

# Lithuania Immigration Detention Data Profile



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2017)	183
Detained asylum seekers (2012)	60
Detained minors (2017)	10
Persons expelled (2018)	2,110
International migrants (2019)	117,218
New asylum applications (2019)	625

## NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/lithuania>
- "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
<b>Total number of immigration detainees by year</b>	183	2017	<b>Top nationalities of detainees</b>	Vietnam, Russian Federation	2017
	232	2016			
	353	2015			
	292	2014			
	363	2013			
	325	2012			
	375	2012			
	200	2011			
	241	2011			
	121	2010			
	132	2010			
	212	2009			
<b>Number of persons granted alternatives to immigration detention</b>	16	2016	<b>Number of detained asylum seekers</b>	60	2012
	25	2015		46	2011
	70	2014		10	2010
	24	2013			
	94	2012			
	15	2011			
	35	2010			
	21	2009			
<b>Total number of detained minors</b>	10	2017	<b>Number of apprehensions of non-citizens</b>	2,660	2018
	2	2016		2,210	2017
	5	2015		1,920	2016
	11	2014		2,040	2015
	6	2013		2,465	2014
	3	2012		1,910	2013
	13	2011		2,080	2012
	11	2010			
<b>Immigration detainees as a percentage of total international migrant population</b>	0.26	2015	<b>Number of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres</b>	1	2017
	0.08	2010			

<b>Estimated capacity of dedicated long-term immigration detention centres</b>	94	2016	<b>Number of persons removed/returned (voluntary returns and deportations)</b>	2,110	2018
	170	2011		1,860	2017
				1,550	2016
				1,720	2015
				1,930	2014
				1,665	2013
				1,825	2012
<b>Number of deportations/forced returns only</b>	Not Available	2017	<b>Percentage of persons removed in relation to total number of people placed in removal procedures</b>	89.42	2017
				89.08	2016
				91.98	2015
				86	2014
<b>Criminal prison population</b>	6,544	2018	<b>Percentage of foreign prisoners</b>	1.9	2018
	7,355	2016		1.6	2015
	9,509	2013		1.2	2013
<b>Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)</b>	235	2018			
	254	2016			
	322	2013			
<b>Demographics and immigration-related statistics</b>					
		<b>Observation Date</b>			<b>Observation Date</b>
<b>Population</b>	2,700,000	2020	<b>International migrants</b>	117,218	2019
	2,878,000	2015		124,700	2017
				136,000	2015
				161,000	2010
<b>International migrants as a percentage of the population</b>	4.3	2017	<b>Refugees</b>	1,822	2019
	4.7	2015		1,734	2018
				1,580	2017
				1,093	2016
				1,093	2015
				1,007	2014
<b>Ratio of refugees per 1000 inhabitants</b>	0.45	2016	<b>Total number of new asylum applications</b>	625	2019
	0.35	2014		412	2016
				406	2014
<b>Refugee recognition rate</b>	12.3	2014	<b>Stateless persons</b>	3,039	2018
				3,193	2017
				3,466	2016
				3,583	2015

## DOMESTIC LAW

### LEGAL TRADITION

Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Civil law	2019

### LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Constitutional guarantees?	Yes/No	Constitution and Articles	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Yes	Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, Article 20 " No one may be arbitrarily apprehended or detained."	1992	1992

### LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Core pieces of national legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Law on the Legal Status of Aliens (Aliens' Law) (įstatymas dėl užsieniečių teisinės padėties)	2004	2019

### LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Additional legislation	Name	Year Adopted	Last Year Amended
	Law on Administrative Proceedings (Suvestinių redakcijų sąrašas pagal datą)	1999	2019

### LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Regulations, standards, guidelines	Name	Year Published
	Order on the Temporary Accommodation of Foreigners at the Foreigners' Registration Centre: Conditions and Procedure (įsakymas dėl laikinojo užsieniečių apgyvendinimo užsieniečių registracijos centre sąlygų ir tvarkos aprašo)	2007

### GROUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION

Immigration-status-related grounds	Name	Observation Date
	Detention to prevent unauthorised entry at the border	2019
	Detention to effect removal	2019
	Detention to prevent absconding	2019
	Detention for failing to respect a voluntary removal order	2019
	Detention for failing to respect non-custodial measures	2019
	Detention during the asylum process	2019
	Detention to establish/verify identity and nationality	2019
	Detention to ensure transfer under the Dublin Regulation	2019

### GROUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE IMMIGRATION-RELATED DETENTION

Non-immigration-status-related grounds providing for administrative detention in immigration legislation.	Name	Observation Date
	Detention on health-related grounds	2019
	Detention on public order, threats or security grounds	2019

CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Does the country provide specific criminal penalties for immigration-related violations?	Fines	Incarceration	Observation Date	
	Yes	Yes	2019	
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	730		2019
CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRATION-RELATED OFFENCES				
Has the country decriminalized immigration-related violations?	Has the country decriminalized immigration-related violations?			Observation Date
	No			2019
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length for administrative immigration detention in law.	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	540		2019	
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Average length of detention	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	38		2013	
	40		2012	
	51		2011	
	61		2010	
	66		2009	
LENGTH OF DETENTION				
Maximum length of detention for asylum-seekers	Number of Days		Observation Date	
	540		2019	
PROCEDURAL STANDARDS				
Provision of basic procedural standards	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Information to detainees	Yes		2019
	Right to appeal the lawfulness of detention	Yes		2019
	Right to legal counsel	Yes	Yes	2015
	Access to free interpretation services		Yes	2014

**NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)**

Types of non-custodial measures	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Designated non-secure housing	Yes	infrequently	2017
	Supervised release and/or reporting	Yes	infrequently	2017
	Registration (deposit of documents)	No	No	2014
	Release on bail	No	No	2014
	Electronic monitoring	No	No	2014

**NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES (ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION)**

Impact of alternatives	Name	Impact of Nature	Observation Date
		In order to be afforded an alternative to detention, the person should have adequate means of subsistence and social and family links with Lithuania. In practice, non-citizens rarely meet these requirements and thus alternatives to detention are rarely granted.	

**VULNERABLE PERSONS**

Is the detention of vulnerable persons provided in law? Are they detained in practice?	Name	In Law	In Practice	Observation Date
	Accompanied minors	Provided		2019
	Asylum seekers	Provided		2019
	Elderly	Provided		2019
	Pregnant women	Provided		2019
	Victims of trafficking	Provided		2019
	Survivors of torture	Provided		2019
	Persons with disabilities	Provided		2019
	Unaccompanied minors	Provided	No	2017
Stateless persons	Not mentioned	No	2016	

## COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
<b>Latest Update</b>	<p>Lithuania's migration situation has been shaped by steep population decline since it joined the EU (dropping by some 15 percent since 2004), shrinking migrant population, and relatively minor asylum pressures (with roughly 400 asylum applicants a year). And yet, the country remains among the worst performers with respect to its integration policies, according to the Migrant Integration Policy Index, which may be an important indicator for how it responds to migrants and refugees during the Covid-19 pandemic. The country has one dedicated immigration detention centre, the Pabrade Detention Centre (also known as the Foreigners Registration Centre), which is located north-east of Vilnius. The facility has attracted widespread criticism because of its poor conditions, repeated allegations of disproportionate use of force, and overcrowding. On 16 March 2020, the Lithuanian government announced a nationwide quarantine and measures including closing borders, education institutions, bars, restaurants and shops. The country has suspended deportations. The Migration Department has informed that non-citizens whose period of legal residence expired during the declared quarantine and who were unable to depart from Lithuania in due time through no fault of their own, will not be subject to return decisions or administrative liability for illegal stay. The Department added that these individuals "as well as those with respect to whom the decision regarding the return has been adopted, but the period for the voluntary departure expired during the quarantine, may stay in Lithuania during the quarantine. However, they will be required to depart after the end of the quarantine within the established period of toleration." There are several non-governmental initiatives that have been launched to support migrants during the outbreak. An online Lithuanian doctor volunteer network MEDo provides health-related consultations in English, Swedish and Norwegian. Also, Human Aid has launched Stream, a mutual assistance and online volunteering platform for refugees and asylum seekers living in Lithuania. The initiative organises online seminars, workshops, training and counselling on a wide range of topics and in several different languages. On 19 March 2020, the Ministry of Justice announced a series of measures for the country's prisons including regular cleaning and disinfection, placing prisoners who test positive for Covid-19 and those who have had contact with these in isolation and providing prison staff with disinfectant gel and masks. On the same day, visits by family members were suspended. Women's prisons have begun producing masks. The GDP has been unable to find any reports indicating whether measures have been taken to safeguard migrants and asylum seekers in detention in Lithuania.</p>	2020

