UNHCR CAMEROON MONTHLY UPDATES

KEY HIGHLIGHTS May 2025

Source des données des réfugiés: Gouvernement du Cameroun avec le support du HCR ::

Contact for more info DIMA Unit Cameroon ***cmr_yaim@unhcr.org***

UNHCR Cameroon needs to support refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country. This update provides detailed demographic, socio-economic, and educational data, as well as information on persons with specific needs, underscoring the complex and multifaceted nature of the refugee and IDP crisis in Cameroon. The monthly update highlights the demographic diversity, educational and occupational challenges, and specific needs of the displaced populations. The data emphasizes the importance of targeting interventions and creating support mechanisms to address the varied and pressing needs of these vulnerable groups. The Cameroonian government and international organizations must collaborate to provide necessary aid and ensure the well-being of these populations.

Population Overview:

Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Cameroon hosts 412,479 refugees and 18,433 asylum seekers.
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): The country has 969,273 IDPs, with an additional 699,545 returnees.
Major Countries of Origin: Refugees primarily come from the Central African Republic 287,857 , Nigeria 126,894 , Chad 4,411 , and Niger 8,866 .

Demographic Distribution:

A significant portion of the refugees are women and children. Specifically, 53% of the refugee population are women and girls, and 53% are children.
Age Groups: Refugees are categorized into various age groups, with notable populations in the 0-4, 5-11, 12-17, 18-59, and 60+ age ranges.

Education Levels:

The educational attainment of refugees varies, with 47% having no education, 27% having primary education, and smaller percentages having informal, secondary, university, or technical/vocational education.

Occupations:

47% of refugees are engaged in various occupations such as homemakers, traders, drivers, pensioners, maneuvers, and breeders. 17% are students, 14% are unemployed, and 10%are farmers.

Ethnicity and Religion:

Ethnicity: The majority of ethnicities are Peulh 41% , Kanuri 12% .
Religion: The religious makeup includes 74% Muslims, 24% Christians, and 2% others.

Persons with Specific Needs:

Categories: There are several categories of persons with specific needs including children at risk, women at risk, single parents, older persons, unaccompanied or separated children, and persons with disabilities.
Top Concerns: The highest numbers are children at risk of not attending school 28,655 , individuals with vision disabilities 5,250 , and older persons with children 3,171 .

Legal and Marital Status:

Legal Status: Refugees and asylum seekers are categorized based o their arrival years, with significant influxes noted in 2014 and subsequent years. Marital Status: The majority of the refugee population is single 67% , followed by married individuals 25% .

Regional distribution:

The distribution of refugees and IDPs across various regions in Cameroon shows significant numbers in different regions. The East region hosts the largest refugee population with 163,310 individuals. The Far-North has 122,506 refugees, while Adamaoua has 57,940 . The North region accommodates 38,543 refugees, and the Centre has 27,295 . The Littoral region has 19,571 refugees.

Challenges and Needs:

UNHCR MCO in Cameroon grapples with significant challenges in managing and supporting its large refugee and internally displaced populations. Due to increasing global crises, UNHCR Cameroon faces immense strain, with regions like the East and Extreme-Nord hosting 163,310 and 122,506 refugees respectively, the strain on resources is immense. These populations include a high percentage of children and women, requiring specialized services such as education, healthcare, and protection. The diverse educational levels among refugees, ranging from no education to university, indicate a need for comprehensive educational programs. Additionally, significant numbers of refugees are unemployed or engaged in low-income occupations, highlighting the necessity for vocational training and employment opportunities. The presence of vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied children, single parents, and individuals with disabilities, further underscores the urgent need for targeted humanitarian aid and robust social support systems to address their specific needs and ensure their well-being.

