



**Ireland West
Airport**

2024

ANNUAL REVIEW



2024 our busiest on record!

Chairman's message

I am delighted to say that we have achieved a record year for passenger traffic at the airport for the second consecutive year, with 834,000 passengers using the airport, surpassing the previous record of 818,000 passengers in 2023. This is great news for tourism and job creation at the airport and for the regional economy.

In 2024, Ryanair recorded its busiest-ever year for passenger traffic, with record numbers using its services to the likes of Liverpool and London Luton. Aer Lingus also recorded its busiest-ever year for passenger traffic at the airport, with its London Heathrow service going from strength to strength in 2024.

In 2024, the number of passengers travelling on services to and from the UK totalled 667,732, an increase of 1% compared to 2023 whilst the number of passengers travelling on services to Mainland and Continental Europe hit a new high for the airport, with 165,500 passengers travelling to and from Alicante, Barcelona, Faro, Majorca, Malaga, Milan, Cologne, Lanzarote, and Tenerife, representing a 9% increase on 2023 figures.

The continued support of our airline partners Aer Lingus, Lauda and Ryanair is hugely appreciated. I'm pleased to say that the passenger growth forecast in 2025 looks very positive following the announcement of a new inbound Tourism service from Groningen in the Netherlands, which commences in June with leading Dutch Tour Operator BBI Travel. In addition, Ryanair will increase capacity at the airport by approximately 18% in 2025, adding additional capacity to popular services such as Alicante, Malaga, Faro, Liverpool, and London.

2024 saw continued investment in our Airport Transformation Programme, with several infrastructural projects completed during the year to ensure the airport maintains the highest international safety and security standards and continues to enhance the airport's facilities to meet the future needs of our airline customers and passengers. With the support of the Department of Transport, almost €7,000,000 was invested in undertaking safety, security and infrastructural projects at the airport and in 2024, the airport achieved Level 3 Accreditation,

Optimisation, in recognition of the airport's actions to address its CO2 emissions as part of the Global industry's response to the challenge of climate change. Achieving Level 3 Accreditation is in recognition of the airport's exemplary work in reducing its carbon emissions.

In April last year, we welcomed the appointment of Dominick Healy to the role of Project Manager of the Strategic Development Zone at the airport. We look forward to working with Dominick to deliver on the undoubted potential that the Strategic Development Zone provides in harnessing the economic potential of the Atlantic Economic Corridor along the Northwestern seaboard from Galway to Donegal.

I want to thank the outgoing government, ministers, and TDs for their support for the airport in 2024, and we look forward to working with the new government representatives to continue to develop and grow the airport further from 2025 onwards. In addition, I wish to express our continued gratitude to our customers, airline and tour operator partners, stakeholders, tourism groups, and Local Authority partners for their ongoing support in helping us grow passenger numbers and develop international connectivity for the region. Finally, a special word of thanks to the staff at the airport for their continued dedication and focus in ensuring the customer and passenger experience through the airport is both a safe and welcoming one. Whilst the coming year will present many challenges, we will continue to work with our stakeholders and airline partners to grow our suite of routes from the airport whilst continuing to invest in our airport transformation and sustainability programmes.



Arthur French
Arthur French
Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SHAREHOLDERS

Kevin Kelly, CE, Mayo County Council, Board member, Ireland West Airport

The local authority shareholders are delighted to welcome the news of another record year for passenger traffic at the airport. This is excellent news from a tourism, business and regional development perspective. As we look ahead to 2025, adding a new inbound service from Groningen in the Netherlands is a welcome development which will significantly boost tourism in the West and Northwest regions this coming summer.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the airport and building on this strong partnership over the coming year to promote the West and Northwest regions.





CORPORATE UPDATE



2024 Performance

2024 was another record-breaking year with passenger numbers increasing to a record 834,000 passengers for the year. Turnover, increased to €21m in 2024, up from €19m in 2023. During the year the airport continued to invest in its Airport Transformation Programme, with over €7m invested in capital expenditure projects and terminal enhancements in 2024.

