



Germany

National developments in 2025



National authorities focused on two key areas in 2025: continuing with the implementation of the Pact instruments, while reducing the backlog of pending cases. Based on the findings of the EAAMR, the European Commission determined that the country was at risk of migratory pressure due to: the high number of secondary movements of beneficiaries of international protection applying for asylum in Germany, the highest number of temporary protection beneficiaries and the high number of applications for international protection in the past 10 years.¹ Germany's reception and integration capacities also continued to be strained by the persistently high number of Ukrainian refugees. Of the approximately 4.5 million people under temporary protection in the EU, Germany hosts the largest share, with about 1.3 million people.

The federal government presented two draft laws to enact the ten regulations and a directive under the Pact into German law. While the regulations are directly applicable, some of the major changes for the national context included: reforming the airport procedure into an asylum border procedure, establishing a return border procedure, establishing screening of individuals entering the EU irregularly, creating the possibility for the federal government to designate by ordinance safe countries of origin and safe third countries and introducing the solidarity mechanism for EU Member States under pressure. Related to the reception of applicants for international protection, the draft laws foresee earlier access to the labour market for applicants, in some cases after 3 months, expand the circumstances when the obligation to reside at a certain place and regularly report can be imposed, and allow material reception conditions to be limited or withdrawn in more cases. Applicants may also receive material reception conditions only if they reside in the reception centre that was allocated to them.² The laws were adopted by the German Bundestag in February 2026 and approved by the Bundesrat in March 2026.

The number of applications (first-time and repeated applications combined) significantly decreased in the country. However, following the CJEU's decision in October 2024 that gender and nationality were sufficient for Afghan women to be at risk of acts of persecution, the number of repeated applications temporarily surged in 2025, but decreased continuously afterwards. BAMF prioritised reducing the backlog of cases which had been pending for a longer time. While the authority was successful in reducing its backlog, its overall processing time for cases significantly increased due to a statistical effect: BAMF focused on reducing the backlog of pending cases with long processing times. This means that, particularly in 2025, cases were processed that did not originate from new intake; this is also evident from the decreased share of new cases among the cases decided in 2025 compared to 2024.³ As in many other EU+ countries, the recognition rate decreased as a result of postponing decisions for Syrian applicants. Decisions for Syrian applicants were primarily made without assessing the situation in Syria, thus only formal decisions (such as Dublin transfers) were communicated, but decisions were not taken on granting protection until September 2025.⁴ The organisation of voluntary returns through the federal-state REAG/GARP programme resumed in January 2025.⁵

After similar developments in recent years for example in Belgium and the Netherlands, pilot projects were launched in Hamburg-Rahlstedt and Eisenhüttenstadt to establish specific centres for applicants in the Dublin procedure who are to be transferred to Poland. The draft laws proposed by the federal government foresee the establishment of specific centres for applicants who already have international protection in another Member State, as well as for Dublin cases, similar to the Dublin centres.

Secondary movements continued to be a concern for national authorities, with many beneficiaries of international protection applying in Germany. The Federal Administrative Court delivered several judgments assessing these applications and noted that, when an applicant cannot be returned to the Member State which granted protection due to a serious risk of inhuman or degrading treatment, the authorities must carry out a new, full and up-to-date examination of the case, taking full account of the previous decision by the first Member state (in line with the CJEU judgment in [OY](#)).⁶ The court also confirmed that applications lodged by single, employable, non-vulnerable people who have received international protection in Greece may be rejected as inadmissible,⁷ and when assessing the living conditions in individual cases, the authorities may regard undeclared work as a reasonable and acceptable means for securing a livelihood, provided that this does not put the person in a serious risk of criminal prosecution.⁸

Family reunifications for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection were suspended on 24 July 2025 for a period of 2 years to address concerns highlighted by federal states and municipalities on the difficulty to find suitable accommodation and avoid homelessness for an increasing number of cases, which occurred when a single person is granted international protection but subsequently requested to be reunited with their family members.⁹ Currently new applications are not accepted, while requests already submitted are suspended. The clauses on exceptional situations under the Residence Act remain in place, thus requests may be processed in very exceptional circumstances when invoking urgent humanitarian grounds.¹⁰

Resettlement and humanitarian admission were suspended in 2025,¹¹ but for example the Higher Administrative Court of Berlin-Brandenburg ordered the admission of an appellant and her family, noting that although she had not physically received the admission notice she could derive a right to entry by an implied admission notice.¹²

More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Federal Coordination Circle against Human Trafficking | Bundesweiter Koordinierungskreis gegen Menschenhandel](#)
- [LSVD+ - Federation Queer Diversity | LSVD+ – Verband Queere Vielfalt \(LSVD+\)](#)
- [Refugee Council Lower Saxony | Flüchtlingsrat Niedersachsen](#)

