



Ireland

National developments in 2025



Amid a remarkable decrease in the number of applications for international protection, Ireland was still listed among the countries at risk of migratory pressure in the first Annual Migration Management Cycle launched by the European Commission.¹ Throughout 2025, authorities focused on preparations for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. To this end, in April 2025 the Minister of Justice secured Cabinet approval to proceed with a new bill to reform legislation and procedural modalities, as outlined in the [national implementation plan](#).² The bill provides for the establishment of the Chief Inspector of Asylum Border Procedures, which is an independent monitoring mechanism to ensure that there is full compliance with EU and international laws during screening and the application of the border procedure, and to investigate any allegations of breaches. In addition, the bill establishes a new second instance body (Tribunal for Asylum and Returns Appeals, TARA), which can make decisions to grant or refuse refugee status or subsidiary protection and to affirm, overturn or vary return decisions.³

Caution was expressed about some provisions of the bill, including the independence of the role of the Chief Inspector of Border Procedures which can be appointed, funded and removed by the ministry, and the limited powers conferred on the Chief Inspectorate;⁴ the shortened timelines for different procedures;⁵ restricted access to legal advice and representation;⁶ lack of clarity on age assessment procedures;⁷ reducing the possibility for an oral hearing at second instance; non-suspensive appeals for persons whose applications are implicitly withdrawn;⁸ need for a thorough vulnerability assessment;⁹ the need for a child-centred approach to definitions, age assessments and support services;¹⁰ and the state's overall ability to deliver the services required under the new system by June 2026.¹¹

In July 2025, Ireland published its National Asylum and Migration Management Strategy, outlining measures to manage asylum and migration, enhance returns, combat trafficking and smuggling, expand state-owned accommodation, support migrant integration, uphold fundamental rights, streamline procedures, and coordinate cross-government planning to meet current and future migration needs.¹²

In October 2025, the International Protection Office (IPO) announced two new locations for processing applications: families applying together and nationals of specific countries are directed to Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre, while all other applicants, including unaccompanied minors, are directed to Timberlay House.¹³ The IPO also launched the International Protection Applicant Portal, which allows registered applicants to check the status of their application, download their application form and upload documents and submissions supporting their claim.¹⁴ An order issued by the Minister of Justice in March 2025 designated the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a safe country.¹⁵

Changes also occurred in the area of reception. Due to the decreasing need to accommodate displaced persons from Ukraine, some centres were closed.¹⁶ In June 2025, the Citywest Centre, previously leased as part of the COVID-19 response and as an accommodation centre for displaced persons from Ukraine, was purchased to accommodate applicants with a capacity of 2,300.¹⁷ In March 2025, the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) published an annual overview of its monitoring of the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) centres. HIQA reported that resident experiences were overall positive and many providers delivered safe, good-quality services. Nonetheless, it identified shortcomings in governance, risk management, safeguarding and staff vetting, with overcrowding and insufficient resourcing affecting standards and leaving many recognised refugees living in centres due to a lack of housing alternatives.¹⁸ Examining a case of two applicants who were left without adequate accommodation or support for a number of weeks, the CJEU ruled that a Member State may not plead an unforeseeable and unavoidable influx of applicants for international protection in order to evade its obligation under EU law to cover basic needs for asylum seekers.¹⁹

To expand support for children, young people and families in reception, in September 2025 the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration allocated EUR 1.75 million. The funds will be delivered locally through Children and Young People's Services Committees (CYPSC) and will support projects focused on integration, health and wellbeing, parental support, emergency accommodation, and pathways to independence.²⁰

More input from civil society:

- [European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#)
- [European Network on Statelessness](#)
- [Irish Refugee Council](#)