€21m
turnover in 2024

€19m
turnover in 2023

New Appointment

In April 2024, the airport welcomed the appointment of Dominick Healy to the role of Project Manager of the Strategic Development Zone at the airport, and the airport look forward to working with Dominick to deliver on the undoubted potential that the Strategic Development Zone provides in harnessing the economic potential of the Atlantic Economic Corridor along the Northwestern seaboard from Galway to Donegal.

The SDZ Scheme, if built out to full capacity, could deliver 95,025sq.m of Commercial, Business & Enterprise space, 44,000sq.m of Aviation Economic Development & Services, and 11,000sq.m of Hotel Accommodation & Conference floorspace and has the potential to create up to 6,000 jobs and become a key economic driver for the west of Ireland.

Regional Excellence Award

Ireland West Airport were delighted to win the 'Skillnet Regional Excellence Award' at the Sligo Chamber Of Commerce annual Business Excellence Awards in 2024. The Skillnet Regional Excellence Award, sponsored by Sligo Chamber Skillnet, was for businesses engaged in staff training programmes. The award recognises the airport's commitment to the upskilling of staff and investment in personnel enhancement.



Contribution to Diaspora Wellbeing/Engagement Award

Ireland West Airport extend our congratulations to our International Chairperson, Brian O'Dwyer on the achievement of being awarded the 'Contribution to Diaspora Wellbeing/Engagement Award' at the Council Cathaoirleach's Awards in 2024.



AVIATION DEVELOPMENT



airport Knock



Record Passenger Numbers

A record 834,000 passengers used the airport in 2024, with passenger numbers increasing by 1% compared to 2023. Ryanair celebrated carrying its one-millionth passenger on its Liverpool service in 2024. The airline has been operating the Liverpool service for almost 16 years, having commenced flights in October 2008, and the service has gone from strength to strength, with the airline now operating daily flights all year round.



834,000
passengers in 2024

2024 Route Performance

In 2024, the number of passengers travelling on services to and from the UK totalled 667,732, an increase of 1% compared to 2023. Ryanair recorded its busiest-ever year for passenger traffic at the airport, with record numbers using its services to the likes of Liverpool and London Luton. Aer Lingus also recorded its busiest-ever year for passenger traffic at the airport, with its London Heathrow service going from strength to strength in 2024.

The number of passengers travelling on services to Mainland and Continental Europe hit a new high for the airport, with 165,500 passengers travelling to and from Alicante, Barcelona, Faro, Majorca, Malaga, Milan, Cologne, Lanzarote, and Tenerife, representing a 9% increase on 2023 figures.

August was the year's busiest month, with 90,355 passengers travelling through the airport. The busiest individual day of the year also occurred in August: over 3,600 passengers travelled through the airport on Sunday, August 18th. Almost 6,000 flights arrived and departed at the airport in 2024.

New Route

The passenger growth forecast in 2025 looks positive following the announcement of a new inbound Tourism service from Groningen, Netherlands, which commences in June with leading Dutch Tour Operator BBI Travel.

The weekly service will be operated by Emerald Airlines every Saturday for 13 weeks between June and August 2025. This will boost tourism in the West of Ireland as this new service will provide the only current direct access from the Netherlands to the West and Northwest of Ireland for summer 2025.

Ryanair Growth

Ryanair will increase seat capacity at the airport by approximately 18% in 2025, adding additional capacity to popular services in the UK, such as Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Liverpool, London Luton, Stansted and Manchester. In addition, extra weekly flights have been added to popular sun destinations such as Alicante, Malaga, and Faro this summer, which will be welcome news for sun holiday travellers from across the region.

18%
seat capacity increase by Ryanair



COMMERCIAL



Retail & Catering Performance

2024 was another strong year from a commercial perspective, with combined turnover for the retail and catering outlets at the airport increasing by 15% year on year.

