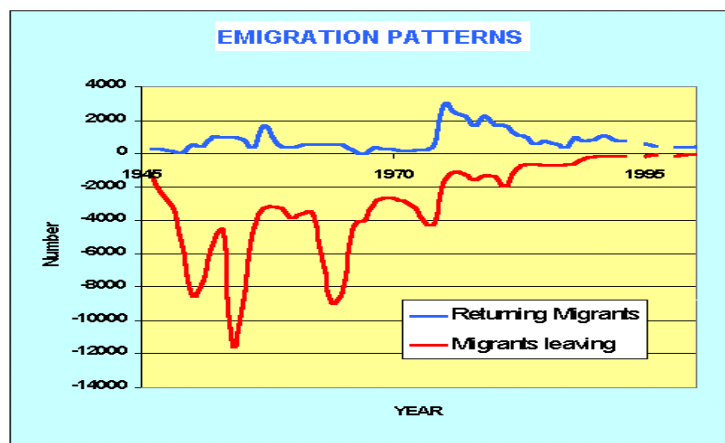


# Emigration & Asylum Seekers

## Statistics

Report prepared by Rev. Dr. J. Inguanez, 2002

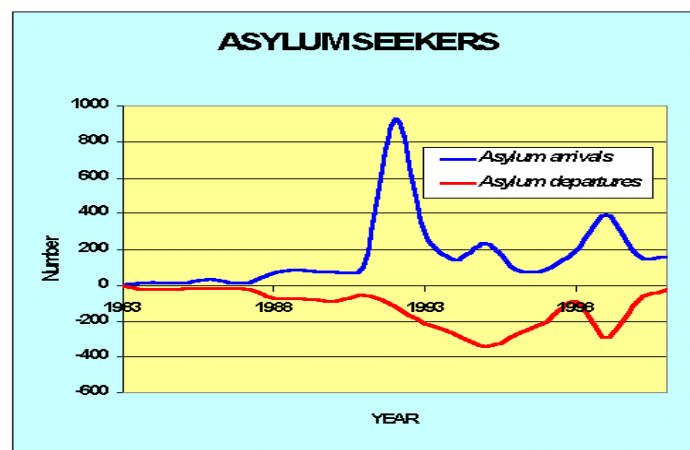
There is no doubt that Maltese Cultural values have been to a certain degree influenced by overseas values that have in part been introduced by returning Maltese migrants and foreign Asylum seekers who settle indefinitely or for a definite period. The feature of returning Maltese Migrants has been a constant feature being characterised by two main peaks occurring during the 1950s, the 1970s and the 1980s. While the phenomenon of returning Maltese Migrants usually involves a relatively elderly population that come to retire in their homeland, these individual families may import values that may contrast with the traditional Maltese ones. However the numbers per annum remain small, and even in the maximal year [1964] returning migrants only accounted for 2.8% of the total Maltese population [Figure 1].



Source: Central Office of Statistics

Figure 1: Maltese Migrant trends

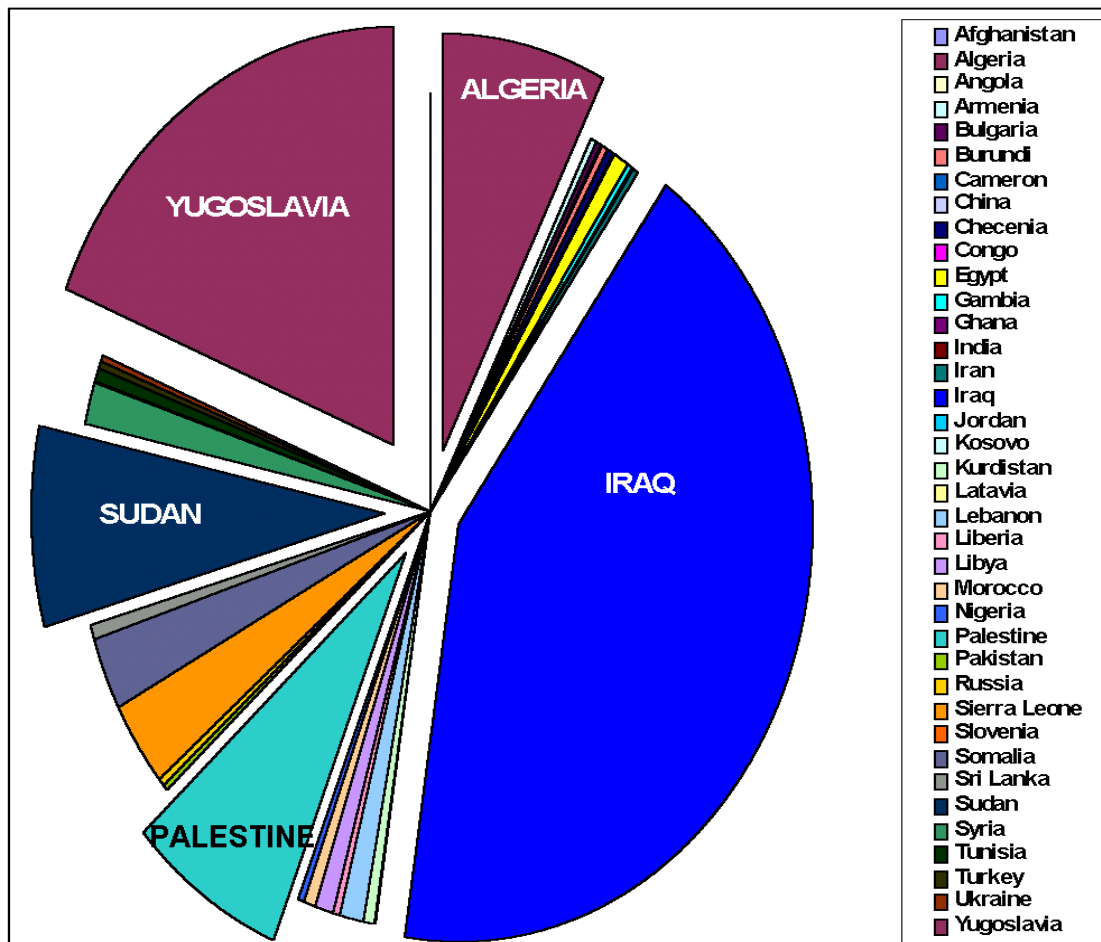
Foreign Asylum seekers account for a even smaller proportion of the population so that over the period 1983-2001 the total number of Asylum seekers accounted for about 1% of the total population [average annual proportionate increase of 0.05%]. These changes in the Maltese population engendered by Asylum seekers are tempered by a high proportion of departing Asylum seekers [72% departures 1983-2001] [Figure 2].



Source: Curia Office

Figure 2: Asylum Arrival & Departures

Refugees constitute a minor statistical effect on Maltese population changes. However the majority of Asylum seekers or refugees have very contrasting cultures to the Maltese ones involving marked religious and social value differences. The larger proportion of persons seeking refugee status in Malta during 1994-2001 came from Iraq, Yugoslavia, Sudan, Algeria and Palestine [Figure 3].



Source: Curia Office

Figure 3: Refugee Nationality

REFERENCES

1. Central Office of Statistics. *Demographic Reviews for the Maltese Islands*. COS, Malta, 1981-2000
2. *Migration & Refugee Statistics*. Curia Office, Archdiocese of Malta, 1983-2001