



Spain

National developments in 2025



Spain continued to receive a high number of applicants for international protection in 2025 and, accordingly, in the annual migration management cycle of the European Commission, it was listed among the countries under migratory pressure due to the disproportionate level of arrivals.¹ In this context, authorities continued to prepare for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, while the General Directorate of International Protection underwent a significant reorganisation to adapt to Pact provisions.

Significant effort was placed to reduce the caseload of pending cases, substantially increasing the number of decisions at first instance.² Nonetheless, the number of pending cases remained among the highest in the EU at the end of 2025. To further optimise workflows, a new case management system was under development to digitalise the steps and interlink different databases used in the asylum procedure. The system will also incorporate features related to AMMR procedures and reception. The Dublin Unit was reinforced with additional staff, and IT systems were enhanced to allow automatic communication across authorities involved in the Dublin procedure. With a larger unit Spain resumed sending outgoing requests in 2025, which had not been possible over the last years. In parallel, Spain worked on incoming requests to eliminate existing backlogs.

To better streamline processes, the making and the lodging of an application by unaccompanied minors on the Canary Islands were merged into a single step. Per internal instructions by the Ministry of the Interior, applications for unaccompanied minors throughout the country were prioritised both in terms of lodging and decision-making. In March 2025, the government approved [Royal Decree-Law 2/2025](#), which establishes the possibility of urgent measures to guarantee the best interests of children and adolescents in extraordinary migration contingencies in Ceuta, Melilla and the Canary Islands.³ The decree grants the Autonomous Communities more autonomy on decisions related to unaccompanied minors in their areas, including the possibility to request the activation of a relocation mechanism by the government in situations when the number of unaccompanied minors is triple the ordinary capacity in the community.⁴ In addition, following the continued increase in migrant arrivals and the significant change in their profiles, a response plan was implemented in the Balearic islands to strengthen humanitarian assistance and improve inter-institutional coordination on the islands, through a combination of immediate response actions and medium-term structural measures.⁵

In two separate judicial processes concerning the concurrence of competencies of national and regional administrations, the Supreme Court issued interim measures asking the state to guarantee access to the national reception system to unaccompanied minors who were under child protection services on the Canary Islands and Madrid and had applied for international protection or expressed their intention to do so.⁶ Subsequently, the Spanish authorities adapted their practice on the matter, as instructed by the Supreme Court.

In January 2026, the government proposed a new Royal Decree to grant a 1-year-long permit to third-country nationals who have lived in Spain without authorisation for at least 5 months before 31 December 2025. Applicants for international protection who have not yet received a decision or had their application rejected (as long as it is not a final decision) can apply for this new permit, as long as the application for international protection has been submitted before the end of 2025. Applicants with a criminal record or posing a threat to public order are not eligible to apply. The permit allows immediate access to the labour market, and after 1 year they can apply for any other regular status established in legislation.⁷

While acknowledging positive steps in the reforms introduced in 2025, civil society organisations also pointed out areas where deficiencies persisted, such as delays in access to the procedure; the availability and quality of interpretation on certain occasions; access to information and specialised legal assistance; obstacles in accessing reception conditions; shortage of services for persons with vulnerabilities; delays in the renewal of asylum documentation; respect for fundamental rights at external borders; and ensuring child-sensitive procedures.⁸

More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Federación Andalucía Acoge - Sur Acoge](#)
- [Cepaim Foundation | Fundación Cepaim](#)
- [Pontifical University Comillas, Migration Research Institute](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid | Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado](#)

