



Netherlands

National developments in 2024



Despite comprehensive programmes to address issues in the asylum and reception systems, challenges persisted throughout 2024 and were central in Dutch political debates. The new government announced its intention to establish the “strictest-ever asylum regime”,¹ which would allow for deviations from the main rules of the asylum procedure in extraordinary circumstances. The government then proposed the enactment of the Asylum Emergency Measures Act and the Law introducing Two Status Systems, including proposals limiting residence permits for beneficiaries of international protection to a period of 3 years, stricter family reunification and naturalisation rules, and more possibilities for forced returns.² Following a review by the Council of State in February 2025,³ these laws were yet to be passed by the parliament. Resettlement was limited to a maximum of 200 refugees a year. The government declared its intention to opt out of CEAS if the EU Treaty is amended. At the same time, it committed to a swift implementation of the new rules under the Pact.⁴ Due to the stricter rules, the government foresees a significant decrease in asylum applications and proposed less funding for the IND and COA.

The backlog of asylum cases persisted and the decision to extend the time limit from 6 months to 15 months to decide on asylum cases was prolonged until 1 January 2025.⁵ The IND continued its rigorous work on increasing the efficiency of processes. A new project was launched to establish a suitable IT infrastructure for the implementation of the Pact. The AMIF-funded CELIA project started to develop new language analysis methods using AI and optimising and standardising language analysis across EU+ countries.⁶ Several work instructions and country policies were updated to guide case officers.⁷ The organisation managed to process 18,000 additional asylum applications thanks to a project-based approach, focusing on cases where applicants were highly likely to receive protection.⁸ The project also included other innovations, such as allowing applicants to schedule the interview or holding the interview at reception centres. Following a CJEU judgment,⁹ the organisation stopped considering Georgia and India as safe countries of origin.¹⁰ Secondary movements remained a great concern for authorities, and courts were often called to deliberate on the application of the principle of mutual trust.¹¹

The EUAA continued to provide support in increasing the capacity of the IND to process asylum applications and supporting COA to provide adequate reception conditions.¹²

The situation in the Ter Apel application centre remained critical.¹³ A court judgment obliged COA to maximise occupancy at 2,000 people or pay a penalty fee,¹⁴ which was further increased in October 2024 for frequently exceeding the maximum limit.¹⁵ Another significant judgment found that the measures limiting the freedom of movement of applicants in the process availability location (PBL) in Ter Apel did not have an adequate legal basis.¹⁶ A care centre for applicants with serious mental issues was also lacking places.¹⁷ Aiming to alleviate the pressure on the reception system, the Distribution Act entered into force in 2024.¹⁸ Although the government expressed its intention to repeal the act, it remained in force and COA emphasised the importance of proceeding with its implementation.¹⁹ COA continued with its projects to increase the number of applicants in employment²⁰ and to invest in sports for the physical and mental wellbeing of applicants and to prevent a rise in disruptive and criminal behaviours.²¹

A deadline was added to the registration process for displaced persons from Ukraine to ensure that each person who is registered within a municipality has their case assessed by the IND within 4 weeks.²² Beneficiaries of temporary protection with an income, but staying in collective accommodation, are now also obliged to contribute to the costs of their reception and do not receive a living allowance.²³

More input from civil society

- [Dutch Advisory Council on Migration | Adviesraad Migratie](#)
- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Gave Foundation | Stichting Gave](#)
- [Nidos Foundation | Stichting Nidos](#)

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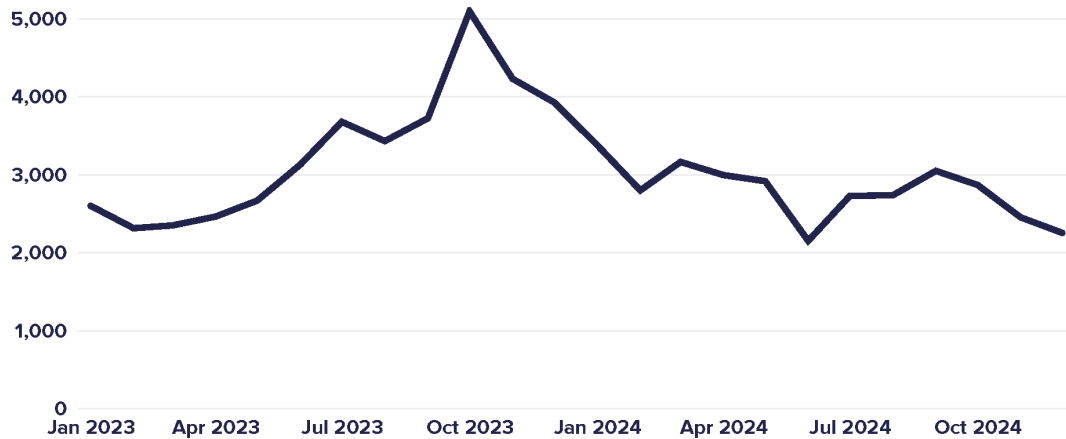
Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants)	Share of applications in EU+	Recognition rate
7	14	3.3%	62%

Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	33,437	39,550 ↓	-15%	Syria (35%), Iraq (7%), Türkiye (6%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	46,855	43,924 ↑	7%	Syria (32%), Türkiye (8%), Iraq (8%)
First instance decisions	24,586	20,134 ↑	22%	Syria (45%), Türkiye (6%), Eritrea (5%)
Refugee status	5,259	3,290 ↑	60%	Syria (55%), Türkiye (15%), Iran (4%)
Subsidiary protection	9,905	10,469 →	-5%	Syria (73%), Eritrea (10%), Yemen (6%)
Negative	9,422	6,375 ↑	48%	Ukraine (12%), Syria (9%), Algeria (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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- ⁸ Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst. (2024, August 1). [The IND processed 18,000 additional asylum applications](#).
- ⁹ European Union, Court of Justice of the European Union [CJEU], *CV v Ministerstvo vnitra České republiky, Odbor azylové a migrační politiky*, C-406/22, ECLI:EU:C:2024:841, 4 October 2024. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.
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