



Quick Facts

Immigration detainees (2017)	396
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
Persons expelled (2018)	365
International migrants (2019)	833,564
New asylum applications (2019)	6,583

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/ireland>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	396	2017	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
	408	2016			
	335	2015			
	407	2014			
	836	2013			
	385	2012			
	914	2012			
	395	2011			
	973	2011			
	459	2010			
	1,279	2010			
	1,374	2009			
Number of apprehensions of non-citizens	2,045	2018	Immigration detainees as a percentage of total international migrant population	0.05	2016
	2,045	2018		0.04	2015
	2,775	2017		0.11	2013
	2,315	2016		0.17	2010
	2,315	2015			
	900	2014			
	1,465	2013			
	2,035	2012			
Number of criminal facilities	9	2018	Number of persons removed/returned (voluntary returns and deportations)	365	2018
	10	2017		315	2017
				585	2016
				365	2015
				345	2014
				635	2013
				745	2012
Number of deportations/forced returns only	160	2018	Percentage of persons removed in relation to total number of people placed in removal procedures	35.6	2014
	140	2017			
	425	2016			
	250	2015			
Criminal prison population	3,777	2017	Percentage of foreign prisoners	13.3	2017
	4,010	2014		14.3	2014

Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	81	2017			
	87	2014			
Demographics and immigration-related statistics					
		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	4,900,000	2020	International migrants	833,564	2019
	4,811,321	2017		807,000	2017
	4,688,000	2015		746,300	2015
	4,600,000	2012		735,500	2013
				731,000	2010
International migrants as a percentage of the population	16.9	2017	Refugees	7,795	2019
	15.9	2015		6,041	2018
	15.9	2013		6,405	2017
				5,655	2016
				6,125	2015
				5,853	2014
Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants	1.22	2016	Total number of new asylum applications	6,583	2019
	1.25	2014		4,014	2016
	1.42	2012		1,448	2014
				2,256	2012
Refugee recognition rate	16.6	2014	Stateless persons	99	2018
				99	2017
				99	2016
				0	2015
				73	2014

DOMESTIC LAW				
LEGAL TRADITION				
Legal tradition	Name		Observation Date	
	Common law		2017	
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	Constitution of Ireland, Article 40(4) (habeas corpus)	1937	2018

LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Core pieces of national legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended	
	The International Protection Act 2015	2015		
	Immigration Act, 1999	1999		
	Immigration Act 2003	2003		
	Immigration Act 2004	2004		
	International Protection Act 2015	2015		
	Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act 2000	2000		
LAWS AND REGULATIONS				
Additional legislation	Name		Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	S.I. No. 230/2018 - European Communities (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2018		2018	
	S.I. No. 62/2018 - European Union (Dublin System) Regulations 2018		2018	
	S.I. No. 55/2005 - Immigration Act 1999 (Deportation) Regulations 2005		2005	
	S.I. No. 56/2005 - Immigration Act 2003 (Removal Places of Detention) Regulations 2005		2005	
	S.I. No. 666/2016 - International Protection Act 2015 (Places of Detention) Regulations 2016		2016	
GROUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION				
Immigration-status-related grounds	Name		Observation Date	
	Detention for unauthorised entry or stay		2016	
	Detention to effect removal		2016	
	Detention to prevent absconding		2016	
	Detention to ensure transfer under the Dublin Regulation		2016	
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Does the country provide specific criminal penalties for immigration-related violations?	Fines	Incarceration	Observation Date	
	Yes	Yes	2014	
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Grounds for criminal immigration-related detention/incarceration and maximum potential duration of incarceration	Grounds for Incarceration	Maximum Number of Days of Incarceration		Observation Date
	Unauthorized entry	365		2014
	Unauthorised stay	365		2014
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length for administrative immigration detention in law.	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	56		2018	

LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length of detention for asylum-seekers	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	No Limit		2018	
NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)				
Types of non-custodial measures	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Electronic monitoring	No	No	2015
	Designated non-secure housing	Yes	infrequently	2014
	Supervised release and/or reporting	Yes	Yes	2014
	Registration (deposit of documents)	Yes	infrequently	2014
	Release on bail	Yes	No	2014
VULNERABLE PERSONS				
Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice?	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Asylum seekers	Provided		2016
	Women		Yes	2016
	Unaccompanied minors	Prohibited		2016

