

MIGRATION POLICY IN LITHUANIA

2024

Migration trends

Emigration and return migration

Immigration and integration of foreigners

Asylum

Combating irregular migration

International cooperation

Institutional framework

MIGRATION TRENDS

Lithuania in 1990-2025:

Population of Lithuania:

1990

3.693 million



2025

2.891 million

Since 1990, the population of Lithuania has decreased by

▼ 803,000



Due to migration:

416,000

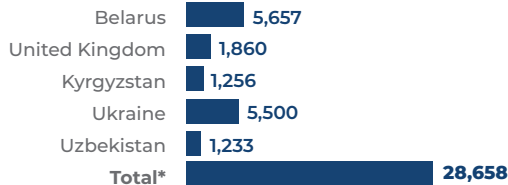


Due to natural population change:

310,000

The trend of positive net migration, which started in 2019, continued in 2024, with 23 000 more inhabitants arriving in the country than leaving.

Top 5 emigration countries in 2024



* The table includes citizens of the Republic of Lithuania and foreigners who have moved to live in other countries for a period longer than six months.

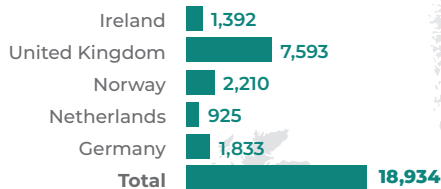
37%

18.9 thousand

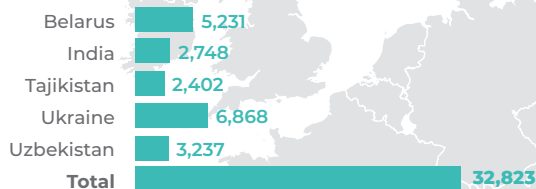
of immigrants were returning Lithuanian citizens.

In 2023, the number of returning Lithuanian citizens amounted to 16.6 thousand.

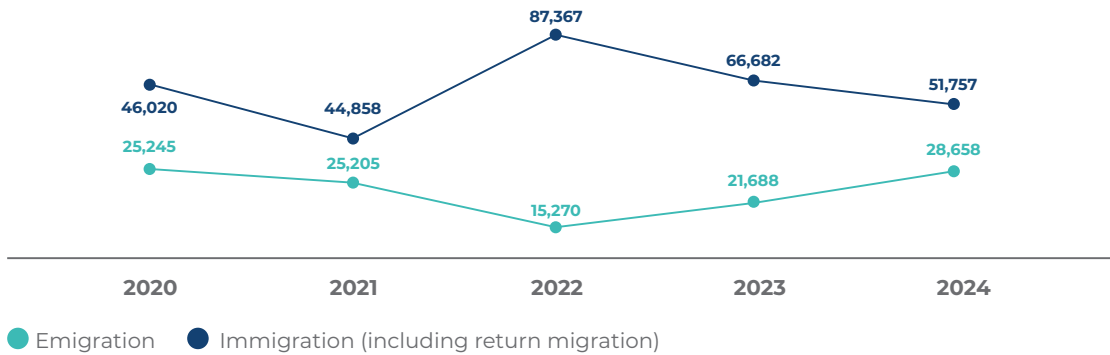
Top 5 countries from which citizens of the Republic of Lithuania returned in 2024



