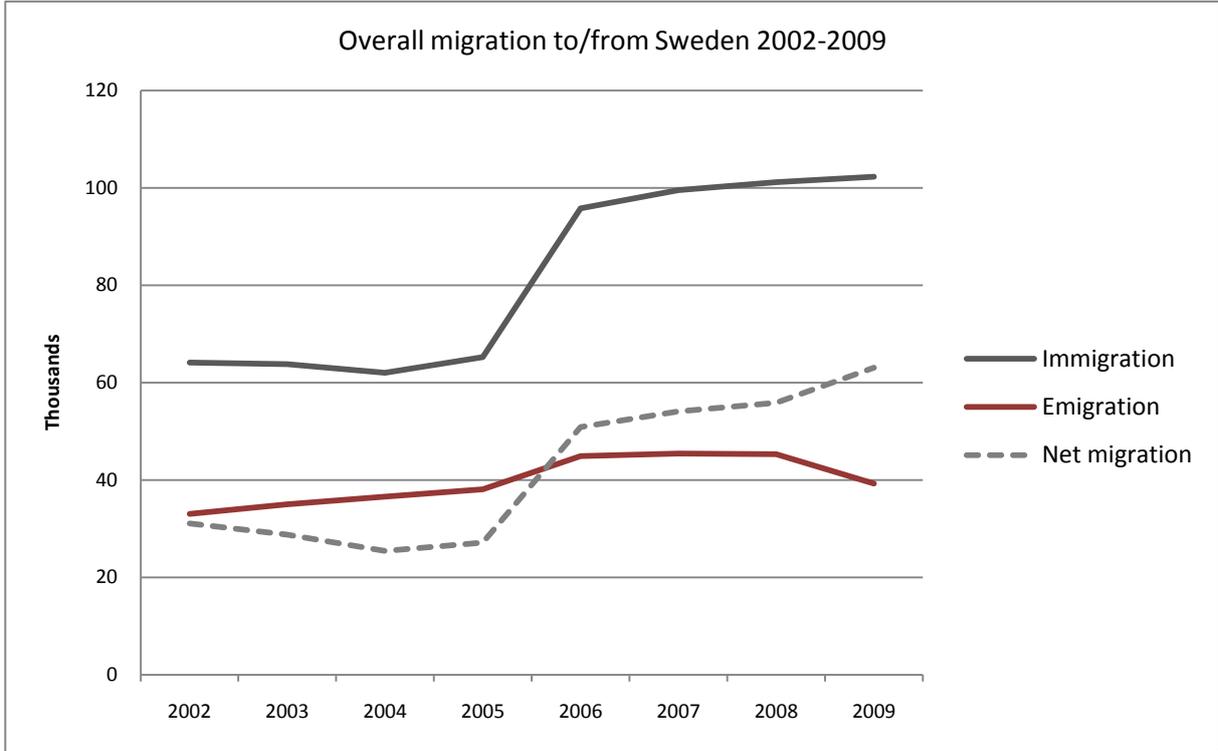
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<sup>1</sup> Section 3 data are expected to become available only from Spring 2011. You are, therefore, requested to produce a preliminary National Report excluding this Section initially.

<sup>2</sup> For Norway, statistics submitted in accordance with Article 3 do not include asylum seekers waiting the final decision on their application, nor former asylum seekers who have an obligation to leave the country but who have not yet left Norway. Please note this in your National report and, if possible, supplementary statistics on this group may be provided.

Immigration to Sweden has been high during recent years and in 2009, 102,280 persons immigrated to Sweden, the highest figure ever (figure 1). Those immigrating to Sweden are often young people, 80 per cent are under 40 and, during 2009, 168 different nationalities were represented.

Figure 1



The largest citizenship group immigrating to Sweden consisted in 2009, as in previous years, of Swedish nationals (18 per cent).

Amongst the EU countries, excluding Sweden, immigration decreased by four per cent compared with the previous year. This was primarily due to decreases in Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic (figure 2).

The group consisting of citizens from third countries grew by 4 per cent. It was the number of Somali nationals that increased the most, probably due to family connections. The number of Iraqis however, who were the largest immigrant group after the Swedes, showed the largest reduction of the countries outside of the EU-27 (29 per cent) between 2008 and 2009 (figure 3). To a certain extent this can be explained by a reduction in the number of asylum-seekers

from Iraq, at the same time as the entrance approval percentage number of approved applications for the group also decreased.

