

Migration and Integration 2023–2024

Report for Norway to the OECD

Kristian Rose Tronstad, Mathilde Hjelle, Åsne Danielsen, Geir Inge Orderud
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NIBR REPORT 2025:2



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Abstract: This report has been commissioned by the Norwegian Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) as Norway’s official contribution to the OECD’s SOPEMI network, which monitors international migration trends and policies. The report provides a comprehensive overview of Norway’s migration and integration efforts, addressing key developments, policy changes and statistical analyses of migration.

Summary: In 2023, Norway experienced a near-record increase in net migration, adding approximately one per cent to its population. This rise was primarily driven by displaced Ukrainians fleeing the war, facilitated by Norway’s collective protection scheme. While Ukrainian migration surged, other forms of migration, such as labour and family-related migration, remained relatively stable. This marked one of the highest annual migration increases since 2011.

To manage the influx of Ukrainian refugees, Norway introduced stricter regulations, including restrictions on travel back to Ukraine and exclusions for dual citizens and individuals from deemed safe areas. Additionally, the government implemented tuition fees for non-EU/EFTA students, breaking with Norway’s tradition of free higher education. Critics warned this could reduce international student numbers and impact academic collaboration, though scholarships were introduced for students from developing countries. The government also strengthened return policies, emphasizing voluntary return programs and streamlining forced returns for rejected asylum seekers.

Public discourse reflected both empathy and concern. Many Norwegians supported helping Ukrainian refugees, but debates emerged over the long-term capacity of welfare and local services to integrate newcomers. The introduction of tuition fees for non-EU students sparked controversy, with critics arguing it undermined international solidarity, while supporters viewed it as a necessary financial measure. Surveys showed a generally compassionate stance toward Ukrainian refugees but raised broader concerns about balancing humanitarian commitments with national sustainability.

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Preface

This report has been commissioned by the Norwegian Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) as Norway's official contribution to the OECD's SOPEMI network, which monitors international migration trends and policies. The report provides a comprehensive overview of Norway's migration and integration efforts, addressing key developments, policy changes and statistical analyses of migration.

The project was led by Kristian Rose Tronstad, who also served as the editor of the report. Significant contributions have been made by Åsne Danielsen and Mathilde Hjelle, who authored most chapters on policies and policy changes, and Geir Inge Orderud, who conducted the analysis of migration stocks and flows. Vilde Hernes has offered valuable advice throughout the process, ensuring the report meets high standards of accuracy and relevance.

It is our hope that this publication serves as a useful resource for policymakers, researchers and others interested in understanding Norway's migration and integration policy.

Oslo, January 2024

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Summary

In 2023, Norway experienced a near record increase in net migration, adding approximately one per cent to its population. This surge was largely driven by the war in Ukraine and the displacement of millions of Ukrainians. This crisis shaped migration trends and policy decisions throughout the year. While Norway took significant steps to integrate new arrivals, including legislative changes and expanded support systems, it also faced challenges related to sustainability and equity. Public debate reflected both empathy for displaced individuals and concerns about long-term impacts, underscoring the complex dynamics of migration and integration.

Migration trends

In 2023, net migration to Norway reached near record levels, driven primarily by an influx of displaced individuals from Ukraine. This rise in migration added approximately one per cent to the country's total population, marking one of the highest annual increases since 2011. The surge was largely attributable to Norway's implementation of a temporary collective protection scheme for Ukrainian refugees after the full-scale invasion by Russia in February 2022. Under this framework, Ukrainians fleeing the ongoing conflict were granted temporary residency, work rights and access to integration programmes. In contrast, other types of migration, such as labour and family-related migration, showed stable or modest variations.

Key policy changes in 2023 and beginning of 2024

The year 2023 saw several significant changes to Norway's migration policies, reflecting the country's efforts to address both humanitarian and domestic priorities. The Government introduced measures to manage the flow of Ukrainian refugees more effectively and to ensure alignment with broader European standards. That included stricter regulations for displaced Ukrainians, such as limiting their ability to travel freely back to Ukraine without jeopardising their temporary protection status. Dual citizens of Ukraine and another safe country and newly arriving Ukrainians from areas in Ukraine deemed safe were excluded from the collective protection scheme. These measures were stricter than most European countries and aimed to prevent Norway from becoming a disproportionately favourable destination compared with other European nations.

Norway also introduced tuition fees for new international students from outside the EU and EFTA. This marked a departure from the country's tradition of offering free higher education to all students, regardless of nationality. The Government argued that the fees were necessary to cover the costs of education, but the policy faced criticism for potentially reducing the number of international applicants and affecting programmes dependent on global collaboration. To mitigate these effects, regulations and scholarships were established for students from developing countries participating in specific education and research programmes.

Another important development in 2023 was Norway's focus on strengthening its return strategies. The Government emphasised voluntary return programmes for individuals whose asylum applications were denied. New policies streamlined the process for forced returns, while Norway worked closely with source countries to facilitate the readmission of individuals.

Public debate and opinions on immigration

The public discourse on immigration in Norway during 2023 was marked by a mix of support and concern. The unprecedented levels of net migration, particularly the arrival of Ukrainian refugees, elicited widespread empathy and backing for the Government's efforts to help.

However, there were growing concerns about the long-term sustainability of such measures, particularly the capacity of local municipalities and welfare systems to integrate many new refugees effectively.

The introduction of tuition fees for non-EU students sparked significant debate. Critics argued that the fees contradicted Norway's principles of free education and international solidarity. Concerns were also raised about the potential decline in international student numbers and the impact on cooperation programmes with developing countries. Proponents of the policy maintained that it was a necessary step to ensure financial sustainability in the education sector. However, it is important to note that exceptions to this policy exist for students covered by programmes such as NORPART, NORHED and Students at Risk (SAR). These are Norwegian government-funded programmes designed to support academic cooperation and capacity building in higher education institutions in developing countries. These exceptions are outlined in a regulation, meaning universities and colleges are not permitted to charge tuition fees to students participating in these programmes.

Public opinion surveys reflected nuanced views on immigration. Overall, the Ukrainian refugee crisis drew a compassionate response from the public, but it also highlighted broader questions about balancing humanitarian commitments with national resource constraints.

1 Major developments in migration and integration policy

1.1 Migration to Norway

Norway has three main legal migration pathways. Citizens of Nordic countries enjoy free mobility within the Nordic Passport Union. Established in 1954 and implemented in 1958, the passport union enables citizens of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden¹ to travel freely across borders without a passport or visa. This agreement also allows Nordic citizens to live, work and study in any member country without requiring permits.

Citizens of EU and EFTA countries benefit from the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement, which facilitates free movement between member states². This pathway provides broad rights for EU/EEA nationals to live, work and study in Norway. They must register with the authorities if they stay longer than three months but do not require a work permit.

Third-Country nationals: Non-EU/EEA nationals must apply for specific permits to live or work in Norway. These permits include work, family, education and protection permits.

1.1.1 Legislation

The *Immigration Act* of 15 May 2008 regulates the right of foreign citizens to enter, reside and work in Norway. The *Immigration Act* and the corresponding *Immigration Regulations* entered into force on 1 January 2010. According to the regulations, following an individual assessment, citizens of third countries³ may qualify for one of the following main residence permit categories:

- Labour, persons who have a concrete job offer
- Family, persons with close family ties to somebody residing in Norway
- Students, trainees and participants in an exchange programme
- Refugees and persons who qualify for a residence permit on humanitarian grounds

A permanent residence permit is normally granted after three or five years of continuous residence, provided the third-country national has completed compulsory Norwegian language training and has achieved a minimum level of spoken Norwegian in the final Norwegian language examination, completed compulsory training in social studies and has passed the final examination in a language he or she understands, and has been self-supporting for the past 12 months.

1.1.2 Actors

In Norway, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security is responsible for immigration policies, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion is responsible for integration policies. Other key actors are the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI), which processes

¹ Schengen- og Dublin-samarbeidet – regjeringen.no

² The EU Member States, along with three EFTA countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – form the EEA Contracting Parties, commonly referred to as the EEA States. To differentiate Switzerland, which is also an EFTA member but not part of the EEA Agreement, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are collectively termed the 'EEA EFTA States'.

³ Countries not covered by the EEA Agreement or the EFTA Convention.

applications for residence permits and is responsible for asylum reception centres. The Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) processes appeals against the UDI's decisions. The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi) is responsible for settling refugees in municipalities and coordinating integration measures. Municipalities are responsible for offering integration programmes and other services to immigrants. After 2021, county authorities gained formal integration responsibilities, including recommending refugee settlement numbers for municipalities, offering career guidance to introduction programme participants, and providing Norwegian and social studies training for those in full-time upper secondary education.

Labour migration

Third-country nationals who want to work or operate their own business in Norway must hold a valid residence permit. A general requirement for all work-related residence permits is that wage and working conditions for the job in question should correspond to those for Norwegian workers in similar jobs.

The main categories of work-related permits for immigrants from outside the EU/EFTA member countries are:

- **Skilled worker:** Individuals with higher education or vocational training equivalent to Norwegian upper secondary education may qualify for a residence permit, provided their skills are relevant to the job. New permits are issued without a labour market test unless the annual quota is exceeded. Initially set at 5,000, the quota was increased to 6,000 in 2022 due to higher demand. Skilled workers can sponsor family reunification and become eligible for permanent residence after three years. They may change employers without a new permit if the new role aligns with their qualifications.
- **A skilled service supplier, posted worker or independent contractor performing temporary assignments in Norway for a foreign employer or their own business abroad.** Independent contractors work under contracts with Norwegian establishments. While they may sponsor family reunification, they do not qualify for permanent residence. Workers formally employed and paid by a Norwegian-registered employer are classified as skilled workers.
- **Skilled self-employed person:** Self-employed individuals with essential roles in establishing or operating a business in Norway may qualify for a residence permit. They can sponsor family reunification and apply for permanent residence.
- **Seasonal worker:** Permits are issued for up to six months for specific jobs with no eligibility for family reunification or permanent residence. Permits are tied to a specific job and employer.
- **Jobseeker:** Researchers and recent graduates from Norwegian institutions can obtain a 12-month permit to seek relevant employment. During this period, they can work in any job but must meet financial requirements for the permit.
- **Student:** Students with a study permit can work part-time (up to 20 hours weekly) during term and full-time during breaks.

1.1.3 Policy changes

In 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, in consultation with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Finance, set its annual quota for highly skilled third-country workers to 6,000 for the second consecutive year. This quota, introduced in 2002, initially stood at 5,000 permits but had never been fully utilised until autumn 2022.

Permits under this scheme are processed through an expedited 'fast-track' procedure, which allows applicants to bypass the standard labour market assessment. The policy reflects a growing focus on attracting highly skilled workers to address labour shortages in key sectors.

Strategy to combat social dumping

A high degree of organisation and a strong labour union presence is at the core of the Norwegian working life model. As stipulated by the current Government in Hurdalsplattformen⁴ of 2021, Norway aims to secure close collaboration between employees and employers to ensure a regulated, high-quality working life fit to meet the upcoming challenges many professional fields face. A central aspect of this strategy is to combat social dumping and unfair treatment of migrant workers.

Following the publication of the Action Plan Against Social Dumping and Workplace Crime in 2022, 35 measures, including new policies, have been introduced. In the follow-up report published in November 2023, the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion announced that some measures have been successfully implemented, while others are still being rolled out.⁵

The policy changes include amendments to the Working Environment Act and the Civil Servants Act, approved by the Norwegian Government in June 2023. These changes specify extending the requirements for information in employment contracts so that a permanent position is to be expected unless otherwise stated, as well as introducing the right to a written reply from the employer if predictable working conditions are requested and strengthening the rules on probationary periods.⁶

Furthermore, the Government has proposed changes to the Working Environment Act and related legislation regarding the definition of an 'employee' and the employer's responsibilities within the organisation. The proposal aims to clarify the legal concepts of employee and employer, ensuring that legal employee status is reasonably assumed unless the employment type is explicitly temporary. This is intended to clarify the distinction between employees and temporary contractors and extend protection to those in a more precarious legal position.⁷ This proposal entered into force in 2024.