Top 5 immigration countries in 2024



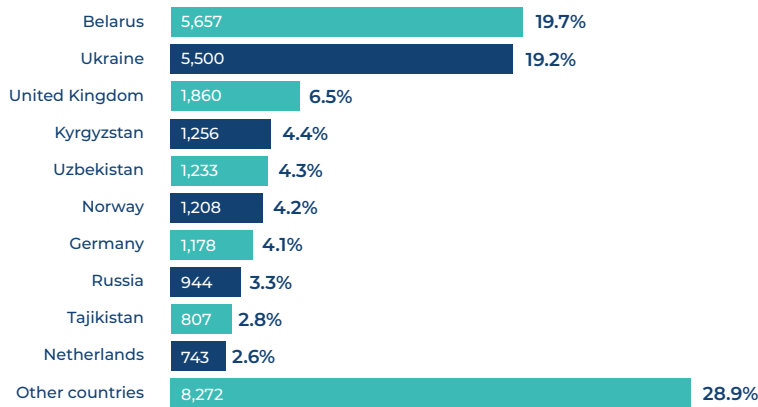
Migration: a five-year overview



EMIGRATION AND RETURN MIGRATION

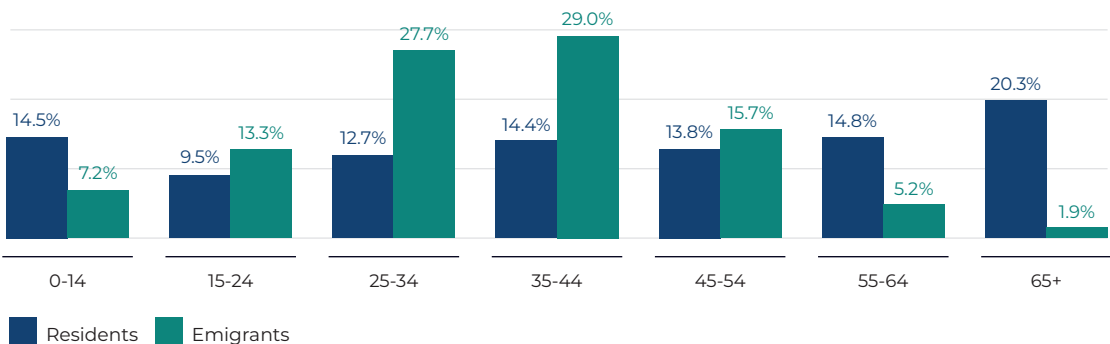
Emigrants by country of destination

Intended country of residence

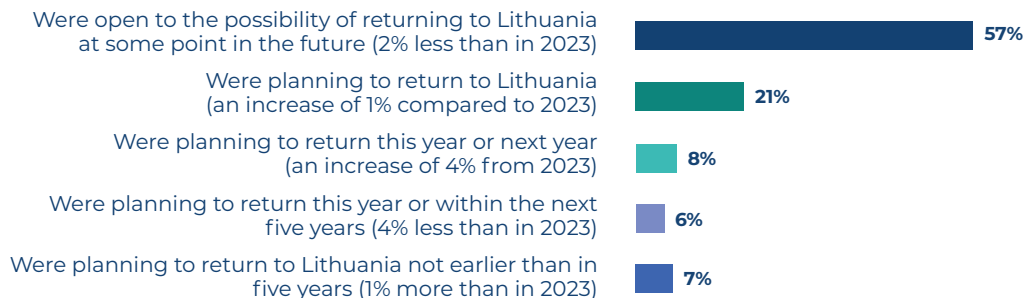


In total
28,658
100%

Emigrants by age



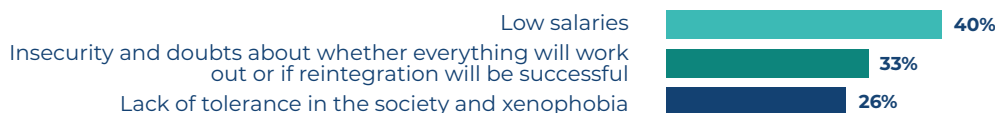
According to a [survey](#) of the Lithuanian diaspora (N=2243) commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2024:



Top 3 incentives for returning:



Top 3 obstacles and risks when considering a return:



Remittances to Lithuania

974.49 million EUR

1.2% of the country's GDP.

In 2024

there was a 7.89% increase in cash flow compared to 2023.

