



Sweden

National developments in 2024



Over the last few years, Sweden's migration and asylum policy have been undergoing a paradigm shift, with intensified efforts to curtail irregular migration. In this context, the SMA requested an increase in the administrative budget in 2025 and 2026 for the examination of applications, implementing political reforms, managing the effects of the war in Ukraine and investing in digitisation and IT security.¹

In 2024, Sweden undertook initiatives aimed at ensuring quality, consistency and uniformity of processes.² To guide case officers and achieve converge in the assessment of applications, a number of legal positions for specific profiles of applicants were produced or updated.³ Lifos, the Country of Origin Unit of the SMA, continued to produce or update reports on [Afghanistan](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Belarus](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Gaza](#) and [UNRWA's activities in Gaza](#), Georgia, [Iran](#), [Syria](#), [Tunisia](#), [Türkiye](#) and the [West Bank](#). The SMA updated a legal position on the examination of applications for temporary protection, which included an update on the categories of persons eligible for temporary protection.⁴

An internal review of detention decisions was undertaken. Possible improvements were identified, including optimising the working methodology and the interview protocol to better assess the risk of absconding, as well as improving the cooperation between relevant units (applications, reception and Dublin units).

Following a government inquiry into the reception of applicants for international protection which reviewed existing legislation and proposed measures in the area of reception, amendments to the Reception Act were proposed by the government to support a more efficient asylum process and effective returns by reducing apartment housing in favour of accommodation provided by the SMA.⁵ The proposals aim for applicants to live in accommodation provided by the SMA rather than arranging for their own, and applicants are entitled to financial assistance during the period they reside in the reception centre to which they have been assigned.⁶ New regulations reflecting these changes entered into force in March 2025.⁷ In October 2024, the inquiry proposed further amendments to the reception legislation, including additional measures to support a more efficient asylum and return process.⁸

The number of implemented returns increased with the SMA, the police and the Prison and Probation Service working together in one operation centre, resulting in a smoother handover from one authority to the other and allowed for a more synergistic planning of return operations.⁹ To further streamline returns, in January 2025 the government adopted a bill that aims to ensure that more people with a removal order are returned to their country of origin. A removal order will apply for 5 years from the date a third-country national leaves the country or longer if a re-entry ban is in force, which may be issued if a third-country national does not leave the country by the indicated deadline.¹⁰

The current asylum system is considered a solid basis for the implementation of the new regulatory framework of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. Nonetheless, new arrangements will be required for screening, border procedures and the new Eurodac system. An ongoing inquiry is reviewing the need for legislative changes, including questions related to fundamental rights monitoring mechanisms. Consultations with civil society organisations have been held to reflect on their role in the new processes.¹¹

More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights | Riksförbundet för homosexuellas, bisexuellas, transpersoners, queeras och intersexpersoners rättigheter; & Queer Youth Sweden | RFSL Ungdom](#)
- [Swedish Network of Refugees Support Group | Flyktinggruppernas Riksråd](#)
- [Swedish Refugee Law Center | Asylrättscentrum](#)

