



Switzerland

National developments in 2024



A high number of applications over the past years have led to an increase in spending on asylum, which is expected to rise in the coming years particularly in the areas of social assistance and integration.¹

In May 2024, the Federal Council took note of a package of measures to reduce costs in the area of asylum and optimise available resources. The aim is to save around CHF 700 million by 2028 by reducing the number of pending cases, speeding up procedures and increasing the employment rate among beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine. In parallel, 5 years after the restructuring of the asylum sector, the Confederation, the cantons, cities and municipalities have been working together on a comprehensive asylum strategy taking account of the lessons learned. Key objectives are the implementation of fast and fair asylum procedures, the dignified accommodation of people seeking protection, and the quick and systematic returns of people not entitled to protection.² With regard to border management, eight authorities at various levels of the federalist system that are responsible for controlling the country's external Schengen borders drew up the new Integrated Border Management Strategy to increase efficiency and improve coordination.³

At the beginning of 2024, the situation in the asylum centre in Chiasso, Ticino was critical due to the high occupancy rate and reported security concerns. To relieve the asylum workload and pressure in reception, the so-called 24-hour procedure, which had been tested on a small scale in Zurich, was extended to all regions.⁴ The aim of the procedure is to deal with asylum applications that have low chances of success in the shortest possible time. To achieve this, the essential steps of the procedure are carried out within 24 hours, including registration, fingerprinting, the first medical consultation, claimed grounds for protection or the Dublin interview, the application to other Dublin states and the decision in the Dublin procedure or asylum procedure.⁵ Civil society organisations remarked that the particularly short deadlines make it difficult for legal representatives to provide adequate assistance and support to the applicants.⁶

Responding to concerns about security incidents and a growing feeling of insecurity among the population, the authorities held roundtable consultations with local stakeholders in different cantons and introduced measures, such as external patrols and mediation programmes, to increase security in and around reception facilities.⁷ In addition, efforts were made to improve security in reception facilities and address recidivism of repeat offenders among asylum applicants and beneficiaries.⁸ In October 2024, SEM announced that places in nine temporary reception facilities would be put on hold as the number of applications was lower than expected.⁹

Efforts were made to further integrate foreigners, including refugees and beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine, into the labour market through increased awareness among employers and jobseekers, the recognition of diplomas and the assessment of skills, and simplifying the process for temporary residence permit holders to change cantons for work-related purposes.¹⁰

Switzerland continued contributing to the effective management of migration across Europe by providing assistance to certain EU Member States. The framework credit for migration amounts to CHF 200 million. The partner states are selected on the basis of criteria that reflect the scale of migration pressure, the structural needs in the country and Switzerland's interests. Thematic areas that can be supported include asylum procedures, infrastructure, assisted voluntary returns and reintegration, and integration measures.¹¹

Throughout 2024, Switzerland undertook steps to implement its commitments in view of the Pact on Migration and Asylum by reviewing national legislation and identifying needed amendments, including through consultations with civil society and relevant stakeholders.¹²

More input from civil society:

- [Asylex](#)
- [Swiss Refugee Council | Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe | Organisation suisse d'aide aux réfugiés](#)

Switzerland

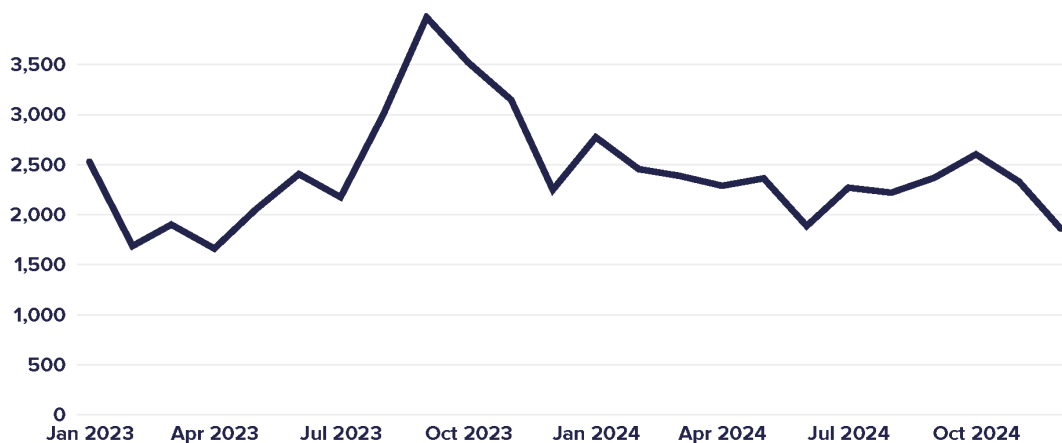
Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications 8	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 7	Share of applications in EU+ 2.7%	Recognition rate 66%
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Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	27,740	30,238 ↓	-8%	Afghanistan (31%), Türkiye (15%), Algeria (8%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	11,921	15,567 ↓	-23%	Türkiye (33%), Afghanistan (10%), Iran (5%)
First instance decisions	25,007	17,000 ↑	47%	Afghanistan (41%), Türkiye (21%), Eritrea (8%)
Refugee status	10,390	6,348 ↑	64%	Afghanistan (55%), Türkiye (19%), Eritrea (12%)
Subsidiary protection	6,060	6,689 ↓	-9%	Afghanistan (60%), Syria (9%), Eritrea (6%)
Negative	8,557	3,963 ↑	116%	Türkiye (36%), Afghanistan (12%), Algeria (5%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2023-2024