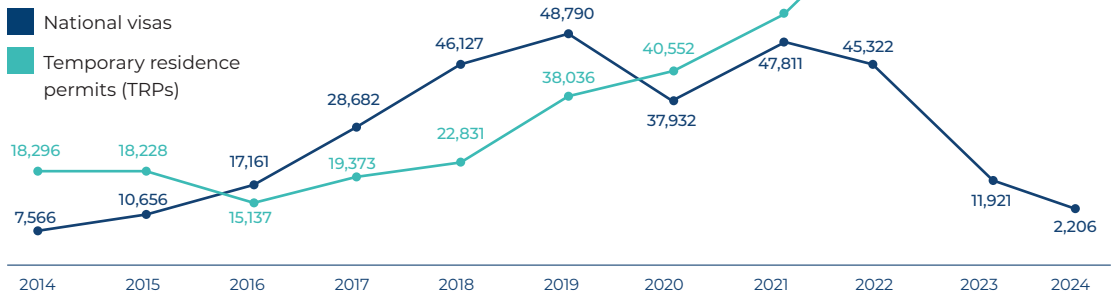
Main areas of work and achievements:

- ▶ To encourage returns to Lithuania and facilitate the (re)integration process:
 - The Action Plan for the Strategic Guidelines for Lithuanian diaspora policy, "Global Lithuania: 2022-2030", was [continued](#).
 - The [initiative](#) "Diaspora-Friendly Employer" has been introduced. The aim of the initiative is to encourage Lithuanian employers to demonstrate a friendly attitude towards returnees, and for diaspora representatives to choose career opportunities in Lithuania and to find employers ready to welcome them more easily.
- ▶ On May 2, 2024, the [website](#) dedicated to the Lithuanian diaspora, and the [website](#) of the consultation center "Grįžtu LT" were launched, providing information targeted at people who have returned to or arrived in Lithuania.
- ▶ To inform Lithuanians living abroad about the Lithuanian labor market, employers, and their expectations, the Employment Service's initiative to promote return migration, "[Gal į Lietuvą?](#)" was continued.
- ▶ In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the National Education Agency, the project on the Creation and Adaptation of Digital Resources (for students of Lithuanian schools abroad in primary and basic education) was implemented, during which digital teaching materials were developed according to the Integrated Lithuanian Education program for grades 2-10.
- ▶ The resettlement of Lithuanian citizens, persons of Lithuanian origin, and their family members from countries experiencing humanitarian crises or conflict zones was implemented, along with support for their integration:
 - In 2024, 2 individuals were resettled from Venezuela to Lithuania.
 - The resettlement process from Ukraine to Lithuania also continued - in 2024, 10 people were relocated from Ukraine.

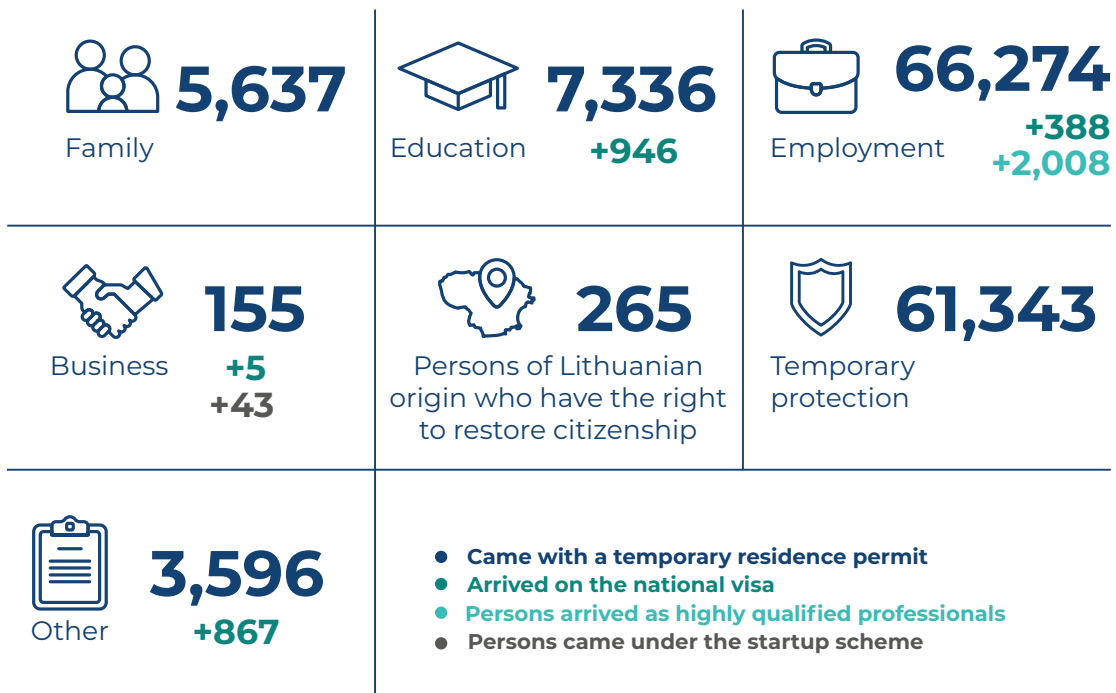
IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION OF FOREIGNERS