The addition of the new Slàinte Barista Café, on the first floor of the airport terminal building and the introduction of new food offerings, boosted the catering performance.

The airport's retail outlets continued to perform strongly, boosted by the addition of new locally sourced products and the reconfiguration of the shop, which continues to evolve in response to ever-changing consumer trends.

The airport continues to invest in enhancing its commercial offerings, and plans are in place to develop the retail and catering offerings further in the next 2-3 years to drive revenue and improve and enhance the service offerings for our customers.

15%
increase in Retail & Catering turnover in 2024

Executive Lounge

2025 will see works commence on the upgrading of our Executive Lounge to a new and modern design providing an improved food offering and comfortable setting for passengers to relax in before departure. This will be a welcome development for our frequent flyers, business passengers and members of our Lounge Loyalty Programmes.

Car Parking

2024 proved to be another strong year for the airport's car parking business. The airport's online car parking facility continues to grow and now accounts for over 50% of all car parking bookings at the airport, reflecting an increasing preference amongst consumers for digital platforms for booking travel-related products. Further development of the online car parking system will take place in 2025 to deliver further efficiencies and improved functionality for our customers.

Throughout 2024, as part of the ongoing Ireland West Airport Transformation programme, work was completed on several enhancement projects in the airport's car parks.

- Additional dedicated PRM (Passengers with Reduced Mobility) car park spaces and dedicated zones in the airport car parks
- Addition of new 'Age Friendly' Car parking spaces next to the terminal building
- New designated passenger walkways from the car park to the terminal



AIRPORT TRANSFORMATION



Airport Transformation Programme

2024 saw continued investment in the Airport Transformation Programme, with several infrastructural projects completed during 2024 aimed at maintaining the highest international safety and security standards and modernising the airport's facilities to meet the future needs of our airline customers and passengers.

With the support of the Department of Transport, almost €7,000,000 was invested in undertaking safety, security and infrastructural projects at the airport in 2024.

€7m

investment in upgrading airport facilities

Projects which commenced in 2024 included:

- Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL's) upgrade
- Airfield upgrade works, including runway scrub removal and drainage works
- Runway and Apron rubber removal and marking
- Runway end safety area works
- Navigational Aid equipment upgrade
- Upgrade of the airport's electrical infrastructure
- Climate Adaptation mitigation plan
- Sustainability master plan phase 4
- Purchase of new fire tender vehicles, electrical fuel bowser and electrical security patrol vehicle
- PV Solar Farm planning phase
- Airside supplies and deliveries X-Ray machine
- Car Park and commercial facility upgrades
- Provision of new explosive trace detection systems
- Covered passenger walkway for departing passengers

Planned Projects 2025-2028

During the period 2025-2028, the completion of several major safety and security-related projects is forecasted to cost in the region of €38m.

- Safety expansion and reconfiguration of aircraft stands to improve the passenger experience and accommodate new larger modern aircraft
- Refurbishment and upgrade of the electrical Infrastructure, aeronautical ground lighting (AGL) and air traffic control systems
- Construction of a new Aerodrome Fire training centre
- Security system upgrades
- Purchase of an Air Traffic Control engineering vehicle, Electrical Hi Loader and Ambulift
- Development of PV Solar Farm as part of the airport's climate mitigation plan
- Progressing of the airport's sustainability and environmental strategy to achieve 'net zero' for its carbon emissions by 2050
- Instrument flight procedure charts and airspace change system upgrades
- Continued upgrade and expansion of car parking & PRM facilities at the airport
- Continued modernisation of the retail, catering and lounge facilities at the airport

The completion of these projects will ensure the airport continues to comply with International Safety and security regulations and see the airport continue to enhance its facilities and customer experience for our passengers.