In 2024, the Government proposed that Norway would assume full participation in the European Labour Authority (ELA).⁸ ELA sets out to improve information on labour mobility rights and obligations, enhance cooperation and supervision among EU member states, support efforts against informal work and mediate disputes between member states. The proposal would include changes to the National Insurance Act and the EEA Employment Act.⁹

⁴ *Hurdalsplattformen* is a political agreement formed by the current coalition government of the Labour Party (Arbeiderpartiet) and the Centre Party (Senterpartiet) in Norway, outlining their policy priorities and governing agenda, [Hurdalsplattformen 2021](#) (in Norwegian only)

⁵ [Status for oppfølging av handlingsplan mot sosial dumping og arbeidslivskriminalitet](#) (in Norwegian only)

⁶ [Prop. No 130 to the Storting \(Bill\) \(2022–2023\) – regjeringen.no](#)

⁷ [Prop. No 14 to the Storting \(Bill\) \(2022–2023\) - regjeringen.no](#)

⁸ [Regjeringa styrkjer europeisk samarbeid mot arbeidslivskriminalitet – regjeringen.no](#)

⁹ [Prop. No 8 to the Storting \(Bill and Resolution\) \(2024–2025\) - regjeringen.no](#)

1.1.4 Bilateral agreements on the recruitment of foreign workers

Norway does not currently maintain formal bilateral agreements specifically for recruiting foreign workers. Recruitment primarily occurs through the European Economic Area (EEA) framework, which facilitates the free movement of labour within the EU/EEA. For non-EEA workers, Norway relies on its immigration and employment regulations rather than specific agreements, requiring work or residence permits tailored to skilled workers or other categories.

1.2 International/foreign student policy

International students from EU/EFTA countries planning to stay in Norway for six months or more must register with the UDI within three months of arrival¹⁰. Admission to an accredited institution or upper secondary school is required, along with proof of self-sufficiency for themselves and accompanying family members. A European Health Insurance Card or private health insurance is mandatory¹¹.

Non-EU/EFTA students must apply for a study permit, which costs NOK 5,400 for those over 18 and is free for minors¹². Applicants must be admitted to a full-time programme at a university or college and demonstrate sufficient financial means, which is currently NOK 13,790 per month or NOK 151,690 per academic year (excluding tuition)¹³. Students with a study permit can work part-time without needing an employment offer¹⁴. After graduation, they may apply for a temporary one-year permit to seek skilled employment.

Qualified skilled workers needing additional education or practical training for professional recognition in Norway can receive a residence permit for up to two years to meet language or other requirements.

1.2.1 Policy changes – foreign students

In the National Budget for 2023, the Norwegian Government proposed introducing tuition fees for new degree students from outside the EU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) area. Starting in autumn 2023, new students from outside the EU will be required to pay tuition fees to study in Norway¹⁵.

The fee is intended to cover the cost of educating the student. Standard rates are set individually by each institution and will vary depending on the specific degree programme and its corresponding cost structure.

Students who were admitted to a university or college programme before the 2023 autumn intake do not have to pay tuition fees for the degree they are enrolled in.

The proposal for a student fee scheme faced significant criticism during the consultation process. Universities and other institutions expressed concerns that a reduction in the number of applicants could negatively impact the sustainability of some study programmes. Particular attention was drawn to the potential consequences for students participating in

¹⁰ [Students who are EU/EEA nationals – UDI.no](#)

¹¹ [Higher education institutions – Nokut.no](#)

¹² [Fees – UDI.no](#)

¹³ [Study permit – UDI.no](#)

¹⁴ Work is permitted for a maximum of 20 hours a week during term, while full-time work is allowed during the academic breaks.

¹⁵ [Prop. No 68 to the Storting \(Bill\) \(2022–2023\) – regjeringen.no](#)

nationally funded cooperation programmes, especially those focusing on the global south, such as NORHED and NORPART, as well as the Students at Risk programme.

The Norwegian Government has established exceptions to this policy for students participating in programmes such as NORPART, NORHED and Students at Risk (SAR). These government-funded initiatives are designed to support academic cooperation and capacity building in higher education institutions in the developing countries. As outlined in a regulation, universities and colleges are therefore prohibited from charging tuition fees to students enrolled in these programmes.

The Government has introduced a scholarship scheme, NORSTIP, to address this concern. The Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-dir) will manage the scheme on assignment for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The scholarship is aimed at master's students from selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and intends to supplement the existing NORHED and NORPART programmes.¹⁶

The Ministry may issue regulations on exceptions for certain students, such as international applicants to the Sami University College.¹⁷

Au pair scheme

In March 2023, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security proposed discontinuing the au pair scheme in private homes. Following a public consultation and evaluation of the responses, the Government officially decided to discontinue the scheme, with effect from 15 March 2024.

The discontinuation of the au pair scheme was presented as one of the points in the Government's political platform: *Hurdalsplattformen* from 2021.¹⁸

It has been argued that the arrangement became a loophole for obtaining cheap domestic labour, while no longer offering the cultural exchange aspect that was once central to the scheme.¹⁹

Since some foreigners hold valid au pair permits in Norway dating from before the scheme was concluded, existing measures to protect au pairs from abuse will continue.

It will still be possible to bring in au pairs or trainees from the EEA area, under the usual EEA regulations on free movement. However, third-country nationals can no longer obtain residence in Norway as au pairs and new applications registered after 15 March will not be approved²⁰.

1.3 Protection

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) processes asylum applications in accordance with the Immigration Act and the Immigration Regulations. A refugee within the definition of the act is a foreigner who falls under Article 1A of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, or who is entitled to protection pursuant to Norway's other international obligations, such as the European Convention on Human Rights

16 Ny stipendordning for studenter fra utvalgte partnerland – NORSTIP – HK-dir

17 Slik er lovforslaget om studieavgift for utenlandske studenter – regjeringen.no

18 Hurdalsplattformen 2021 (in Norwegian only)

19 Regjeringen vil avvikle au pair-ordningen – regjeringen.no

20 Regjeringen vil avvikle au pair-ordningen – regjeringen.no

(ECHR). An asylum seeker who is found not to meet the criteria for being granted asylum is to be considered for a residence permit on humanitarian grounds.

In May 2023, Norway broadened refugee eligibility for Afghan women and girls, granting them refugee status under the Refugee Convention's 'particular social group' clause following individual assessments.

Norway undertook relocation and resettlement efforts, relocating 200 asylum seekers from Greece, Italy and Cyprus, meeting quotas for Greece and Cyprus but finding only one eligible candidate from Italy. Norway also contributed to EU efforts by relocating 500 displaced Ukrainians from Moldova to reduce the pressure on neighbouring countries.

Otherwise, there have been no changes to these general protection permits or categories in 2023 and 2024.

Most policy changes in 2023 and 2024 (as in 2022) were mainly related to the large scale of arrivals of displaced persons from Ukraine, which is described in the next section.

1.3.1 Policy development related to displaced persons from Ukraine

On 11 March 2022, Norway implemented a scheme for temporary collective protection for persons who have fled Ukraine. The scheme resembles the implementation of the EU's directive for temporary protection, which Norway is not bound by. Those who meet the conditions for temporary collective protection are granted residency for one year. The permit may be renewed or extended annually, originally for a period not exceeding three years. It does not provide the basis for a permanent residence permit. The permit confers the right to settlement in the municipalities, to work in Norway and reunite with their family here.

The scheme applies to:

- Ukrainian citizens who resided in Ukraine before 24 February 2022,
- Ukrainian citizens with legal residence in Norway before 24 February 2022, or who travelled to Norway later on the basis of a given residence permit. It is a condition that the previous grounds for residence have lapsed or lapse no later than two months after submitting an application for protection,
- Third-country nationals and stateless people who have been granted international or national protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022,
- Third-country nationals who are close family members of the above-mentioned groups.

Persons fleeing Ukraine who are not eligible for temporary collective protection may apply for an ordinary asylum permit. Their application will be subject to an individual asylum assessment.

In autumn 2023, Norway received a relatively large number of displaced persons from Ukraine compared with the other Nordic countries²¹. The following year, the Norwegian Government introduced a series of restrictions to ensure that Norway did not have more favourable or generous policies than other European countries.

²¹ Hernes & Danielsen 2024 <https://oda.oslomet.no/oda-xmlui/handle/11250/3125012>

In December 2023, Norway abolished the exemption given to Ukrainians regarding travel back and forth to Ukraine. Unlike other refugees in Norway who risk losing their protection status if they travel back to their home country, Ukrainians were previously allowed to travel back and forth to Ukraine without being at risk of losing their protection status. Now, Ukrainians can only make trips to Ukraine with a “legitimate purpose” subject to very strict criteria.

As part of the Government’s measures to reduce the number of arrivals to Norway from Ukraine, changes were made to the conditions for temporary collective protection. From 1 March 2024, Ukrainians with dual citizenship in another safe third country were no longer granted temporary protection. The permits of those already living in Norway with temporary protection would not be renewed after March 2024²². Furthermore, in May 2024, Ukrainians with temporary protection whose residence permit had been revoked or not extended would no longer be entitled to temporary protection²³.

Finally, in September 2024, the Norwegian Government continued to restrict the target group for temporary collective protection. Now, those arriving in Norway from areas in Ukraine that are considered safe by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration will be processed in accordance with the regular asylum system. As of October 2024, there were six designated safe areas (counties) in the western part of Ukraine.

These restrictions resemble the internal protection alternatives that apply to other asylum seekers.

Collective temporary protection is renewed annually and was renewed in January 2023 and February 2024. However, the original maximum three-year period was set to expire in March 2025, so the Government proposed increasing the temporary protection period from three to five years in May 2024. The Government argued that this would give them more time to evaluate the ongoing conflict and develop sustainable long-term solutions²⁴. The proposal to extend the temporary permit up to five years was passed in the Norwegian Parliament (Storting) in November 2024.

1.3.2 Registration

Since 2020, all applicants for protection must register at the National Arrival Centre. The centre was established to speed up case processing during the initial phase. The aim is to accommodate all asylum seekers (with the possible exception of unaccompanied minors) in the same centre after arrival in Norway. However, the influx of displaced persons from Ukraine challenged the capacity of the National Arrival Centre and displaced persons from Ukraine were thus allowed to register at regional police districts around the country. This possibility was later removed, and after 15 July 2024, *all* applicants for protection have to register at the National Arrival Centre. Also, from 2024, displaced persons from Ukraine were no longer offered transportation to the arrival centre.

²² Press Release December 2023: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/ukrainere-med-dobbelt-statsborgerskap-skal-ikke-fa-midlertidig-kollektiv-beskyttelse-i-norge/id3019700/>

²³ Press Release May 2024: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/ytterligere-innstramninger-i-ordningen-med-kollektiv-beskyttelse-for-fordrevne-fra-ukraina/id3041348/>

²⁴ Prop. No 94 to the Storting (Bill) (2023-2024) <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-94-l-20232024/id3034997/?ch=9>

1.3.3 Reception facilities

Temporary accommodation in a reception centre is offered to all asylum seekers arriving in Norway. The UDI finances and supervises these centres, and they are operated by municipalities, NGOs and private companies. Some of the centres are given extra resources to provide suitable living conditions for asylum seekers with special needs. Unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, aged 15 to 18, are accommodated either in special sections of a regular reception centre or in a separate reception centre. As of July 2022, reception centres for unaccompanied minors are supervised by the County Governor (*Statsfovalteren*). The child welfare authorities are responsible for accommodating unaccompanied minors under the age of 15 in centres financed by and run under the supervision of the Ministry of Children and Families.

Residing in a reception centre is voluntary, but it is a requirement for receiving subsistence support and 'pocket money'. In 2023, Norway increased support for asylum seekers by raising allowances for residents in reception centres by 50%. Persons who receive a positive decision on their application can stay in a reception centre until they are settled in a municipality. Persons who receive a final, negative decision are offered accommodation in an ordinary reception centre until they leave Norway. There is a strong emphasis on motivating them to apply for assisted return.

As an alternative to reception centres, applicants for protection may find their own housing. Normally this entails forfeiting financial support. However, there is an exception called 'alternative reception placement' (AMOT) where asylum seekers can live in accommodation other than reception centres and still receive financial support. This is not widely used, but it implies that the asylum seekers must apply for AMOT. The municipalities are free to reject the application. If they accept, they take on responsibility for the applicant for protection and they receive a grant from the UDI to cover average costs. The municipality pays financial benefits to the applicant for protection (unless they are able to support themselves). If municipalities reject their application, they are referred back to reception centres.

In 2022, accommodation capacity was upscaled considerably due to the high influx of displaced persons from Ukraine seeking temporary collective protection in Norway. In addition, unlike previous refugee influxes, many displaced persons from Ukraine stayed with friends and family. Taking this into consideration, along with insufficient reception capacity, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security made a decision to extend the AMOT system. They introduced what is known as a 'temporary alternative reception placement' (MAMOT). The MAMOT system made it easier for displaced persons from Ukraine to live privately, either with friends or family or other private persons. The municipalities were still free to accept or reject MAMOT applicants.

In the initial months after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, almost half of those arriving to Norway stayed with family and friends, either through the MAMOT system or informally with help from their own network. However, there has been a big shift in the number of applicants for protection living in accommodation other than reception centres²⁵. The MAMOT system was abolished in January 2024.

To further manage and plan for a situation with large influxes of displaced persons from Ukraine, the Government made a temporary change to the Tenancy Act in 2023, allowing a

²⁵ Hernes et.al. 2023 Reception, settlement and integration of Ukrainian refugees in Norway & Meld. St. 17 (2023-2024).