2024, 32,823 foreigners immigrated to Lithuania. Of these, 21% were migrants from Ukraine, and 16% were from Belarus.

Arrival of foreigners to Lithuania in 2014-2024



Foreigners in Lithuania by grounds of entry (TRPs and national visas) in 2024



Lists of shortage occupations in Lithuania in 2024



Highly qualified employees

85 occupations

- Software testers
- Programmers
- Software engineers
- Application programmers
- Mechanical engineers



Qualified employees

110 occupations

- Drivers of international freight transport vehicles
- Welders
- Concrete workers
- Plasterers
- Electricians

Employees in these occupations enter under a facilitated procedure.

Under Objective 2 of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Program, "Integration of Third-Country Nationals and Legal Migration" 11 711 third-country nationals participated in integration programs in 2024, a 8.24% increase compared to 2023 (10,819 participants).

Main areas of work and achievements:

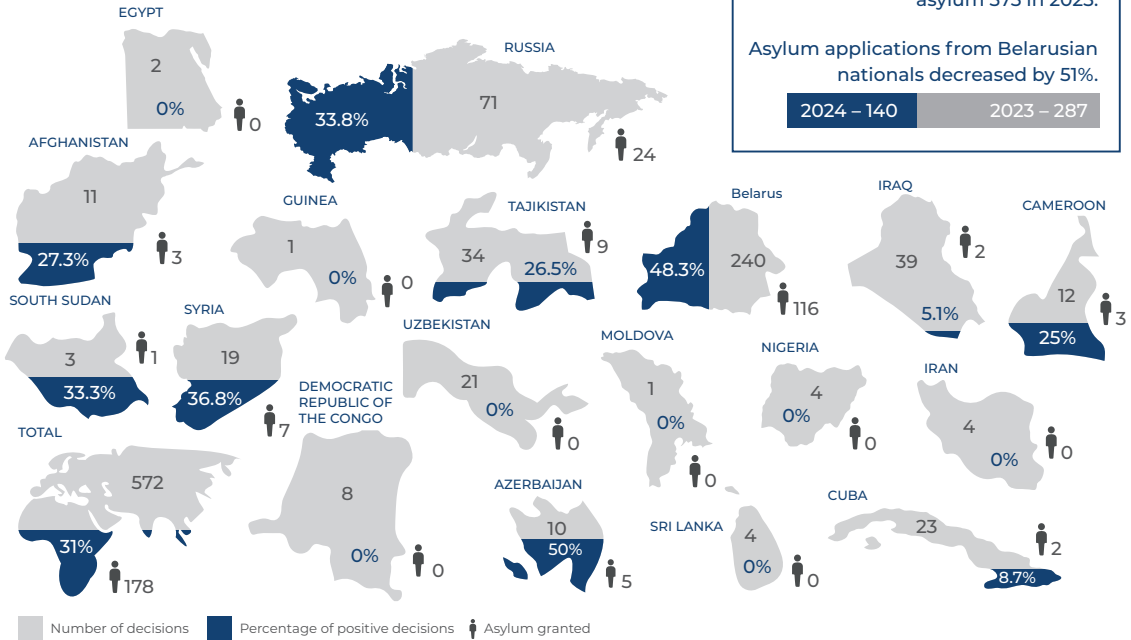
- ▶ The EU Migration and Asylum Pact has been adopted, which provides for faster and smoother migration processes, as well as stronger management of migration and border policy. Although the Pact entered into force in June 2024, its implementation has been postponed for two years:
 - In May, an inter-institutional working group was set up to assess the capacity, gaps, and needs of Lithuania's migration and asylum system.
 - In December, the national implementation plan for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum was approved, and a contingency plan was also prepared.
- ▶ The European Commission has presented a [communication](#) to the European Parliament and the Council on countering hybrid threats and strengthening the security of the EU's external borders. The document notes that when third countries use migration as a means of exerting pressure, Member States may apply national measures even if they deviate from secondary EU law.
- ▶ The Minister of the Interior has approved selection [criteria](#) for foreign countries where applications for temporary residence permits in the Republic of Lithuania can be submitted through external service providers (ESPs). These criteria are intended to ensure a clear selection procedure and to meet the needs of security, foreign policy, and the labor market. In 2024, ESP represented Lithuania in 31 countries.
- ▶ In June 2024, a new quota calculation [mechanism](#) for foreigners arriving in Lithuania for work purposes was established, applicable from 2025.