€38m

investment in upgrading airport facilities

REGIONAL PROMOTION



Overseas Networking Events

In 2024, Ireland West Airport partnered with Tourism Ireland, the seven local authority partners and tourism stakeholders from across the region in attending overseas roadshows in Milan and Cologne to promote the West of Ireland tourism product and capitalise on the direct access from both Milan and Cologne from Ireland West Airport.

At the events, 25 Irish tourism companies – from premium hotels and whiskey distilleries to outdoor activities and hidden gems of heritage – connected with 40 leading German tour operators and travel agents. Guests enjoyed the best local Irish food, prepared by Good Food Ireland, and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Wild Atlantic Way signature cocktails, created by The Shed Distillery in Drumshanbo and Ahascragh Distillery in Ballinasloe.

A similar event occurred in Milan to highlight Ryanair flights from Milan Bergamo to Ireland West Airport. Over 30 Italian travel professionals and journalists attended a networking evening that showcased the fantastic attractions, accommodations, and activities available across the West and Northwest regions.



European Access Promotion

In partnership with Tourism Ireland and Ryanair campaigns worth over €200,000 were run across Radio, Digital, and Social Media platforms, promoting access from Milan and Cologne. Many tools and touchpoints, including website placement, app placement, solus emails, and social media placement, were used to promote the West and Northwest of Ireland as an attractive destination for German and Italian holidaymakers and overseas travellers.



UK Marketing Campaigns

Ireland West Airport partnered with Aer Lingus to promote the daily service from London Heathrow. Marketing and advertising activities worth over €75,000 ran across a strong channel mix of targeted media, social media, digital and email channels. The campaign focused on driving tourism and flight bookings from the London region to the Wild Atlantic Way.

In addition, Marketing campaigns ran in Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Manchester from March to May to promote these services to the West of Ireland with Ryanair and stimulate summer travel.



€250,000+

investment in overseas marketing activity in 2024

SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainability and Environmental Strategy

To meet the demands of sustainable development and to safeguard the environment, Ireland West Airport embarked on an extensive sustainability and energy reduction programme in the last 3 years and has introduced a comprehensive Energy and Environmental Management System as well as completing several new initiatives such as:

- Upgrade of the airport Ground Operations Vehicles to a fleet of new, fully electric, zero-emissions vehicles
- Upgrade of the Airfield Ground Lighting (AGL) to the latest in LED technology
- Upgrade of the IRVR equipment (Instrumented Runway Visual Range), significantly reducing time delays and fuel used
- Upgraded all terminal and external facility lighting to LED
- Upgrade of the Runway Distance Measuring Equipment (DME)
- Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan, which included
 - A full building energy assessment and fabric audit
 - A Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
 - Production of a Climate Adaptation Plan for the airport
- Completed an upgrade of the airport's Constant Current Regulators with new pure sine wave CCRs which are specifically designed for LED light fittings



Airport Carbon Accreditation

In 2024, Ireland West Airport was awarded Carbon Accreditation Level 3, 'Optimisation', by the globally recognised Airports Council International (ACI) for its exemplary work in reducing its carbon emissions and engaging other stakeholders to do the same. This is part of the Global airport industry's response to the challenge of climate change.

Airport Carbon Accreditation is an annual certification programme and consequently requires an ongoing commitment to sustainability and continuous improvements from year to year.

Current and Future Sustainability Projects

Ireland West Airport recently lodged a planning application to develop and install a new 1.2MW solar farm on its site. The farm will comprise over 2,500 PV panels and provide more than 40% of the airport's annual electricity needs.

The airport is also committed to developing electric car charging infrastructure to meet future public demand for vehicle charging. To encourage energy efficiency improvements across all airport operations, it plans to improve the thermal efficiency of the main terminal building by conducting insulation and fabric upgrades, introducing air lock zones, and running information sessions for its employees. Furthermore, the airport has also procured a fully electric fuel truck that is currently being manufactured & due to be delivered by the end of this year.