Figure 2

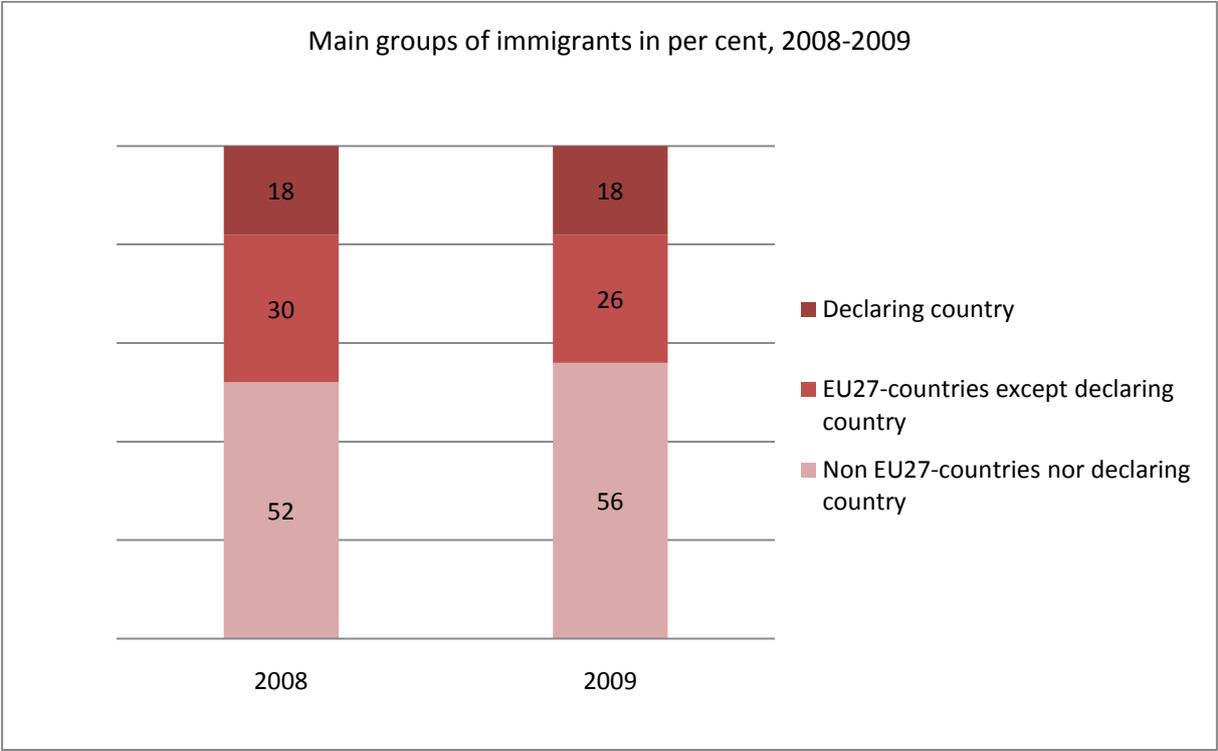
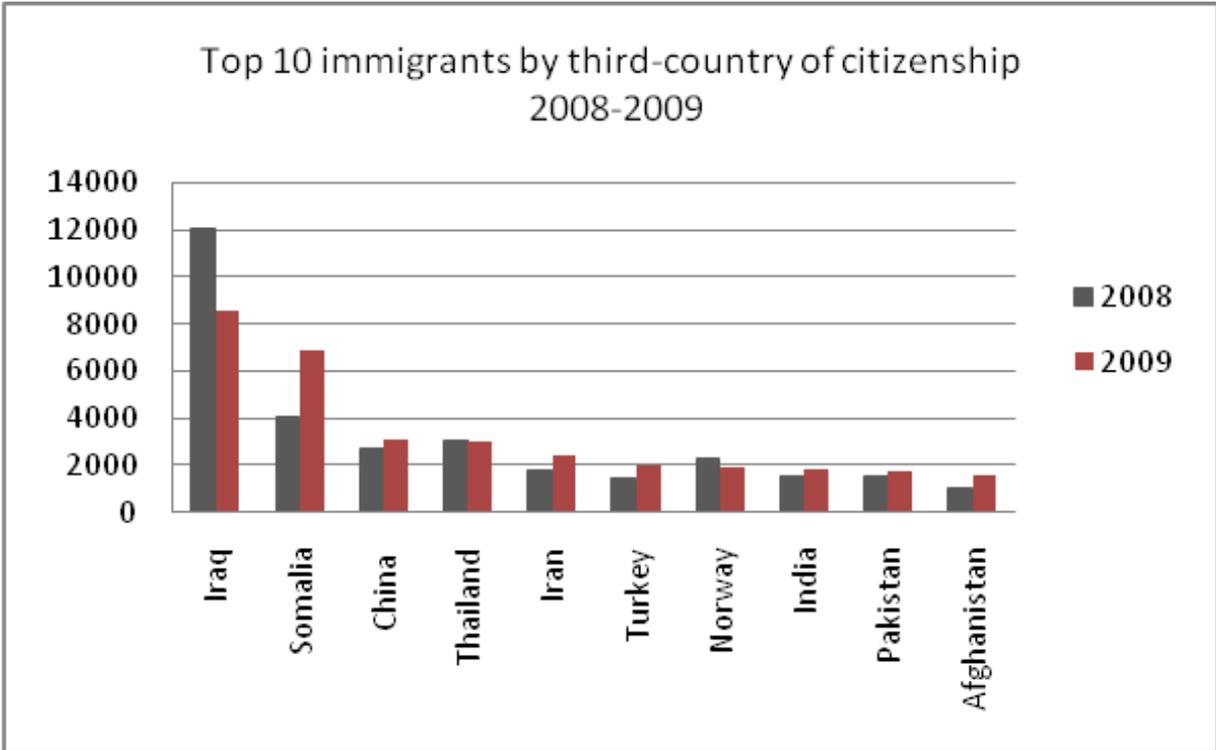


Figure 3



During the past decade, emigration has stayed relatively level, or even grown slightly. However, between 2008 and 2009 this trend was broken when emigration decreased by 13 per cent. During 2009, 39,240 persons emigrated from Sweden. The reduction was due largely to the reduction (- 20 per cent) in the number of Swedish nationals emigrating.

Of those who emigrated during 2009, 57 per cent were born overseas and had been resident in Sweden for approximately 6 years on average. The foreign-born emigrants represented 143 countries and the most common movement pattern was a return to their homeland.