UNHCR CAMEROON IN A GLANCE

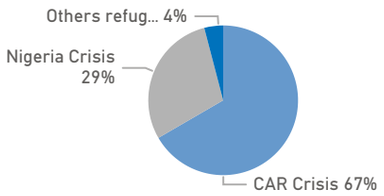
May 2025

Central African | Nigeria | IDP Far North | IDP NWSW | Other Refugees

Population Type: All | Region: All | Zone: All | Owning Office: All

2,099,730
Total of Persons we serve

- 412,479 Refugee
- 18,437 Asylum Seeker
- 969,273 Internally Displaced
- 699,545 Returnees IDP



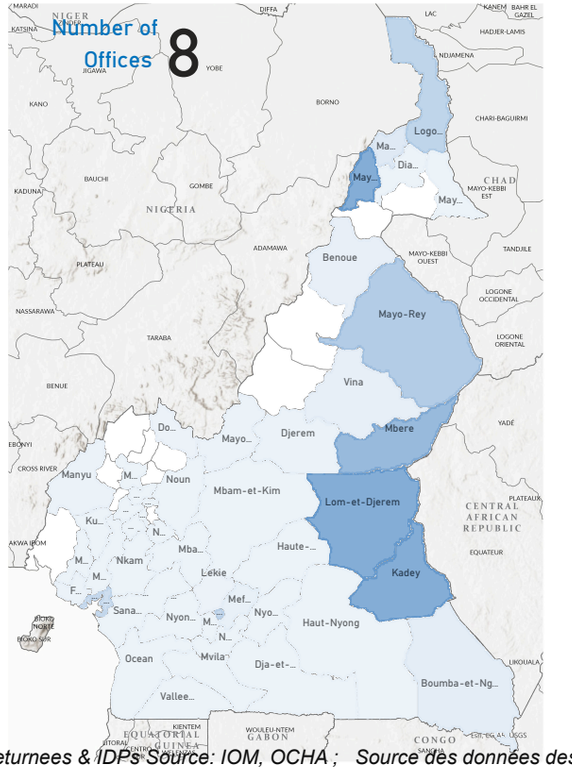
Distribution by crisis

52% Of refugees are women and girls

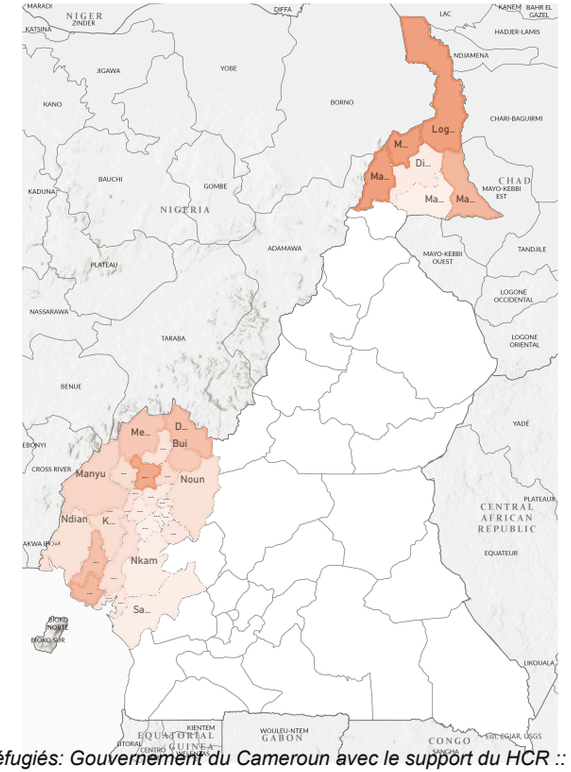
53% Of refugees are children

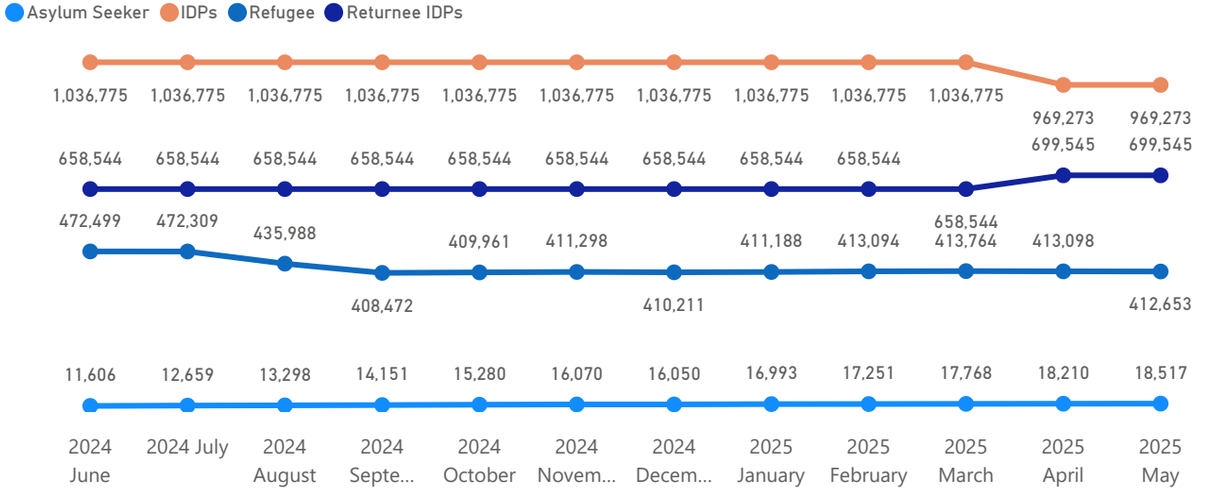
59% Of IDPs are children

Refugee and Asylum Seeker by Department



IDPs by Department

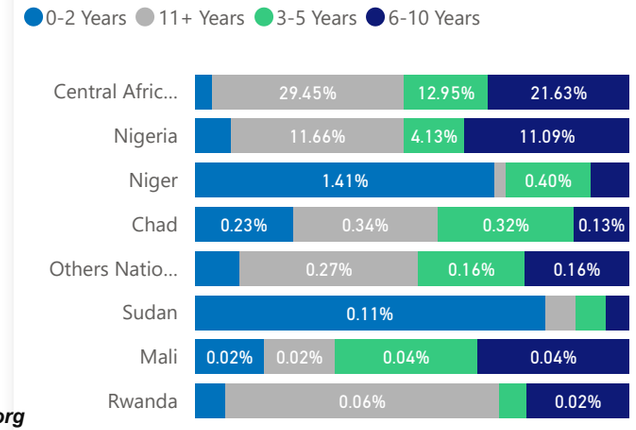




Refugee and Asylum Seekers By country of origin

- Central African Republic 287,830
- Nigeria 126,894
- Chad 4,363
- Others Nationalities 2,855
- Niger 8,862
- Rwanda 437
- Mali 488
- Soudan 603

Number of years spent in Cameroon



Returnees & IDPs Source: IOM, OCHA ; Source des données des réfugiés: Gouvernement du Cameroun avec le support du HCR :: Contact for more info DIMA Unit Cameroon ***cmr_yaim@unhcr.org***

DEMOGRAPHIC POPULATION IN CAMEROON