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/0b74b84e746a452eb0b64a88c873a6fe/no/pdfs/stm202320240017000dddpdfs.pdf>

fixed-term lease contract with a minimum period of one year when renting out a holiday home for use as a residence. In 2024, a temporary emergency provision was made in the Immigration Act whereby the County Governor can, in the event of extraordinary high arrivals of persons seeking protection, mandate municipalities to establish and operate a temporary accommodation scheme for asylum seekers. Essentially, this refers to situations where all other potential accommodation solutions and emergency measures have already been explored, but where these measures are no longer adequate to fulfil the fundamental needs of the asylum seekers. The Government also tightened the use of hotels as asylum centres in general.

1.4 Family migration

Family immigration to Norway typically occurs through family reunification or family establishment with a reference person who has legal residence in the country. Family permit applicants are often the spouse, partner or child of someone living in Norway. However, other categories, such as parents of children residing in Norway, individuals intending to marry someone in Norway, foster children or full siblings can also apply. The regulations also allow for other family members to apply for family immigration if warranted on involuntary humanitarian grounds.

Family immigration applies to various groups, including Norwegian citizens, refugees, labour migrants and others holding residence permits that qualify for family immigration. The requirements vary based on the type of family relationship and the circumstances of both the applicant and the reference person. Generally, the reference person must be an adult, have documented identity, a residence of their own and an annual pre-tax income of at least NOK 320,274.

For spouses or fiancés, additional conditions apply. Both parties must be at least 24 years of age, and the marriage must not be forced or entered into solely for immigration purposes²⁶.

1.4.1 Family – policy changes

In January 2023, the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security announced measures to strengthen the legal rights of children in cases involving the deportation of their parents²⁷. These initiatives aim to minimise disruption to family life when a parent is subject to a time-limited re-entry ban, such as two or five years. One key measure allows parents subject to such bans to apply for a new residence permit up to six months before the ban expires. This provision ensures that decisions on re-entry can be finalised by the time the ban ends, reducing unnecessary extension of family separation.

This change, effective 1 March 2023, was implemented through instructions to the Directorate of Immigration (UDI), emphasising Norway's commitment to safeguarding the welfare and rights of children in immigration matters.

1.5 Migration and development

In 2023, Norway significantly increased funding for activities supporting refugees, migrants and host communities, allocating a total of NOK 4 billion (approximately €334.7 million) from

²⁶ [Meld. St. 17 \(2023–2024\) - regjeringen.no](#)

²⁷ [Styrkede rettigheter for barn i saker om utvisning av foreldre - regjeringen.no](#)

humanitarian and development budgets²⁸. Norway also emphasised integrating migration partnerships into development strategies in third countries, aiming to address long-term challenges associated with migration. Norway also strengthened its diplomatic presence by increasing the number of migration officers at embassies in key countries of origin. The goals of these initiatives are to reinforce host communities, promote sustainable solutions for displaced people and reduce humanitarian needs linked to migration.

1.5.1 Nansen Support Programme

The Nansen Support Programme was launched in February 2023 with broad political agreement in the Parliament. This programme commits Norway to a five-year support package for Ukraine, totalling NOK 75 billion for the period 2023–2027. This equates to annual payments of a minimum of NOK 15 billion over five years. The Nansen Support Programme allows for flexibility, enabling the Government to increase the funds as needed.²⁹

In 2023, approximately NOK 19.1 billion was allocated through the Nansen Support Programme, with NOK 8.9 billion directed towards civilian and humanitarian support and NOK 10.2 billion towards military support. In 2024, NOK 27 billion were disbursed through the programme, with NOK 10 billion to civilian and humanitarian support, and NOK 17 billion to military support.³⁰

The Ministry of Defence manages the military support to Ukraine, while the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) manages the civilian and humanitarian support.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, Norway has continued medical evacuation operations transporting patients from Ukraine to Norway or other destinations where they may receive medical support. These operations help to alleviate the burden on hospitals in Ukraine. Norway is one of the countries that has received the most patients from Ukraine, with approximately 359 patients evacuated for treatment in Norwegian hospitals so far.³¹

The Nansen programme represents the largest investment in Norway's aid budget, highlighting the country's commitment to addressing global challenges.

1.6 Borders, Visa and Schengen

As part of the Schengen cooperation, Norway adheres to EU/Schengen visa policies. In April 2023, the Council Decision (Regulation (EU) 2023/850) was adopted, which exempts Kosovo-issued biometric passports from visa requirements starting 1 January 2024. This decision also applies to Norway.

1.7 Citizenship and Statelessness

There were no significant developments in citizenship and statelessness in Norway in 2023.

²⁸ NOK 4.009 billion was disbursed through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' budget, Chapter 153 – Refugees, Displaced Persons and Host Communities ('solidarity fund')

²⁹ [Support to Ukraine and neighbouring countries – regjeringen.no](https://www.regjeringen.no)

³⁰ [Support to Ukraine and neighbouring countries – regjeringen.no](https://www.regjeringen.no)

³¹ [Norway extends agreement on medical evacuation from Ukraine – regjeringen.no](https://www.regjeringen.no)

1.8 Irregular migration, unaccompanied minors and human trafficking

There were no significant policy developments in irregular migration, unaccompanied minors and human trafficking in Norway in 2023.

1.9 Integration policies

The main goal of the Norwegian integration policy is to provide refugees and other immigrants with incentives and opportunities to participate in the Norwegian labour market and society. This goal is considered important both for the immigrants themselves and to maintain a robust and sustainable welfare system.

The current political goals, as expressed in the Government's political platform³², are higher employment among immigrants, to build strong local communities and well-functioning community arenas, to promote equality and to combat negative social control.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion is responsible for policies and measures that aim to increase labour participation and participation in society in general. The Ministry is also responsible for coordinating integration policy across sectors. The Department of Integration³³ has a special responsibility for the settlement of refugees, grants to municipalities for integration work and the Integration Act, the Nationality Act and the Interpretation Act. The Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi³⁴) implements the Government's integration policies. The directorate is tasked with strengthening the competence of municipalities, sector authorities and other collaborative partners in the field of integration and diversity. The Directorate for Education and Training³⁵ is the executive agency for the Ministry of Education and Research, and is responsible for kindergartens, as well as primary and secondary education.

The municipalities are largely responsible for implementing the integration policies locally, along with non-governmental organisations and in cooperation with the regional counties.

1.9.1 Important principles and measures

The Norwegian integration policies build on some core legislation and measures.

- The Integration Act: This act regulates the introduction programme, Norwegian language training and social studies for newly arrived immigrants. It also contains provisions concerning the responsibilities of the municipalities and counties.
- The Norwegian Nationality Act: This act regulates how persons can become Norwegian nationals and how they may lose their Norwegian nationality.
- The Interpretation Act: This act covers interpretation services in the public sector, which implies a duty for public agencies to use qualified interpreters when this is necessary to ensure the rule of law or to provide proper assistance and services. There is an exemption from the act regarding qualified interpreters until 31 December

³² Hurdalsplattformen_2021 (in Norwegian only)

³³ [The Department of Integration](#)

³⁴ [IMDi.no](https://imdi.no)

³⁵ <https://www.udir.no/in-english/>

2026. In the following chapter, the above-mentioned measures are presented in more detail, highlighting the changes made since 2023.

- The Education Act: This act applies to primary and secondary education, as well as activities related to education, and it aims to ensure that children, youth and adults receive good education in a positive environment.

1.9.2 Norwegian language training and social studies

The target group for Norwegian language training and social studies is newly arrived adult immigrants between the ages of 18 and 67 who hold a residence permit that constitutes the basis for permanent residence. This also applies to foreign family members of immigrants in Norway and to family members of Norwegian and Nordic nationals. Third-country labour immigrants, if eligible for permanent residence, are obliged to participate in language training and social studies, but only for 300 hours. They must pay a fee to the provider of the course. Those residing in Norway based on the EEA/EFTA agreements are not covered by the Integration Act, and they are not entitled to free tuition in Norwegian language and social studies, nor are they obliged to participate in such training.

During the Norwegian language training, the participant should reach a minimum level of Norwegian language proficiency, and have an individual 'Norwegian goal' (level of Norwegian language skills after the courses). The right and obligation to language training apply until the participants have reached their 'Norwegian goal', with a maximum duration of three years for participants with less than upper secondary education (+approved leave). Those with upper secondary education or higher education have a maximum of 18 months of training (+approved leave). Participants are also obliged to attend 75 hours of social studies within one year. The goal of the scheme for Norwegian language training and social studies is that an adult immigrant, after their first years in Norway, should sufficiently master Norwegian to be able to find employment and participate in greater society. As soon as possible after settling in a municipality, eligible immigrants are expected to enrol in language training.

Having completed language training or demonstrated corresponding language skills are requirements for obtaining a permanent residence permit and for Norwegian citizenship, irrespective of country of origin.

1.9.3 Introduction programme

The aim of the introduction programme is to provide each participant with fundamental skills in the Norwegian language and to prepare them for employment or further education as well as participation in Norwegian society. The target group for the introduction programme is refugees and their family members, in addition to persons granted residence on humanitarian grounds and their families. The rights and obligations of individuals under the Integration Act only apply to those between the ages of 18 and 55 who are settled by an agreement between IMDi and the municipality. In September 2024, the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion proposed to expand the target group for the introduction programme from the age of 55 to 60. This has not yet been adapted³⁶.

The Integration Act differentiates the scope and contents of the introduction programme so that the participants are offered a programme that is adapted to their background and

³⁶ [Public hearing](#)

individual programme goals. The participants must undergo competence mapping and career guidance before starting the programme (offered by the county). The introduction programme may last from three months to four years, and the duration of the programme will vary depending on the participants' educational background, competence and their individual programme goals. Participants who have already completed upper secondary education will undergo a shorter programme period, lasting between three and six months, which may be extended up to a year. The goal for this group is to qualify for higher education or the labour market. The primary programme goal for young people under the age of 25, who have not completed upper secondary education, is completion of upper secondary education. For this group, the programme can be extended up to four years. In addition to language and social studies, the introduction programme consists of work or education-oriented measures.

In addition to language training, social studies and work or education-oriented measures, every participant must participate in an *empowerment course*, and parents with children under the age of 18 must participate in a *parental guidance course*.

Civil society, immigrant organisations and other NGOs, as well as local and regional authorities, are all essential actors in developing and implementing the integration policy. There is support for various national and local integration initiatives through government grants organised by IMDi.

Introduction programme for displaced persons from Ukraine

In June 2022, the Norwegian Parliament passed the *Act on temporary changes in legislation due to the arrival of displaced persons from Ukraine*.³⁷ The act is valid until 1 July 2026, and encompasses temporary changes in many different acts, including the Integration Act.

In principle, all protection beneficiaries in Norway have the right and duty to participate in an introduction programme. To make it easier for the municipalities to quickly settle displaced persons from Ukraine granted temporary protection, several temporary changes were implemented in different acts. Statutory requirements were reduced, such as those in the Integration Act that regulate the duration and obligation to participate in the introduction programme and Norwegian language training.³⁸ Important adjustments include:

- A right, but not an obligation, to participate in an introduction programme for six months, with a possible extension of up to six months.
- For those who do not have an education at upper secondary level, the programme can last for up to three years, with a possible extension of up to one year.
- The programme shall consist of work or education-oriented elements, an offer of Norwegian language training and parental guidance (for parents with children under 18). The other obligatory elements (civics course, empowerment course, career guidance and competence mapping) were not made obligatory initially.
- A right to Norwegian language training after settlement applies for one year from the start-up of the training, with a possible six-month extension of language training, for participants with secondary education or higher. Those without education can receive further extension.

³⁷ <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2022-06-10-35>

³⁸ <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-107-l-20212022/id2910763/> and <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2022-06-10-35>. Cf. chapter 9.1.

- No right or obligation to receive education in social studies.

During the initial phase, Ukrainians were allowed to choose to participate in the introduction programme part-time. In June 2024, this option was removed, and Ukrainians (along with other refugees) were only allowed to participate part-time in the event of capacity challenges in the municipality.

From July 2024, some temporary changes were made to the introduction programme for displaced persons from Ukraine. After the first three months in the introduction programme, work-related elements for participants with an end goal of labour market participation were on average to constitute at least 15 hours a week of programme time³⁹. The minimum requirement for work-related elements is fulfilled by practical training at a workplace, part-time work, short professional or industry courses, labour market measures under the direction of NAV or other similar measures. The municipality can also deny participation in the introduction programme for people who have a job or a job offer on an almost full-time basis.