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
International treaties	Name	Ratification Year
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2014
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2013
	CRPD, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2010
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2003
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2003
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	2000
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1998
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1997
	PCRSR, Protocol to the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	1997
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1996
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1994
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	1992
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	1992
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1991
ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1991	
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	15/19	
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
Individual complaints procedure	Name	Acceptance Year
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, declaration under article 31	2013
	CRPD, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2010
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999	2004
ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	1991	
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date
	4/8	
	4/8	



**Relevant international treaties and date of ratification**

	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year
<p><b>Relevant recommendations issued by treaty bodies</b></p>	<p>Human Rights Committee</p>	<p>§20 (a) Avoid placing asylum seekers in administrative detention and provide effective alternatives to detention so that detention is used only as a last resort and for as short a period as possible, as well as reduce the length and practice of detaining migrants, and ensure that migrants have access to a lawyer and legal aid where the interests of justice so require and are provided with information on their rights, including at the border; (b) Further improve reception conditions in the Foreigners ' Registration Centre by ensuring adequate access to social, psychological, rehabilitation and health care services; (c) Ensure that all applications for international protection at the border and in reception and detention facilities are promptly received, registered and referred to the asylum authority, and effectively investigate all allegations of denials of entry and access to asylum procedures for persons seeking international protection; (d) Ensure against unlawful or arbitrary detention of asylum seekers at the border, including by clarifying in the Aliens Law that the holding of asylum seekers at the border, including in the transit zones, constitutes detention with accompanying procedural and judicial guarantees; (e) Strengthen training for the staff of migration institutions and border personnel on the rights of asylum seekers and refugees under the Covenant and other international standards.</p>	<p>2018</p>
	<p>Committee against Torture</p>	<p>§17 [...] (a) Refrain from detaining asylum seekers and illegal immigrants for prolonged periods and use the detention of asylum seekers only as a measure of last resort for as short a period as possible; (b) Promote alternatives to detention and revise policy in order to bring it into line with the Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum Seekers and Alternatives to Detention published by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;</p>	<p>2014</p>

**Regional treaties, regulations, and directives**

	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
<p><b>Regional legal instruments</b></p>	<p>CPCSE, Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse</p>	<p>2013</p>
	<p>ECHR, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights)</p>	<p>1995</p>
	<p>ECHRP1, Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)</p>	<p>1996</p>
	<p>ECHRP7, Protocol 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)</p>	<p>1995</p>
	<p>ECPT, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment</p>	<p>1998</p>
	<p>CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings</p>	<p>2012</p>

**Regional treaties, regulations, and directives**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Recommendation Excerpt</b>	<b>Recommendation Year</b>	<b>Observation Date</b>
<b>Recommendations issued by regional human rights mechanisms</b>	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)	§ 185: ECRI recommends that the threat to national security, public order or public health no longer be considered as a ground for detaining non-citizens and that the Law on the Status of Aliens be amended accordingly. § 186: ECRI recommends that non-citizens only be detained when and as long as this is strictly necessary for effecting a lawful expulsion. § 190: ECRI recommends that the authorities ensure that children be kept in detention only in exceptional circumstances.	2011	