May 2025

Central African | Nigeria | Other Refugees

Owning Office: All

Legal Status: Asylum Seeker | Refugee

Site/Camp: In Site/Camp | Out of Site/Camp

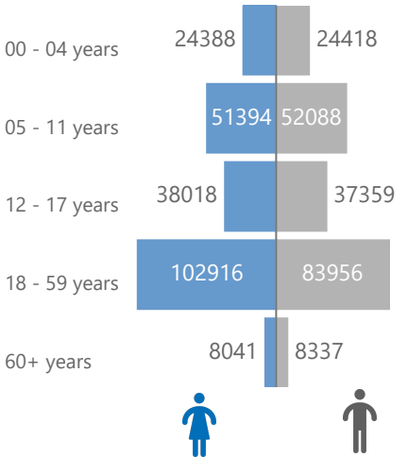
202,835
School age children

Region: All | Department: All | Zone: All

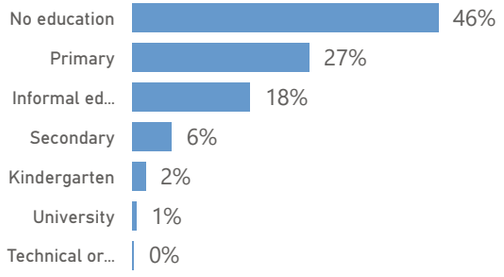
Refugees by age group

Region	00 - 04 years		05 - 11 years		12 - 17 years		18 - 59 years		60+ years		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Est	8709	8649	18661	19371	14645	14587	41840	30478	3050	3320	**163310**
Extreme-Nord	8397	8380	16557	16386	11754	11296	26583	18063	2577	2513	**122506**
Adamaoua	3520	3589	6945	7133	5579	5595	14273	8860	1241	1205	**57940**
Nord	1941	1944	5442	5413	3392	3324	9745	5831	803	708	**38543**
Centre	1275	1226	2417	2353	1592	1417	6294	10211	195	314	**27294**
Littoral	540	625	1321	1369	967	1031	3816	9530	133	236	**19568**
Sud-Ouest	2		38	39	76	89	274	755	32	29	**1334**
Nord-Ouest			9	16	10	17	63	72	10	5	**202**
Sud	4	2	2	5	1	3	21	84		6	**128**
Ouest		3	2	3	1		4	72		1	**86**
Total	**24388**	**24418**	**51394**	**52088**	**38017**	**37359**	**102913**	**83956**	**8041**	**8337**	**430911**