- ▶ From July 1, 2024, national work visas are only issued to seasonal or posted workers from third countries.
- ▶ In July 2024, an [amendment](#) to the Government Resolution "On the Approval of the List of Specific State Fee Amounts and the Rules for the Payment and Refund of State Fees" came into force, establishing a EUR 50 state fee for a natural or legal person submitting an employer's commitment to employ a foreigner for the purpose of issuing or renewing a national visa or a temporary residence permit for a foreigner intending to work in Lithuania.
- ▶ [Amendments](#) to the Health Insurance Law stipulate that family members of working foreigners (spouses, partners, family members) who have a temporary residence permit or a Union citizen's family member residence card confirming their right to reside temporarily in Lithuania are covered by compulsory health insurance.
- ▶ The Law on the Imposition of Restrictive Measures in Response to Military Aggression against Ukraine, which stipulates that Belarusian citizens crossing the Lithuanian border must undergo additional checks to assess possible threats to national security, has been [extended](#) until May 2, 2025.
- ▶ The following reception conditions were ensured for Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war in Russia: necessary information, social, psychological, and legal services were provided, and conditions for accommodation, employment, education, and Lithuanian language learning were facilitated.
- ▶ Together with partners from Sweden, Finland, and Norway, work began in 2024 on developing a standard for mental health promotion and psychosocial support services for refugees.
- ▶ IOM Lithuania:
 - Organised two social campaigns - "[Human Trafficking Shop](#)" and a preventive campaign in public spaces to draw attention to the dangers of human trafficking and the possibilities for help.
 - Launched the [RISE](#) project, which promotes cooperation between communities and migrants and helps beneficiaries of international protection to settle in Lithuania.
 - In 2024, the IOM Lithuania Migration Information Center ([MiCenter](#)) provided 8,940 consultations to third-country nationals. MiCenter organised 95 events and provided 522 consultations on legal career guidance and integration, business start-up for foreigners, most of whom are refugees from the war in Ukraine. 67 Ukrainian war refugees received grants to start/expand a business; individual and group therapy consultations, activities, and events were held.