Germany

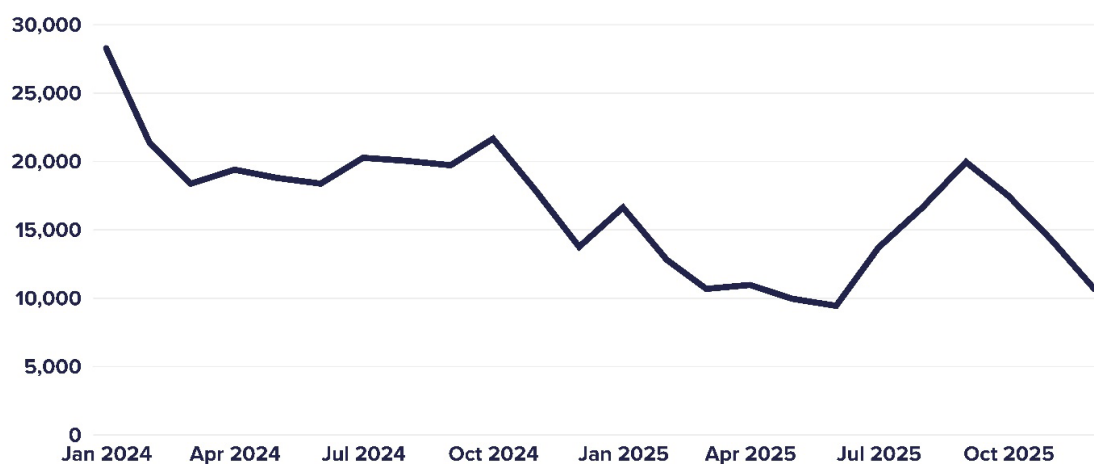
Key indicators for 2025



| | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|
| Rank by number of asylum applications 1 | Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 9 | Share of applications in EU+ 19.8% | Recognition rate 27% |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------|

| Indicator | 2025 | 2024 | % change | Top 3 countries of origin |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|---|
| Asylum applications | 162,664 | 237,314 ↓ | -31% | Afghanistan (39%), Syria (14%), Türkiye (9%) |
| Pending cases (Dec '25) | 101,606 | 212,656 ↓ | -52% | Syria (48%), Afghanistan (21%), Türkiye (6%) |
| First instance decisions | 273,983 | 251,043 ↑ | 9% | Afghanistan (31%), Türkiye (19%), Syria (7%) |
| Refugee status | 70,091 | 37,730 ↑ | 86% | Afghanistan (75%), Türkiye (6%), Somalia (4%) |
| Subsidiary protection | 5,123 | 75,026 ↓ | -93% | Sudan (15%), Eritrea (15%), Somalia (9%) |
| Negative | 198,769 | 138,287 ↑ | 44% | Türkiye (23%), Afghanistan (16%), Syria (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 Federal Ministry of the Interior (Germany) | Bundesministerium des Innern. 3 September 2025. [Bundeskabinett beschließt nationale Umsetzung des Gemeinsamen Europäischen Asylsystems](#) [Federal Cabinet adopts bills to transpose the Common European Asylum System into German law].
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- ⁴ Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge. (5 November 2025). [Asylzahlen im Oktober 2025](#) [Asylum figures in October 2025]; Federal Office for Migration and Refugees | Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge. (5 November 2025). [Asylzahlen Gesamtjahr und Dezember 2025](#) [Asylum figures for the year as a whole and December 2025].
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- ⁶ Germany, Federal Administrative Court [Bundesverwaltungsgericht], [Applicants v Federal Office for Migration and Refugees \(Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, BAMF\)](#), 1 C 7.24, 1 C 5.24 and 1 C 6.24, 24 March 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.
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- ⁹ Federal Ministry of the Interior | Bundesministerium des Innern. (6 June 2025). [Begrenzung illegaler Migration im Bundestag debattiert](#) [Limitation of illegal migration debated in the Bundestag]; Federal Council | Bundesrat. (11 July 2025). [Kanzlerrede, Investitionsbooster, Haushaltsgesetz 2025](#) [Chancellor's speech, investment booster, budget law 2025].
- ¹⁰ Federal Foreign Office | Auswärtiges Amt. (2025). [Wichtige Information: Aussetzung des Familiennachzugs zu subsidiär Schutzberechtigten](#) [Important information: Suspension of family reunification with beneficiaries of subsidiary protection].
- ¹¹ Federal Ministry of the Interior | Bundesministerium des Innern. (30 October 2025). [Humanitäre Aufnahmeprogramme und Resettlement](#) [Humanitarian admission programmes and resettlement].
- ¹² Germany, Higher Administrative Court (Oberverwaltungsgericht/Verwaltungsgerichtshöf), [Applicant v Federal Office for Migration and Refugees \(Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, BAMF\)](#), OVG 3 S 113/25, ECLI:DE:OVGBEBB:2025:1029.OVG3S113.25.00, (29 October 2025). Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.