1.9.4 Introduction benefits

Participants in the programme are entitled to an introduction benefit. The benefit is twice the basic amount (G) in the National Insurance Scheme (*Folketrygden*). In 2024, 2 G is NOK 20 666 per month or NOK 248,056 per year. The benefit is taxable. All participants in the introduction programme receive the same benefit, with a few exceptions. Participants under the age of 25 who are living with one or both parents receive one-third of the benefit. Participants under the age of 25 who are not living with their parents receive two-thirds of the benefit. From July 2024, the Government reduced the introduction benefit for some specific groups. Spouses or cohabitants who both participate in the introduction programme and do not have children receive 5/6 of the amount each.

Further, in June 2024, the Government implemented a requirement of 12 months' prior membership of the National Insurance Scheme (*Folketrygden*) to be entitled to a one-off benefit in connection with birth and adoption⁴⁰. Ukrainians with temporary protection were also no longer eligible for a back payment for child benefits for the first 12 months in Norway⁴¹.

1.9.5 Assessment and recognition of foreign qualification

The Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills (HK-Dir) is a national agency under the Ministry of Education and Research and is responsible for recognition of foreign education and training, and for providing information and advice relating to the recognition of foreign education, training and vocational qualifications. This responsibility was transferred from the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) to HK-Dir in 2023.

The scheme for general recognition of foreign higher education includes verification and is primarily aimed at occupations for which there are no legal qualification requirements.⁴² Decisions on general recognition help employers understand and trust the value of foreign higher education qualifications. There is also a fast-track assessment service to help

³⁹ Regulation: <https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2020-12-15-2912>

⁴⁰ Prop. No 101 to the Storting (Bill) (2023–2024). <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-101-l-20232024/id3037628/?ch=1>

⁴¹ Press Release: <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/endringer-i-regelverket-for-fordrevne-ukrainere/id3017444/>

⁴² See <https://hkdir.no/en/foreign-education/education-from-outside-of-norway> for more information.

employers and recruitment agencies understand foreign higher education qualifications when they are in the process of recruiting new staff. Such assessments are made free-of-charge and within five working days.

Immigrants with higher education from abroad can also apply for academic recognition of their qualifications from higher education institutions with relevant study programmes. Such recognition concerns parts of, and full, study programmes and degrees. Academic recognition is most relevant for immigrants interested in further studies in Norway.

Regarding the recognition of qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons or persons in a refugee-like situation, HK-Dir is responsible for an interview-based recognition procedure for people with insufficient or unverifiable documentation of their higher education (the UVD procedure). This implements Article VII of the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

The recognition scheme for upper secondary vocational education and training currently comprises 20 Norwegian craft and journeyman's certificates. Applications for corresponding qualifications from Poland, Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are processed. The scheme for recognition of vocational education and training is gradually being expanded to new qualifications and countries.

For most professions and occupations, no specific official recognition is required before a person can take up work in Norway. However, for around 170 professions, the qualifications required are regulated by law and regulations. This means that individuals who want to be able to practise these professions in Norway require recognition of their professional qualifications. Examples of such professions are nurses, teachers and electricians. For such professions, recognition or authorisation must be given by the competent recognition authority. In Norway, there are 17 different recognition authorities for professional qualifications. HK-Dir is the assistance centre for the EU Professional Qualifications Directive in Norway and provides information to professionals about the directive, Norwegian legislation and regulated professions.

In 2021 and 2022, the system of 'automatic recognition' was extended to more countries. This includes citizens of Ukraine. Automatic recognition is not a formal recognition, but downloadable statements by country on how specific degrees are normally assessed.⁴³ Experience shows that in many cases, such a document is sufficient for a job application. There has been a clear reduction in the number of applications for general recognition for the countries where automatic recognition has been available for some time.

As of 1 February 2023, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration implemented a policy extending the recognition of Ukrainian driving licenses in Norway from 12 months to the duration of collective protection for Ukrainian refugees, up to three years. The policy now also recognises all driving license categories, not just for passenger cars⁴⁴.

Reception and integration of Ukrainian refugees in higher education

Several higher education institutions have implemented measures to welcome and integrate Ukrainian refugees. The measures include language courses (in Norwegian and English) for Ukrainian students, and meeting places and support for Ukrainian researchers and academics. The institutions have also mapped their existing programme portfolio to find programmes or modules (taught in English) that are suitable for newly arrived refugees.

⁴³ [Automatic recognition - a quicker alternative | HK-dir](#)

⁴⁴ [Ukrainian refugees are having their right to drive in Norway expanded - regjeringen.no](#)

To adapt study programmes and increase the capacity to host refugee students, the Government allocated additional funds in 2022, corresponding to 1,000 study places. For these additional places, 540 such students were registered. As stated in Proposition No 78 to the Storting (2021–2022), these additional places would be phased out after four years, or earlier if the places were not used.⁴⁵ In the 2023 National Budget, the allocation was reduced from 1,000 to 500 places. It was further decreased to 277 places in 2024 due to fewer Ukrainian refugees than expected in higher education. The allocation is scheduled to be phased out by 2026.⁴⁶

Studying in Norway is contingent on the approval of general study qualifications by the Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service (NUCAS).⁴⁷ The Ministry of Education and Research temporarily adjusted the admission criteria to facilitate refugees starting or continuing higher education in Norway. This scheme was only applicable for the 2022/2023 academic year and has not been extended. Applicants with education from Ukraine must document completion of secondary school, at least one year of higher education and sufficient knowledge of Norwegian and English. Ukrainian students who have not passed one year of higher education can take subjects at a Norwegian upper secondary school to obtain the required level.⁴⁸ Refugees not enrolled in the introduction programme may be eligible for a refugee grant to support themselves while in preparatory training or upper secondary education.⁴⁹

A dedicated website⁵⁰ has been established where refugees can access information about the courses and programmes available, and the rights and obligations for refugees who intend to apply for higher education in Norway. The page is updated regularly.

1.9.6 Early childhood education and care

The Kindergarten Act regulates the activities of kindergartens and guides the daily operation of kindergartens and the education they provide in children's everyday lives. All children who reach the age of one by the end of November have the right to attend kindergarten as long as they have a permanent residence permit and a registered permanent address in a municipality. The maximum monthly fee for attending kindergarten was reduced in August 2024 and is now NOK 2,000 for one child. The maximum monthly fee for people living in the least central municipalities is NOK 1,500, and kindergarten is free for all children in some municipalities in the northern part of Norway. There are discounts for siblings, including free kindergarten for the third sibling and others following who attend kindergarten at the same time. The fee is the same irrespective of income. However, there are national subsidy schemes for low-income families:

- A national subsidy scheme where low-income families do not pay more than 6 per cent of their income for a full-time kindergarten place.
- A national subsidy scheme where children aged 2–5 from low-income families have the right to 20 hours free core time per week in kindergarten.

Children from asylum seeking families do not have a right to attend kindergarten until their application has been approved and the family has a permanent address in a municipality.

⁴⁵ [Prop. No 78 to the Storting \(2021–2022\) – regjeringen.no](#)

⁴⁶ [Orientering om statsbudsjettet 2024 for universitet og høyskular](#) – The Ministry of Education and Research

⁴⁷ [Veiledning av personer med ukrainsk utdanning](#) - The Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service

⁴⁸ [Ukraina - hvordan få generell studiekompetanse](#) - The Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service

⁴⁹ [Separate grants for refugees – lanekassen.no](#)

⁵⁰ [Study in Norway](#)

However, children staying in an asylum centre may attend a kindergarten if places are available in the municipality where the centre is located. A government grant finances full-time places for all children in asylum centres aged one to five regardless of the status of their asylum application.

To enable the municipalities to respond to the current refugee situation due to the war in Ukraine, some temporary legislative changes have been made to the Kindergarten Act, making it easier to establish temporary kindergartens.

Through the national budget, there are two earmarked grants aimed at kindergartens and minority language children aged 1–5:

- An earmarked grant for increased attendance in kindergarten for minority language children. Municipalities with 80 or more minority language children in the defined group may receive funds to spread information about kindergartens and outreach measures.
- An earmarked grant for strengthening language among minority language children in kindergarten. Municipalities may receive funds if they have a minimum of 10 per cent minority language children in kindergartens and this group consists of at least 50 children.

The Norwegian Government is co-financing area-based urban initiatives in cities that have areas with major challenges in living conditions. Statistics show that minority language children are over-represented in these areas. The Ministry of Education and Research is responsible for an earmarked grant for more pedagogical resources and more staff in kindergartens in areas with major challenges in living conditions.

1.9.7 Primary and secondary education

Immigrant students, especially those who arrive in Norway as teenagers, face tougher challenges than other students in achieving good results from their education. The current war in Ukraine has forced many children and youth to flee their country. A comprehensive school system that benefits all students is a central aim of education policy. The objective is to provide good learning opportunities for all students, with special consideration of the needs of specific groups of children, such as those from language minorities or children who need special educational support.

The main legislation for this area is the Education Act, the Act Relating to Universities and University Colleges and the Integration Act. The Education Act covers education for adults who need primary and secondary education. The statutes have supplementary regulations on many issues that are important for language minorities and migrants' education.

According to the Education Act section 2-1, children and young persons are obliged to attend primary and lower secondary education and have the right to a public primary and lower secondary education. The right to primary and lower secondary education applies when it is probable that the child will reside in Norway for a period of more than three months. These rules apply to every child, including children of asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors seeking asylum and irregular immigrants.

To enable the municipalities to better respond to the current refugee situation due to the war in Ukraine, the Government suggested some temporary legislative changes, which the

Parliament approved.⁵¹ The most important temporary change to the Education Act has been that all children have the right to school as soon as possible and no later than within three months of arrival. The rule is normally within one month. All children are obliged to go to school when they have been in the country for three months. The temporary legislation means that the municipalities have more time to prepare and provide full-time education according to the Education Act. However, they have to offer the best possible education as soon as possible.

Youth who have completed lower secondary school in Norway or a comparable education in another country, have the right to upper secondary education. The application deadline for admission to upper secondary school is 1 February or 1 March each year, but the County Governor must also consider applications they receive after the deadline. Some counties also provide activities for youth prior to attending upper secondary school.

The Education Act sections 3-6, 5-1, 18-2 and 6-5 define the rights to primary, lower and upper secondary education and possibilities for adapted education in Norwegian.

For pupils who have recently arrived in Norway, the local authority may organise their education in separate groups, classes or schools. This applies to both primary, lower and upper secondary schools. If some or all the education is to take place in such an introductory group, class or school, this must be stipulated in the decision to provide adapted language education for the pupil. This decision may only be made if it is considered in the pupil's best interest. Education in a specially organised facility may last for up to two years. A decision may only be made for one year at a time. For this period, the teaching may deviate from the curriculum defined for the pupil in question to the extent required to provide for the needs of the pupil. Due to the temporary legislation, decisions pursuant to this section do not require the consent of the pupil or his/her parents or guardians.

The Government has recently introduced free part-time participation in after-school programmes for all first-grade pupils.

The budget for 2023 and 2024 included grants to strengthen teacher resources in schools and to school libraries in urban areas with major challenges in living conditions. The grants have resulted in different initiatives such as testing a trauma-sensitive educational programme for newly arrived students⁵², the development of a further education programme (*etterutdanning*) at OsloMet for individuals with pedagogical education from their home country – an introduction to Norwegian kindergartens and schools⁵³, and the development of a digital course for newly arrived individuals who wish to work in kindergartens, schools and after-school programmes. The purpose of the course is to help more newly arrived individuals, both from Ukraine and other countries, to find employment more quickly⁵⁴.

'Fleksibel opplæring' (Flexible education) is a national initiative providing online bilingual subject teaching from NAFO (the National Centre of Multicultural Education⁵⁵) at Oslo Metropolitan University. This programme provides instruction in mathematics, science and basic English in both Norwegian and the student's native language (or another known language) via a digital platform. The lessons, taught by bilingual teachers, follow the standard curriculum and include weekly real-time teaching sessions. In 2024, the programme

⁵¹ <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/prop.-107-l-20212022/id2910763/>
<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2022-06-10-35>

⁵² <https://nafo.oslomet.no/utproving-av-et-traumesensitivt-undervisningsopplegg-for-nyankomne-elever/>

⁵³ <https://www.oslomet.no/en/study/loi/introduction-norwegian-kindergartens-schools>

⁵⁴ <https://www.udir.no/kvalitet-og-kompetanse/digitalt-kurs-for-nyankomne-som-onsker-a-jobbe-i-norske-barnehager-og-skoler/>

⁵⁵ NAFO

provides instruction in languages such as Somali, Arabic, Tigrinya and Ukrainian. However, the languages offered may vary in the future based on demand. As of 2023, this initiative had reached 580 pupils across 180 schools.

The programme targets recently arrived students in primary, secondary and adult education, aiming to bridge gaps in understanding and help learners develop subject-specific vocabulary in Norwegian. This service is useful for schools unable to find bilingual teachers and is intended to supplement traditional classroom teaching. Instruction is organised in 45-minute sessions, tailored to the needs of the school and students⁵⁶.

