



# Netherlands

## National developments in 2025



Preparations for implementing the Pact remained a central priority in 2025 through instability in the country's politics caused by the fall of its government in July 2025 and the formation of a minority government in 2026. Great focus was put on redesigning asylum procedures and developing the required IT infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> The IND viewed this as an opportunity to reform the national asylum procedure to make it more efficient and flexible, and to remove non-mandatory procedural steps.<sup>2</sup> Legislative initiatives launched by the previous government in 2024 - the Asylum Emergency Measures Act and the Act introducing Two Status Systems, with the stated aim to create the strictest asylum regime to date - were adopted by the Second Chamber in July 2025,<sup>3</sup> although stakeholders flagged implementation risks considering the overlap in timing with the introduction of the Pact.<sup>4</sup> The new government announced that it would implement the laws, if they are voted in the First Chamber as well.<sup>5</sup> The European Commission determined the Netherlands to be at risk of migratory pressure due to secondary movements putting a strain on its reception system.<sup>6</sup>

To alleviate pressure within the asylum system, responsibility for the identification and registration of asylum seekers shifted from the Aliens Police to the Identification and Screening Service for Asylum Seekers (DISA), which became operational on 1 January 2025.<sup>7</sup> Following the entry into application of the Pact on 12 June 2026, the IND will take over responsibility for identification and registration.

Three preliminary rulings by the CJEU prompted procedural adjustments by the IND. The application of the national list of safe countries of origin was temporarily suspended on 23 September 2025 until the entry into application of the Pact, meaning that the accelerated procedure could no longer be applied, although applications from these countries continued to be processed with priority.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, the extension of the statutory decision period for asylum applications, which had been in place since 1 January 2024 and increased the decision-making period from 6 to 15 months, was lifted, affecting approximately 18,250 pending cases.<sup>9</sup> The freeze measure applicable to third-country nationals holding a temporary residence permit, in force since April 2024, was also lifted after this group ceased to qualify for temporary protection as of September 2025.<sup>10</sup>

New country policies for applicants from Syria<sup>11</sup> and Lebanon<sup>12</sup> ended the temporary moratorium on decision-making on their applications. New country policies were also adopted for applicants from Libya,<sup>13</sup> Somalia,<sup>14</sup> Türkiye,<sup>15</sup> Mali,<sup>16</sup> Colombia<sup>17</sup> and Yemen,<sup>18</sup> while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs produced 10 COI reports in 2025.<sup>19</sup> Faced with a rise in family reunification applications, as of 1 December 2025 the procedure was simplified and accelerated, and the Dutch Council for Refugees no longer plays a role in providing guidance.<sup>20</sup>

The reception system remained under sustained pressure throughout 2025. Implementation of the Distribution Act contributed to an increase in capacity, with around three-quarters of the planned 101,500 reception places operational by mid-2025.<sup>21</sup> Nevertheless, the target was not fully achieved and the system continued to rely on emergency and temporary reception facilities. A persistent challenge was the limited availability of housing for beneficiaries of international protection, which restricted outflow from reception centres and led to prolonged stays and overcrowding. Alternative accommodation options for status holders and asylum seekers were expanded through the Hotel and Accommodation Regulation (HAR+). Despite this, the need for stable, multi-year funding to ensure the continuity of reception capacity and reduce dependence on temporary solutions was stressed by COA.<sup>22</sup> While it continued to work on developing longer-term reception models in cooperation with municipalities,<sup>23</sup> COA projected that pressure on the system would continue in 2026, estimating a need for approximately 88,000 more reception places.<sup>24</sup> It warned that proposed legislative measures, such as the [draft bill](#) banning housing priority for status holders, could further affect capacity.<sup>25</sup>

Reception conditions were affected by cost-saving measures.<sup>26</sup> The aim to set up scaled back reception conditions led to reductions in certain reception services.<sup>27</sup> Stricter obligations were introduced for residents with behavioural issues.<sup>28</sup> Pilot projects in Ter Apel and Budel introduced intensified supervision and restrictions on the freedom of movement for applicants with low prospects of being granted protection and those who engaged in disruptive behaviour.<sup>29</sup> At the same time, COA took measures to enhance the safety of LGBTIQ+ applicants and improve reception conditions for children.<sup>30</sup>

### More input from civil society:

- [Dutch Advisory Council on Migration | Adviesraad Migratie](#)
- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Open Embassy](#)
- [Gave Foundation | Stichting Gave](#)
- [Nidos Foundation | Stichting Nidos](#)
- [Women's Initiatives Network](#)