### **3.1.2 Usual Residence**

*With reference to Article 3(1c) of the Regulation, describe developments/trends with regard to usual residence at the end of 2009, disaggregated according to groups of citizenship by age and sex and groups of country of birth by age and sex. Note that this is referring to the total usually resident population of the reporting country on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. For this purpose, the Statistical Tables will use the situation on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, which should give an accurate figure for the "end of the reference period" 2009.*

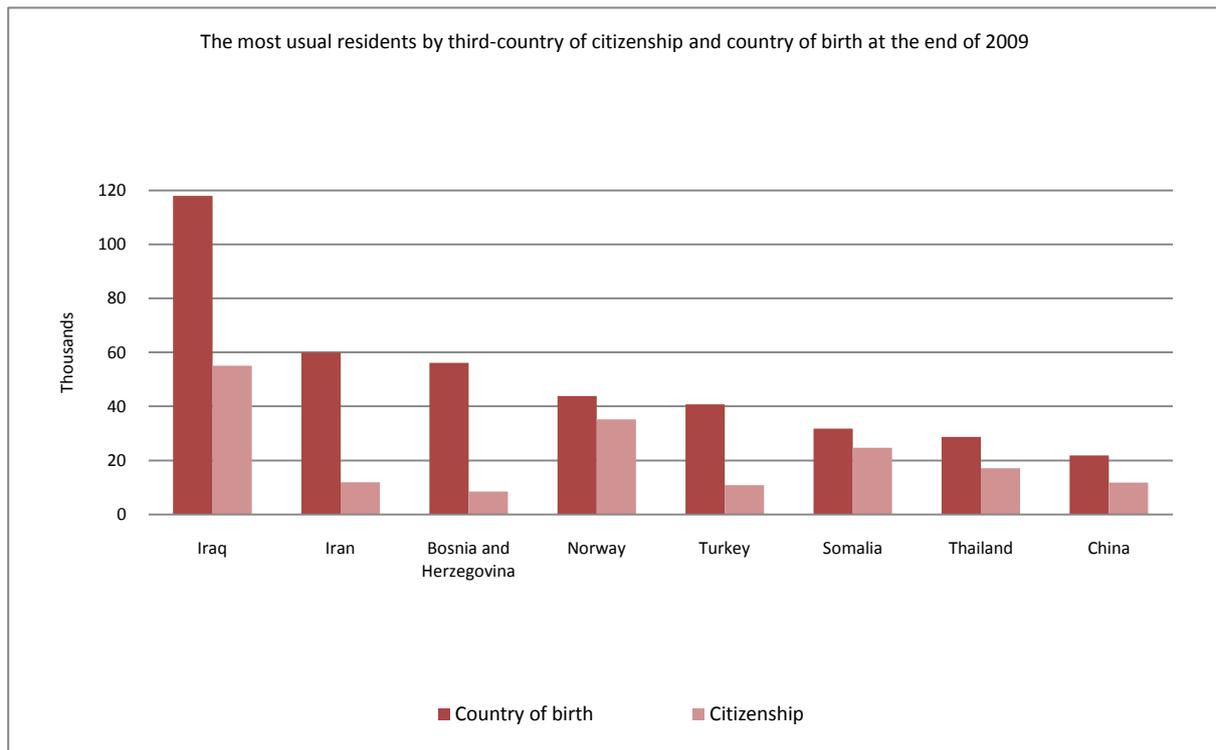
*Provide information on the largest groups of **third country nationals**, normally up to and including at least the 10 largest groups on the basis of the number persons is sufficient. More can be provided if you consider relevant, e.g. a particular interest in a specific nationality at EU-level. If significant changes occurred in reference to the size of particular groups of third country nationals in 2009, what were the underlying causes of these changes (e.g. legal, political, economic, and other)?*

During 2009, Sweden's population increase by 2 per cent compared with the same period of the previous year. The large immigration surplus is the main reason behind this population increase (figure 1).

At the end of 2009, 8 per cent of the country's population were foreign citizens. The percentage of the population which was born overseas was considerably higher – 15 per cent. The difference reflects the major tendency of foreign nationals to become Swedish citizens and the relatively quick naturalization process in Sweden, which usually takes 5 years.

Iraq was the largest nationality among the non-EU-27 countries in Sweden during 2009. The biggest differences between foreign nationals and foreign-born nationals were found in the Bosnian, Iranian and Turkish groups. Persons of these nationalities have lived in Sweden for a relatively long time and many of them have also acquired Swedish citizenship (figure 4).

Figure 4



### 3.1.3 Acquisition of citizenship

*With reference to Article 3(1d) of the Regulation, describe developments/trends with regard to persons having their usual residence in your Member State and having acquired citizenship in 2009 of your Member State, **having formerly held the citizenship of another Member State or a third country or having formerly been stateless**. Include a disaggregation by age and sex, by the former citizenship of the persons concerned and by whether the person was formerly stateless.*

In order to become a Swedish citizen through naturalization it is necessary to be over 18, have a permanent residence permit, and have lived in Sweden for five consecutive years. The rules can vary; for example, Nordic nationals do not require a residence permit and only need to have resided in Sweden for two years. Stateless persons and refugees must have lived in Sweden for four years. Children under 18 generally become Swedish citizens at the same time as their parents.