**Bilateral/Multilateral agreements linked to readmissions**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Year in Force</b>	<b>Observation Date</b>
<b>Bilateral/multilateral agreements linked to readmission</b>	Germany	2000	2017
	Austria	2000	2017
	Belgium	2005	2017
	Croatia	2000	2017
	Spain	2000	2017
	Estonia	1995	2017
	Finland	1997	2017
	France	2000	2017
	Greece	2004	2017
	Italy	1999	2017
	Latvia	1995	2017
	Luxembourg	2005	2017
	Netherlands	2005	2017
	Poland	2000	2017
	Portugal	2001	2017
	Romania	2004	2017
	Slovenia	1997	2017
	Sweden	1997	2017
	Iceland	1997	2017
	Norway	1993	2017
	Switzerland	1996	2017
	Armenia	2004	2017
	Moldova	2004	2017
Moldova	2011	2017	
Russian Federation	2003	2017	
Russian Federation	2012	2017	
Ukraine	1997	2017	

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Visits by special procedures of the Human Rights Council	Name	Year of Visit	Observation Date
	None		2019

  

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms				
Relevant recommendations by UN Special Procedures	Name	Recommendation Excerpt	Recommendation Year	Observation Date
	None			2019

  

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms			
Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recommendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2011	2019
	No	2016	

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS															
Governing structures															
Federal or centralized governing system	Federal or centralized governing system		Observation Date												
	Centralized system		2019												
Governing structures															
Centralized or decentralized immigration authority	Centralized or decentralized immigration authority		Observation Date												
	Centralized immigration authority		2014												
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Custodial authority	Agency	Ministry	Ministry Typology	Observation Date											
	State Border Guard Service	Ministry of Interior	Internal or Public Security	2014											
		Department of the State Border Guard Service		2007											
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Detention Facility Management	Entity Name		Entity Type	Observation Date											
	State Border Guard Service		Governmental	2015											
	Border Guard Service Officers and Civil Servants		Governmental	2007											
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Formally designated detention estate?	Formally designated immigration detention estate?	Types of officially designated detention centres		Observation Date											
	Yes	Dedicated immigration detention facilities		2019											
Institutions responsible for immigration detention															
Types of detention facilities used in practice	Immigration detention centre (Administrative)	Immigration field office (Administrative)	Transit centre (Administrative)	Reception centre (Administrative)	Offshore detention centre (Administrative)	Hospital (Administrative)	Border guard (Administrative)	Police station (Criminal)	National penitentiary (Criminal)	Local prison (Criminal)	Juvenile detention centre (Criminal)	Informal camp (Ad hoc)	Immigration detention centre (Ad hoc)	Surge facility (Ad hoc)	Observation Date
	Yes						Yes								2017
Yes															2016

Detention monitoring institutions			
Authorized monitoring institutions	Institution	Institution Type	Observation Date
	National Preventive Mechanism	OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)	2017
	Lithuanian Red Cross Society	Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)	2011
	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	International or Regional Bodies (IRBs)	2000
Detention monitoring institutions			
Does NHRI carry out visits?	Does NHRI carry out visits in practice?	Observation Date	
	Yes	2017	
Detention monitoring institutions			
Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Does NHRI publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Observation Date	
	Yes	2017	
Detention monitoring institutions			
Does national preventive mechanism (NPM) carry out visits?	Does NPM carry out visits in practice?	Observation Date	
	Yes	2017	
Detention monitoring institutions			
Does NPM publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Does NPM publicly release reports on immigration detention?	Observation Date	
	Yes	2017	
Detention monitoring institutions			
Do NGOs carry out visits?	Do NGOs regularly carry our visits?	Observation Date	
	Yes	2011	
Detention monitoring institutions			
Do NGOs publish reports on immigration detention?	Do NGOs publish reports on immigration detention?	Observation Date	
	Yes	2011	
Detention monitoring institutions			
Do IRBs publicly report their findings from inspections?	Do IRBs publicly report their findings from detention inspections?	Observation Date	
	Yes	2000	
Expenditures			
Estimated cost per detainees day (in USD)	Estimated cost per detainees day (in USD)	Observation Date	
	19	2015	
Foreign sources of funding for detention operations			
Does the country receive external sources of funding?	Benefitted from non-state funding sources?	Observation Date	
	Yes	2015	

## Foreign sources of funding for detention operations

Description of foreign assistance	Description of non-state assistance	Observation Date
	Renovation of the detention centre.	2015

More information about immigration detention in Lithuania is available at the website of the Global Detention Project ([www.globaldetentionproject.org](http://www.globaldetentionproject.org))