Sweden

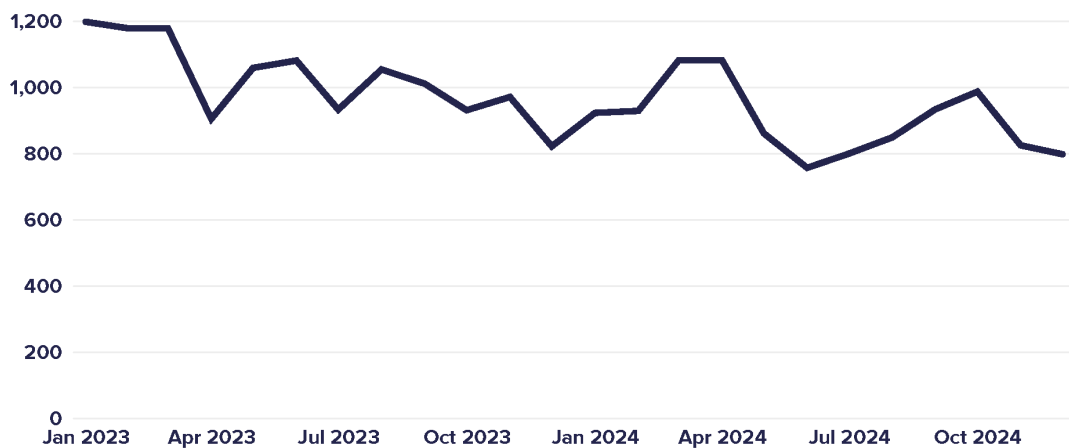
Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications 13	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 15	Share of applications in EU+ 1.1%	Recognition rate 23%
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	10,815	12,309 ↓	-12%	Syria (10%), Afghanistan (8%), Iraq (6%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	3,812	5,189 ↓	-27%	Syria (17%), Afghanistan (8%), Iran (7%)
First instance decisions	7,049	11,155 ↓	-37%	Afghanistan (9%), Syria (8%), Iraq (7%)
Refugee status	1,091	1,982 ↓	-45%	Afghanistan (24%), Syria (13%), Eritrea (11%)
Subsidiary protection	503	570 ↓	-12%	Syria (55%), Palestine (8%), Afghanistan (7%)
Negative	5,455	8,603 ↓	-37%	Uzbekistan (9%), Iraq (8%), Afghanistan (7%)

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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³ Swedish Migration Agency | Migrationsverket. (2024, June 24). [Rättsligt ställningstagande. Bedömningen av vissa jemenitiska hemlandspass - RS/056/2021 \(version 2.0\) \[Legal position. The assessment of certain Yemeni homeland passports - RS/056/2021 \(Version 2.0\)\]](#). Swedish Migration Agency | Migrationsverket. (2024, August 30).

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⁴ Swedish Migration Agency | Migrationsverket. (3 February 2025). [Rättsligt ställningstagande. Ordningen för prövningen enligt 21 kap. utlänningslagen \(2005:716\) - RS/005/2022 \(version 3.0\), \[Legal position. The procedure for the examination according to ch. 21 Aliens Act \(2005:716\) - RS/005/2022 \(version 2.0\)\]](#).

⁵ Government Offices of Sweden | Regeringkansliet. (2024, October 15). [En ny lag för ordnat asylmottagande och effektivt återvändande \[A new law for orderly asylum reception and effective return\]](#).

Swedish Parliament | Sveriges Riksdag. (2025, January 29). [New procedures for asylum seekers' accommodation.](#)

⁶ Swedish Parliament | Sveriges Riksdag. (2025, January 29). [New procedures for asylum seekers' accommodation.](#) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2025, January 15). [UNHCR Observations on the Legislative Proposals in the Final Report "The Reception Act: A New Law for the Organized Reception of Asylum-seekers and Efficient Returns"](#).

⁷ Swedish Parliament | Sveriges Riksdag. (2025, January 29). [New procedures for asylum seekers' accommodation.](#)

⁸ Government Offices of Sweden | Regeringkansliet. (2024, October 15). [Mottagandelagen: En ny lag för ordnat asylmottagande och effektivt återvändande. SOU 2024:68 \[Reception Act: A new law for orderly asylum reception and effective return. SOU 2024:68\]](#). Government Offices of Sweden | Regeringkansliet. (2024, October 15).

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⁹ Swedish Migration Agency | Migrationsverket. (2024, June 4). [Ökat återvändande efter myndighetssamarbete \[Increased return after cooperation with authorities\]](#).

¹⁰ Government Offices of Sweden | Regeringkansliet. (2025, January 28). [Government proposes measures to ensure that more people with removal orders leave the country.](#)

¹¹ Swedish Refugee Law Center | Asylrättscentrum. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025.](#)