



## Latvia

### National developments in 2025



Throughout 2025, Latvia worked on a new draft of the Asylum Law to include provisions of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. In November 2025, the Ministry of the Interior began consultations with other ministries involved in the national implementation plan, concluding that significant changes to asylum and reception institutions were not needed. Areas where changes were anticipated were the border procedure, combining rejected claims with the return procedure, and changes to reception and time limits. Latvia was determined to be at risk of migratory pressure due to hybrid threats linked to the weaponisation of migration.<sup>1</sup>

Building an advanced border infrastructure remained a priority, as the country experienced higher pressure from unauthorised border crossings, particularly along the Latvian-Belarusian border.<sup>2</sup> There were reports by the UN and various NGOs about restricted access to the asylum procedure, pushbacks and possible ill treatment at the Latvian-Belarusian border.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, following visits to the Daugavpils Detained Foreigners' Accommodation Centre and the Latvian-Belarusian border, the Ombudsperson reported generally humane and rights-compliant conditions, while highlighting the need to strengthen border guard staff and infrastructure.<sup>4</sup>

Several developments focused on content of protection, particularly on integration measures for displaced Ukrainians. Implemented by the government, UNHCR and various NGOs, these initiatives provided more support in education, employment, language learning and cultural orientation.<sup>5</sup> The Ministry of the Interior reported that over 36,000 Ukrainians were registered with the State Employment Agency, with around 18,000 successfully securing a job.<sup>6</sup>

Targeted measures were implemented to prevent human trafficking in the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a working meeting on the identification and prevention of trafficking in human beings, victim rehabilitation services, public awareness activities and specialist training.<sup>7</sup> The NGO Patvērumš implemented the Sustainable Growth: Strengthening the Operations and Capacity project, which aims to contribute to a long-term understanding of human trafficking risks and to strengthen victim support.<sup>8</sup>

#### More input from civil society:

- [I want to help refugees | Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem](#)

# Latvia

## Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications

21

Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants)

19

Share of applications in EU+

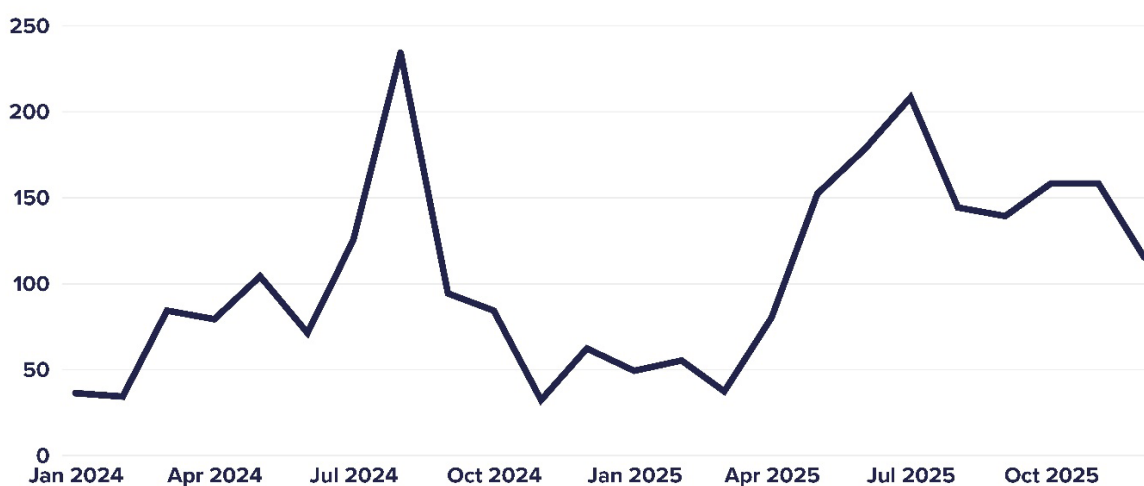
0.2%

Recognition rate

29%

Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	1,473	1,039 ↑	42%	Somalia (19%), Afghanistan (10%), Tajikistan (9%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	559	221 ↑	153%	Afghanistan (18%), Somalia (14%), Sudan (8%)
First instance decisions	507	670 ↓	-24%	Tajikistan (22%), Afghanistan (16%), Russia (7%)
Refugee status	50	109 ↓	-54%	Belarus (38%), Russia (30%), Afghanistan (24%)
Subsidiary protection	98	87 ↑	13%	Afghanistan (69%), Syria (10%), Eritrea (6%)
Negative	359	474 ↓	-24%	Tajikistan (31%), Somalia (8%), Sudan (6%)

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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<sup>1</sup> European Commission. (11 November 2025). [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: The European Annual Asylum and Migration Report \(2025\)](#). COM(2025) 795 final.

<sup>2</sup> State Border Guard | Valsts robežsardze. (25 May 2025). [Valdība pagarina pastiprinātu robežapsardzības sistēmas darbības režīmu līdz šā gada 31. decembrim](#) [The government extends the enhanced operating regime of the border protection system until 31 December this year].

<sup>3</sup> I want to help refugees | Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem. (18 August 2025). [Ziņojums par situāciju uz Latvijas–Baltkrievijas robežas II](#) [Report on the situation on the Latvian-Belarusian border II]; I want to help refugees | Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem. (18 July 2025). [The latest report of the UN Human Rights Commission publishes conclusions on Latvia's treatment of foreigners, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers](#).

<sup>4</sup> State Border Guard | Valsts robežsardze. (4 November 2025). [VRS priekšnieks kopā ar tiesībsardzi apmeklēja VRS DAP Aizturēto ārzemnieku izmitināšanas centru un Latvijas–Baltkrievijas pierobežu](#) [The VRS chief, together with the law enforcement officer, visited the VRS DAP Detained Foreigners Accommodation Centre and the Latvian-Belarusian border].

<sup>5</sup> Shelter "Safe House" | Patvērums "Drošā māja". (10 August 2025). [Uzsākts projekts "Mēs esam blakus!"](#) [The project "We are next door!" has been launched!]; Shelter "Safe House" | Patvērums "Drošā māja". (22 January 2025). [Sākam īstenot jaunu projektu](#) [Multidisciplinary approach in the integration of asylum seekers and refugees].

<sup>6</sup> I want to help refugees | Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem. (7 November 2025). [Kopsavilkums par 2025. gada 4. novembra pasākumu "Ukrainas civiliedzīvotāju uzņemšana Latvijā: iesaistīto pušu tikšanās"](#) [Summary of the event of 4 November 2025 "Admission of Ukrainian civilians to Latvia: meeting of stakeholders"].

<sup>7</sup> Shelter "Safe House" | Patvērums "Drošā māja". (4 December 2025). [Starptautiska sanāksme par cilvēktirdzniecības novēršanu Baltijas jūras reģionā](#) [International meeting on the prevention of trafficking in human beings in the Baltic Sea Region].

<sup>8</sup> Shelter Safe House | Patvērums Drošā Māja. (14 March 2025). [The project "Sustainable growth: strengthening the activities and capacity of the association "Shelter "Safe House" has been launched.](#)