



Switzerland

National developments in 2025



Amid a moderate decrease in the number of asylum applications in 2025, Swiss authorities intensified their preparations for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. To this end, the Swiss Federal Council launched consultations on needed legislative amendments. While not an EU Member State, as a Schengen- and Dublin-associated country, Switzerland needs to incorporate certain provisions linked to the Pact into national legislation.¹

The collaborative consultations among the Confederation, cantons, cities and municipalities that started in previous years culminated into the comprehensive national Asylum Strategy 2027. The strategy focuses on a number of priority areas, aiming to increase resilience in situations of pressure, such as rapid increases in applications for international protection; addressing irregular migration and criminal offenders among applicants and beneficiaries of protection; adapting temporary protection status into the overall asylum system; and improving integration efforts.² Some actors expressed concern that the main focus of the strategy is on deterrence and stricter enforcement.³

To increase resilience in border management, in May 2025 the Swiss Federal Council launched consultations on legislative amendments following the revision of the Schengen Borders Code.⁴ In November 2025, the council approved targeted measures to enhance cooperation between federal and cantonal authorities involved in border management, with a particular emphasis on improving risk analysis. The council also decided that Switzerland will participate in the European Commission's additional financing of the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (IGFV). The instrument aims to improve visa policy and implement integrated European border management, funding infrastructure, equipment, IT systems and measures related to migration and security challenges.⁵

In March 2025, SEM announced an adjustment to its asylum and deportation policy on Afghanistan. Starting in mid-April 2025, in certain exceptional cases, single Afghan men whose asylum applications were rejected could again be returned to Afghanistan under specific conditions.⁶ The decision instigated concerns among civil society actors, which argued that the absence of rule of law structures in the country and the Taliban's arbitrary system of governance may entail risks for human rights violations upon a return.⁷

To address seasonal fluctuations in asylum applications, national authorities adapted capacity in reception by closing some facilities and reopening others.⁸ SEM announced to pilot a new accommodation model to relieve pressure on federal asylum centres starting in summer 2026. As part of the pilot, asylum seekers whose behaviour disrupts the functioning of a centre will be housed in a designated area within the same facility, with adapted security arrangements but equal access to activities and outings.⁹

In October 2025, the Swiss Federal Council proposed a bill banning asylum applicants and temporarily admitted persons from travelling abroad, except under extraordinary circumstances decided by SEM. Ukrainian nationals with protection status S were exempt from this general travel ban.¹⁰ UNHCR recommended several adjustments reflecting that many may have family and social connections in other countries.¹¹ In parallel, national authorities in cooperation with relevant stakeholders fostered the integration of beneficiaries of protection by facilitating access to the labour market and education.¹²

Protection for displaced persons from Ukraine was confirmed to continue until March 2027. Switzerland introduced a new rule distinguishing between safety levels in different Ukrainian regions. Protection is granted to people from areas under Russian occupation or active conflict zones, while returns are deemed possible for regions listed as safe. SEM regularly reviews safety in the regions and adjusts the list as needed.¹³ The decision was followed by voices expressing concern that security conditions across Ukraine remain unstable, making any reliable distinction between safe and unsafe areas impossible.¹⁴

Following the launch of the European Commission's Annual Migration Management Cycle, the Swiss Federal Council adopted the negotiating mandate for Switzerland's selective participation in the EU Solidarity Mechanism. The practical implementation of this participation will require an agreement with the EU that sets out the practical modalities of cooperation. This will not impose an obligation on Switzerland to participate in the Solidarity Mechanism every year.¹⁵

More input from civil society:

- [AsyLex](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Swiss Refugee Council](#)

Switzerland

Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications

7

Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants)