# Netherlands

## Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications  
**8**

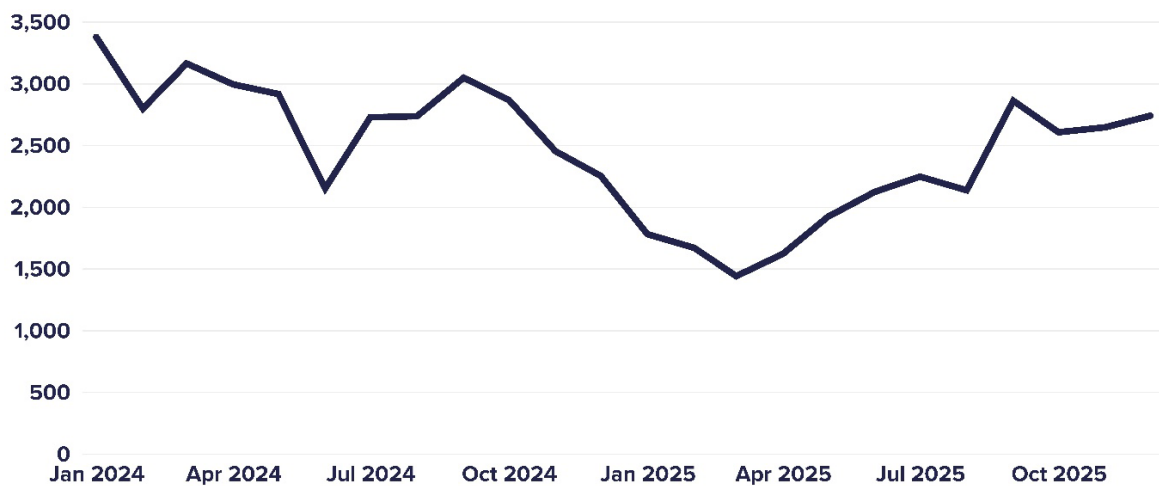
Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants)  
**10**

Share of applications in EU+  
**3.1%**

Recognition rate  
**35%**

Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	25,747	33,437 ↓	-23%	Syria (13%), Eritrea (12%), Türkiye (6%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	49,683	46,855 ↑	6%	Syria (35%), Eritrea (8%), Iraq (7%)
First instance decisions	18,261	24,586 ↓	-26%	Eritrea (12%), Türkiye (9%), Somalia (8%)
Refugee status	3,442	5,259 ↓	-35%	Türkiye (16%), Iran (12%), Pakistan (7%)
Subsidiary protection	2,922	9,905 ↓	-70%	Eritrea (59%), Somalia (14%), Sudan (9%)
Negative	11,897	9,422 ↑	26%	Türkiye (9%), Somalia (7%), Iraq (6%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2024-2025