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
Latest Update	<p>In an email exchange with the Global Detention Project, UNHCR Ireland reported that to their knowledge, deportations and removals had been suspended in light of the Covid-19 crisis. The International Protection Office was still functioning throughout the pandemic and applications were being accepted. However, the number of new applicants had decreased because of fewer arrivals. Applications for international protection at the borders and airports were also being accepted. In responding to the Global Detention Project's Covid-19 survey, NASC, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre, reported that Ireland had not established a moratorium on new immigration detention orders and no immigration detainees had been released due to the pandemic. Moreover, according to NASC, immigration detainees are not treated separately to the general prison population (see also the 25 March Ireland update on this platform). Visits to prisons were restricted and new staffing routines were put in place. No Covid-19 cases have been reported among the prison population in Ireland for the time being. NASC confirmed that deportations and removals had been suspended due to the pandemic and that there had been an increase in the number of persons denied entry at the border. All immigration permits that were due to expire from 20 March to 20 July, were automatically renewed for a period of two months and those expiring from 20 July to 20 August, were extended for one month (see 16 April Ireland update on this platform). This is due to the fact that no visa applications were processed or issued, save for certain priority categories from 20 March to 20 July. Designated centres were put in place to allow asylum seekers to self-isolate if diagnosed with the virus (see the 29 April Ireland update on this platform). There were a certain number of outbreaks in some asylum seekers accommodation centres, and these centres were completely locked down to control the spread of the disease.</p>	2020
	<p>The Ombudsman's Annual Report on Direct Provision asylum centres, published on 23 April, says that the Covid-19 crisis has underscored how "unsuitable and unsustainable" the physical constraints at these centres are, in particular because of the lack of overall space in the facilities and their lack of resources. The standards provide "a minimum space of 4.65m² for each resident per bedroom." This represents "little more than the floor space taken up by a double bed and it includes any storage units a person might have." On 23 April, the Department of Justice announced that people at these facilities who are suspected of having the virus are to be moved to a dedicated offsite self-isolation facility. More than 100 asylum seekers were transferred to a new asylum reception site in Cahersiveen in late March. It was placed on lockdown shortly after when several residents tested positive for Covid-19. On 29 April, 21 cases of Covid-19 were reported at this Direct Provision centre, according to an asylum seeker staying there. Around 90 residents remain in the centre and some are sharing rooms as. A protest was organised by the asylum seekers outside the centre. Local politicians have called on the Department of Justice to shut the centre down. Residents are concerned for their safety. Members of the local community have also called for the closure of the centre. Asylum seekers who test positive to Covid-19 are transferred to a new accommodation in Cork. As part of the government's measures to combat the coronavirus outbreak, any information gathered about undocumented migrants during the COVID-19 crisis remains secret. This "firewall" between the Department of Health and the Department of Justice and Equality allows migrants to access medical treatment without risking an enforcement action. According to Niel Burton of Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, as of late April all residents in Ireland can receive a "Pandemic Payment" designed to support the population. However, he said that while this measure is necessary, it isn't perfect in its application. Bruton, who spoke on the Webinar organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on 23 April, stated that "A lot of undocumented migrants are afraid to put down the employer's details on the application, or do not have a bank account." Interviews and hearings for international protection application have been suspended until further notice. Assisted voluntary returns are not being processed now, and deportation orders have been postponed. This delay concerns all persons subject of deportation, removal or transfer orders that are due for presentation in the coming four to six weeks.</p>	2020
	<p>A hotel that was converted to a "direct provision" asylum reception site in the town of Cahersiveen has been placed under lockdown after several residents tested positive for Covid-19. More than one hundred asylum seekers were transferred four weeks ago to the hotel to await the outcomes of their asylum procedures. All the residents have been confined to the hotel since 19 April. An asylum-seeker at the Cahersiveen Direct Provision center spoke to RTE Ireland, claiming that he was concerned about his safety. He mentioned that "Residents are being asked to wear a mask when they leave their rooms, but they are being given just one mask each day and must reuse it every time they leave their room." The residents share many areas such as the lifts, dining room and stairs and while they are allowed to eat in their bedroom, they must collect their meals themselves at the dining room. The facility has sparked public opposition driven in part by concern that the government may have placed people in the facility who were previously exposed to the virus. The Department of Justice responded saying that they had implemented a range of measures in all direct provision centres to address cases of Covid-19, including the provision of self-isolation facilities and offsite isolation centres. "If the concerns locally are that the people may have recently arrived from a region affected by Covid-19, I can confirm that no one in the group of 105 has been in this country for less than two months and all have been health screened by the HSE-led medical team at our reception centre in Baleseskin, North Dublin on their arrival," a spokesperson for the Department said.</p>	2020
	<p>The Irish Department of Justice and Equality announced that all immigration permits due to expire between 20.03.2020 and 20.05.2020 are to be automatically renewed for a period of two months. In addition, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection introduced a Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment, accessible to all workers irrespective of legal status. The Department also confirmed that "there are no plans in place to share any data [received] as part of an immigrant's application for a Covid-19 Unemployment Payment with the National Immigration Bureau (GNID) or the Department of Justice and Equality.</p>	2020
	<p>Ireland does not have specialized immigration detention centres, instead using prisons and jails to detain people for immigration reasons. In Irish prisons, the prison administration announced on 13 March 2020 restrictions regarding visits. Visits are only allowed for 15 minutes, once a week and per prisoner. Visitors under the age of 18 and those that have flu symptoms will not be allowed to enter. Also, the Irish Prison Service has been considering the release of certain prisoners to prevent the spread of Covid-19. On 20 March 2020, the Department of Justice announced that foreign nationals with visas due to expire in the coming weeks, will be able to remain in Ireland until at least 20 May 2020. In addition, Migrants Rights Centre Ireland has reported that the Irish government confirmed that documented or undocumented persons can access healthcare and social welfare services. These services will not share people's information with the Department of Justice and Equality. Refugee support groups have warned of a "potentially devastating impact" of an outbreak of Covid-19 in the 39 direct provision centres, that currently house 5,686 people including 1,739 children. Fiona Finn, the chief executive of the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre said: "there are people who are immune-compromised or in other high-risk categories who are sharing rooms with strangers. Being able to take even the minimum precautions of regularly washing your hands with warm water and soap in these conditions can be challenging." The organisation is also calling on the Minister for Justice to "move the vulnerable out" to avoid the spread of Covid-19.</p>	2020