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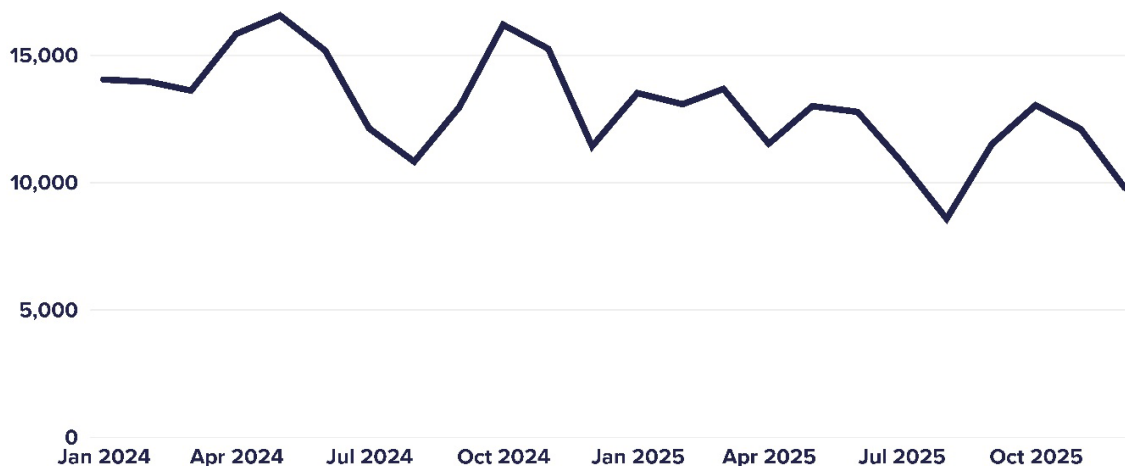
Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications 3	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 3	Share of applications in EU+ 17.4%	Recognition rate 12%
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Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	143,170	167,749 ↓	-15%	Venezuela (60%), Mali (11%), Colombia (10%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	233,247	251,540 ↓	-7%	Venezuela (49%), Colombia (26%), Peru (5%)
First instance decisions	141,674	90,064 ↑	57%	Venezuela (39%), Colombia (22%), Peru (9%)
Refugee status	7,753	6,355 ↑	22%	Nicaragua (19%), Colombia (17%), Afghanistan (9%)
Subsidiary protection	9,665	11,453 ↓	-16%	Mali (80%), Palestine (8%), Somalia (4%)
Negative	124,256	72,256 ↑	72%	Venezuela (44%), Colombia (24%), Peru (10%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2024-2025



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





Sources

¹ Commission implementing Decision (EU) 2025/2323 of 11 November 2025 pursuant to Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 11 November 2025.

² Ministry of the Interior (Spain) | Ministerio del Interior (16 January 2026) [La Oficina de Asilo y Refugio resuelve 160.951 expedientes de protección internacional en 2025, la mayor cifra de su historia](#) [The Asylum and Refugee Office resolves 160,951 international protection cases in 2025, the highest number in its history].

³ [Real Decreto-ley 2/2025, de 18 de marzo, por el que se aprueban medidas urgentes para la garantía del interés superior de la infancia y la adolescencia ante situaciones de contingencias migratorias extraordinarias](#) [Royal Decree-Law 2/2025, of 18 March, approving urgent measures to guarantee the best interests of children and adolescents in situations of extraordinary migration contingencies], 19 March 2025.

⁴ Council of Ministers | Consejo de Ministros. (18 March 2025). [The Government of Spain establishes a model of solidarity, objectivity and flexibility for the reception of unaccompanied migrant children](#).

⁵ Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration (Spain) | Ministerio de Inclusión, Seguridad Social y Migraciones. (10 July 2025). [Migraciones articula un plan de respuesta ante el incremento y cambio de perfil de personas migrantes que llegan a las costas Baleares](#) [Migration authorities are developing a response plan to address the increase and changing profile of migrants arriving on the Balearic coast].

⁶ Spain, Supreme Court [Tribunal Supremo], [Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands v Central Government](#), ATS 3180/2025, ECLI:ES:TS:2025:3180A, 25 March 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database; Spain, Supreme Court [Tribunal Supremo], [Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands v Central Government](#), ATS 5274/2025, ECLI:ES:TS:2025:5274A, 4 June 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database; Spain, Supreme Court [Tribunal Supremo], [Autonomous Community of Madrid v Central Government](#), ATS 11562/2025 (Recurso Ordinario 340/2025), ECLI:ES:TS:2025:11562A, 11 December 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.

⁷ Council of Ministers | Consejo de Ministros. (27 January 2026). [El Gobierno inicia un proceso de regularización extraordinaria de extranjeros que ya viven en España](#) [The Government begins an extraordinary regularisation process for foreigners already living in Spain].

⁸ Fundación Cepaim. (2026). [Input to the Asylum Report 2026](#); Federación Andalucía Acoge–Sur Acoge. (2026). [Input to the Asylum Report 2026](#); Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR). (2026). [Input to the Asylum Report 2026](#); Save the Children. (2026). [Input to the Asylum Report 2026](#).