



# Austria

## National developments in 2025



Based on the findings of the first EAAMR, Austria was declared to be facing a significant migratory situation as a result of the high number of asylum applications and their cumulative effect over the past 5 years.<sup>1</sup> After public consultation, the Council of Ministers adopted draft legislation on amendments arising from the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum on 24 March 2026.<sup>2</sup> The legislation is to be discussed in Parliament.<sup>3</sup> Preparations at all levels also continued for the operational implementation of the Pact. The Federal Authority for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) established the “Roadmap 2026” project with 11 working groups to implement the Pact in their areas of responsibility, in particular focusing on audio recordings, adequate capacity for the border procedure and the new requirements for age determination. Work also focused on preparing new processes under the AMMR to manage transitional rules and shorter deadlines, as well as preparing IT solutions for DubliNet and the Austrian case management system.

As part of the national budget consolidation efforts, fiscal priorities were realigned under the budget framework for the asylum sector for 2025–2029. Consequently, there was a 4% staff reduction at the BFA by the end of 2025. The Ministry of the Interior noted that years-long measures to fight irregular migration and human trafficking resulted in substantially less people in the reception system in 2025 and, thus, reduced costs for the government.<sup>4</sup>

Responsibilities within the BFA were reallocated, and the organisation’s structure was adjusted to these changes. Separate thematic units were brought together under new departments. The main objective of the re-organisation was to further optimise internal processes. A new branch office was about to be set up in Schwechat, near the airport.

All COI products are publicly available,<sup>5</sup> following the entry into force of a new Freedom of Information Act in September 2025.<sup>6</sup>

The first reviews were done of several changes introduced in summer 2024 in reception: a new regulation to further encourage community service, mandatory training on basic values and a payment card system for applicants of international protection.<sup>7</sup> 77% of applicants took up community service between July 2024 and mid-April 2025,<sup>8</sup> while more than 6,200 applicants completed the training course by May 2025.<sup>9</sup> After a pilot phase, the payment cards are expected to be further rolled out in 2026, while currently different models still exist in different Austrian states.<sup>10</sup> The payment card system was introduced to guarantee a strict and fair reception system and to prevent social fraud.<sup>11</sup> The legal basis was created to allow the national council to halt family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection,<sup>12</sup> which it did in July 2025 for an initial period of 6 months.<sup>13</sup> This was subsequently extended until July 2026.<sup>14</sup> UNHCR warned about the potential serious consequences of the measure,<sup>15</sup> while academia analysed the constitutional and EU law concerns that these measures may entail.<sup>16</sup> The Constitutional Court delivered two important judgments noting that family reunification cannot be rejected solely on the basis that the procedure to revoke international protection was initiated against the sponsor,<sup>17</sup> and the authorities must conduct a constitutionally-compliant balancing of interests for family reunification requests submitted before the end of the 3-year waiting period.<sup>18</sup>

The last provinces that still provided full social benefits for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection cut these entitlements based on the Austrian Basic Social Assistance Act (*Sozialhilfe-Grundsatzgesetz*), which foresees that this group is given only core social assistance benefits which do not exceed the level of basic support offered to applicants. UNHCR expressed concerns about these plans in Vienna and Tyrol, noting that they were in a very similar social situation as refugees, despite the different legal status.<sup>19</sup>

Focus continued on returns, and the first removal since 2011 was carried out to Syria<sup>20</sup> and to Afghanistan since 2021.<sup>21</sup> While the ECtHR allowed an interim measure to temporarily halt the removal of a Syrian national, it decided not to extend this measure at the end of September 2025, noting that the applicant was not at risk of irreparable harm if returned given the current situation in Syria and the applicant’s individual circumstances.<sup>22</sup> However, the Austrian Constitutional Court highlighted that the authorities cannot assume that the security situation has stabilised in each region of Syria and the assessment must consider the applicant’s region of origin.<sup>23</sup>

### More input from civil society:

- [Austrian Red Cross - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research Documentation](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)

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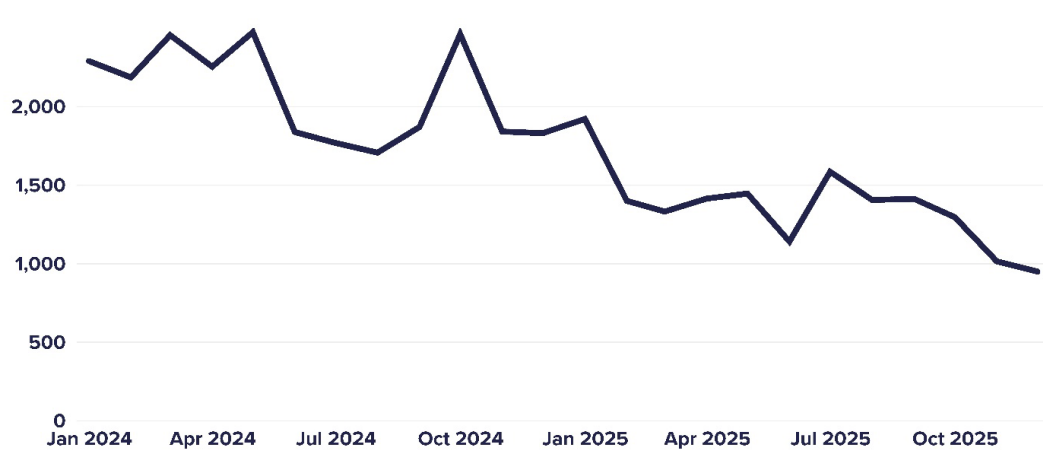
## Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants)	Share of applications in EU+	Recognition rate
9	12	2.0%	58%

Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	16,284	24,941	↓ -35%	Afghanistan (31%), Syria (25%), Somalia (6%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	10,126	13,093	↓ -23%	Syria (58%), Afghanistan (12%), Türkiye (4%)
First instance decisions	17,469	31,692	↓ -45%	Afghanistan (31%), Syria (23%), Türkiye (11%)
Refugee status	7,263	14,640	↓ -50%	Afghanistan (58%), Syria (15%), Somalia (8%)
Subsidiary protection	2,876	7,438	↓ -61%	Syria (67%), Somalia (13%), Afghanistan (9%)
Negative	7,330	9,614	↓ -24%	Türkiye (25%), Syria (12%), Afghanistan (12%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2024-2025



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2026](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





## Sources

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