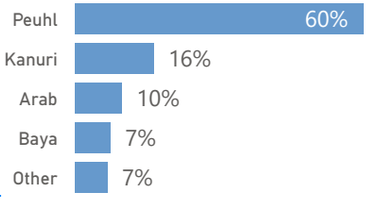
Population distribution (gender and age group)



Education Level

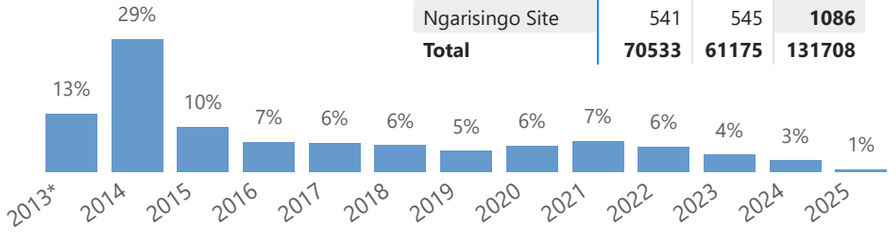


Ethnicity



Marital Status	Percentage
Single	67.26%
Married	25.18%
Widowed	3.63%
Divorced	1.82%
Common Law Married	0.72%
Separated	0.69%
Unknown	0.35%
Engaged	0.34%
Partnership	0.01%

Year of arrival of refugees



Site/Camp	Female	Male	Total
Minawao Camp	43910	37489	**81399**
Gado Badzere Site	8824	7663	**16487**
Mbile Site	5196	4742	**9938**
Lolo Site	4523	4237	**8760**
Borgop Site	3721	3153	**6874**
Timangolo Site	2105	1911	**4016**
Ngam Site	1713	1435	**3148**
Ngarisingo Site	541	545	**1086**
Total	**70533**	**61175**	**131708**

Education Age

Region	04-05 Years		06-11 Years		12-18 Years		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Adamaoua	1950	2032	5989	6152	6235	6208	**28566**
Centre	677	643	2085	2016	1805	1648	**8874**
Est	5391	5489	16098	16730	16628	16608	**76944**
Extreme-Nord	4779	4737	14006	13877	13067	12591	**63057**
Littoral	320	382	1145	1169	1092	1255	**5363**
Nord	1490	1587	4636	4558	3758	3652	**19681**
Nord-Ouest			9	16	12	23	**60**
Ouest	1	1	1	2	1		**6**
Sud	1		2	5	2	5	**15**
Sud-Ouest			38	39	84	108	**269**
Total	**14609**	**14871**	**44009**	**44564**	**42684**	**42098**	**202835**

*Returnees & IDPs Source: IOM, OCHA ; Source des données des réfugiés: Gouvernement du Cameroun avec le support du HCR:: * Arrived before 2013:: Contact for more info DIMA Unit Cameroon* ***cmr_yaim@unhcr.org***

PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS IN CAMEROON

May 2025

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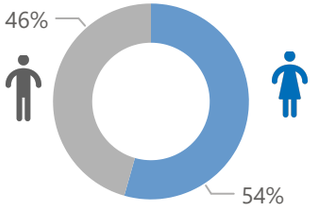
Central African | Nigeria | Other Refugees

Region: All | Department: All | Commu...: All | Zone: All

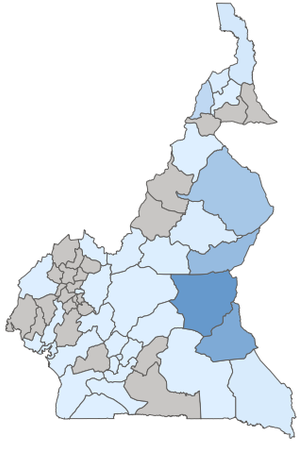
Areas of Responsibility: Child Protection | General Protection | SGBV

