



## Latvia

### National developments in 2024



With an increase in asylum applications in 2023, the national authority worked on the backlog of cases in 2024 while reception capacity continued to be strained. In addition, many cases were reopened after applicants who had absconded were transferred back to Latvia through the Dublin procedure. The Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA) also noted a growing number of individuals who submitted subsequent applications to extend their stay, which were mostly found to be unsubstantiated. The authority highlighted the diverse profile of applicants, coming from 38 countries, meaning that some case management techniques that work well in other EU+ countries with distinct groups of applicants could not be used in Latvia to expedite the processing of asylum application. The implementation of return procedures was complicated by many applicants entering the country without identification documents.

Throughout 2024, an emergency situation continued to be declared in five administrative regions, resulting in an enhanced border protection regime. Thus, people seeking international protection could only apply at official border-crossing points. The ECtHR case *H.M.M and Others v Latvia* was pending before the Grand Chamber on alleged pushbacks in the vicinity of the Latvian-Belarusian border starting from 10 August 2021.<sup>1</sup>

A new building was opened in Riga to accommodate Ukrainian nationals and provide social services. Legislative amendments entered into force in December 2024 to facilitate access to the labour market, education and documentation for displaced Ukrainians. Their temporary residence permits were extended for 3 years (as of 24 December 2024) and expired Ukrainian travel documents will be valid in Latvia until 28 February 2026.

Following the sharp increase in the number of applicants, OCMA launched awareness-raising campaigns about the asylum process for asylum seekers, including activities in reception centres aiming to bring together locals and residents.<sup>2</sup> The authority also started another campaign to prevent human trafficking among displaced Ukrainian.<sup>3</sup>

In preparation for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, a high-level working group, led by the Ministry of the Interior, drafted the National Implementation Plan. Areas that require concerted effort include the use of the border procedure, combining rejected claims with the return procedure, and changes to reception and time limits.

**More input from civil society:**

- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [I want to help refugees | Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem](#)

# Latvia

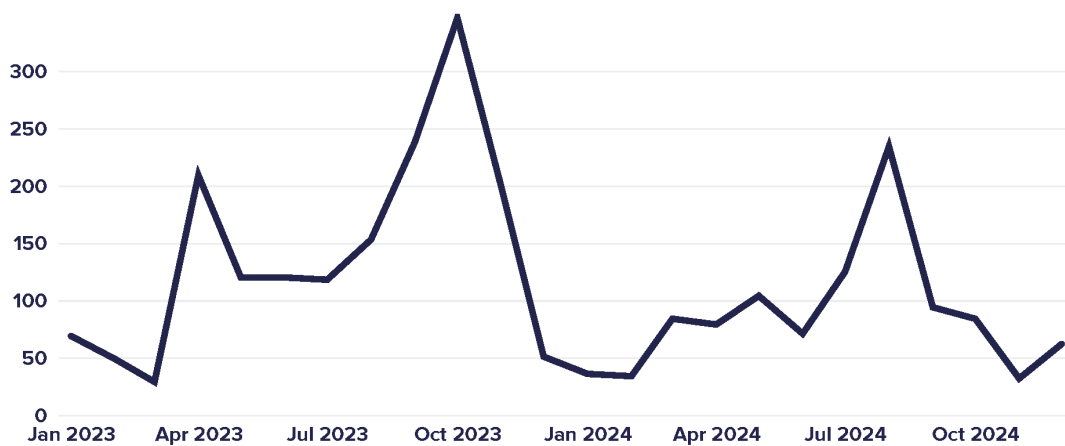
## Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications <b>25</b>	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) <b>19</b>	Share of applications in EU+ <b>0.1%</b>	Recognition rate <b>29%</b>
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	1,039	1,701 ↓	-39%	Afghanistan (18%), Tajikistan (16%), India (13%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	221	591 ↓	-63%	Tajikistan (27%), Afghanistan (21%), Russia (11%)
First instance decisions	670	269 ↑	149%	Afghanistan (14%), India (13%), Russia (11%)
Refugee status	109	82 ↑	33%	Afghanistan (62%), Russia (20%), Belarus (13%)
Subsidiary protection	87	36 ↑	142%	Syria (33%), Afghanistan (33%), Ukraine (9%)
Negative	474	151 ↑	214%	India (18%), Cameroon (12%), Russia (9%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2023-2024



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2025](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





## Sources

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<sup>1</sup> European Court of Human Rights. (2024, July 4). [Relinquishment](#).

<sup>2</sup> Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs | Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde. (2024, August 5). [Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs launches a campaign on matters of asylum are “Humanity. Responsiveness. Responsibility”](#).

<sup>3</sup> Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs | Pilsonības un migrācijas lietu pārvalde. (2024, May 13). [OCMA launches the campaign "Spot the Threat of Trafficking in Human Beings!"](#).