



Finland

National developments in 2025



In 2025, national authorities prepared for the full implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. To this end, the Ministry of the Interior received an additional EUR 91 million from the EU Home Affair Funds, including through the Financial Support Instrument for Border Management and Visa Policy and AMIF.¹ The European Commission determined Finland to be at risk of migratory pressure due to the risks of hybrid threats linked to the weaponisation of migration.²

In June 2025, the validity of the Act on Temporary Measures to Combat Instrumentalised Migration (Border Security Act) was extended until December 2026.³ Originally introduced in July 2024 to address instrumentalised migration, the act provides the conditions under which a government plenary session can restrict the reception of applications for international protection in a specific border area. To date, the Border Security Act has not been applied. The land border-crossing points between Finland and Russia have been closed since 15 December 2023 by the virtue of a series of government decisions. In April 2025, the government reaffirmed that the closure will remain in force until further notice. Applications for international protection can be submitted at other border-crossing points that are still open for air and maritime traffic.⁴

The [Aliens Act](#) was amended through a series of legislative changes aimed at improving efficiency, accelerating procedures and introducing more restrictive provisions in relation to certain rights. To reduce interview times, the interview report does not need to be reviewed with the applicant during the interview anymore. Instead, the report is given to the applicant at the end of the interview, and they can submit their remarks in writing during a 2-week-period after the interview. Beneficiaries travelling with a travel document issued by Finland have the validity of said document restricted by excluding the country against which the protection status was granted. In addition, applicants who have submitted a subsequent application on grounds they themselves have caused may be granted subsidiary protection but not refugee status.⁵

The amendments also involved the return of persons with no right to stay in the country. A negative decision on an asylum claim means that residence becomes illegal and a return decision is issued without the possibility of extending the stay by submitting a new residence application.⁶ The obligation to cooperate after receiving a return decision means, among other things, that the person must voluntarily leave Finland within the indicated time limit.⁷ Certain return decisions issued in asylum cases may be enforced more rapidly than previously.⁸ Other amendments specified timelines and the maximum duration of detention in different situations, the conditions in which different profiles of third-country nationals may be detained and the circumstances under which an entry ban may be imposed.⁹

Due to a decrease in the number of applications in 2025, reception capacity was decreased.¹⁰ To facilitate the transition to other accommodation, the Finnish Immigration Service published instructions for clients on the closure of reception centres.¹¹ In December 2025, the validity of the law reducing reception allowance and spending allowance was extended. The new Reception Act is scheduled to enter into force by 12 June 2026.¹²

With regard to the content of protection, amendments to the Aliens Act clarified a number of conditions for family reunification, such as the minimum age of a spouse who can receive a residence permit; clarifying sufficient resources for a minor's family member; defining the point in time a child is considered to be a minor; and stipulating the period of residence in Finland before being able to apply for family reunification.¹³ New grounds to withdraw the residence permit were introduced, especially in cases of serious criminal activity and threat to national security.¹⁴ With the objective of successful integration, as of January 2026 the conditions to obtain a permanent residence permit have been tightened. For example, the period of continuous residence was extended from 4 to 6 years, the person must be proficient in either Finnish or Swedish, and have 2 years of work experience in Finland. Exceptions can be made if the applicant scores high on other indicators, such as having a Master's or post-graduate degree.¹⁵ With the objective of successful integration, the requirements to acquire Finnish citizenship were tightened. For example, amendments were made to the provisions on establishing identity, the integrity requirement and the requirement for sufficient financial resources.

The amendments entered into force at the end of 2025.¹⁶

More input from civil society:

- [Finnish Refugee Advice Centre | Pakolaisneuvonta](#)
- [Save the Children](#)