140,721 Person with Specific Needs

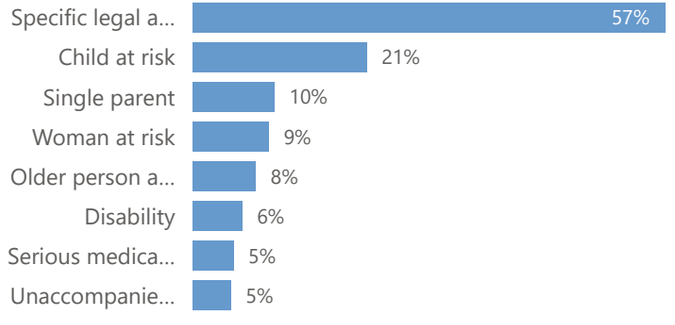
Gender



Male | Female



Person with Specific Needs



29,506 Child at Risk

SPN Sub Category	# Refugee
Child at risk of not attending school	28655
Child with special education needs	498
Child spouse	178
Child parent	123
Child engaged in other forms of child labour	42
Child carer	34
Child engaged in worst forms of child labour	21
Teenage pregnancy	20
No legal documentation	10
Child associated with armed forces or groups	5

6,922 Serious Medical Condition

SPN Sub Category	# Refugee
Other medical condition	4455
Chronic illness	1194
Difficult pregnancy	499
Malnutrition	353
Critical medical	274
Mental illness	90
Woman at risk	18
Addiction	12
Emotions and behavior	3
Vision	3

1,260 SGBV

SGBV	Refugee
Threat of forced marriage	536
Victim/Survivor of SGBV in country of asylum	389
Victim/Survivor of SGBV in country of asylum	111
Victim/Survivor of SGBV in country of origin	94
Threat of honour killing/violence	64

8,391 Disability

SPN Sub Category	# Refugee
Vision	3171
Hearing	1377
Lower Body Mobility	1289
Emotions and behavior	1060
Communication	601
Upper Body Mobility	322
Self-Care	44
Remembering and concentrating	38
Physical disability - moderate	21
Mental disability - moderate	9

13,846 Single Parent

(Top 10) Single Parent	# Refugee
Single HR - parent	12563
Single HR - caregiver	627
Single HR - grandparent	476
Woman at risk	15
Single woman at risk	9
Child parent	3
No legal documentation	2
Single older person	2
Child at risk of not attending school	1
Older person with children	1

198 Family Unity

Family Unity Sub-Category	# Refugee
Family reunification required	145
Tracing required	43

10,700 Older at Risk

Older Person at Risk	# Refugee
Older person with children	5247
Older person unable to care for self	3819
Single older person	1591
No legal documentation	2
Woman at risk	2
Other medical condition	1
Single HR - grandparent	1
Single HR - parent	1
Single woman at risk	1

6,486 Unaccompanied or separated child

(Top 6) Unaccompanied or separated child	# Refugee
Separated child	6090
Unaccompanied child	338
Child headed household	24
Child in foster care	11
Child in institutional care	10
No legal documentation	5

12,909 Woman at Risk

(Top 4) Single Parent Sub-Category	# Refugee
Woman at risk	8340
Single woman at risk	2657
Single HR - parent	10
Lactating	1593

SOCIO-ECONOMICS DATA OF REFUGEES IN CAMEROON

May 2025

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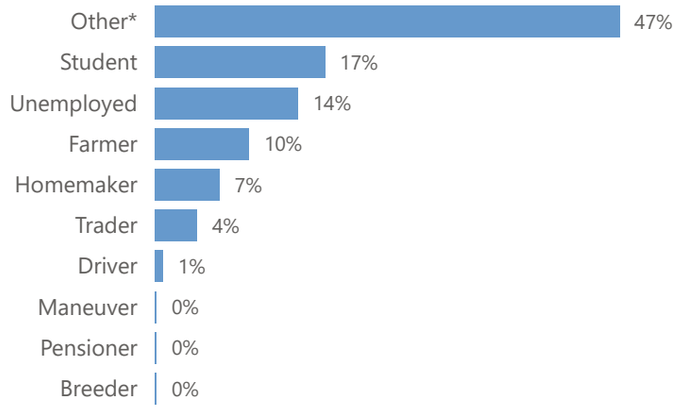
Central African | Nigeria | Other Refugees

