

# Public service numbers set to hit 380,000 this year

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**The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath, said he expects to recruit more than 14,000 additional public servants this year, bringing the total to more than 380,000 full-time equivalents.**

This is an increase of almost 100,000 since 2013, when public service numbers fell to 288,300 due to the moratorium on recruitment, which was implemented in 2009 as a result of the financial crash.

On the basis of an average salary of €57,000 per public servant, this additional recruitment would have added around €5.5 billion to the pay bill over the last 9 years.

That moratorium was lifted in 2014 and public service numbers have steadily increased since then. That increase has accelerated during the last two years of the pandemic, particularly in Health.

Speaking in the Dáil late last month, Minister McGrath said that the additional planned increase of 14,288 this year primarily provides for additional staff in Health, Education, including Higher Education, and Justice.

Minister McGrath said that the expected number of retirements in the civil service this year is 1,550, which is almost 4% of the total.

However, the Minister said that as he is the 'employer' of the civil service only, he couldn't give expected retirements across the wider public service.