Education for children and youth from Ukraine

Several measures have been initiated to assist the municipalities in their work to provide high-quality education for newly arrived children and youth from Ukraine. The Directorate of Education and Training has updated all information relevant to education for newly arrived students. The directorate has also updated relevant guidance material, such as a guide about introductory offers for newly arrived language minority students, and developed information about the Norwegian school system, for parents and students, in several languages, including Russian and Ukrainian. The directorate is cooperating with professionals to increase support and guidance.

Several resources and digital tools are available for use in kindergartens and for teaching newly arrived students, and experience has been gained of using digital multilingual resources and bilingual subject teaching online. However, there were no teaching resources in Ukrainian. Therefore, digital resources such as Bildetema⁵⁷, Lexin⁵⁸, Morsmål.no⁵⁹ and skolekassa.no⁶⁰ are being further developed by NAFO.

1.10 Anti-discrimination policies and diversity programmes

1.10.1 Legislation

The legal framework on anti-discrimination and equality has been strengthened over the last 25 years, with a focus on ensuring equal rights and prohibiting discrimination on multiple grounds. The key piece of legislation is the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act (2018)⁶¹, which replaced several previous acts that addressed discrimination related to various discrimination grounds. The aim of this act is to promote equality and prevent discrimination based on ethnicity, including national origin, descent, skin colour and language, religion, belief, gender, disability, sexual orientation and other categories. Hate speech and racism are addressed by criminal provisions in the Penal Code (Sections 185-186)⁶² through sections addressing discriminatory acts and hate crimes.

⁵⁶ [Fleksibel opplæring – tospråklig opplæring på nett – NAFO](#)

⁵⁷ Bildetema will be expanded to include Ukrainian. It already exists in Russian.

⁵⁸ A Lexin dictionary in Ukraine – Norwegian will be developed. Such a dictionary already exists in Russian.

⁵⁹ Morsmål.no has now been expanded to include Ukrainian. It already exists in Russian.

⁶⁰ Skolekassa.no has been expanded to include both Ukrainian and Russian.

⁶¹ [Act relating to equality and a prohibition against discrimination \(Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act\) - Lovdata](#)

⁶² [The Penal Code - Part II. Criminal acts - Lovdata](#)

1.10.2 Actors

Since 2014, the Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs ⁶³(Bufdir) has overseen equality and non-discrimination efforts related to ethnicity, religion and belief. It coordinates the Forum on Ethnic Discrimination, a platform for government actors to prevent ethnic discrimination in public services, and holds dialogue meetings with immigrant organisations and national minorities. The directorate also implements government initiatives against racism and maintains an online resource with data on the living conditions and equality of ethnic and religious minorities.

The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud ⁶⁴ (LDO) works proactively to promote equality, offering advisory services to individuals, employers and public bodies. LDO monitors that Norwegian law and administrative practice are in accordance with CERD, but also CEDAW and CRPD⁶⁵. LDO is also tasked with supervising public authorities and employers' equality work, including their activity duty and duty to issue a statement pursuant to the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act, and can conduct follow-up visits to ensure proper implementation.⁶⁶ The Anti-Discrimination Tribunal ⁶⁷ is an independent public administrative body that, with a few exceptions, makes decisions in specific complaints regarding violations of the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act.

The Directorate of Integration and Diversity⁶⁸ (IMDi) plays a key role in promoting diversity and integration in Norway. IMDi is responsible for implementing government policies related to integration, with a focus on improving the inclusion of immigrants and ethnic minorities in society. This includes supporting initiatives that foster diversity and prevent discrimination.

1.10.3 New policies and measures – Equality and discrimination

Racism and discrimination based on ethnicity and religion affect many different groups in Norwegian society. In recent years, measures against racism and discrimination have been strengthened through action plans:

The Action Plan against Racism and Discrimination – New Efforts 2024–2027 continues the work of the previous *Action Plan against Racism and Discrimination on the Grounds of Ethnicity and Religion for 2020–2023*. The plan outlines the Norwegian Government's strategy for combating racism and its impacts. The aim is to help build a society with stronger communities and equal opportunities for all inhabitants. The action plan builds on existing laws and international conventions, incorporating results from recent studies and feedback from various stakeholders, including public institutions and civil society organisations. The focus of the plan is racism and discrimination in the labour market and in other areas that particularly affect young people. The action plan also has a focus on initiatives in municipalities and local communities.

The action plan focuses on five key areas: 1) workplaces, 2) youth, 3) local initiatives, 4) increased knowledge, 5) enhanced efforts. It contains a total of 50 different measures to be implemented by several of the ministries.⁶⁹

⁶³ [Bufdir.no](https://bufdir.no) | Bufdir

⁶⁴ [The Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud - LDO](#)

⁶⁵ CERD, CEDAW and CRPD are international human rights treaties established by the United Nations, ratified by Norway.

⁶⁶ Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud Act Section 5

⁶⁷ [Anti-Discrimination Tribunal](#)

⁶⁸ [The Directorate of Integration and Diversity \(IMDi\)](#)

⁶⁹ [Handlingsplan mot rasisme og diskriminering – ny innsats 2024–2027](#) Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion

The *Action Plan to Combat Discrimination and Hatred Towards Muslims 2020–2023* was as of November 2023, extended to 2024. The plan included 18 measures focusing on four key areas: Dialogue and Meeting Places, Safety and Security, Knowledge and Competence, and Efforts Outside Norway. According to the Government, most measures in the plan have been implemented or are ongoing. However, there is a continuous need to gather and share knowledge about negative attitudes and discrimination against Muslims in various areas of society, according to a press release from the Ministry of Culture and Equality.⁷⁰

As of November 2024, the Norwegian Government issued a new Action Plan against anti-Semitism 2025–2030, the third of its kind. The plan aims to combat racism, hate speech and discrimination based on ethnicity and religion, and ensure the safety of the Jewish minority in Norway. The plan includes 22 measures to prevent and counteract anti-Semitism and cultivate more awareness of Jewish history and cultural heritage in Norway.⁷¹

“Everyone Included!” – Action Plan for Equal Opportunities to Participate in Cultural, Sports, and Outdoor Activities, 2024–2026 outlines the Government’s ambitions for social inclusivity within the cultural and recreational fields, particularly for young people.⁷² Children and youth with migrant backgrounds are underrepresented as users of cultural and recreational services. The Government aims to change this, recognising that access to public benefits and participation in social activities are crucial for fostering community engagement and societal coexistence. To achieve this goal, the plan includes six focus areas and 43 measures that aim to break down social, economic and geographical barriers that may prevent marginalised groups from engaging in arts, sports or outdoor activities.

Fight against extremism

Recent developments in Norway's fight against extremism were marked by the March 2024 release of the Commission on Extremism's report, ‘Joint Efforts Against Extremism: Better Conditions for Preventive Work’, which presented 41 recommendations for strengthening preventive measures against radicalisation and extremist violence⁷³. As a follow-up to the commission's report, the Government has announced that it will present a white paper to the Storting in spring 2025, on the prevention of extremism.

The Commission on Extremism was established on 10 June 2022, against a backdrop of domestic terrorist incidents that have profoundly shaped Norway's security and societal policies. The commission was a direct response to major far-right extremist attacks, including the 2011 atrocities targeting the Government Quarter and Utøya Island, which claimed 77 lives, and the 2019 attack in Bærum that involved the killing of a 17-year-old adopted girl and an assault on the Al-Noor Mosque. Both events were motivated by far-right ideology, underscoring the need for a comprehensive and proactive approach to extremism.

Grants for measures against racism, discrimination and hate speech

The Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir) manages the grant scheme on behalf of the Ministry of Culture and Equality. The aim of the grant scheme is to support local, regional and national initiatives and activities aimed at combating racism, discrimination and hate speech based on ethnicity, religion and belief. The scheme seeks to

⁷⁰ [Styrker innsatsen mot diskriminering av og hat mot muslimer – regjeringen.no](https://www.regjeringen.no)

⁷¹ [Handlingsplan mot antisemittisme 2025–2030 – Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development](https://www.regjeringen.no)

⁷² [Alle inkludert! Handlingsplan for like muligheter til å delta i kultur-, idretts- og friluftslivsaktiviteter, 2024–2026 – Ministry of Culture and Equality](https://www.regjeringen.no)

⁷³ [Joint efforts against extremism: Better conditions for preventive work - regjeringen.no](https://www.regjeringen.no)

promote anti-racism, diversity and dialogue while fostering knowledge and awareness among the majority population about racism, discrimination and hate speech.

1.11 International agreements regarding readmission and/or the return of foreigners

Norway prioritises limiting the arrival of asylum seekers without protection needs and ensuring the return of those without legal residence. Policies focus on deterring irregular migration through stringent legal measures and fostering voluntary returns.

Norway has a strong focus on reducing the number of asylum seekers who do not require protection and ensuring the effective return of individuals without legal residence. A central component of this strategy includes enforcing strict penalties for anyone facilitating an illegal entry or stay, with those involved in organised illegal migration facing prison sentences of up to six years. Norway also places significant emphasis on voluntary returns through programmes such as Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), which are implemented both bilaterally and multilaterally in cooperation with transit and destination countries.

Norway has established return agreements with 31 countries and continues to engage with others. Additionally, Norway's diplomatic efforts are bolstered by the presence of Immigration Liaison Officers stationed at embassies in key regions. These officers help foster cooperation and manage return processes, particularly in countries with weak administrative systems. To further strengthen these efforts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security have developed action plans specifically targeting countries that pose challenges in terms of return.

Norway also provides financial incentives to encourage voluntary return, including cash benefits and special assisted return programmes for certain countries. This support is part of a broader strategy to motivate individuals to return voluntarily rather than face enforced removal. Special provisions are made for unaccompanied minors, who are handled through a collaborative process between the Directorate of Immigration and the National Police Immigration Service.

1.11.1 Recent policy changes

In March 2023, Norway's Ministry of Justice and Public Security launched its new Return Strategy for 2023–2029⁷⁴, aiming for efficient and coordinated returns while respecting fundamental rights. The strategy focuses on five key areas: ensuring returns are both effective and lawful, improving national coordination, enhancing collaboration with other European countries on return processes, strengthening cooperation with countries of origin and promoting sustainable return and reintegration efforts.

A minor change was also made to the Immigration Act regarding the detention and return of families with minors, allowing for more effective planning and organisation of outbound transport when children are involved, ensuring better conditions for families during the return process (see 1.5.1 Policy changes – Family migration)

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security has proposed improved interoperability with existing EU information systems. This includes integrating the Visa Information System (VIS)

⁷⁴ [Return Strategy 2023 – 2029](#) - Ministry of Justice and Public Security

into Norwegian law and amending the Police Act and the Immigration Act regarding the collection and use of biometric data.⁷⁵ Interoperability has been implemented in EU regulations, incrementally, to improve data management architecture for external border control and security purposes. Regulations 817⁷⁶ and 818⁷⁷ of 2019 established this framework within the EU, which now applies in Norway under the Amendment Act to the Border Act and the Immigration Act, etc. implemented in June 2024.⁷⁸

Interoperability may here be understood to mean the 'ability of IT systems to exchange data and information'. The information systems included in the interoperability solution are the Entry/Exit System (EES), European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), Visa Information System (VIS), Schengen Information System (SIS), European Asylum Dactyloscopy (Eurodac) and the European Criminal Records Information System on Third Country Nationals (ECRIS-TCN).

The interoperability regulation contains four components which are utilised across the Schengen area:⁷⁹

- i. Common Search Portal (European Search Portal – ESP)
- ii. Shared Biometric Matching Service (sBMS)
- iii. Common Identity Repository (CIR)
- iv. Multiple-Identity Detector (MID)

The change closes the potential information gap for the entry and residence basis for third-country nationals with visas and residence permits from a Schengen state. This allows Norway, and other Schengen states, to verify the authenticity of permits, confirm they are used by the right person, check the legal residence status, and determine whether individuals without ID documents have a residence permit.

The new regulations for the collection and use of biometric data state that identifiers, such as facial photos and fingerprints, can be used to determine the identity of unknown individuals or bodies. This will be utilised especially in the context of natural disasters, accidents and terrorist incidents. The data is only to be used for identification purposes and must be deleted once the search is complete.⁸⁰

⁷⁵ [Prop. No 68 to the Stortint \(Bill\) \(2022–2023\) – regjeringen.no](#)

⁷⁶ [817](#) - Regulation (EU) 2019/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council

⁷⁷ [818](#) - Regulation (EU) 2019/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council

⁷⁸ [Lov om endringer i grenseloven og utlendingsloven mv. \(interoperabilitet og visuminformasjonssystemet mv.\) – lovdata.no](#)

⁷⁹ [Interoperability](#) – European Commission

⁸⁰ [Prop. No 70 to the Storting \(Bill and Resolution\) \(2023–2024\) – regjeringen.no](#)

2 International migration in the public debate

2.1 Media and political discourse

During 2023 and the first half of 2024, Norway's media and political discourse on migration and refugee settlement was shaped by the unprecedented influx of displaced Ukrainians following the full-scale war⁸¹. In 2023, the response emphasised solidarity with Ukraine and rapid integration, as Norway provided collective temporary protection for Ukrainians, enabling swift access to housing, education and employment. However, this approach placed considerable strain on municipalities, which faced challenges such as housing shortages and stretched public services⁸². Media narratives highlighted both successful integration stories and the pressures faced by local communities⁸³.

