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# Chapter 1

## 116

### 1.1 116.guide

Texified version of data for Ireland.

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Ireland

### 1.2 116.guide/Ireland

Ireland  
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Geography (Ireland)  
 People (Ireland)  
 Government (Ireland)  
 Government (Ireland 2. usage)  
 Economy (Ireland)  
 Economy (Ireland 2. usage)  
 Communications (Ireland)  
 Defense Forces (Ireland)

### 1.3 116.guide/Geography (Ireland)

Geography (Ireland)

=====

Location:

in the North Atlantic Ocean, across the Irish Sea from Great Britain

Map references:

Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

70,280 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

68,890 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly larger than West Virginia

Land boundaries:

total 360 km, UK 360 km

Coastline:

1,448 km

Maritime claims:

continental shelf:

not specified

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Northern Ireland question with the UK; Rockall continental shelf dispute involving Denmark, Iceland, and the UK (Ireland and the UK have signed a boundary agreement in the Rockall area)

Climate:

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

Terrain:

mostly level to rolling interior plain surrounded by rugged hills and low mountains; sea cliffs on west coast

Natural resources:

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

Land use:

arable land:

14%  
 permanent crops:  
 0%  
 meadows and pastures:  
 71%  
 forest and woodland:  
 5%  
 other:  
 10%  
 Irrigated land:  
 NA km2  
 Environment:  
 deforestation  
 Note:  
 strategic location on major air and sea routes between North American and  
 northern Europe

## 1.4 116.guide/People (Ireland)

People (Ireland)

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Population:  
 3,529,566 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 0.26% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 14.39 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 8.71 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 -3.13 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 7.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 75.38 years  
 male:  
 72.56 years  
 female: 78.36 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 2.02 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Irishman(men), Irishwoman(men), Irish (collective plural)  
 adjective:  
 Irish  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 Celtic, English  
 Religions:  
 Roman Catholic 93%, Anglican 3%, none 1%, unknown 2%, other 1% (1981)  
 Languages:  
 Irish (Gaelic), spoken mainly in areas located along the western seaboard,

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English is the language generally used  
 Literacy:  
   age 15 and over can read and write (1981)  
   total population:  
     98%  
   male:  
     NA%  
   female:  
     NA%  
 Labor force:  
   1.37 million  
 by occupation:  
   services 57.0%, manufacturing and construction 28%, agriculture, forestry,  
   and fishing 13.5%, energy and mining 1.5% (1992)

## 1.5 116.guide/Government (Ireland)

Government (Ireland)

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Names:  
   conventional long form:  
     none  
   conventional short form:  
     Ireland  
 Digraph:  
   EI  
 Type:  
   republic  
 Capital:  
   Dublin  
 Administrative divisions:  
   26 counties; Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry,  
   Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath,  
   Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath,  
   Wexford, Wicklow  
 Independence:  
   6 December 1921 (from UK)  
 Constitution:  
   29 December 1937; adopted 1937  
 Legal system:  
   based on English common law, substantially modified by indigenous concepts;  
   judicial review of legislative acts in Supreme Court; has not accepted  
   compulsory ICJ jurisdiction  
 National holiday:  
   Saint Patrick's Day, 17 March  
 Political parties and leaders:  
   Democratic Left, Proinsias DE ROSSA; Fianna Fail, Albert REYNOLDS; Labor  
   Party, Richard SPRING; Fine Gael, John BRUTON; Communist Party of Ireland,  
   Michael O'RIORDAN; Sinn Fein, Gerry ADAMS; Progressive Democrats, Desmond  
   O'MALLEY  
 note:  
   Prime Minister REYNOLDS heads a coalition consisting of the Fianna Fail and

the Labor Party

Suffrage:  
18 years of age; universal

Elections:

President:  
last held 9 November 1990 (next to be held November 1997); results - Mary Bourke ROBINSON 52.8%, Brian LENIHAN 47.2%

Senate:  
last held on NA February 1992 (next to be held February 1997); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (60 total, 49 elected) Fianna Fail 26, Fine Gael 16, Labor 9, Progressive Democrats 2, Democratic Left 1, independents 6

House of Representatives:  
last held on 25 November 1992 (next to be held by June 1995); results - Fianna Fail 39.1%, Fine Gael 24.5%, Labor Party 19.3%, Progressive Democrats 4.7%, Democratic Left 2.8%, Sinn Fein 1.6%, Workers' Party 0.7%, independents 5.9%; seats - (166 total) Fianna Fail 68, Fine Gael 45, Labor Party 33, Progressive Democrats 10, Democratic Left 4, Greens 1, independents 5

Executive branch:  
president, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:  
bicameral Parliament (Oireachtas) consists of an upper house or Senate (Seanad Eireann) and a lower house or House of Representatives (Dail Eireann)

## 1.6 116.guide/Government (Ireland 2. usage)

Government (Ireland 2. usage)

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Judicial branch:  
Supreme Court

Leaders:  
Chief of State:  
President Mary Bourke ROBINSON (since 9 November 1990)

Head of Government:  
Prime Minister Albert REYNOLDS (since 11 February 1992)

Member of:  
Australian Group, BIS, CCC, CE, COCOM (cooperating country), CSCE, EBRD, EC ←  
,  
ECE, EIB, ESA, FAO, GATT, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, ILO,  
IMF, IMO, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO, ITU, LORCS, MINURSO, MTCR, NEA, NSG ←  
,  
OECD, ONUSAL, UN, UNAVEM II, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFICYP, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNIKOM ←  
,  
UNPROFRO, UNTAC, UNTSO, UPU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in US:  
chief of mission:  
Ambassador Dermot A. GALLAGHER chancery:  
2234 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20008  
telephone:

