

Asylum in Estonia, 2026

Asylum, detention and the route through Latvia

October 2026 · Data to 30 September 2026

Four numbers that frame the year

680

asylum applications, Jan–
Sep 2026

273

of them from non-
Ukrainian nationals

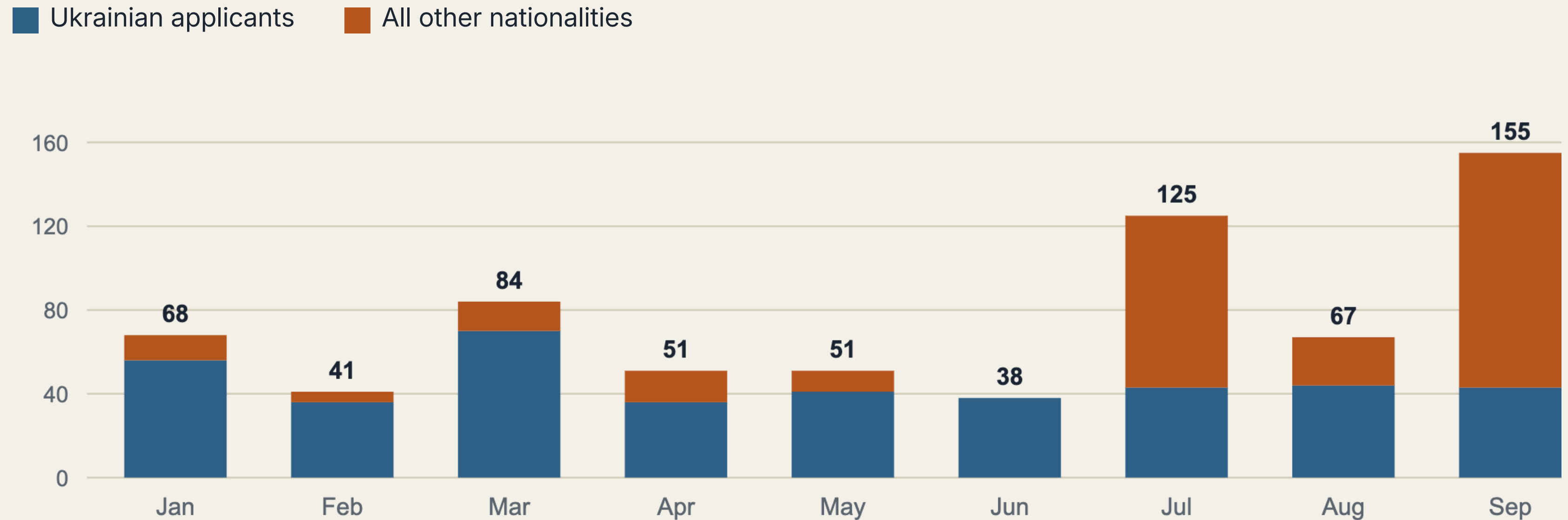
205

lodged from inside the
detention centre

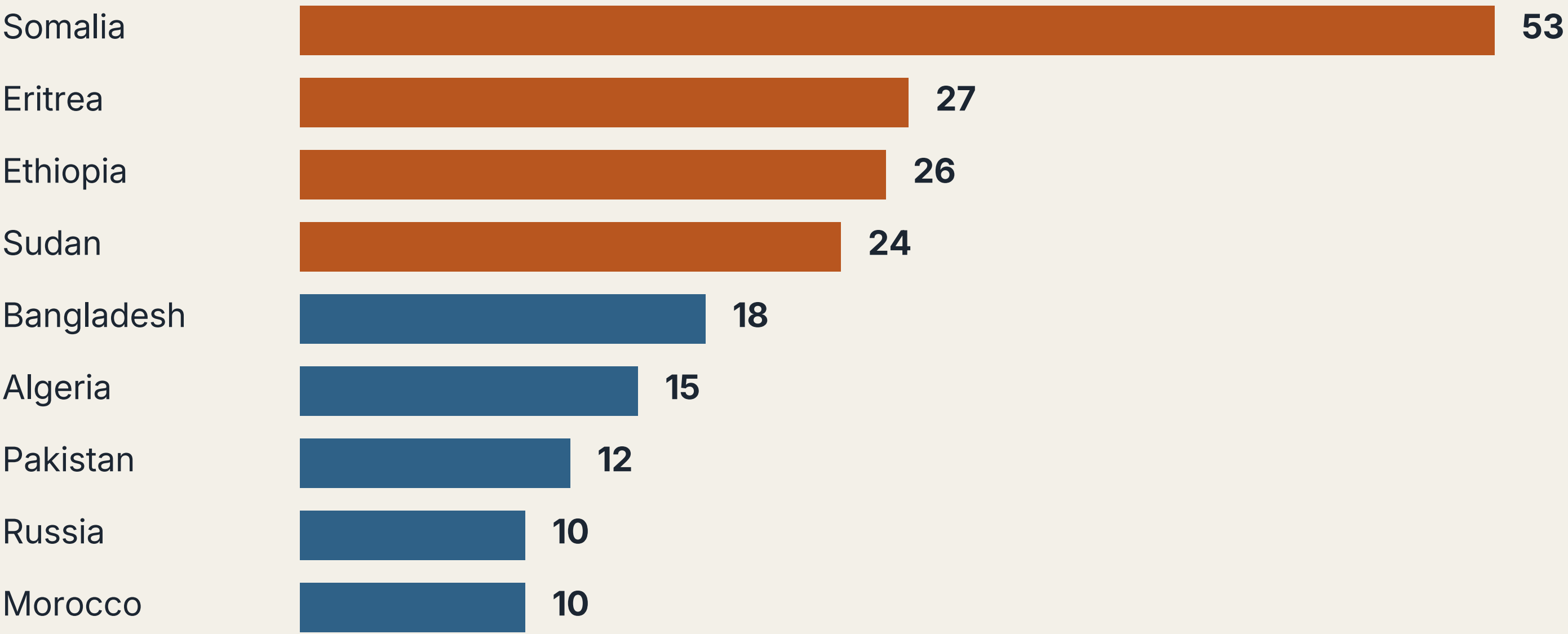
54

unaccompanied minors, a
record

Two flows: a steady Ukrainian one, and a surge from July



Most new applicants come from Africa



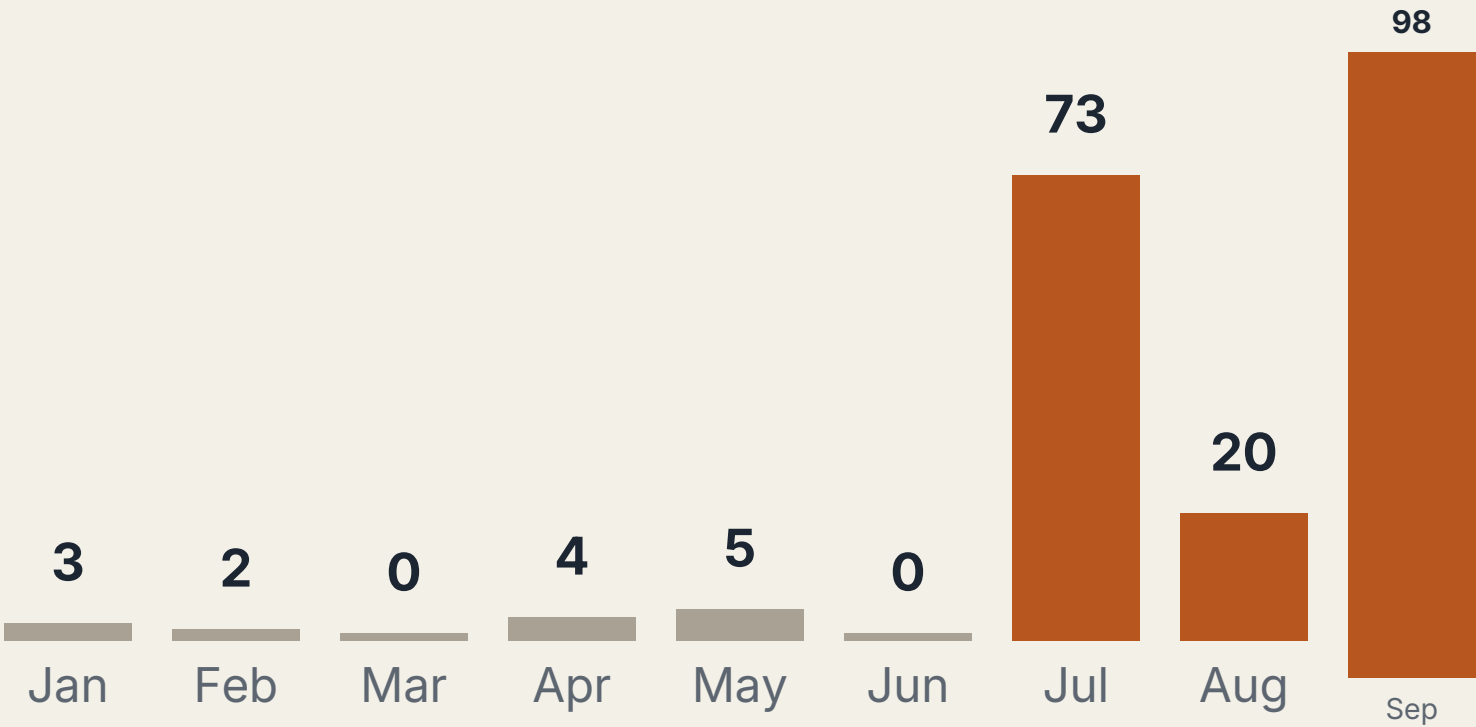
48
%

of non-Ukrainian applications come from Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan (130 of 273)

Source: Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) asylum statistics, 30.09.2026

ASYLUM FROM DETENTION

191 of 205 detention-centre applications came after July



186 / 19
men / women applying from detention

48
aged under 18 (47 of them 14–17)

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

54

unaccompanied minors applied for
protection in 2026

In 1997–2025 combined, Estonia
recorded 14.

Somalia 23 · Ethiopia 7 · Eritrea 7 · Sudan 7 · Guinea 3 · unknown
3 · others 4

DUBLIN III: ESTONIA TO LATVIA

Latvia is the destination of almost every Dublin request Estonia sends

154

requests sent to Latvia (37 take back, 117 take charge), 93% of all 166

119 / 30

accepted / refused by Latvia

100

people transferred to Latvia; 34 more transfers accepted but pending

Latvia sent no Dublin requests to Estonia in 2026. Of Estonia's 106 completed transfers, 100 went to Latvia.

The system under strain

Detention centre

Overcrowded; tensions between groups over everyday matters such as TV and food queues, though no major ethnic conflict reported.

Administrative court

Detention beyond 48 hours needs a court permit. Requests rose from under ~200 last year to nearly 500, 400 of them since July.

Court capacity

A judge heard requests on site from morning to evening on a Sunday; other cases are delayed.

Staffing

The administrative court urgently needs more lawyers and court clerks.