Ireland West Airport will continue to work with the Department of Transport to develop a Sectoral Climate Adaptation Plan to identify sectoral priorities for climate adaptation at a national level.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY



Supporting Local Charities

Ireland West Airport's Charity of the Year Programme is an annual initiative that supports selected local and Irish charities through employee-led activities and donations from passengers travelling through the airport. Through the funds raised annually, the airport supports the vitally important work these fantastic charities do in the community and beyond.

At the end of 2024, Ireland West Airport staff were delighted to present a cheque for a record €46,500 to the airport's six staff-nominated charities for 2024: ACT for Meningitis, BUMBLEance, Down Syndrome Ireland (Mayo Branch), Irish Red Cross, Mayo Mountain Rescue, and Western Care Association. The record amount raised will be shared equally among the six charity partners. Several events took place in 2024, with Ireland West Airport employees getting involved to support the six charities. The most successful fundraiser in 2024 was the annual Portwest 5km Runway Run, which saw over 1,200 people take to the airport's runway in September.

Other major fundraisers included an Online Bingo Night, which was a huge success in November, and a bumper online charity draw in August. The public responded fantastically, and combined, the three fundraisers raised over €40,000 for the six charities. In addition, generous donations left in the charity boxes in the various locations at the airport by passengers and customers throughout the year contributed to the significant funds raised for the six charities in 2024.

€46,500

raised for six Irish charities in 2024

Supporting new charities in 2025

Ireland West Airport is delighted to announce that the Connacht SBHI Branch (Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland), Dillon Quirke Foundation, Mayo Roscommon Hospice, Order of Malta (Knock Branch), The National Breast Cancer Research Institute and Western Alzheimers have been selected by airport staff as their charity partners for 2025.

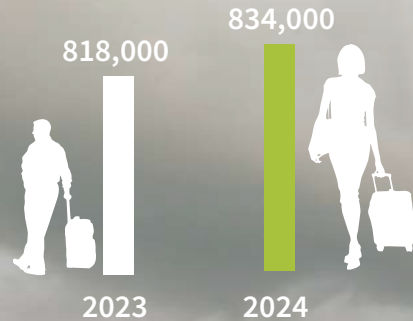
Several events will take place during the year, which will engage passengers and staff to raise as much money as possible for our charity partners. The headline event will again be the annual Portwest 5k runway fun run, which will take place on the runway at Ireland West Airport in September.

In a new Charity initiative for 2025, the airport has designated a section of our bins in the airport to recycle plastic bottles and tins under the Re-turn scheme, which provides a facility for passengers to support our six charity partners by using these bins to return their empty bottles and cans. All the proceeds raised from the returned bottles and tins will be donated to our charity partners for 2025.



A RECORD YEAR

PASSENGER NUMBERS



FLIGHTS

0.0085% of flights impacted due to weather or aircraft operational issues



5,500 flight movements in 2024

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

€46,500 raised for Charity

New service to Tenerife

Ryanair 1 million passenger milestone on Liverpool service

Achieved Level 3 Carbon Accreditation

Awarded the 'Skillnet Regional Excellence Award' at the Sligo Chamber Of Commerce annual Business Excellence Awards

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – 135,000 followers
No.2 Irish Airport

Instagram – 53,600 followers
No.2 Irish Airport

Twitter – 24,500 followers
No. 4 Irish Airport

Tiktok – 4,270 followers
No.3 Irish Airport

TOP 5 DESTINATIONS (Passenger Numbers)



London

3 7 8 2 6 6

Liverpool

1 1 3 0 5 5

Manchester

3 9 4 7 7

Birmingham

3 5 2 7 9

Edinburgh

3 5 1 4 6

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DRIVER

Over 200,000 overseas visitors to the region in 2024

Supported 3,000 jobs in the region

Supported 900,000+ bed nights in the region

Generating a tourism spend in the region of €182 million+ annually


Over 250 local suppliers supported by the airport retail and catering outlets




Ireland West Airport




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