In response to the municipalities' strained capacity, and the large number of displaced persons from Ukraine arriving in Norway compared with the other Scandinavian countries during autumn 2023, the Norwegian Government introduced a series of restrictions (see descriptions in the respective chapters), on the grounds that Norway could not have more favourable and generous policies than our neighbouring countries. There was general support across the political spectrum for most of these restrictions, and from the leading Norwegian newspapers.

A key political issue in 2023 revolved around balancing support for Ukrainians with equitable treatment for other refugee groups, such as UN quota refugees. This raised concerns about perceived disparities in the conditions for Ukrainians compared with others. Public debate often reflected this tension, with calls for greater fairness in Norway's refugee policies⁸⁴.

In early 2024, the discourse evolved as the demographic composition of arrivals shifted, with more Ukrainian men seeking protection. Norwegian media and political discourse increasingly focused on the arrival of Ukrainian men aged 18 to 60 who could potentially be summoned to military service in Ukraine. This shift raised questions about the dilemmas of granting protection to individuals who might otherwise be obligated to remain in their home country for defence purposes^{85 86}. Some commentators emphasised Norway's commitment to upholding international protection laws, arguing that individuals fleeing war zones have the right to seek refuge regardless of gender or military eligibility. Others, however, questioned whether the displacement of men in this age group might contradict Ukraine's efforts to maintain its defence capabilities. Discussions also explored whether the presence of these men could alter public perceptions of Ukrainian refugees, potentially impacting the strong solidarity previously seen in Norway.

⁸¹ [Norway prepares for more refugees - Norway's News in English — www.newsinenGLISH.no](https://www.newsinenGLISH.no/norway-prepares-for-more-refugees)

⁸² [Norway tries to reduce refugee influx - Norway's News in English — www.newsinenGLISH.no](https://www.newsinenGLISH.no/norway-tries-to-reduce-refugee-influx)

⁸³ [Ukrainske flyktninger, IMDI | Flere kommuner sier nei til å bosette alle flyktningene de blir bedt om](https://www.imdi.no/ukrainske-flyktninger)

⁸⁴ [Kan bli lettere for ukrainere å kjøre buss – ombud mener det forskjellsbehandler flyktninger – Stor-Oslo](https://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iraks/kan-bli-lettere-for-ukrainere-aa-kjore-buss)

⁸⁵ [Frp vil ikke gi stridsdyktige ukrainske menn beskyttelse – Dagsavisen](https://www.dagsavisen.no/nyheter/iraks/frp-vil-ikke-gi-stridsdyktige-ukrainske-menn-beskyttelse)

⁸⁶ [Benefits cut for Ukrainian refugees - Norway's News in English — www.newsinenGLISH.no](https://www.newsinenGLISH.no/benefits-cut-for-ukrainian-refugees)

2.2 Public attitudes

Based on data from the European Social Survey⁸⁷, Integreringsbarometeret (Integration Barometer)⁸⁸ and Statistics Norway (SSB), public attitudes in Norway towards immigration and immigrants show notable trends and developments.

Evidence from two decades of data from the European Social Survey (ESS), (2002–2024), show that Norway, over time, has shown generally positive attitudes towards immigration relative to other European countries. Opinions tend to favour immigrants perceived as skilled or beneficial to the labour market. However, there is still scepticism towards groups perceived as culturally different (particularly Muslims) or less economically beneficial (low-skilled).

Based on an annual survey conducted by Statistics Norway in 2023, the majority of Norwegians maintain generally positive views on immigration, particularly regarding labour migrants. Around 80% believe that most immigrants contribute positively to the workforce, and 70% agree that labour migration benefits the economy. Support for refugees has also grown, with more respondents favouring easier access to residency for asylum seekers than those opposing it. This shift reflects a steady increase in openness since 2019.

A distinct pattern of trust emerged as Norwegians reported being highly comfortable with immigrants in professional and social roles. For instance, over 90% expressed they were comfortable having immigrants as colleagues, doctors or in caregiving positions. Moreover, the majority (85%) would be fine with a family member marrying an immigrant⁸⁹

Interestingly, views on integration have become more nuanced according to the Integration Barometer. There is a declining expectation for immigrants to fully assimilate with Norwegian norms, with only 32% agreeing that immigrants should strive to become as similar to Norwegians as possible, while 47% disagreed. Similarly, while most Norwegians do not perceive immigrants as a threat to public security, only 17% of respondents expressed any concerns about security – a historic low⁹⁰.

Although attitudes towards integration are generally positive, differences remain based on the origin of migrants. For example, Ukrainian refugees face fewer perceived integration barriers compared with those from Asian or African countries (such as Afghanistan or Congo). Overall, Norway's population shows significant openness to immigration and recognises the economic and social contributions of migrants while supporting the integration process across diverse communities.

⁸⁷ [ESS Data Portal](#)

⁸⁸ [The Norwegian Integration Barometer - Institute for Social Research](#)

⁸⁹ [Attitudes towards immigrants and immigration – SSB](#)

⁹⁰ ISF; Holdninger til innvandring, integrering og mangfold [Rapport 7:24](#)

3 Recent migration statistics

3.1 Migration flows

In both 2022 and 2023, immigration levels reached historically high levels in Norway, although 2023 saw a slight decline compared with 2022. Net immigration as a percentage of the total population stood at a comparatively high level: 1.06 in 2022 and 0.95 in 2023, respectively (see Table 3.1).

Norway has long been characterised as a net immigration country, with more people moving into the country than leaving it. Over the past half-century, the only year with negative net immigration was 1989 (see Table A10).

While immigration by foreign citizens has shown a steady positive balance, the net migration of Norwegian citizens has, over time, been negative, with more Norwegians emigrating than returning. There have been a few exceptions, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when travel restrictions and uncertainties reduced emigration.

The current high levels of immigration and net migration are primarily due to the influx of displaced persons from Ukraine. In 2023, other top immigration countries to Norway by citizenship were Poland, Syria, Lithuania, Sweden, India and Romania. (see Tables A7 and A8).

Among those who have emigrated from Norway in 2023, we find the largest numbers among citizens from Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Sweden, Romania and India. However, it should be noted that people with Norwegian citizenship constitute the largest emigration category.

Table 3.1: Registered immigration by citizenship (2014–2023).

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Immigration	70 000	67 300	66 800	58 200	52 500	52 200	38 100	53 900	90 500	86 600
Foreign	61 400	59 100	58 500	49 800	44 400	44 600	30 800	46 600	83 300	79 500
Norwegian	8 600	8 200	8 300	8 400	8 100	7 600	7 300	7 300	7 200	7 100
Emigration	31 900	37 500	40 700	36 800	34 400	26 800	26 700	34 300	32 500	34 000
Foreign	23 300	27 400	30 700	26 600	24 500	17 550	19 900	26 000	23 100	23 800
Norwegian	8 600	10 100	10 000	10 200	9 900	9 250	6 900	8 300	9 400	10 200
Net migration	38 150	29 800	26 100	21 350	18 100	25 300	11 400	19 700	58 000	52 600
Foreign	38 100	31 700	27 800	23 150	19 900	27 000	11 000	20 600	60 200	55 700
Norwegian	50	-1 900	-1 700	-1 900	-1 800	-1 700	400	-900	-2 200	-3 100
Legal migrants share of total population										
Immigration	1.36	1.30	1.28	1.10	0.99	0.71	0.71	1.01	1.65	1.56
Emigration	0.62	0.73	0.78	0.70	0.65	0.50	0.50	0.64	0.59	0.61
Difference	0.74	0.57	0.50	0.40	0.34	0.21	0.21	0.37	1.06	0.95

(Source: Statistics Norway)

3.1.1 Main reasons for immigration

In 2023, refugee protection emerged as the dominant reason for immigration to Norway, accounting for 51% of total immigration, up from 47% in 2022. This represents a significant shift from earlier trends, where family reunification/establishment and labour immigration

were the leading categories, each contributing over 30% of total immigration since 1990. Refugee protection historically accounted for around 20%, with education contributing close to 10%.

Labour migration increased from 13% in 2022 to 19% in 2023 but is still at a much lower level than the 2021 figure of 43%. The 'unknown/other' category returned to about 5% in 2023, after a temporary rise to 13% in 2022. Additionally, immigration for family and education purposes continued to decline from 2022 to 2023, as detailed in Table 3.2.

It should be noted that immigrants from other Nordic countries⁹¹ are not included in these figures because they do not need a residence permit to live and work in Norway.

Family migration

In 2023, India, Syria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Eritrea remained the top five countries outside the EU/EFTA for family immigration, consistent with 2022. For EU/EFTA countries, Poland and Lithuania match the figures for the above five countries, and overall, Poland is currently the top family immigration country, followed by India and Syria.

Table 3.2: Non-Nordic immigration by entry categories, and share of total for 2021–2023.

	Total number	Labour	Family	Protection	Education	Unknown reason/Other
2021	39 903	17 265	12 082	4 355	4 454	1 747
Share of total		43.3	30.3	10.9	11.2	4.3
2022	76 553	9 546	16 845	35 799	4 241	10 132
Share of total		12.5	22.0	46.8	5.5	13.2
2023	71 815	13 842	14 443	36 762	3 080	3 688
Share of total		19.3	20.1	51.2	4.3	5.1

(Source: Statistics Norway 2024, [Immigrants by reason for immigration – SSB](#))

3.1.2 Labour migration

The COVID-19 pandemic and entry restrictions resulted in reduced mobility between different countries in 2020 and 2021. Normalisation through 2022 led to an increase in work-related immigration also in 2023 from third-country nationals (see Table 3.3).

From 2022 to 2023, there were several notable changes in third-country work permits in Norway. The primary change from 2022 to 2023 was a shift from skilled work permits to other work categories, with both seasonal and 'other' permits increasing their share of the total.

More specifically, the number of permits for skilled workers decreased slightly, from 5,731 in 2022 to 5,444 in 2023. The share of skilled work permits in the total fell from 53.6% to 48.9%, indicating a slight decline in the importance of this category. Permits for seasonal work increased from 2,860 to 3,109, with the share rising from 26.7% to 27.9%, reflecting growing demand for seasonal labour. The number of other work permits rose from 2,107 to 2,590, increasing its share from 19.7% to 23.2%, making it the category with the largest percentage growth.

The top five countries in the category (i) skilled labour are India, UK, Pakistan, Iran and USA, making up about 44% of all skilled labour migrants; (ii) the top four countries in the category

⁹¹ The Nordic countries are Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, the autonomous territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, and the autonomous region of Åland.

seasonal labour migrants are Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines and Belarus, making up 40% of all seasonal labour migrants; (iii) the top four countries in the category other labour migrants are the UK, India, Argentina and the USA, making up 69% of all other labour migrants; and (iv) overall, the five most important countries are India, Vietnam, the UK, the Philippines and the USA.

Registrations of EU/EFTA workers declined slightly, from 16,970 in 2022 to 16,408 in 2023. The top EU/EFTA labour immigration countries are the same in 2023 as in 2022: Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Spain and Germany⁹².

Table 3.3: Work-related residence permits granted to third-country nationals and EU/EFTA registrations, 2014–2024,

	Third-country work permits								EU/EFTA registrations
	Skilled work	Seasonal work	Other	Total	Skilled work %	Seasonal work %	Other %		
2014	3 737	2 531	2 245	8 513	43.9	29.7	26.4	100.0	34 244
2015	2 875	2 290	2 553	7 718	37.3	29.7	33.1	100.0	26 593
2016	2 488	2 401	2 187	7 076	35.2	33.9	30.9	100.0	23 496
2017	2 815	2 647	2 584	8 046	35.0	32.9	32.1	100.0	22 995
2018	3 771	2 905	2 428	9 104	41.4	31.9	26.7	100.0	21 195
2019	4 398	3 414	2 416	10 228	43.0	33.4	23.6	100.0	19 285
2020	2 967	2 363	1 475	6 805	43.6	34.7	21.7	100.0	12 951
2021	4 145	1 402	1 801	7 348	56.4	19.1	24.5	100.0	14 429
2022	5 731	2 860	2 107	10 698	53.6	26.7	19.7	100.0	16 970
2023	5 444	3 109	2 590	11 143	48.9	27.9	23.2	100.0	16 408
2024 (01-09)	2 998	3 522	1 641	8 161	36.7	43.2	20.1	100.0	

(Source: UDI and Statistics Norway)

3.1.3 Education-related immigration

Permits for education-related immigration in Norway include categories for pupils; individuals attending primary or secondary education programmes; higher education students, such as those attending universities or colleges; researchers engaged in postdoctoral studies or research programmes; individuals participating in cultural exchange programmes while assisting a host family with household tasks (au-pairs); and a catch-all category for education-related permits that do not fall into the aforementioned categories, possibly including short-term study programmes or specialised training (Table 3.4).

