The government announced plans to commission Statistics Norway (SSB) to establish an employment monitor for the immigrant population, aiming to improve knowledge of employment patterns and support more targeted integration measures.

Currently, the employment rate among immigrants stands at 68%, compared with 80% among the rest of the population. Employment outcomes vary considerably depending on the length of residence, reason for immigration, Norwegian language skills and qualifications. Refugees generally have lower employment rates than other immigrant groups, with women facing lower labour market participation than men.

The monitor will consolidate existing data and track employment trends according to immigration status and reason for migration, country background, education, gender, place of residence and length of stay. It will also examine labour market participation, including full-time employment and receipt of welfare benefits. The initiative is intended to identify challenges at an early stage and provide a stronger evidence base for targeted policy interventions.

The announcement forms part of the government's broader efforts to increase immigrant employment. Other measures include a proposed new integration benefit to strengthen work incentives for newly-arrived refugees, increased emphasis on employment within the Introduction Programme since 2026, and revised criteria for refugee settlement to prioritise municipalities offering opportunities for qualification, training and employment.

Source(s)

- Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion | Arbeids- og inkluderingsdepartementet (23 November, 2026), Regjeringen vil vite mer om hvorfor mange innvandrere står utenfor arbeidslivet [The government wants to know more about why many immigrants are outside the workforce], https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/regjeringen-vil-vite-mer-om-hvorfor-mange-innvandrere-star-utenfor-arbeidslivet/id3194401/

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