Introduction

Ireland is an island nation located in Western Europe northwest of the United Kingdom. It has a strategic location on major air and sea routes between North America and northern Europe. The government system is a republic; parliamentary democracy. The chief of state is the president and the head of government is the Taoiseach (prime minister). Ireland has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Ireland is a member of the European Union (EU).

Location: Northern Europe
Capital City: Dublin (GMT)
Chief of State: President Michael D. Higgins
Head of Govt.: Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Micheál Martin
Currency: Euro (EUR)
Major Languages: English (official, the language generally used), Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge) (official, spoken by approximately 39.8% of the population as of 2016; mainly spoken in areas along Ireland’s western coast known as gaeltachtai, which are officially recognized regions where Irish is the predominant language)
Primary Religions: 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%
Calling Code: 353
Voltage: 230

GDP Composition %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Economic Facts

- **Income Level (by per capita GNI):** High Income
- **Level of Development:** Developed
- **GDP, PPP (current international $):** $467.57 billion (2020)
- **GDP growth (annual %):** 3.42% (2020)
- **GDP per capita, PPP (current international $):** $93,612.17 (2020)
- **Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):** 36.62% (2020)
- **Current account balance (BoP, current US$):** -$44.93 billion (2019)
- **Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):** -0.33% (2020)
- **Labor force, total:** 2,427,093 (2020)
- **Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):** 5.92% (2020)
- **Imports of goods and services (current US$):** $408.88 billion (2020)
- **Exports of goods and services (current US$):** $534.33 billion (2020)

Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corruption Perceptions Index</td>
<td>20 / 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY Globalization Index</td>
<td>3 / 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Competitiveness Index</td>
<td>24 / 141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Enabling Trade Index</td>
<td>20 / 136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index (GMCI)</td>
<td>31 / 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Services Location Index</td>
<td>51 / 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index of Economic Freedom</td>
<td>6 / 179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)</td>
<td>29 / 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inward FDI Potential Index</td>
<td>16 / 139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOF Index of Globalization</td>
<td>2 / 185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networked Readiness Index (NRI)</td>
<td>25 / 139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A4 - A somewhat shaky political and economic outlook and a relatively volatile business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is still acceptable on average.

Business Climate rating: A1 - The business environment is very good. Corporate financial information is available and reliable. Debt collection is efficient. Institutional quality is very good. Intercompany transactions run smoothly in environments rated A1.

Strengths

- Flexible labor and goods markets
- Favorable business environment, attractive taxation
- Presence of multinational companies, particularly from the United States, which account for 22% of employment and 63% of value added in the non-financial business sector
- Presence through multinationals in sectors with high value added, including pharmaceuticals, IT and medical equipment

Weaknesses

- Dependent on the economic situation and tax regimes of the United States and Europe, particularly the United Kingdom
- Vulnerable to changes in the strategies of foreign companies
- Public and private debt levels still high
- Banking sector still vulnerable to shocks

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