



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) Leo VARADKAR

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 (160 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Geraldine Byrne NASON

US Ambassador

Ambassador Claire D. CRONIN

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) \$515.9 (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$102,500 (2021 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 \$677.0 billion (2021 est.)

vaccines and cultures, packaged medicines, nitrogen compounds, integrated circuits, scented mixtures, medical instruments (2021)

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

Imports \$477.5 billion (2021 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

5.3 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

1.09% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

Irish 76.6%, Irish travelers 0.6%, other White 9.9%, Asian 3.3%, Black 1.5%, other 2%, unspecified 2.6% (2022 est.)

Language

English (official, the language generally used), Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge) (official, spoken by approximately 37.7% of the population as of 2022)

Religion

Roman Catholic 68.3%, Protestant 3.8%, Orthodox 2%, other Christian 0.9%, Muslim 1.4%, other 1.6%, none 15.4%, unspecified 6.6% (2022 est.)

as of March 2024