



Denmark

National developments in 2025



Legislative and policy developments reflected the need for targeted adjustments within the asylum system. Major changes impacted the withdrawal of foreigners, residence rights in general and returns, in line with Denmark's restrictive immigration policy framework implemented over the past years.¹

The Aliens Act was aligned with CJEU judgment C-19/21, extending the right to appeal before the Refugee Appels Board for unaccompanied minors in the Dublin procedure. The Danish Immigration Office prepared guidance on the appeal time limits, right to appeal and legal aid in the Dublin procedure in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council and the Refugee Appeals Board.

Following a decision by the Refugee Appeals Board, in July 2025 the Danish Immigration Service resumed processing asylum claims submitted by Syrian nationals.^{2, 3}

The Special Law providing temporary residence permits to evacuees from Afghanistan was repealed. As a result, all residence permits based on this law expired on 30 November 2025. Beneficiaries were informed by the immigration service about options to apply for other types of residence permits.⁴

Legislative amendments broadened the scope when a residence permit ends, including cases when a person gives up residence in Denmark or leaves Denmark for more than 6 months (for temporary residence permits) or 12 months (for permanent residence permits). Earlier, the residence permit was ended only when a person took up residence in their home country or in a third country considered to be safe for a return.⁵

The Repatriation Act was amended to extend the grounds for mandatory expulsion when a foreigner is sentenced for a criminal act. Both custodial sentences and criminal convictions are now covered, as well as suspended sentences, when the foreigner has resided less than 5 years in the country.

The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture visited the administrative detention centre in Ellebæk in 2024 and published its findings and recommendations in 2025. The committee was concerned that the centre remained to have a prison-like design and regime, despite it being a non-criminal detention centre. The Danish authorities committed to operational improvements, including upgrade to the facilities, better staff training and more consistent vulnerability training.⁶

More input from civil society:

- [Danish Refugee Council](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)

Denmark

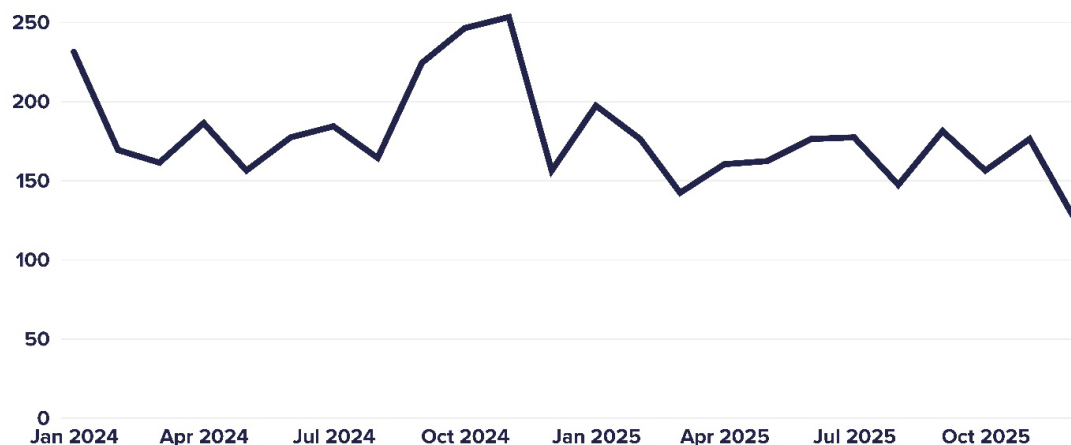
Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications 18	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 23	Share of applications in EU+ 0.2%	Recognition rate 37%
--	--	---	--------------------------------

Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	1,978	2,307 ↓	-14%	Eritrea (13%), Afghanistan (9%), Syria (8%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	2,190	2,155 →	2%	Ukraine (26%), Syria (18%), Eritrea (11%)
First instance decisions	878	1,110 ↓	-21%	Eritrea (22%), Russia (8%), Afghanistan (8%)
Refugee status	299	461 ↓	-35%	Eritrea (55%), Afghanistan (18%), Türkiye (9%)
Subsidiary protection	25	18 ↑	39%	Eritrea (68%), Iran (16%), Iraq (4%)
Negative	554	631 ↓	-12%	Russia (13%), Ukraine (9%), Iran (6%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2024-2025



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





Sources

¹ Border Criminologies. (3 December 2025). [On the perils of the 'Danish model'](#).

² Danish Immigration Service | Udlændingestyrelsen. (21 July 2025). [Information til personer fra Syrien og deres familiemedlemmer](#) [Information for people from Syria and their family members].

³ Refugee Appeals Board | Flygtningenævnet. (1 July 2025). [Flygtningenævnet ophæver berostillelsen af sager vedrørende Syrien](#) [Refugee Board lifts suspension of cases concerning Syria].

⁴ Danish Immigration Service | Udlændingestyrelsen, (11 September 2025). [Special Law for evacuated persons from Afghanistan will be repealed.](#)

⁵ Retsinformation. (10 June 2025). [Skærpe af bortfaldsregler for udlændinge med asyl, herunder regler om tilbagebetaling af udbetalt hjælp til repatriering, og udvidelse af adgangen til straksudsendelse \(LOV nr 636 af 10/06/2025\)](#) [Tightening of forfeiture rules for foreigners with asylum, including rules on repayment of paid repatriation assistance, and expanding access to immediate deportation (Law No 636 of 10/06/2025)].

⁶ Council of Europe. (23 June 2025). [Response of the Danish Government to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(CPT\) on its visit to Denmark from 23 May to 3 June 2024.](#)