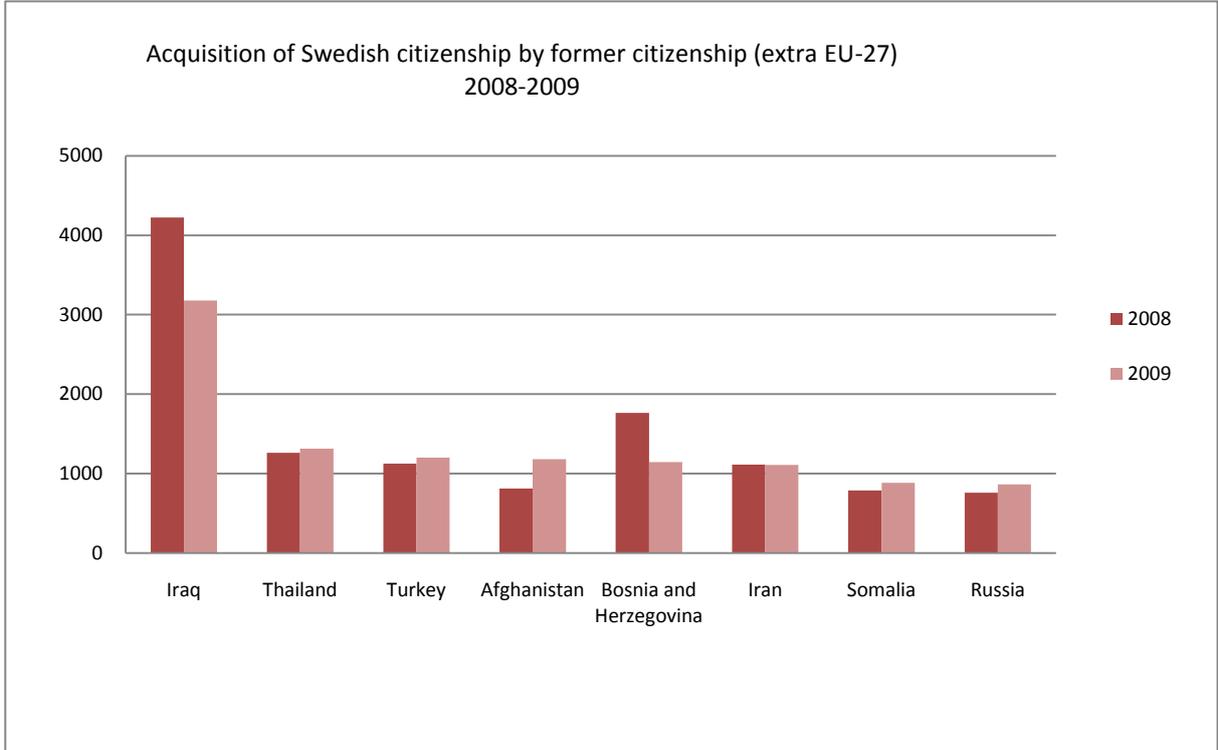
Foreign nationals who have a permanent residence permit and who are registered in Sweden have, by and large, the same rights and obligations as Swedish citizens. There are however

certain differences. Only Swedish citizens have an absolute right to live and work in Sweden and only Swedish citizens may vote in general elections. In accordance with the laws on Swedish citizenship, which have applied since 2001, it is now possible to have dual citizenship.

29,525 persons applied for and acquired Swedish citizenship during 2009. This is a reduction of 3 per cent compared with 2008, and 42 per cent compared with the record year 2006 when 51,239 people became Swedish citizens. 11,276 of these were Asians who switched to Swedish citizenship, which equates to nearly 40 per cent of all citizenship exchanges made this year.

The single largest group which acquired Swedish citizenship was Iraqi nationals, 3,180 persons (figure 5). This group also represents, just as in previous years, the greatest reduction between 2008 and 2009 and this trend is largely due to the fact that it was more difficult for asylum-seeking Iraqis to authenticate their identity and this therefore resulted in longer processing times and more rejections.

Figure 5



### 3.2 Residence Permits and Residence of Third-Country Nationals (Article 6)

*With reference to Article 6 of the Regulation, describe developments/trends with regard to residence permits issued and long-term residents in 2009 compared to the previous year in particular with regard to:*

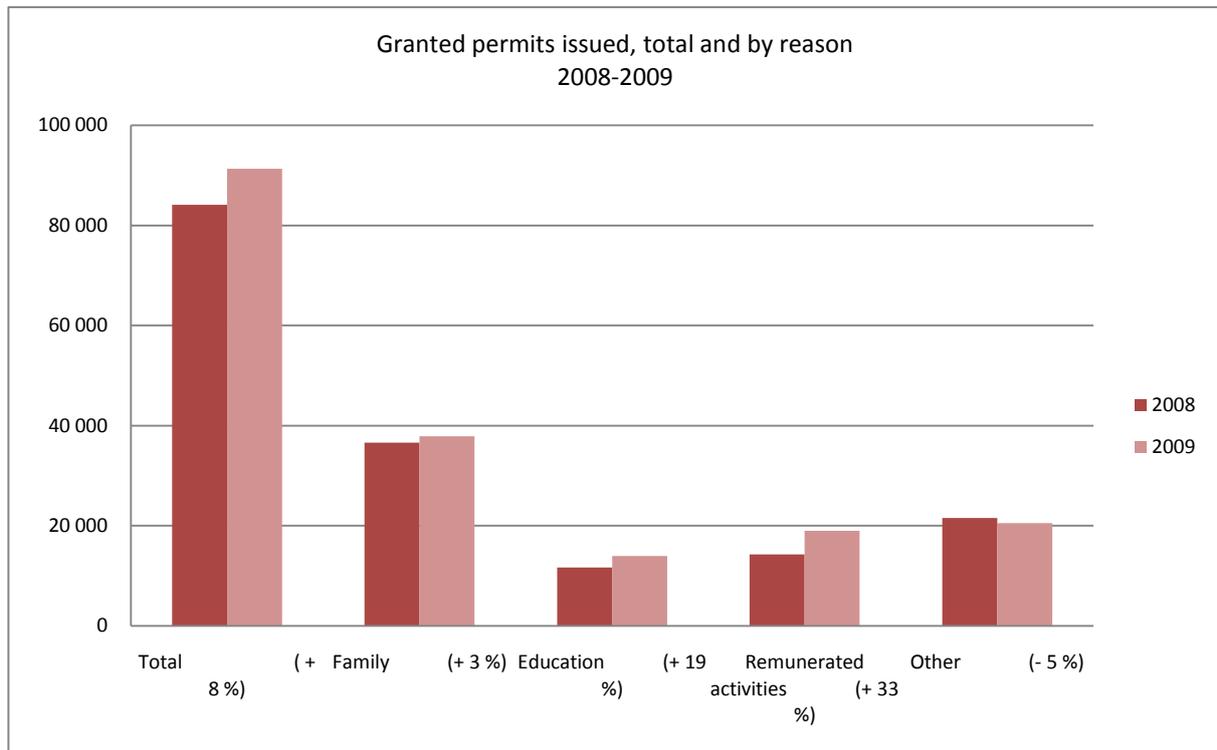
- (a) the number of residence permits issued to persons who are third-country nationals, disaggregated according to:
  - (i) permits issued during 2009 whereby the person is being granted permission to reside for the first time (disaggregated by citizenship; by the reason for the permit being issued; and by the length of validity of the permit);*
  - (ii) permits issued during 2009 and granted on the occasion of a person changing immigration status or reason for stay (disaggregated by citizenship; by the reason for the permit being issued; and by the length of validity of the permit);*
  - (iii) valid permits at the end of 2009, i.e. number of permits issued, not withdrawn and not expired (disaggregated by citizenship, by the reason for the issue of the permit and by the length of validity of the permit). Note that these statistics are to be given for the end of each year.**
  
