



## Ireland

### National developments in 2024



Ireland received a record number of asylum applicants, with approximately 18,500 applications, ranking third among EU+ countries in terms of applications per capita (3,570 per 1 million inhabitants). Against the background of the increased pressure, Ireland focused on reducing processing times, addressing existing backlogs and reforming reception.

In July 2024, the European Commission confirmed Ireland's opt-in to seven of the instruments of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.<sup>1</sup> Following the confirmation, efforts in Ireland focused on introducing the necessary reforms in asylum and reception in accordance with the Pact.

Taking an important step toward modernising migration management, the Department of Justice announced a EUR 25 million package for end-to-end investment in the immigration system. The package includes a EUR 5 million investment in digital innovations to modernise immigration systems, reduce processing times, increase the implementation of returns and strengthen border security. Significant resources were directed to streamline the asylum process, with approximately 400 more employees to be recruited for the end-to-end international protection system, including IPO and the Repatriation and Returns function.<sup>2</sup> Additional staff were also recruited in other authorities and institutions involved in matters of asylum, such as the IPAT and the Legal Aid Board.

To speed up access to the procedure, the IPO introduced the possibility for individuals to file a digital application. A pilot project, in a limited number of cases, also allowed for online interviews. To cope with the number of arrivals and improve the registration capacity, the IPO established a second facility in West Dublin. In order to meet the faster processing requirements of the Pact, the IPO also introduced a new ground for accelerating the asylum procedure for applicants from countries with the highest number of applications. The new grounds were also effective in reducing the backlog. Changes were made to the list of safe countries of origin by adding Algeria, Brazil, Botswana, Egypt, Egypt, India, Malawi and Morocco.<sup>3</sup>

To address the accommodation shortage and reform the reception system, the government adopted the Comprehensive Accommodation Strategy for International Protection. The reform signals a move away from full reliance on private providers and toward state-owned accommodation, delivering 14,000 state-owned beds by 2028. In addition, the strategy includes designing and building new Reception and Integration Centres and upgrading some existing accommodation centres.<sup>4</sup>

Following a 300% increase in appeals in 2023, the significant pending caseload at second instance persisted in 2024. To ameliorate the situation, the Department of Justice made efforts to bring the number of administrative staff at IPAT and the number of tribunal members to a proportionate equivalent to the staff numbers and decision-makers in the IPO.

#### More input from civil society:

- [Depaul Ireland](#)
- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [Irish Refugee Council](#)

# Ireland

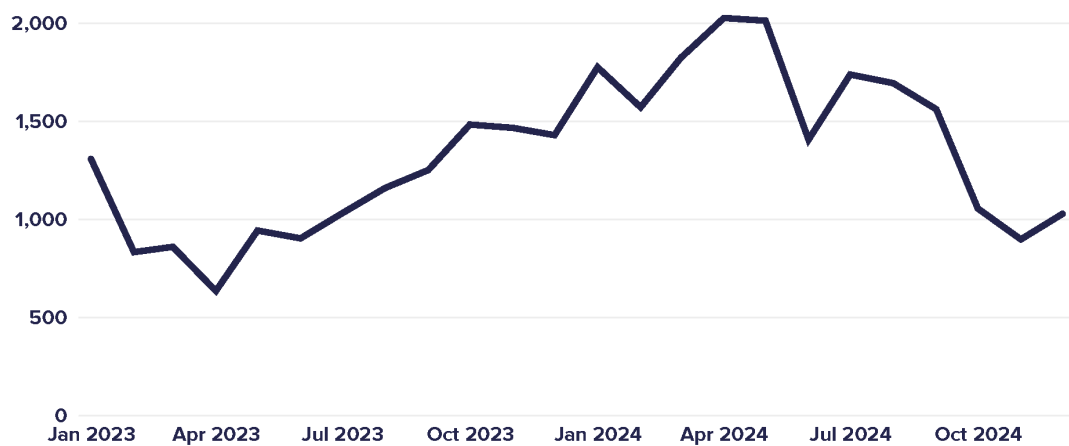
## Key indicators for 2024



Rank by number of asylum applications <b>10</b>	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) <b>3</b>	Share of applications in EU+ <b>1.8%</b>	Recognition rate <b>27%</b>
--	---	---	--------------------------------

Indicator	2024	2023	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	18,563	13,278	↑ 40%	Nigeria (22%), Jordan (15%), Pakistan (8%)
Pending cases (Dec '24)	22,548	18,311	↑ 23%	Nigeria (21%), Jordan (10%), Pakistan (8%)
First instance decisions	13,113	8,465	↑ 55%	Georgia (14%), Nigeria (14%), Algeria (12%)
Refugee status	3,259	2,467	↑ 32%	Somalia (25%), Afghanistan (20%), Nigeria (8%)
Subsidiary protection	288	242	↑ 19%	Somalia (35%), Afghanistan (17%), Sudan (14%)
Negative	9,566	5,756	↑ 66%	Georgia (19%), Nigeria (17%), Algeria (15%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2023-2024



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2025](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





## Sources

---

<sup>1</sup> European Commission. (2024, July 31). [Commission confirms Ireland's participation in the Pact on Migration and Asylum](#).

<sup>2</sup> Department of Justice | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt. (2024, October 1). [Minister McEntee secures record €3.9bn Budget](#).

<sup>3</sup> Department of Justice | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt. (2024, January 30). [Minister McEntee announces new measures to expedite international protection application processing](#). Department of Justice | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt. (2024, July 2). [Minister McEntee announces new additions to Safe Countries of Origin list](#).

<sup>4</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth | An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige. (2024, March 27). [Government agrees new comprehensive accommodation strategy for International Protection applicants](#). Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth | An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige. (2024). [Comprehensive Accommodation Strategy for International Protection Applicants](#).