8

Share of applications in EU+

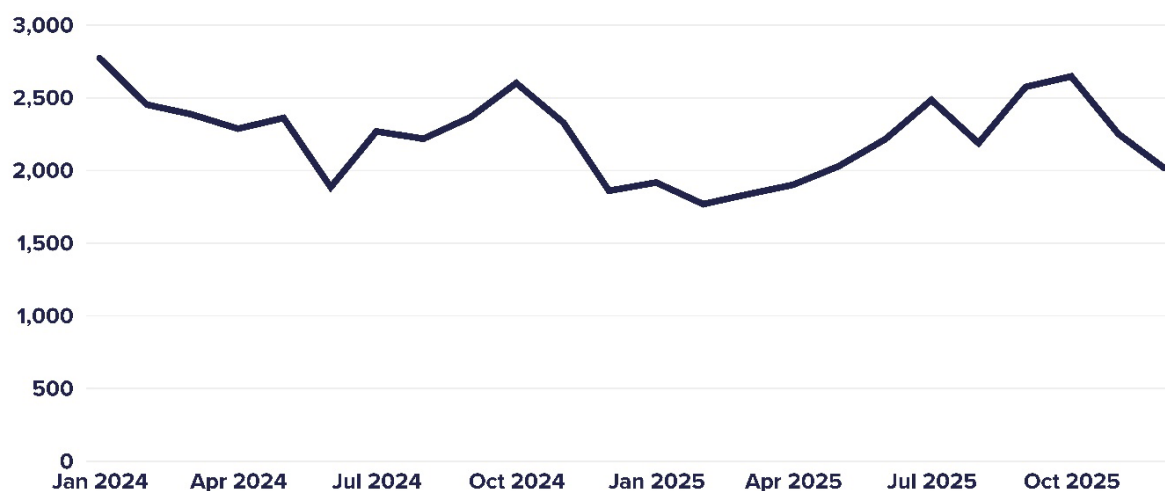
3.1%

Recognition rate

54%

Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	25,781	27,740 ↓	-7%	Afghanistan (24%), Eritrea (13%), Türkiye (10%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	9,487	11,921 ↓	-20%	Afghanistan (17%), Türkiye (16%), Somalia (11%)
First instance decisions	21,990	25,007 ↓	-12%	Afghanistan (27%), Türkiye (22%), Eritrea (11%)
Refugee status	7,386	10,390 ↓	-29%	Afghanistan (39%), Türkiye (21%), Eritrea (19%)
Subsidiary protection	4,582	6,060 ↓	-24%	Afghanistan (41%), Somalia (12%), Eritrea (10%)
Negative	10,022	8,557 ↑	17%	Türkiye (32%), Afghanistan (12%), Eritrea (5%)

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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³ Swiss Refugee Council | Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe | Organisation suisse d'aide aux réfugiés. (28 November 2025). [L'OSAR critique les angles morts de la stratégie en matière d'asile 2027](#) [OSAR criticises the blind spots of the 2027 asylum strategy].

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⁷ Swiss Refugee Council | Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe | Organisation suisse d'aide aux réfugiés. (2 April 2025). [Risque de violations des droits humains et de détresse existentielle en cas de renvoi vers l'Afghanistan](#) [Risk of human rights violations and existential hardship if returned to Afghanistan; AsyLex. (2026). [Input to the Asylum Report 2026](#).

⁸ State Secretariat for Migration | Staatssekretariat für Migration | Secrétariat d'État aux migrations | Segreteria di Stato della migrazione. (9 July 2025). [Le SEM rouvre trois centres fédéraux pour requérants d'asile pour répondre à l'augmentation saisonnière des demandes](#) [SEM reopens three federal asylum centres to respond to seasonal increase in applications]; State Secretariat for Migration | Staatssekretariat für Migration | Secrétariat d'État aux migrations | Segreteria di Stato della migrazione. (24 June 2025). [Procédure de plan sectoriel concernant le CFA de Buosingen: Information et participation de la population](#) [Sectoral plan procedure for the Buosingen CFA: Information and participation of the population]; State Secretariat for Migration | Staatssekretariat für Migration | Secrétariat d'État aux migrations | Segreteria di Stato della migrazione. (27 June 2025). [Fermeture du centre spécifique des Verrières – Le SEM étudie d'autres solutions avec les cantons](#) [Closure of the specific centre in Les Verrières – SEM is studying other solutions with the cantons]; State Secretariat for Migration | Staatssekretariat für Migration | Secrétariat d'État aux migrations | Segreteria di Stato della migrazione. (11 June 2025). [Ouverture du centre fédéral pour requérants d'asile au Grand-Saconnex](#) [Opening of the federal centre for asylum seekers in Grand-Saconnex].

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¹⁰ Federal Council | Der Bundesrat | Conseil fédéral | Consiglio federale. (22 October 2025). [Les personnes qui relèvent du domaine de l'asile ne pourront plus voyager à l'étranger qu'à titre exceptionnel](#) [Persons who fall within the scope of asylum will only be able to travel abroad on an exceptional basis].

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