- (b) the number of long-term residents at the end of the reference period, disaggregated by citizenship. Note that these statistics are to be given for the end of each year.*

*For those Member States which allow for specific categories of long-term visa or immigration status to be granted instead of residence permits, details of such visas and grants of status should be included.*

*How did the total number of residence permits issued for the first time in 2009 change in comparison to the previous year? Explain the reasons for this (legal, political, administrative changes, etc.).*

The total number of first-time permits granted during 2009 amounted to 91,337, an increase of 8 per cent compared with 2008 (figure 6). Seen on the whole, it is a smaller increase than in the previous period. This is largely due to family reunification/family formation, still the largest group, which have not increased at the same rate as previous years (+3 per cent 2008-2009 compared with +21 per cent 2007-2008). The largest increase is in the granting of work permits (33 per cent). The group 'Others' (which includes asylum-permits and permits for shorter visits) was the only group which decreased (figure 6). There were however no major shifts between the groups, compared with analyses from previous years.

Figure 6



On 15 December 2008, new rules for labour immigration were introduced in Sweden, providing for a demand driven and less regulated labour immigration from third countries. It is the employers who decide on the workforce they need, and labour immigration is allowed within all professional categories. At this stage in time, it is too early to assess if this new reform will lead to a shift in the granting of residence permits between the various permit groups in the future.

A major shift has however occurred in the total number of residence permits granted to third country nationals. Thai nationals increased by 23 per cent between 2008 and 2009 and became the largest nationality, overtaking Iraqi nationals, which decreased by 27 per cent. The new laws on labour immigration are a likely contributory factor to the increase in the number of Thai citizens. 55 per cent of the Thai nationals were granted permission to work in Sweden (primarily seasonal workers, i.e. fruit-pickers) and 26 per cent permission to stay due to family ties.

Iraq, Somalia and Thailand were at the top of the 2009 list in terms of third country nationals who acquired residence permits due to family connections. In comparison with the previous year, Somalia was the only one of the three largest countries to have increased which follows the trend of an increasing number of Somali asylum-seekers.

The percentage of students who were granted residence permits also increased during 2009 (19 per cent). The largest groups of third country nationals came from China and Pakistan, the same groups which topped the statistics for 2008.

18,978 work permits were issued during 2009, 33 per cent more than in 2008. Thai nationals were the largest group in both 2008 and 2009 but in 2009 the percentage was 55 per cent higher. The major increase in the number of Thai nationals is largely due to the new law regarding labour immigration (see above). The next largest group is that of Indian nationals, who always have been a relatively large group as far as work permits are concerned. The number of work permits issued was on a similar level to previous years.

The group 'Others' (see explanation above) decreased by 5 per cent due to the decrease in Iraqi nationals (-55 per cent). From having been the largest nationality in the 'Others' group, Iraq came third, after Somalia and India. The overall decrease was relatively small, due to the substantial increase from Somalia.

The number of residence permits granted in 2009 amounted to 303,281 and the most common scenario (95 per cent) was that the permits were granted for a period of a year or more (table 1). The most common reasons for the issue of longer permits were asylum and family ties.

*Table 1. Residence permits valid at the end of 2009, by reason and duration*

	Total	From 3 to 5 months	From 6 to 11 months	12 months or over
Total	303 281	4 585	10 708	287 988
Family reasons	160 722	122	573	160 027
Education reasons	25 183	2 330	6 018	16 835
Remunerated activities reasons	16 417	717	2 301	13 399
Other reasons	100 959	1 416	1 816	97 727

Iraq, Somalia and Thailand were, at the end of the year, the nationalities which granted the greatest number of residence permits. Nearly all of the residence permits for these countries were for one year or more since these were issued for asylum or family ties (table 2). It should be noted that many of the shorter permits (3-5 months) are not shown in the statistics presented in this report. The statistics mainly apply to residence permits granted to seasonal workers for the spring/ summer. Fruit-pickers are such a group and are often granted residence permits for 3-5 months, after which they leave the country and return again the next year. The turnover within the shorter permit group is relatively high.

