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

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.)

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 livings 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)

as of October 2021