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaties	Name		Ratification Year
	OP CRC Communications Procedure		2014
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities		2018
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children		2010
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment		2002
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination		2000
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child		1992
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights		1989
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights		1989
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women		1985
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		1968
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations		1967
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons		1962
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees		1956
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	13/19		
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
International treaty reservations	Name	Reservation Year	Observation Date
	ICCPR Article 10	1989	1989
	ICESCR Article 2	1989	1989
	ICESCR Article 13	1989	1989
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Individual complaints procedure	Name		Acceptance Year
	CAT, declaration under article 22 of the Convention		2002
	ICERD, declaration under article 14 of the Convention		2000
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999		2000
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966		1989
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification			
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date	
	4 / 6		
	4 / 6		

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives				
Regional legal instruments	Name		Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)	
	ECHR, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights)		1953	
	ECHRP1, Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)		1953	
	ECHRP7, Protocol 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)		2001	
	ECPT, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment		1988	
	CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings		2010	
	Procedures Directive		2011	
Regional treaties, regulations, and directives				
Regional treaty reservations	Name		Reservation Year	
	ECHR Article 6		1953	
	ECHRP1Article 2		1953	
Bilateral/Multilateral agreements linked to readmissions				
Bilateral/multilateral agreements linked to readmission	Name		Year in Force	Observation Date
	Bulgaria		2003	2017
	Romania		2001	2017
	Cape Verde (EU agreement)		2013	2013
	Georgia (EU agreement)		2011	2011
	Pakistan (EU agreement)		2010	2010
	Bosnia-Herzegovina (EU agreement)		2008	2008
	Macedonia (EU agreement)		2008	2008
	Moldova (EU agreement)		2008	2008
	Montenegro (EU agreement)		2008	2008
	Serbia (EU agreement)		2008	2008
	Ukraine (EU agreement)		2008	2008
	Russia (EU agreement)		2007	2007
	Albania (EU agreement)		2006	2006
	Sri Lanka (EU agreement)		2005	2005
	Hong Kong (EU agreement)		2004	2004
	Macao (EU agreement)		2004	2004
	Nigeria		2001	2001

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	Yes	2011	2017
	Yes	2016	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS				
Institutions responsible for immigration detention				
Custodial authority	Agency	Ministry	Ministry Typology	Observation Date
	Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service	Department of Justice, Equality, and Law Reform	Justice	2013
	Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service	Department of Justice, Equality, and Law Reform	Justice	2007
	Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service	Department of Justice, Equality, and Law Reform	Justice	2005
Institutions responsible for immigration detention				
Detention Facility Management	Entity Name	Entity Type	Observation Date	
	Irish Prison Service	Governmental	2013	
	Irish Prison Service	Governmental	2007	
	Irish Prison Service	Governmental	2005	
Detention monitoring institutions				
Authorized monitoring institutions	Institution		Institution Type	Observation Date
	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)		International or Regional Bodies (IRBs)	2016
	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC)		National Human Rights Institution (or Ombudsperson) (NHRI)	2016
Detention monitoring institutions				
Is the national human rights institution (NHRI) recognized as independent?	Is the NHRI recognized as independent by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions?			Observation Date
	Yes			2015
Detention monitoring institutions				
Do international and/or regional bodies (IRBs) visit immigration-related detention facilities?	Do international and/or regional bodies (IRB) regularly visit immigration-related detention facilities?			Observation Date
	Yes			2014
Detention monitoring institutions				
Do IRBs publicly report their findings from inspections?	Do IRBs publicly report their findings from detention inspections?		Observation Date	
	Yes		2014	

Expenditures			
Estimated annual budgets for particular detention-related activities	Individual detention-related activities	Estimated annual budget (in USD)	Observation Date
	Chartered deportation flights	910,322	2011
	Chartered deportation flights	934,614	2010
	Chartered deportation flights	1,175,782	2009
	Chartered deportation flights	997,000	2008
	Chartered deportation flights	307,000	2007

More information about immigration detention in Ireland is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)