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





Sources

¹ State Secretariat for Migration | Staatssekretariat für Migration | Secrétariat d'État aux migrations | Segreteria di Stato della migrazione. (2024, June 10). [Un train de mesures pour réduire les coûts dans le domaine de l'asile](#) [A package of measures to reduce costs in the area of asylum].

² State Secretariat for Migration | Staatssekretariat für Migration | Secrétariat d'État aux migrations | Segreteria di Stato della migrazione. (2024, November 21). [Le comité de pilotage met à jour la stratégie globale en matière d'asile](#) [The steering committee updates global asylum strategy].

³ Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2025, May 1). [Le Conseil fédéral et la CCDJP prennent acte de la nouvelle stratégie de gestion intégrée des frontières](#) [The Federal Council and the CCDJP take note of the new integrated border management strategy].

⁴ Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, February 20). [Beat Jans annonce au Tessin des mesures pour soulager le système de l'asile](#) [Beat Jans announces measures in Ticino to ease the burden on the asylum system]. State Secretariat for Migration | Staatssekretariat für Migration | Secrétariat d'État aux migrations | Segreteria di Stato della migrazione. (2024, June 10). [Un train de mesures pour réduire les coûts dans le domaine de l'asile](#) [A package of measures to reduce costs in the area of asylum].

⁵ State Secretariat for Migration | Staatssekretariat für Migration. (2024, September 21). [Asile : fort recul du nombre de requérants du Maghreb dans les centres fédéraux](#) [Asylum: sharp drop in the number of applicants from the Maghreb in federal centres].

⁶ Swiss Refugee Council | Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe | Organisation suisse d'aide aux réfugiés. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#).

⁷ Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, March 20). [Beat Jans visite le centre pour requérants d'asile de Boudry](#) [Beat Jans visits the asylum seekers' centre in Boudry]. Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, April 24). [Le Conseil fédéral adopte le message visant à renforcer la sécurité au sein des centres fédéraux pour requérants d'asile](#) [Federal Council adopts message to strengthen security in federal asylum centres].

⁸ Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, May 10). [Les mesures visant à désengorger le système de l'asile font leurs preuves](#) [Measures to ease the pressure on the asylum system are proving effective].

⁹ Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, October 22). [Le SEM ferme neuf centres fédéraux temporaires pour requérants d'asile](#) [SEM closes nine temporary federal centers for asylum seekers].

¹⁰ Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, May 1). [Faciliter l'intégration sur le marché du travail des personnes admises à titre provisoire](#). Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, June 21). [Intégration professionnelle des réfugiés : les autorités veulent collaborer plus étroitement](#) [Professional integration of refugees: authorities want to collaborate more closely].

¹¹ Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, May 17). [Deuxième contribution suisse, crédit-cadre pour la migration : signature de l'accord de mise en œuvre avec l'Italie](#) [Second Swiss contribution, framework credit for migration: signing of the implementation agreement with Italy].

¹² Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (2024, August 14). [Le Conseil fédéral ouvre la consultation sur la reprise du pacte européen sur la migration et l'asile](#) [Federal Council opens consultation on the implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum]. Swiss Refugee Council | Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe | Organisation suisse d'aide aux réfugiés. (2024, November 14). [Approbation et mise en œuvre des échanges de notes entre la Suisse et l'UE sur la reprise des règlements \(UE\) 2024/1351, \(UE\) 2024/1359, \(UE\) 2024/1349, \(UE\) 2024/1358 et \(UE\) 2024/1356 \(pacte européen sur la migration et l'asile\) \(développements de l'acquis de Schengen et de l'acquis « Dublin/Eurodac »\)](#) [Approval and implementation of exchanges of notes between Switzerland and the EU on the implementation of Regulations (EU) 2024/1351, (EU) 2024/1359, (EU) 2024/1349, (EU) 2024/1358 and (EU) 2024/1356 (European Pact on Migration and Asylum) (Developments of the Schengen acquis and the Dublin/Eurodac acquis)]. Asylex. (2024). [Input to the Asylum Report 2025](#).