From 2022 to 2023, permits under the education category decreased significantly, dropping from 5,630 to 4,042. The largest decline occurred in the student sub-category, which fell from 3,943 to 2,756. Although all sub-categories experienced a decline in absolute numbers, their shares of total education immigration varied.

The share of pupils and postdocs increased, with the number of pupils rising from 6.5% to 8.9% and postdocs from 5.2% to 6.3%. The share of students and au-pairs declined, with students dropping from 70.0% to 68.2% and au pairs from 13.1% to 11.5%. The 'Other' category remained stable, with its share declining slightly from 5.2% to 5.1%.

⁹² The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration

Table 3.4: Migrants on study permits 2021–2023, and % of total each year

Year	Total	Pupils	Students	Postdocs	Au pairs	Other
2021	4 428	298	3 399	123	345	263
Share of total		6.7	76.8	2.8	7.8	5.9
2022	5 630	365	3 943	293	737	292
Share of total		6.5	70.0	5.2	13.1	5.2
2023	4 042	360	2 756	253	466	207
Share of total		8.9	68.2	6.3	11.5	5.1

(Source: UDI)

In 2023, the countries making the largest contributions to the education category subcategories were:

- Among students, China and the USA lead, each accounting for over 10% of the total. They are followed by the UK, Canada and Japan, which collectively contribute nearly 40%.
- Among postdoctoral researchers, China is the top contributor (about 23%), followed by the USA, India and Brazil, together representing around 60% of the total.
- Among pupils, the USA is the most significant country, contributing nearly 30%, followed by the Philippines, bringing their combined share to approximately 48%.
- Among au pairs, the Philippines overwhelmingly dominates, with around 85% of the total.
- Across all sub-categories, the Philippines, the USA, China, India and the UK together account for approximately 45% of all educational immigrants.
- Overall, the 2023 distribution closely mirrors that of 2022. However, among student immigrants, Iran, Bangladesh and Pakistan emerged as key contributors, after China and the USA. This shift positioned Pakistan and India among the top five countries for student immigrants, replacing India and the UK in this group (source: UDI).

3.1.4 Refugees

The inflow of applicants for protection in Norway is still dominated by Ukrainians granted temporary collective protection. Approximately 33,000 Ukrainians were registered in both 2022 and 2023, but the figure dropped significantly to 15,400 for January–September 2024, indicating a notable decline from the previous years (Table 3.5).

Asylum application trends have fluctuated over time, with peaks during crises in 1993, 2002, 2009 and 2015, driven by wars and violent conflicts. Between 2022 and 2023, asylum applications decreased from 5,700 to 3,400. Unaccompanied minors followed a similar trend, rising in 2022 before declining in 2023 and further declining in early 2024 to levels comparable to 2016–2021 (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5 presents the permits granted for asylum applications, divided into three categories: convention refugees, other refugees and humanitarian cases. These permits are categorised initially by the case handling by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and secondly by the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE), which reviews appeals against UDI rejections. It is important to note that the figures for applications and case handling by the UDI and UNE are

not directly comparable, as applications submitted in one year may be processed during the following year or later, and UNE's decisions on appeals may take even more time.

Key insights from the table are as follows:

Reflecting the declining trend in asylum applications since 2015, the number of UDI permits has also decreased. However, in 2023, there was a notable increase in permits and rejections, driven by efforts to address the backlog of pending cases.

The largest share of permits granted falls under the convention category, ranging from 84% to 92% of all permits (92% in 2022 and 90% in 2023). In contrast, the shares for 'other refugees' and 'humanitarian' cases are much smaller and more variable, ranging from 3% to 12% and 2% to 9%, respectively.

A few countries dominate the different categories of UDI permits, and for 2023 the pattern is (source: UDI):

- Displaced persons from Ukraine dominate temporary *collective protection*.
- For the *convention category*, Syrian refugees make up the largest group, with around 65%, and Turkey, Afghanistan and Eritrea bring the share to 92%.
- Afghanistan is the largest country in the *humanitarian category*, with 56%, and Iran and Ethiopia bring the share to 73%.
- For the *other category*, refugees from Afghanistan make up the largest group, with 76%, and Colombia, Eritrea and Yemen bring the share to 97%.
- In *total*, Ukraine dominates, but among the other countries, Syria is the largest, with 41%, and Afghanistan, Eritrea and Turkey bring the share to 70%.

With respect to UNE's handling of appeals, permits granted to rejected humanitarian applications dominate with a share ranging from 53% to 69% of all UNE permits. Permits for convention applications have a share varying between 22% and 38%, while other refugees vary from a mere 2% to 16%. During the last three years, the shares for the three categories are 60%+, 30%+, and up to 5%.

Turning to resettlement, Table 3.5 illustrates that the number of UN quota refugees resettled in Norway has fluctuated between 1,500 and 3,600 since 2015. However, there has been a consistent decline over the last three years, from 3,638 in 2021 to 2,242 in 2023.

Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo have dominated the resettlement category since 2015, and had a share of around 75% of all refugees in this category in both 2022 and 2023 (source: UDI).

Table 3.5: Refugees for Norway 2015 to 2024, applications and permits.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Collective protection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33 534	33 417	15 362
Asylum applicants	3 1145	3 460	3 560	2 655	2 305	1 386	1 656	4 919	5 735	3 429
Minors	5 480	320	191	159	135	89	181	1 224	504	269
Permits UDI										
Total permits	6 252	12 451	4 385	1 453	1 789	1 140	1 105	1 101	2 190	1 193
Convention	5 411	11 560	3 832	1 333	1 647	1 011	926	1 015	1 982	1 047
Other refugees	673	399	149	52	47	50	136	57	119	97
Humanitarian	168	492	404	68	95	79	43	29	89	49
Convention %	86.5	92.8	87.4	91.7	92.1	88.7	83.8	92.2	90.5	87.8
Other refugees %	10.8	3.2	3.4	3.6	2.6	4.4	12.3	5.2	5.4	8.1
Humanitarian %	2.7	4.0	9.2	4.7	5.3	6.9	3.9	2.6	4.1	4.1
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rejections	2103	5966	1807	548	589	354	170	252	547	570
Permits UNE										
Total permits	900	420	499	298	230	169	199	193	148	
Convention	199	132	145	113	83	49	74	57	50	
Other refugees	107	61	79	27	25	4	5	8	8	
Humanitarian	594	227	275	158	122	116	120	128	90	
Convention %	22.1	31.4	29.1	37.9	36.1	29.0	37.2	29.5	33.8	
Other refugees %	11.9	14.5	15.8	9.1	10.9	2.4	2.5	4.1	5.4	
Humanitarian %	66.0	54.0	55.1	53.0	53.0	68.6	60.3	66.3	60.8	
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Total permits UDI+UNE	7 152	12 871	4 884	1 751	2 019	1 309	1 304	1 294	2 338	
Resettlement										
Offers	2 544	3 170	3 097	2 124	3 100	2 401	3 468	2 816	1 651	
Arrivals	2 383	3 291	2 829	2 481	2 803	1 527	3 638	3 124	2 242	

(Source: UDI)

3.1.5 Irregular migration and expulsion

No precise estimates of the extent of irregular immigration or the number of irregular immigrants present in Norway are available. The figures in Table 3.6 are based on information from the Police on forced return and expulsion of people without legal stay in Norway, including the following categories:

- *Asylum – rejected*: persons whose application for asylum in Norway has been processed and rejected on its merits following an appeal. This category also includes persons subject to an expulsion order.
- *Dublin procedure*: anyone returned under the Dublin Regulation. This also includes persons subject to an expulsion order. The Dublin Regulation applies in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Norway.
- *Refused entry or stay* – persons who have been refused entry or stay as they are not permitted to stay here. This may be for various reasons, but persons who are refused entry or stay are not banned from Norway after being returned.
- *Expelled* – anyone expelled from Norway who has not applied for protection (asylum) or who is not subject to the Dublin Regulation. Most of those who fall into this category have been expelled due to a criminal conviction and are banned from Norway for a specific period. Violation of the re-entry ban is a punishable offence.

Forced return by the Police dropped by 14% from 2022 to 2023. This was due to the strong decline in the category refused entry/stay (around 45%), but increasing numbers of asylum and Dublin procedure returns reduced the overall decline. However, the first nine months of 2024 have shown an 8% increase compared with the first nine months of 2023.

Several thousand entries were denied during the COVID-19 pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 due to health concerns, while the total number of forced returns decreased significantly compared with pre-pandemic 2019, and the figures are still well below the 2019 figure.

The table shows that decisions by the UDI on forced return increased by around 15% from 2022 to 2023, continuing the trend from 2021 to 2022. Some of those returns are assisted (voluntary) and do not involve the Police. However, forced returns by the Police may increase in the years to come.

Table 3.6: Forced return by the Police and decisions on forced return by the UDI

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan to Sept 2024
Forced return executed by the Police						
Total	4 157	2 009	1 778	2 695	2 319	1 881
Asylum application	358	112	96	163	209	166
Dublin procedure	343	150	177	366	664	487
Internal protection						60
Refused entry/stay ⁹³	3 456	1 747	1 505	1 343	745	585
Expulsion				823	701	583
Decisions on forced return by the UDI						
Total			2 557	3 626	4 210	
Refused entry/stay			1 347	1 732	1 317	
Expulsion decision			1 210	1 894	2 893	

(Source: the Police and UDI)

3.2 Trends in foreign-born and foreign population stocks

3.2.1 Foreign-born population by country of birth and gender

The foreign-born population, measured as country of origin, has increased six-fold since 1990 and doubled since 2010 (Table 3.7). After 2020, the stock has increased with a factor of 1.18, and from 1 January 2023 to the same date in 2024, it increased by a factor of 1.06. This means that the foreign-born population has increased its share of the total population: from 3.5% in 1990, via 9.5% in 2010 to 16.8% at the start of 2024.

The share of women has varied slightly over the years but generally stayed below 50%. At the start of 2024, the share of women was 49%, a slight increase from 2023. The share of women in the total population is slightly higher, hovering around 50%, but remaining at 49.6% since 2020.

Table 3.7 also presents the immigrant population according to citizenship, showing that its share of the total population, as expected, was three percentage points lower than for country of origin in 2020, increasing to five percentage points in 2023/2024. This is due to the influx of Ukrainian refugees.

Among the foreign-born living in Norway, those from Poland are the largest group (110,000), well ahead of Ukraine (65,000), whose numbers rose sharply after the inflow over the last couple of years, up from 36th position in 2020. After Ukraine, with numbers ranging from 49,000 to 24,600, come Sweden, Lithuania, Syria, Germany, the Philippines, Eritrea and Thailand. The volume from Ukraine, together with a small increase for Thailand pushed Denmark and Iraq out of the top ten list.

Table 3.7: Foreign-born population by country of origin, citizenship, Norwegian-born to immigrant parents and total population, % of total population women

	1990	2000	2010	2020	2023	2024
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⁹³ Before 2022, refused entry/stay and expulsion were lumped into the same category.

Country of origin	150 973	238 462	459 347	790 496	877 226	931 080
% women	47.6	50.4	48.7	48.1	48.8	49.0
% total population	3.6	5.3	9.5	14.7	16.0	16.8
Foreign citizenship				604 525	610 884	633 406
% total population				11.3	11.1	11.4
Norwegian-born to immigrant parents	17 324	44 025	92 966	188 755	213 812	221461
% total population	0.4	1.0	1.9	3.5	3.9	4.0
Total population	4 233 116	4 478 497	4 858 199	5 367 580	5 488 984	5 550 203
% women	50.5	50.5	50.0	49.6	49.6	49.6

(Source: Statistics Norway)

3.2.2 Norwegian-born to two foreign-born parents

Table 3.7 also presents the development from 1990 to 2024 for Norwegian-born to two foreign-born parents. From just over 17,000 individuals in 1990 (0.4% of the population), their numbers have grown to over 221,000 in 2024, now making up 4% of the population.

This diverse population reflects over 50 years of labour immigration, refugee arrivals and family reunifications with parents from 183 different nations. The largest group originates from Pakistan, followed by Poland and Somalia. Notably, 70% of this group is under the age of 18.

Settlement patterns for this group are still concentrated in Oslo Metropolitan Area, similar to those of their parents. Projections indicate that their share will grow from 4% today to about 7% by 2050 as the overall population increases. The most significant increase occurred between 2010 and 2020, with the percentage rising from 1.9% to 3.5%, and more recently, to 4.0%, with a small 0.1% rise in the last year.