Ireland

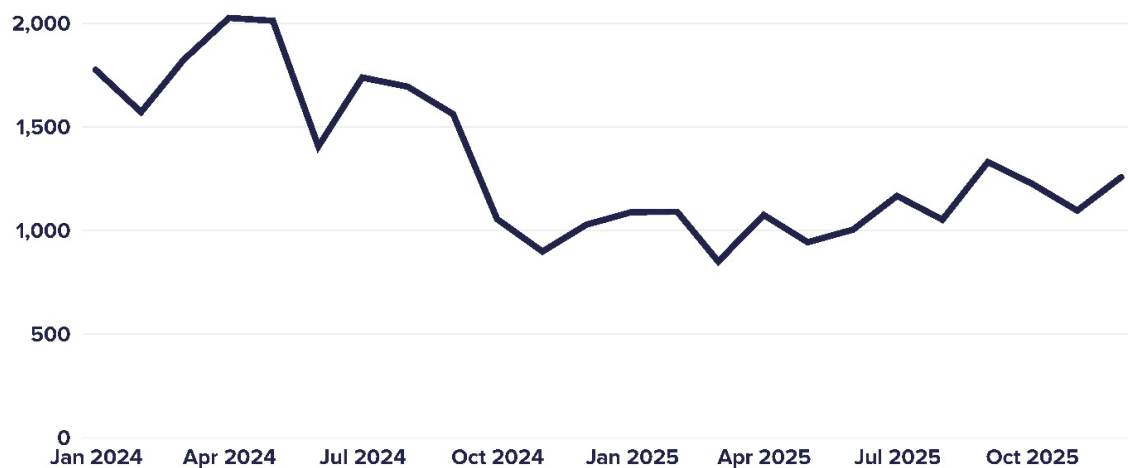
Key indicators for 2025



Rank by number of asylum applications 11	Rank per capita (applications per 1M inhabitants) 5	Share of applications in EU+ 1.6%	Recognition rate 17%
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Indicator	2025	2024	% change	Top 3 countries of origin
Asylum applications	13,155	18,563	↓ -29%	Somalia (15%), Nigeria (15%), Pakistan (13%)
Pending cases (Dec '25)	15,314	22,548	↓ -32%	Nigeria (15%), Pakistan (14%), Somalia (12%)
First instance decisions	19,035	13,113	↑ 45%	Nigeria (23%), Jordan (9%), Pakistan (7%)
Refugee status	2,926	3,259	↓ -10%	Somalia (23%), Afghanistan (11%), Palestine (10%)
Subsidiary protection	377	288	↑ 31%	Ukraine (27%), Somalia (20%), Sudan (11%)
Negative	15,732	9,566	↑ 64%	Nigeria (26%), Jordan (10%), Algeria (8%)

Evolution of asylum applications, 2024-2025



For more developments, please consult the [Asylum Report 2026](#) and the [National Asylum Developments Database](#).





Sources

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- ² Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce. (29 April 2025). [Minister Jim O'Callaghan secures Cabinet approval for publication of the General Scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025.](#)
- ³ Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce. (29 April 2025). [Minister Jim O'Callaghan secures Cabinet approval for publication of the General Scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025.](#)
- ⁴ Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission | Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas. (15 October 2025). [IHREC raises concerns over International Protection Bill 2025, risks undermining fundamental rights](#); Civil Society Coalition on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. (12 June 2025). [Submission to the Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration on the General Scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025.](#)
- ⁵ Doras. (30 April 2025). [Refugee rights organisation Doras raises concerns over proposed new International Protection Legislation.](#)
- ⁶ Irish Human rights and Equality Commission | Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas. (15 July 2025). [Commission Raises Grave Concerns Over Proposed Asylum System's Fairness and Effectiveness.](#)
- ⁷ Irish Human rights and Equality Commission | Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas. (15 July 2025). [Commission Raises Grave Concerns Over Proposed Asylum System's Fairness and Effectiveness.](#)
- ⁸ Civil Society Coalition on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. (12 June 2025). [Submission to the Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration on the General Scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025](#); Doras. (30 April 2025). [Refugee rights organisation Doras raises concerns over proposed new International Protection Legislation.](#)
- ⁹ Doras. (30 April 2025). [Refugee rights organisation Doras raises concerns over proposed new International Protection Legislation.](#)
- ¹⁰ Ombudsman for Children's Office | Ombudsman do leanaí for children. (14 October 2025). [Observations on the International Protection Bill 2025, Joint Oireachtas Committee Opening Statement.](#)
- ¹¹ Irish Human rights and Equality Commission | Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas. (15 July 2025). [Commission Raises Grave Concerns Over Proposed Asylum System's Fairness and Effectiveness.](#)
- ¹² Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (Ireland) | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce. (16 July 2025). [National Asylum and Migration Management Strategy.](#)
- ¹³ International Protection Office | An Oifig Um Chosaint Idirnáisiúnta. (8 October 2025). [What's new page.](#)
- ¹⁴ International Protection Office | An Oifig Um Chosaint Idirnáisiúnta. (27 February 2025). [International Protection Applicant Portal.](#)
- ¹⁵ [S.I. No. 73/2025 - International Protection Act 2015 \(Safe Third Country\) Order 2025](#), 11 March 2025.
- ¹⁶ Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (Ireland) | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce. (13 May 2025). [Accommodation centres returning to original or alternative use.](#)
- ¹⁷ Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (Ireland) | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce. (17 June 2025). [Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O'Callaghan secures government approval for State purchase of Citywest Hotel and Convention Centre for international protection accommodation.](#)
- ¹⁸ Health Information and Quality Authority | An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíoch Sláinte. (5 March 2025). [Monitoring of international protection accommodation centres in 2024.](#)
- ¹⁹ European Union, Court of Justice of the European Union [CJEU], *S.A.,R.J. v Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Ireland, Attorney General*, C-97/24, ECLI:EU:C:2025:594, 1 August 2025. Link redirects to the English summary in the EUAA Case Law Database.
- ²⁰ Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (Ireland). (5 September 2025). [Minister O'Callaghan announces €1.75 million fund to support children, young people, and families in international protection accommodation.](#)