(202) 462-3939  
 consulates general:  
 Boston, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco  
 US diplomatic representation:  
 chief of mission:  
 Ambassador William Henry G. FITZGERALD; Ambassador Designate Jean Kennedy  
 SMITH (17 March 1993)  
 embassy:  
 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin  
 mailing address:  
 use embassy street address  
 telephone:  
 [353] (1) 687122  
 FAX:  
 [353] (1) 689946  
 Flag:  
 three equal vertical bands of green (hoist side), white, and orange; ←  
 similar  
 to the flag of the Cote d'Ivoire, which is shorter and has the colors  
 reversed - orange (hoist side), white, and green; also similar to the flag  
 of Italy, which is shorter and has colors of green (hoist side), white, and  
 red

## 1.7 116.guide/Economy (Ireland)

### Economy (Ireland)

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#### Overview:

The economy is small and trade dependent. Agriculture, once the most  
 important sector, is now dwarfed by industry, which accounts for 37% of GDP ←

,  
 about 80% of exports, and employs 28% of the labor force. Since 1987, real  
 GDP growth, led by exports, has averaged 4% annually. Over the same period,  
 inflation has fallen sharply and chronic trade deficits have been  
 transformed into annual surpluses. Unemployment, at 22.7% remains a serious  
 problem, however, and job creation is the main focus of government policy.  
 To ease unemployment, Dublin aggressively courts foreign investors and  
 recently created a new industrial development agency to aid small ←  
 indigenous

firms. Government assistance is constrained by Dublin's continuing deficit  
 reduction measures. After five years of fiscal restraint, total government  
 debt still exceeds GDP. Growth probably will moderate in 1993 as the ←  
 heavily

indebted and trade-dependent economy is highly sensitive to changes in  
 exchange rates and world interest rates. Exports to the UK, Ireland's major  
 export market, probably will be hurt by the recent appreciation of the ←  
 Irish

currency against sterling - for the first time since 1979 the value of the  
 Irish pound exceeds that of its British counterpart.

#### National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$42.4 billion (1992)

National product real growth rate:

2% (1992)  
 National product per capita:  
 \$12,000 (1992)  
 Inflation rate (consumer prices):  
 3.5% (1992)  
 Unemployment rate: 22.7% (1992)  
 Budget:  
 revenues \$16.0 billion; expenditures \$16.6 billion, including capital  
 expenditures of \$1.6 billion (1992 est.)  
 Exports:  
 \$28.3 billion (f.o.b., 1992)  
 commodities:  
 chemicals, data processing equipment, industrial machinery, live animals,  
 animal products  
 partners:  
 EC 75% (UK 32%, Germany 13%, France 10%), US 9%  
 Imports:  
 \$23.3 billion (c.i.f., 1992)  
 commodities:  
 food, animal feed, data processing equipment, petroleum and petroleum  
 products, machinery, textiles, clothing  
 partners:  
 EC 66% (UK 41%, Germany 8%, Netherlands 4%), US 15%  
 External debt:  
 \$15 billion (1990)  
 Industrial production:  
 growth rate 8.0% (1992 est.); accounts for 37% of GDP  
 Electricity:  
 5,000,000 kW capacity; 14,500 million kWh produced, 4,120 kWh per capita  
 (1992)  
 Industries:  
 food products, brewing, textiles, clothing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals,  
 machinery, transportation equipment, glass and crystal

## 1.8 116.guide/Economy (Ireland 2. usage)

Economy (Ireland 2. usage)

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Agriculture:  
 accounts for 11% of GDP and 13% of the labor force; principal crops -  
 turnips, barley, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat; livestock - meat and dairy  
 products; 85% self-sufficient in food; food shortages include bread grain,  
 fruits, vegetables  
 Economic aid:  
 donor - ODA commitments (1980-89), \$90 million  
 Currency:  
 1 Irish pound (#Ir) = 100 pence  
 Exchange rates:  
 Irish pounds (#Ir) per US\$1 - 0.6118 (January 1993), 0.5864 (1992), 0.6190  
 (1991), 0.6030 (1990), 0.7472 (1989), 0.6553 (1988)  
 Fiscal year:  
 calendar year

## 1.9 116.guide/Communications (Ireland)

### Communications (Ireland)

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#### Railroads:

Irish National Railways (CIE) operates 1,947 km 1.602-meter gauge, government owned; 485 km double track; 37 km electrified

Highways: 92,294 km total; 87,422 km paved, 4,872 km gravel or crushed stone ↔

#### Inland waterways:

limited for commercial traffic

#### Pipelines:

natural gas 225 km

#### Ports:

Cork, Dublin, Waterford

#### Merchant marine:

57 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 154,647 GRT/186,432 DWT; includes 4 short-sea passenger, 33 cargo, 2 refrigerated cargo, 4 container, 3 oil tanker, 3 specialized tanker, 3 chemical tanker, 5 bulk

#### Airports:

total:

40

usable:

39

with permanent-surface runways:

13

with runways over 3,659 m:

0

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

2

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

6

#### Telecommunications:

modern system using cable and digital microwave circuits; 900,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 9 AM, 45 FM, 86 TV; 2 coaxial submarine cables; 1 Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT earth station

## 1.10 116.guide/Defense Forces (Ireland)

### Defense Forces (Ireland)

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#### Branches:

Army (including Naval Service and Air Corps), National Police (Garda Siochana)

Manpower availability:

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males age 15-49 903,536; fit for military service 731,085; reach military age (17) annually 33,932 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$569 million, 1-2% of GDP (1993 est.)

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