ASYLUM

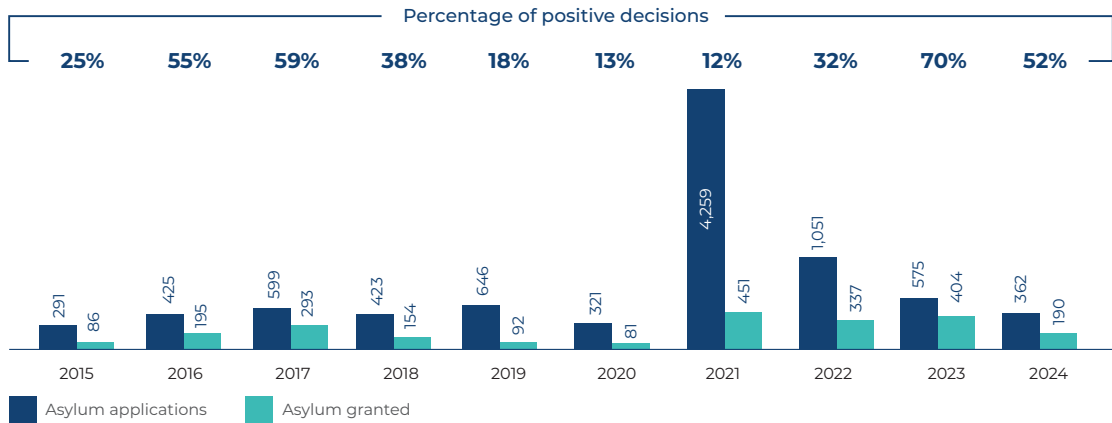
Asylum decisions: top citizenships in 2024

In 2024
362 people applied for asylum 575 in 2023.
Asylum applications from Belarusian nationals decreased by 51%.

2024 – 140 2023 – 287

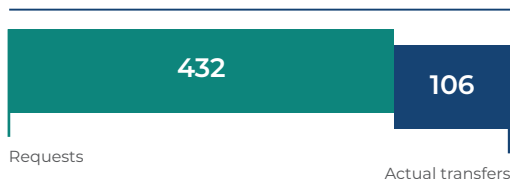


Asylum: a ten-year overview



Transfers under the Dublin Regulation in 2024

Requests received by Lithuania to take over the examination of an asylum application.



Requests submitted by Lithuania to other Member States to take over the examination of an asylum application.

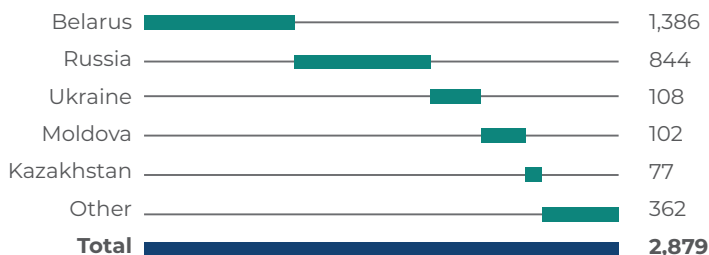


Main areas of work and achievements:

- ▶ In August 2024, the Government [extended](#) the temporary protection for Ukrainian war refugees until March 4, 2026.
- ▶ As of September 2024, the [order](#) of the Minister of the Interior providing for work concessions (exemption from the requirement to have a work permit) for foreigners who are unable to return to Ukraine has ceased to be in force. From now on, this concession applies only to highly qualified workers. Foreigners without temporary protection are only granted the right to work from the date of obtaining a residence permit.
- ▶ On September 11, 2024, a Government [resolution](#) appointed the Reception and Integration Agency as the institution responsible for ensuring the centralisation of migrant accommodation in a single institution, as well as the provision of social and other essential services as from 1 January 2025.
- ▶ In 2024, the Lithuanian Red Cross Society continued to monitor the reception and protection conditions of asylum seekers. The main focus was on assessing the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and others.
- ▶ An [amendment](#) to the Government resolution "On the Approval of the Procedure for Determining and Applying State Language Proficiency Categories" came into force, stipulating that foreigners who have been granted or were granted temporary protection are not subject to the state language proficiency requirements for employment for three years from the date of granting protection.
- ▶ Improvements to foreigner accommodation infrastructure - a multifunctional migrant center with 462 places, 12 of which are adapted for people with disabilities, has begun operating at the State Border Guard Service Foreigner Registration Center.

COMBATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Foreigners who were refused entry: top 5 citizenships in 2024



0.17%

In 2024, of all arriving foreigners were refused entry.

Reasons for refusal of entry in 2024



18% (558)

No valid document / a counterfeit document



27% (830)

A threat to security or public order



35% (1,105)

Lack of documents justifying the purpose and conditions of stay



20% (626)

Other

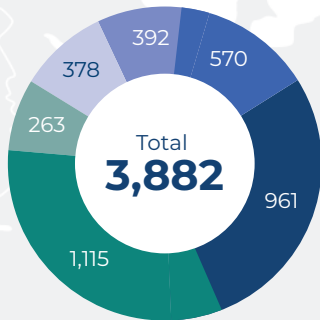
100%

(3,119*)

*a foreigner may be denied entry for several reasons.

Return and expulsion of foreigners

Return decisions by citizenship

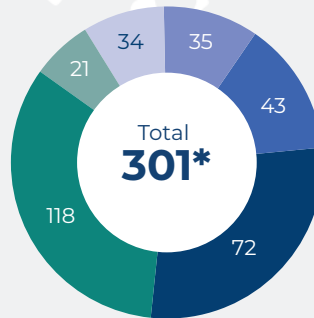


- Belarus
- Russia
- Uzbekistan
- Ukraine
- Kyrgyzstan
- Other

Number of voluntary returns: 88*

* SBCS returned 65 foreigners. IOM Lithuania returned 23 foreigners.

Expulsion decisions by citizenship



- Belarus
- Russia
- Uzbekistan
- Ukraine
- Tajikistan
- Other

Number of persons expelled: 301

* In cases when a foreigner agrees to return to his country of origin voluntarily, an expulsion decision could be changed to a return decision.

Illegal employment

7,032

This is the number of illegal employment inspections carried out by the State Labor Inspectorate in 2024.



Main areas of work and achievements:

- ▶ Comprehensive state border protection measures (installation of a physical barrier and implementation and modernisation of border surveillance systems) were the main factor in reducing the scale of illegal migration.
- ▶ On March 1, 2024, in order to strengthen the protection of the state border, the Lavoriškis and Raigardas border control points (BCPs) with Belarus were closed. Currently, the Medininkai and Šalčininkai BCPs are operating in the Vilnius territorial region.
- ▶ In 2024, IOM Lithuania re-launched its voluntary return and reintegration [project](#), which aims to provide assistance to foreigners in voluntary return and reintegration.
- ▶ On July 1, 2024, [amendments](#) to the Employment Act came into force, extending the definition of illegal employment to include third-country nationals and tightening liability for illegal employment.
- ▶ [Amendments](#) to the Law on the State Labor Inspectorate have entered into force, providing that the State Labor Inspectorate publishes information about employers' violations of the law.
- ▶ The Interinstitutional Cooperation Center (ICC) began operating, established with the aim of more effectively identifying violations related to illegal work and the employment of foreigners. In 2024, the State Border Guard Service received 59 inquiries from the ICC regarding the legal residence, invitations to enter, and employment of foreigners.

Key institutions in migration



This publication was prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the International Organization for Migration Vilnius Office (IOM Lithuania), and the European Migration Network (EMN) in Lithuania. The publication was prepared according to the 2024 Report on the Implementation of the Lithuanian Migration Policy Guidelines and Monitoring of Migration Processes. The Migration Policy Guidelines are the main strategic document establishing the goals, principles and directions of the migration and asylum policy in Lithuania.

The European Migration Network (EMN) is an EU network of migration and asylum experts who work together to provide objective, comparable policy-relevant information and knowledge on emerging issues relating to asylum and migration in Europe. According to government resolution, Lithuania is represented in the network by IOM Lithuania working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and its subordinate institutions.

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