*Table 2. Residence permits valid at the end of 2009, by citizenship (top-10 of third-country nationals) and duration*

	Total	From 3 to 5 months	From 6 to 11 months	12 months or over
Iraq	54 497	12	29	54 456
Somalia	26 681	1	20	26 660
Thailand	17 821	388	329	17 104
Serbia	13 575	43	95	13 437
China	12 039	634	1 687	9 718
Iran	11 956	194	726	11 036
Turkey	11 427	355	434	10 638
United States	10 159	413	485	9 261
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8 475	29	30	8 416
Afghanistan	8 433	5	15	8 413

#### **4. ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND RETURN**

*Again in each of the following sub-sections include also a contextual interpretation (legal, political and international factors) of the statistics. Have there been any new or amended laws or practices influencing illegal immigration and return in 2009, explain the most important changes in policies regarding apprehensions and return from the previous year. Describe any modifications to return programmes and the procedure in cases of identified illegal stay from the previous year. Include changes that are the result of both administrative and legal developments. Can you identify European / international factors explaining certain changes/continuity regarding illegal entry and/or stay in 2009 in your Member State?*

#### 4.1 Prevention of illegal entry and stay – Apprehensions (Article 5.1b)

*With reference to Article 5(1b) of the Regulation, describe developments/trends pertaining to the number of apprehensions of illegally resident third-country nationals in 2009 in comparison to the previous year, disaggregated according to age, sex, citizenship of the persons concerned. Have there been changes in the main countries of citizenship of those apprehended in 2009? If possible, give reasons for these changes/continuity.*

In 2008, the National Police Board changed the way they account for illegal apprehensions, only recognising factual apprehensions concerning illegal stay under the Aliens Act where no asylum applications were submitted. The former basis for the statistics was the assumption that undocumented asylum seekers who applied for asylum in the country could be regarded as illegal apprehended. From 2009 the police will revert to this system. As a consequence, the figures for 2008 are exceptional low and not comparable to the figures for 2009.

In 2009, the number of factual apprehensions of illegally residing third country nationals was 22 230, of which 66 per cent (16 640) were males. Somalia was the largest nationality, 25 per cent followed by Iraq and Serbia, 9 and 7 per cent, respectively.

#### 4.2 Returns (Article 7)

*With reference to Article 7 of the Regulation, describe developments/trends with regard to:*

- (a) the number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present in the territory of your Member State who are subject to an administrative or judicial decision or act stating or declaring that their stay is illegal and imposing an obligation to leave the territory of the Member State (disaggregated by citizenship of the persons concerned);*
- (b) the number of third-country nationals who have in fact left the territory of your Member State, following the above mentioned administrative or judicial decision or act (disaggregated by the citizenship of the persons returned).*

*Note that this does not include third-country nationals who are transferred from one Member State to another Member State under the Dublin Regulation (see Section 4.4).*

*Have there been changes in the main countries of citizenship of returned migrants? If possible, explain the underlying factors for these changes/continuity. Have there been important changes in policies regarding return from the previous year. Have there been any modifications to the procedure in cases of return since the previous year. Include changes that are the result of both administrative and legal developments. Can you identify European / international factors explaining certain changes/continuity regarding return in 2009 in your Member State?*

The number of third-country nationals who were found to be illegally present on the territory of Sweden, and subject to negative decisions from migration courts, amounted to 17 820 in 2009. This was a large increase compared to 2008 (42 per cent), partly due to a lower recognition rate for asylum seekers from Iraq. Slightly more than 5 700 (32 per cent) were citizens from Iraq, and about 1 300 (10 per cent) were citizens from Serbia.

Totally 11 980 third-country nationals left the territory of Sweden in 2009 for their home country, 27 per cent were Iraqi citizens and 12 per cent were Serbians. The remaining group was distributed among 100 separate countries. There was a significant increase of voluntarily returns for Iraqi citizens, which was an effect of a combination of efforts; return agreement between Sweden and Iraq, enforcement activities by the police and the Migration Board, and re-establishing support in the home country.

## **5. BORDER CONTROL**

### **5.1 Prevention of illegal entry and stay – Refusals (Article 5.1a)**

*With reference to Article 5(1a) of the Regulation, describe developments/trends in third country nationals refused entry, including the number of persons refused entry, disaggregated by age, sex and citizenship. If possible, and in accordance with Article 13(5) of [Regulation \(EC\) 562/2006](#),<sup>3</sup> provide details also of the grounds for refusal, the nationality of the persons refused and the type of border (land, air or sea) at which they were refused entry.*

*Describe developments/trends pertaining to the number of refusals<sup>4</sup> in 2009 in comparison to the previous year. Have there been changes in the main countries of citizenship of refused migrants since the previous year? If possible, give reasons for these changes/continuity.*

In 2009, the number of refusals was 35 compared to 55 in 2007 (752 in 2006). Refused entry was carried out by the police, primarily on basis of lack of proper documentation for non-asylum seekers.

*With reference also to Section 4 above, in analysing refusals, apprehensions and returns in 2009 together, are these from the same countries in all categories, or are particular*

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<sup>3</sup> Available from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:105:0001:0032:EN:PDF>.

<sup>4</sup> A "Third-country national refused entry" means a third-country national who is refused entry at the external border because they do not fulfil all the entry conditions laid down in Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 and do not belong to the categories of persons referred to in Article 5(4) of that Regulation.

*citizenship groups more common in a particular category? If possible, explain the underlying causes.*

Apprehended and returned aliens usually reflect the overall composition of asylum seekers. Refused aliens are usually people who do not apply for asylum and thus comprise other nationalities, often from countries in the region.

## **6. ASYLUM: INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (Article 4)**

*In each of the following sub-sections include also a contextual interpretation (legal, political and international factors) of the statistics. Describe briefly any new or amended laws on asylum and relevant case law effective in 2009 indicating whether there have been important changes in comparison with the previous year. Explain briefly also any administrative changes in the application, decision, or appeals process contributing to any numerical changes. Can you identify European / international factors explaining certain changes regarding asylum trends in 2009 in your Member State? Has the situation changed in comparison with the previous year?*

### **6.1 Applications for International Protection**

*With reference to Article 4(1) of the Regulation, describe developments/trends with regard to international protection applications in 2009 compared to the previous year in particular with regard to:*

- (a) persons having submitted an application for international protection or having been included in such an application as a family member during 2009;*
- (b) persons whose applications for international protection were under consideration by the responsible national authority at the end of 2009. Please use the end of the month of December 2009 for the purpose of this report and the Statistical Tables;*
- (c) applications for international protection having been withdrawn during 2009.*

*Disaggregate these statistics by age and sex, and by the citizenship of the persons concerned and note that it is on the basis of persons,<sup>5</sup> e.g. dependent children<sup>6</sup> should be included, but counted separately.*

*Can changes from the previous year be related to legislative or administrative developments/changes?*

During recent years there has been a consistent increase of asylum-seekers in Sweden. This increase culminated in 2007 when approximately 36,000 persons sought asylum in Sweden. During 2008 and 2009 however, the number of asylum-seekers decreased, primarily due to the reduced number of asylum-seekers from Iraq.