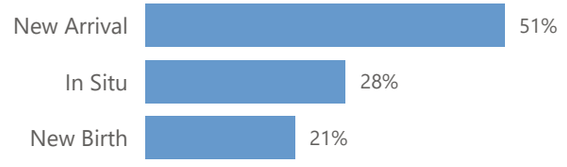
Region: All

Zone: All

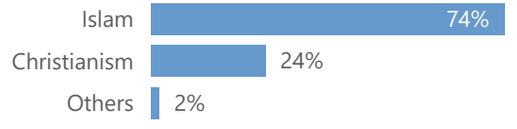
Occupation



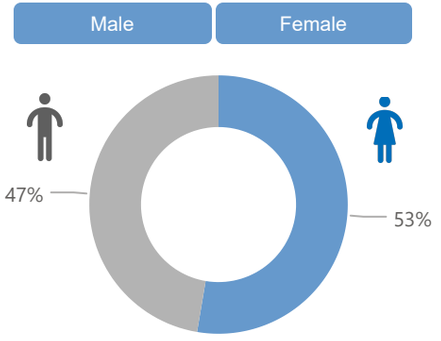
Registration Reason



Religion

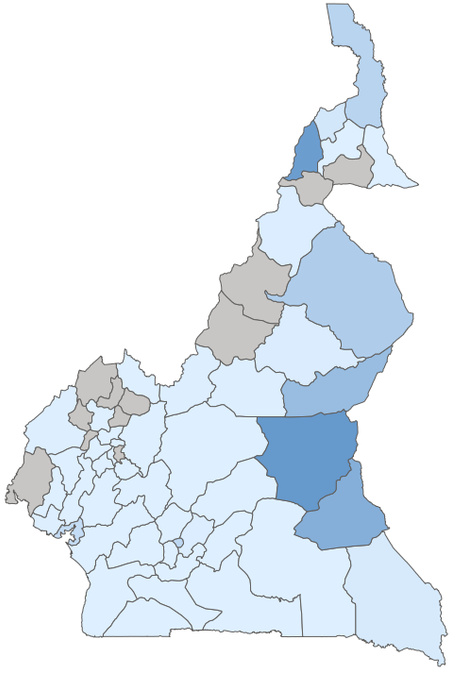


Central African



Occupations	Adamaoua	Centre	Est	Extreme-Nord	Littoral	Nord	**Total**
Other*	17635	9496	57917	8	5354	4426	**94836**
Student	15406	4368	30512		3484	8184	**61954**
Unemployed	7559	2024	35799		800	12396	**58578**
Farmer	8906	996	14045		337	7280	**31564**
Homemaker	4197	1300	14840		1019	1863	**23219**
Trader	2884	1275	7954	1	1080	1472	**14666**
Driver	431	240	2063	1	421	260	**3416**
Maneuver	11	20	41		6	2	**80**
Pensioner	12	3	57		2	2	**76**
Breeder	25		12			32	**69**

Nigeria



Occupations	Adamaoua	Centre	Est	Extreme-Nord	Littoral	Nord	**Total**
Other*	293	189	7	96311	28	1130	**97958**
Student	187	38		8778	5	448	**9456**
Farmer	25	6		7695	3	755	**8484**
Homemaker	52	10	3	4875	2	103	**5045**
Unemployed	169	69	1	2564	3		**2806**
Trader	34	88	1	1860	12	10	**2005**
Driver	6	5		302	3		**316**
Pensioner	2			25			**27**
Maneuver				11			**11**
Breeder				10			**10**

Other Nationalities

Occupations	Adamaoua	Centre	Est	Extreme-Nord	Littoral	Nord	**Total**
Other*	76	3644	153	711	3775	55	**8414**
Trader	8	1111	19	26	1353	6	**2523**
Student	23	1386	18	255	433	29	**2144**
Unemployed	39	938	35	29	712	91	**1844**
Farmer	20	194	48	137	731	27	**1157**
Homemaker	26	363	94	97	137	32	**749**
Driver		85	4	5	94	2	**190**
Maneuver	2	6			25	2	**35**
Breeder	2						**2**
Pensioner		1					**1**