



IRELAND



INTRODUCTION

Celtic tribes arrived on the island between 600 and 150 B.C., followed by Norsemen in the late 8th century. Anglo-Norman invasions began in the 12th century. The modern Irish state broke from the UK in 1921.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Michael D. HIGGINS

Head of Government

Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Micheál MARTIN

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Dublin

Legislature

bicameral Parliament or Oireachtas consists of the Senate or Seanad Eireann (60 seats) and the House of Representatives or Dail Eireann (158 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 70,273 sq km
Land: 68,883 sq km
Water: 1,390 sq km

Climate

temperate maritime; modified by North Atlantic Current; mild winters, cool summers; consistently humid; overcast about half the time

Natural Resources

natural gas, peat, copper, lead, zinc, silver, barite, gypsum, limestone, dolomite

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

strong, export-based EU economy; multinational-business-friendly environment known for resilience, even amid COVID-19 disruptions; real wage growth beyond other OECD members; high living standards; strong social equity and cohesion; aging labor force

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$448 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$89,700 (2020 est.)

Industries - pharmaceuticals, chemicals, computer hardware and software, food products, beverages and brewing, medical devices

Agricultural products - milk, barley, beef, wheat, potatoes, pork, oats, poultry, mushrooms/truffles, mutton

Exports \$541.8 billion (2019 est.)

medical cultures/vaccines, nitrogen compounds, packaged medicines, integrated circuits, scented mixtures (2019)

partners: US 28%, Belgium 10%, Germany 10%, UK 9%, China 5%, Netherlands 5% (2019)

Imports \$490 billion (2019 est.)

aircraft, computers, packaged medicines, refined petroleum, medical cultures/vaccines (2019)

partners: UK 31%, US 16%, Germany 10%, Netherlands 5%, France 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

5.2 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.97% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Irish 82.2%, Irish travelers 0.7%, other White 9.5%, Asian 2.1%, Black 1.4%, other 1.5%, unspecified 2.6% (2016 est.)

Language

English (official, generally used), Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge) (official, spoken by approximately 39.8% of the population as of 2016)

Religion

Roman Catholic 78.3%, Church of Ireland 2.7%, other Christian 1.6%, Orthodox 1.3%, Muslim 1.3%, other 2.4%, none 9.8%, unspecified 2.6% (2016 est.)