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<sup>5</sup> If, for some reason, this is not possible, add a note stating this and clarifying on what basis the data are provided.

<sup>6</sup> A *dependant child* refers to a person below the age of 18 years who claims asylum with their dependants (e.g. parents, guardians) and would then be counted as an individual person. In addition, their dependant(s) would also be counted as separate person(s).

During 2009, a total of 24, 260 applications for asylum were received, of which 8,495 were from women and 15,765 from men, which is a similar gender breakdown to previous years. The age composition is also relatively stable from year to year, the majority of applicants being men (circa 65 per cent).

At the same time as the migration flow from Iraq has continued to decrease, the number of asylum-seekers from other countries has increased. This applies primarily to Somalia, which currently is the country with the largest group of asylum-seekers to Sweden. During 2009, 5,910 (24 per cent) Somalis sought asylum in Sweden, which is an increase of 76 per cent compared with the previous year. The number of asylum-seekers from Afghanistan is also showing a growth tendency (table 3).

*Table 3. Asylum seekers 2007-2009*

	<b>2007</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Change in % 2008-2009</b>
Afghanistan	609	2	784	3	1 695	7	116
Eritrea	878	2	857	4	1 035	4	21
Iraq (Islamic Republic of)	18 599	51	6 083	25	2 310	10	-62
Iran	485	1	799	3	1 140	5	43
Kosovo	1 800	5	1 031	4	1 235	5	20
Mongolia	519	1	791	3	760	3	-4
Russian Federation	788	2	933	4	1 060	4	14
Somalia	3 349	9	3 361	14	5 910	24	76
Stateless	1 312	4	1 051	4	890	4	-15
Syrian Arab Republic	440	1	551	2	580	2	5
Others	9 268	26	8 112	33	7 645	32	-6
<b>Total</b>	<b>36 207</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24 353</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24 260</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>

When comparing the outcome of 2007 and 2009, the number of pending asylum cases decreased in the first instance by 53 per cent (c.12, 000 cases). This was primarily due to the change in the situation in Iraq and the fact that many Iraqi cases were concluded during 2008. In total there were, in the first instance, 10,780 open cases at the end of 2009, and the main nationalities concerned were Somalia (24 per cent), Iraq (9 per cent), Afghanistan (8 per cent) and Iran (7 per cent).

The number of cases at the review authority/in second instance amounted to 8,155 at the end of 2009 compared with 10,122 at the end of 2008, a reduction of 19 per cent. The Iraqi cases topped the list in both years, albeit with a reduction of 18 percentage units.

Within the asylum process, cases that are written off make up a significant part of the results. These cases often concern persons who disappear early in the asylum process; they have thus sought asylum but have not followed their application through. Applicants can, for example, abscond at the prospect of being refused entry and passed on to another EU country or abscond because the intention was not to have their application for asylum examined in Sweden.<sup>7</sup>

During 2008 and 2009, a total of 6,673 cases were written off, a figure which equated 14 per cent of the total number of asylum applications received in these years. Written off cases decreased by 22 per cent from 2008 to 2009, when the Iraqi cases were at their peak, by 34 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. The decline in the total number of cases written off and in the number of Iraqi cases written off reflects the development in the number of cases received during 2008 and 2009.

## 6.2 Decisions on International Protection

*With reference to Articles 4(2 and 3) of the Regulation, describe developments/trends in first instance and final decisions (again on the basis of persons) in 2009 compared to the previous year in particular with regard to:*

- (a) persons covered by first instance and final decisions rejecting applications for international protection, such as decisions considering applications as inadmissible or as unfounded and decisions under priority and accelerated procedures, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during 2009;*
- (b) persons covered by first instance and final decisions granting or withdrawing refugee status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during 2009;*
- (c) persons covered by first instance and final decisions granting or withdrawing subsidiary protection status, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during 2009;*
- (d) persons covered by first instance and final decisions granting or withdrawing temporary protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during 2009;*

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<sup>7</sup> The Swedish Migration Board, internal report 2011; "En samlad analys av asylprocessen under åren 2007 – 2010"

- (e) persons covered by other first instance and final decisions granting or withdrawing authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons under national law concerning international protection, taken by administrative or judicial bodies during 2009;
- (f) persons who have been granted an authorisation to reside in a Member State within the framework of a national or Community resettlement scheme during 2009, where such a scheme is implemented in your Member State.

Again, disaggregate these statistics by age and sex and by the citizenship of the persons concerned as far as this is foreseen by the Statistics Regulation.

When compared with the previous year, can you observe changes in the statuses regularly granted to particular citizenship groups? How do you explain these changes or continuity?

The total number of first instance rejections for asylum-seekers amounted to 16,890 in 2009, which is a reduction of 22 per cent, compared with the previous year.

A greater number of asylum-seekers have been granted residence permits compared to the year 2008. The total number granted in the first instance during 2009 was 30 per cent, an increase of three percentage units compared with 2008. The increase can be explained primarily by the increased number of asylum-seekers from Somalia. The number granted for the Somali group was 68 per cent (58 per cent in 2008). The approval rate for Somalis was affected by The Migration Court of Appeal’s judgment (October 2009) on armed conflict in Somalia. The Court maintained that the circumstances in Mogadishu satisfied the criteria for an internal armed conflict.