Finland

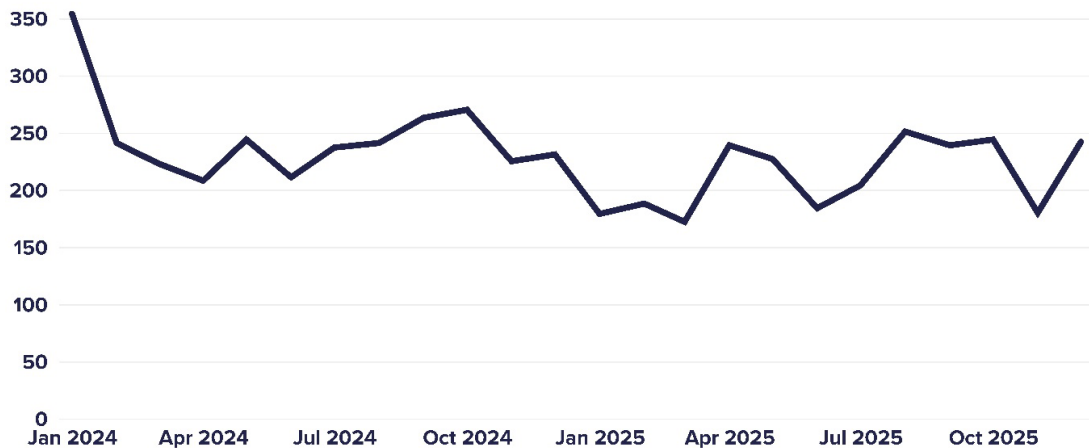
Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications 17	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 20	Share of applications in EU+ 0.3%	Recognition rate 49%
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Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	2,549	2,948 ↓	-14%	Afghanistan (14%), Iraq (10%), Somalia (10%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	1,779	4,228 ↓	-58%	Syria (9%), Somalia (8%), Iraq (7%)
First instance decisions	3,812	2,172 ↑	76%	Somalia (18%), Russia (16%), Afghanistan (11%)
Refugee status	1,700	1,122 ↑	52%	Somalia (23%), Afghanistan (19%), Russia (9%)
Subsidiary protection	159	88 ↑	81%	Yemen (50%), Somalia (22%), Colombia (6%)
Negative	1,953	962 ↑	103%	Russia (23%), Somalia (12%), Iraq (9%)

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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- ² European Commission. (11 November 2025). [Communication from the Commission the European Parliament and the Council – The European Annual Asylum and Migration Report \(2025\).](#) COM/2025/795 final.
- ³ Ministry of the Interior (Finland) | Sisäministeriö. (18 June 2025). [Validity of Border Security Act to be extended until 31 December 2026.](#)
- ⁴ Ministry of the Interior (Finland) | Sisäministeriö. (16 April 2025). [Finland's eastern border to remain closed until further notice.](#)
- ⁵ Finnish Immigration Service | Maahanmuuttovirasto. (30 May 2025). [Amendments to the Aliens Act from 1 June – impacts on customers receiving international protection.](#)
- ⁶ Ministry of the Interior (Finland) | Sisäministeriö. (4 July 2024). [Legislative amendments preventing evasion of entry rules to come into effect starting 1 September.](#)
- ⁷ Finnish Immigration Service | Maahanmuuttovirasto. (6 May 2025). [Amendments to Aliens Act on 6 May: new obligation to cooperate and changes to entry bans and withdrawal of residence permits.](#)
- ⁸ Ministry of the Interior (Finland) | Sisäministeriö. (22 May 2025). [Legislative amendments improving efficiency of asylum system to enter into force on 1 June.](#)
- ⁹ Ministry of the Interior (Finland) | Sisäministeriö. (3 April 2025). [Säilöönoton ja maahantulokiellon muutokset turvaavat yleistä järjestystä ja turvallisuutta](#) [New amendments to provisions on detention and entry ban help safeguard public order and security].
- ¹⁰ Finnish Immigration Service | Maahanmuuttovirasto. (27 March 2025). [Finnish Immigration Service closes down reception centres.](#)
- ¹¹ Finnish Immigration Service | Maahanmuuttovirasto. (27 March 2025). [Reception centre client – here's what to do if your centre is closing down.](#)
- ¹² Ministry of the Interior (Finland) | Sisäministeriö. (11 June 2025). [Reception allowance to remain at reduced level.](#)
- ¹³ Finnish Immigration Service | Maahanmuuttovirasto. (16 June 2025). [Legislative amendments and new requirements for family reunification.](#)
- ¹⁴ Finnish Immigration Service | Maahanmuuttovirasto. (6 May 2025). [Amendments to Aliens Act on 6 May: new obligation to cooperate and changes to entry bans and withdrawal of residence permits.](#)
- ¹⁵ Ministry of the Interior (Finland) | Sisäministeriö. (4 June 2025). [Government to tighten conditions for permanent residence permits.](#)
- ¹⁶ Ministry of the Interior (Finland) | Sisäministeriö. (23 October 2025). [Sufficient financial resources to be required for Finnish citizenship.](#)