3.2.3 Foreign population by nationality and naturalisation

The difference between the foreign-born population based on country of origin and citizenship, as shown in Table 3.7, highlights the number of immigrants acquiring Norwegian citizenship. While the number of citizenship applications fluctuates, there has been a general upward trend, particularly over the past three years, as reflected in Table 3.8. The acceptance rate for citizenship applications has also risen steadily, from 88% in 2014 to 96% in 2023.

In 2023, as in 2022, Syrians were the largest group granted citizenship, accounting for 24% and 11% of all accepted applications, respectively (source: UDI). When including Poland, Eritrea, Sweden and the UK, the total share of applications from these countries rose to 49%.

Table 3.8 also provides data on applications and acceptance rates for permanent residence permits, which are often a stepping stone towards citizenship. The trends here differ from those for citizenship: while there are fluctuations, the overall trend has been downward in recent years, with the acceptance rate also decreasing from 94% to just under 90%.

In both 2023 and 2022, Syrians and Brits were granted the highest number of permanent residential permits (source: UDI). After these two countries, Eritrea, the Philippines, Thailand and India constituted approximately 45% of the total permits granted.

Table 3.8: Applications and acceptance rate for Norwegian citizenship (naturalisation) and permanent residence permits.

	Applications for naturalisation	Accepted - %	Applications for permanent resident permit	Accepted %
2014	15 336	88	15 801	94
2015	12 432	89	18 431	94
2016	13 712	91	16 837	94
2017	21 648	90	17 086	90
2018	10 241	87	14 594	91
2019	13 201	91	20 558	89
2020	19 698	94	17 981	90
2021	41 100	95	14 548	90
2022	39 369	94	10 915	88
2023	37 278	96	11 335	89

(Source: UDI)

3.3 Main changes in labour market outcomes of immigrants

From 2022 to 2023, there was a modest overall increase in employment for immigrants in Norway, with an additional 21,100 employed immigrants. However, the employment rate for immigrants as a share of the total immigrant population saw a slight decrease of 1 percentage point, falling to 68.2%. This decline was seen across broader categories, notably in Europe outside the EU/EFTA/UK, where employment dropped by 6.5 percentage points. This can be explained by the high influx of displaced persons from Ukraine. Despite this decrease, other groups of immigrants experienced stable or slight improvements in employment.

Regarding specific groups, immigrants from Nordic countries and EU/EFTA countries maintained relatively high employment levels, with minimal changes in both employment numbers and percentage shares. The overall trend indicates a stable labour force participation for most groups, but challenges remain in specific regions, particularly outside the EU/EFTA/UK.

Table 3.9: Employed (20-66 years), by immigrant-background and world region. 4th quarter

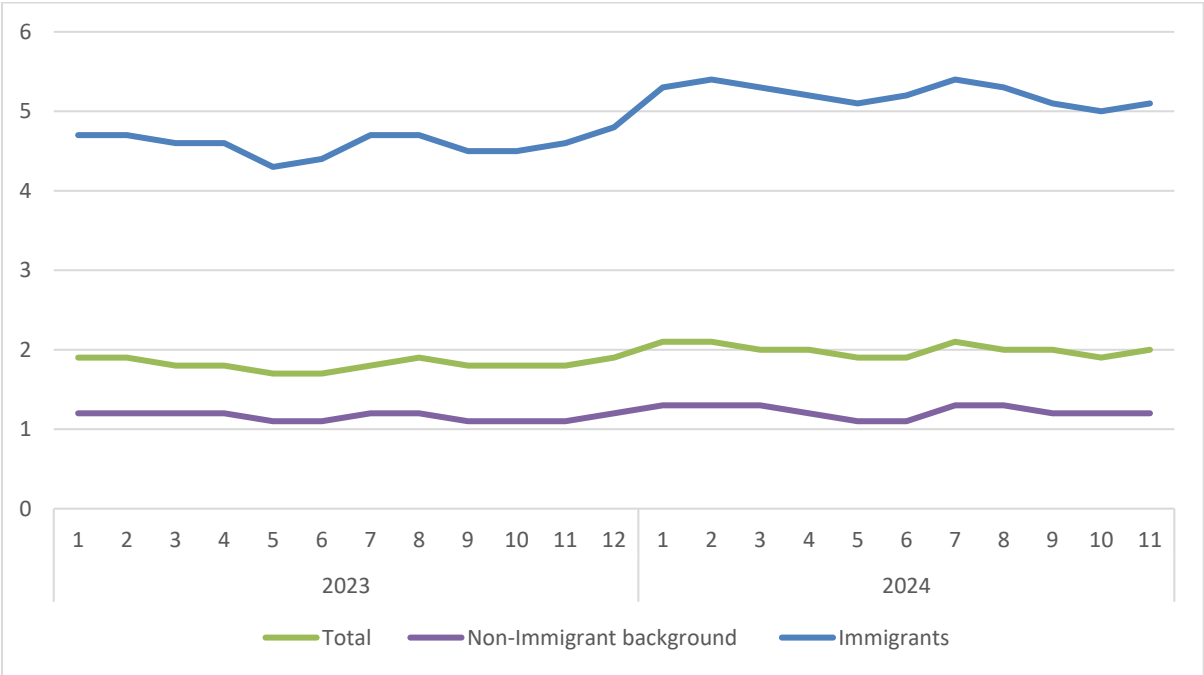
	2023		Change last year	
	Absolute figures	Per cent share in each group	2022–2023	
			Number of employed	Percentage points
Population in total	2 614 674	77.2	17 921	-0.3
Non-immigrant population	2 095 629	79.8	-2 976	0
Immigrants, total	519 026	68.2	21 100	-1
Nordic countries except Norway	43 671	80.5	191	0.2
EU/EFTA until 2004 except the Nordic countries	53 754	76.5	2 428	0
New EU countries after 2004	146 217	77.2	4 611	0
Europe except EU/EFTA/UK	50 287	51.5	5 767	-6.5
North America and Oceania	8 330	69.4	191	0.5
Asia	144 696	64.5	5 295	0.3
Africa	54 526	61.6	1 839	0.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	17 545	72.1	778	0.1

(Source: Statistics Norway)

The unemployment rate in Norway, as shown by the data for 2023 and 2024 (Figure 1), displays distinct patterns for the overall population, natives and immigrants. In general, the total unemployment rate has remained low, fluctuating between 1.7% and 1.9% in 2023, rising slightly to 2.1% in early 2024.

The unemployment rate for immigrants in Norway is significantly higher than for natives, with immigrants experiencing unemployment rates approximately five times greater than those of non-immigrants. As shown in the chart for 2023–2024, the unemployment rate for natives remains exceptionally low, generally around 1%, fluctuating closer to 5% for immigrants.

Figure 3.1: Unemployment, in per cent of the workforce (20-66 years), by country of origin, and time/months, 2023–2024



(Source: NAV 2024)

3.3.1 Labour market outcomes for Norwegian-born with immigrant parents

Among Norwegian-born, aged 25-39 with immigrant parents, labour market outcomes vary significantly by background. Those with parents from India, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Bosnia-Herzegovina show strong employment rates, exceeding 80% for both genders. In contrast, individuals with Somali, Turkish, Chilean, Pakistani, Moroccan and Iranian backgrounds exhibit notably weaker participation, well below the levels of their non-immigrant counterparts⁹⁴.

3.4 Labour market outcomes for displaced people from Ukraine

Data provided by Statistics Norway show that approximately 32% of Ukrainians in Norway were employed. The employment rate is about 38% for those who have lived in Norway since 2023, and around 48% for those who arrived in 2022⁹⁵.

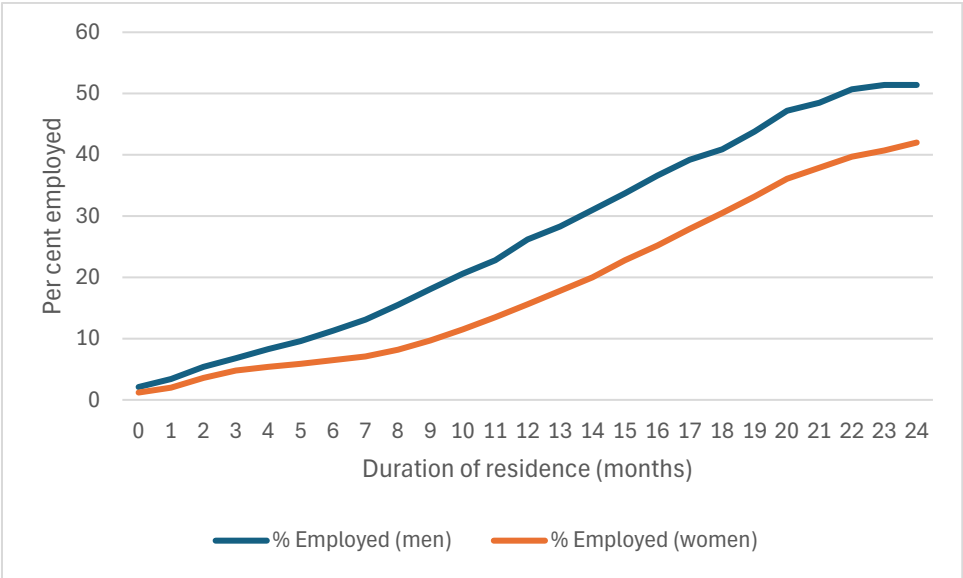
Duration of residence plays a crucial role for Ukrainians who want to enter the Norwegian labour market, and Ukrainian men secure jobs faster than Ukrainian women. After two years in Norway, more than half of the men had a job, while only 42% of the women were in the same situation. Figure 3.2 clearly shows this difference.

⁹⁴ Monitor for norskfødte med innvandrerforeldre

⁹⁵ En av tre ukrainere er i jobb (One out of three Ukrainians at work), Statistics Norway <https://www.ssb.no/arbeid-og-lonn/sysselsetting/artikler/en-av-tre-ukrainere-er-i-jobb>

Ukrainian immigrants work in a variety of occupations. The most common jobs are in cleaning, retail, kindergarten and school. These occupations are often characterised by part-time employment and temporary positions. However, a significant proportion, approximately 24%, work in professions that require higher education, such as academic and managerial positions⁹⁶.

Figure 3.2: Employment rate of Ukrainians settled after May 2022, 20-66 years, by gender and duration of residence (months since settlement)



(Source: Statistics Norway 2024)

Ukrainian refugees find work faster than other refugee groups, such as those from Syria, Eritrea and Afghanistan who settled during the same period. A possible reason may be that Ukrainian refugees have higher formal education, and a shorter and more flexible integration programme compared with other refugees.

⁹⁶ [En av tre ukrainere er i jobb – SSB](#)

Recommended sources of information:

Recent statistics and publications by *Statistics Norway* on migration-related issues with many sub-topics: <http://ssb.no/en/innvandring-og-innvandrerere>

The reports usually have a summary in English, and there is an English version of most statistics.

Statistics and information on applications, permits, rules and regulations from the *Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)* are available in English:
<http://www.udi.no/Norwegian-Directorate-of-Immigration/>

Recent studies commissioned by the UDI and the *Ministry of Justice and Public Security*:
<http://www.udi.no/en/statistics-and-analysis/research-and-development-reports/>
Some of the reports contain a summary or abstract in English.

Facts concerning integration policy in English published by the *Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi)*:
<http://www.imdi.no/en/>

Recent studies commissioned by IMDi:
<https://www.imdi.no/om-imdi/rapporter/>
Some of the reports contain a summary or abstract in English.

IMDi publishes an annual report with an overview of integration indicators:
[Hvordan går det med integreringen i Norge? | IMDi](https://www.imdi.no/om-imdi/rapporter/hvordan-gaar-det-med-integreringen-i-norge/)
There is a summary in English.

Overview of studies, ad-hoc queries and occasional papers on issues concerning migration from the *European Migration Network (EMN) Norway*:
<http://www.udi.no/en/statistics-and-analysis/european-migration-network---norway/>

Websites for relevant publications

Many relevant reports, scientific articles, chapters in books and papers are published each year in Norway or internationally by researchers based here. Much of this material can be found by checking the websites of the institutions listed below. This is not, however, an exhaustive list of sites for finding relevant publications.

<https://www.prio.org/research/topics/migration>

<https://www.samfunnsforskning.no/english/our-research/migration-and-integration/>

<https://www.oslomet.no/en/research/research-groups/international-studies-migration>

<https://www.fafo.no/en/research-areas/migration-and-integration>

<https://samforsk.no/Sider/Avdelinger/Mangfold-og-inkludering.aspx>

<https://www.uib.no/en/imer>

<https://www.frisch.uio.no/english/research-themes/education-sosial-security-labour/index.html>