Asylum applications from Iraq which were decided upon during 2009 were rejected in greater amounts than in previous years due to the improved state of security in the country. Between 2008 and 2009 the percentage of first instance rejections of Iraqis increased by 8 per cent (figures 7 and 8).

Figure 7

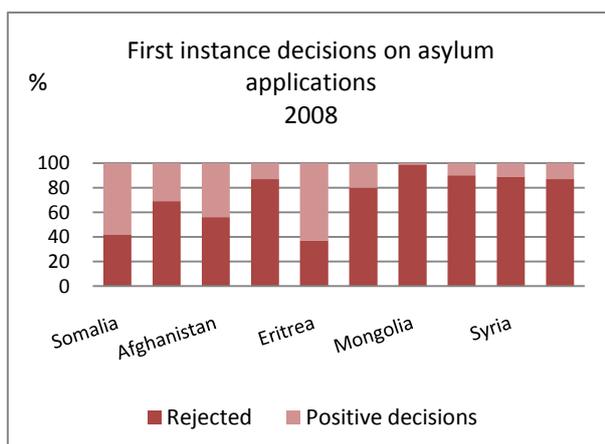
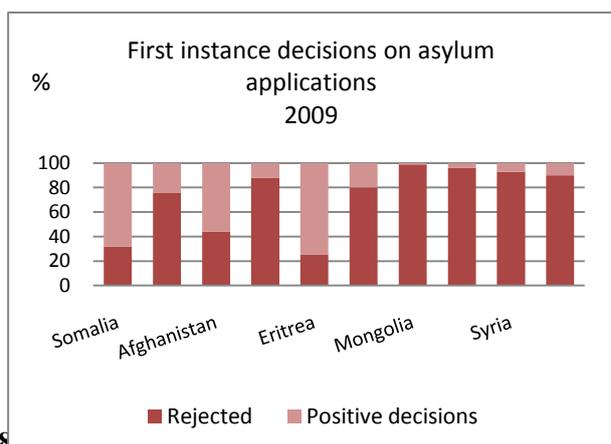


Figure 8



In 2009, Sweden gave protection and status declaration to 4,970 persons, in accordance with regulations applying to international obligations. This is approximately the same number as in 2008 (70 per cent). In the same year, residence permits were granted to 690 persons (9 per cent) according to the rule regarding particularly distressing circumstances compared with 17 per cent the year before. There was no difference in the number granted permission in accordance with convention status between 2008 and 2009, which amounted to 21 per cent.

The Swedish statistics for withdrawn statuses in 2009 are not relevant in the context of the EU-directive on harmonized protection. In line with the Swedish Aliens Act, Sweden did not withdraw status as such, the withdrawal of status is the same as a withdrawal of a permit and it is of rare occurrence. However, from year 2010 it will be possible to separate withdrawn permits from status withdrawals.

### **6.3 Dublin Transfers**

*With reference to Article 4(4) of the Regulation, describe developments/trends in Dublin Transfers made in 2009 within the context of:*

- (a) the numbers of requests for taking back or taking charge of an asylum seeker;*
- (b) the provisions on which the requests referred to in point (a) are based;*
- (c) the decisions taken in response to the requests referred to in point (a);*
- (d) the numbers of transfers to which the decisions referred to in point (c) lead;*
- (e) the number of requests for information.*

During 2009, Sweden was requested to receive 2,624 asylum cases in accordance with the Dublin Regulation, which was 68 per cent more than in 2008 and 129 per cent more than in 2007. Re-admissions accounted for 95 per cent of the cases. Half of the year's requests came from Germany and Norway.

Of these 2,624 requests, 1, 970 were granted and Sweden decided to take over responsibility for the asylum application in 82 of these cases and on re-admission in the other 1,888 cases. The largest nationality which Sweden re-admitted was Iranians.

During the year, Sweden sent 4,501 requests to other member states on the reception of Dublin refugees, an increase of 37 per cent compared with the previous year. Of these, 59 per cent were re-admissions. In 27 per cent of the cases, requests were sent to Italy.

Sweden decided to transfer 3,513 asylum cases to other member states, in accordance with the Dublin Regulation. Of these, 63 per cent were re-admissions. The largest nationality as far as transfers were concerned was asylum-seekers from Somalia.

#### **6.4 Unaccompanied Minors**

*With reference to Article 4(3a) of the Regulation and the Action Plan on UAMs<sup>8</sup>, describe developments/trends in applications for international protection made by unaccompanied minors in 2009 compared to the previous year, disaggregated according to age, sex and citizenship.*

*If possible (i.e. information is readily available), provide also other statistics and details of unaccompanied minors who did not apply for international protection.*

In recent years, the percentage of unaccompanied children has increased from 2 to 9 per cent (2009) of the total number of asylum-seekers. This development has been similar in several other European countries. In the last two years, this increase has been particularly noticeable in the Nordic countries. At the same time, a reform has been carried out in Sweden to improve the reception of unaccompanied children and adolescents.

The number of unaccompanied children increased from 1,510 during 2008 to 2,250 during 2009. The majority (almost 80 per cent), were boys and slightly over half of them were 16-17 years old. The largest group was unaccompanied Somali children, which increased by 165 per cent compared with the year before. The number of Afghani children also increased considerably (126 per cent). The number of unaccompanied children from Iraq has however continued to decrease, between 2008 and 2009 the reduction was 76 per cent (figure 9).

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<sup>8</sup> Action Plan available from: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0213:FIN:EN:PDF>  
JHA Council Conclusions on the Action Plan available from:  
[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114900.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/114900.pdf)

Figure 9