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





## Sources

---

- <sup>1</sup> Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst (IND). (December 2025). [Jaarplan 2026](#) [2026 Annual Plan].
- <sup>2</sup> Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst (IND). (June 2025). [Stand van de uitvoering](#) [Status of implementation].
- <sup>3</sup> [Wijziging van de Vreemdelingenwet 2000 en de Algemene wet bestuursrecht in verband met maatregelen om de asielketen te ontlasten en de instroom van asielzoekers te verminderen \(Asielnoodmaatregelenwet\)](#) [Amendment of the Aliens Act 2000 and the General Administrative Law Act in connection with measures to relieve the asylum chain and reduce the influx of asylum seekers (Asylum Emergency Measures Act)], 3 July 2025; [Wijziging van de Vreemdelingenwet 2000 in verband met de introductie van een tweestatusstelsel en het aanscherpen van de vereisten bij nareis \(Wet invoering tweestatusstelsel\)](#) [Amendment of the Aliens Act 2000 in connection with the introduction of a dual status system and the tightening of requirements for family reunification (Dual Status System Introduction Act)], 3 July 2025.
- <sup>4</sup> Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst (IND). (24 September 2025). [IND: Invoering asielwetten haalbaar, mits voldoende voorbereidingstijd](#) [IND: Implementation of asylum laws feasible, provided sufficient preparation time].
- <sup>5</sup> [Coalitieakkoord 2026-2030, D66, VVD en CDA, 'Aan de slag: Bouwen aan een beter Nederland'](#) [Coalition Agreement 2026-2030 between D66, VVD and CDA, 'Getting started: Building a better Netherlands'], 30 January 2026.
- <sup>6</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>7</sup> [Besluit van de Minister van Justitie en Veiligheid van 10 december 2024 \(5968138/24/DP&O\), houdende wijziging van het Organisatiebesluit Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid in verband met de instelling van de Dienst Identificatie en Screening Asielzoekers](#) [Decision of the Minister of Justice and Security of 10 December 2024 (5968138/24/DP&O), amending the Organisation Decree of the Ministry of Justice and Security in connection with the establishment of the Asylum Seekers Identification and Screening Service], 10 December 2024.
- <sup>8</sup> Government (Netherlands) | Rijksoverheid. (23 September 2025). [Kamerbrief over arrest EU Hof van Justitie over veilig land van herkomst](#) [Letter to Parliament regarding the ruling of the EU Court of Justice concerning a safe country of origin].
- <sup>9</sup> Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst. (17 June 2025). [Verlenging beslistermijn vervalt voor deel van de asielaanvragen](#) [Extension of period to issue a decision expires for a number of asylum applications].
- <sup>10</sup> Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst. (5 June 2025). [Bevriezingsmaatregel derdelanders Oekraïne stopt op 4 september 2025](#) [Freezing measure for third-country nationals in Ukraine ends on 4 September 2025].
- <sup>11</sup> Tweede Kamer | House of Representatives. (10 June 2025). [Landenbeleid Syrië](#) [Country policy Syria].
- <sup>12</sup> Tweede Kamer | House of Representatives. (17 June 2025). [Landenbeleid Libanon](#) [Country policy Lebanon].
- <sup>13</sup> Tweede Kamer | House of Representatives. (27 October 2025). [Landenbeleid Libië](#) [Country policy Libya].
- <sup>14</sup> Tweede Kamer | House of Representatives. (9 September 2025). [Landenbeleid Somalië](#) [Country policy Somalia].
- <sup>15</sup> Tweede Kamer | House of Representatives. (30 May 2025). [Landenbeleid Turkije](#) [Country policy Türkiye].
- <sup>16</sup> Tweede Kamer | House of Representatives. (17 June 2025). [Landenbeleid Mali](#) [Country policy Mali].
- <sup>17</sup> Tweede Kamer | House of Representatives. (30 January 2025). [Landenbeleid Colombia](#) [Country policy Colombia].
- <sup>18</sup> Tweede Kamer | House of Representatives. (8 October 2025). [Landenbeleid Jemen](#) [Country policy Yemen].
- <sup>19</sup> Government (Netherlands) | Rijksoverheid. (2025). [Ambtsberichten](#) [Country reports].
- <sup>20</sup> Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst. (n.d.). [Aanvraagproces nareis: Wat is er veranderd?](#) [Family reunification application process: What has changed?]; Dutch Council for Refugees | Vluchtelingen Werk Nederland. (17 September 2025). [Onze begeleiding bij gezinshereniging in de opvang moet stoppen: Dit zijn de gevolgen](#) [Our family reunification support in reception centers must stop: These are the consequences].
- <sup>21</sup> Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (1 July 2025). [Betere spreiding en meer gemeenten met opvang dankzij de Spreidingswet](#) [Better distribution and more municipalities with childcare thanks to the Distribution Act].
- <sup>22</sup> Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (18 April 2025). [Voorjaarsnota: Kabinet blijft kostbare pleisters plakken](#) [Spring Budget: Cabinet continues applying costly bandages].
- <sup>23</sup> Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (3 April 2025). [Gemeente Hengelo en het COA realiseren samen opvanglocatie voor asielzoekers en Oekraïners](#) [The Municipality of Hengelo and the COA jointly establish a reception location for asylum seekers and Ukrainians]; Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (15 January 2025). [Gemeente Nuenen en COA tekenen bestuursovereenkomst](#) [Municipality of Nuenen and COA sign

administrative agreement]; Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (27 January 2025). [Afspraken met de gemeente Oss voor 5 jaar asielopvang](#) [Agreements with the Municipality of Oss for 5 years of asylum reception].

<sup>24</sup> Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (26 September 2025). [Druk op asielopvang ook in 2026 onverminderd hoog](#) [Pressure on asylum reception remains undiminished in 2026].

<sup>25</sup> Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (14 March 2025). [COA waarschuwt voor gevolgen wetsvoorstel schrappen urgentiemogelijkheid voor statushouders](#) [COA warns of consequences of legislative proposal to abolish urgency option for status holders].

<sup>26</sup> Government (Netherlands) | Rijksoverheid. (18 April 2025). [Soberdere asielopvang op komst](#) [More austere asylum accommodation on the way].

<sup>27</sup> Government (Netherlands) | Rijksoverheid. (18 April 2025). [Soberdere asielopvang op komst](#) [More austere asylum accommodation on the way].

<sup>28</sup> Government (Netherlands) | Rijksoverheid. (18 April 2025). [Soberdere asielopvang op komst](#) [More austere asylum accommodation on the way].

<sup>29</sup> Government (Netherlands) | Rijksoverheid. (30 May 2025). [TK Stand van zaken opening procesbeschikbaarheidslocatie](#) [House of Representatives Status update on the opening of the process availability location].

<sup>30</sup> Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (22 October 2025). [COA en COC Nederland versterken samenwerking](#) [COA and COC Netherlands strengthen cooperation];

Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers | Centraal Orgaan opvang asielzoekers (COA). (19 September 2025). [Voorzieningen voor kinderen in asielopvang onder druk](#) [Facilities for children in asylum shelters under pressure].

