

I R E L A N D

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---------|
| Economic classification: | Industrial Market economy | |
| Oil exporter or importer (net): | Importer | |
| Annual per capita income: | US\$3,835 | 1985 |
| Annual per capita GNP | US\$4,890 | 1985 |
| Average annual growth | 1.8% | 1975-85 |
| Annual inflation rate | 14.2% | 1975-85 |
| Annual inflation rate | 4.3% | 1986 |
| Volume of imports | 11.2 billion US\$ | 1985 |
| Of which food | 11.2% | 1985 |
| Of which fuels | 11.9% | 1985 |
| Principal foreign exchange earning export: | Computers & Parts | |
| Debt service as % of GNP | 13.9% | 1985 |
| Debt service as % of exports | 22.3% | 1985 |
| Population | 3.5 million | 1986 |
| Annual population growth | 0.86% | 1983-84 |
| Annual Consumption: | | |
| Flour | 67,900 tonnes or 19.4 kg/capita | 1984 |
| Meat | 274,400 tonnes or 78.4 kg/capita | 1984 |
| Vegetable Oil | 22,000 tonnes or 6.3 kg/capita | 1985 |

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Crop Situation and Outlook

The 1986 seeded acreage under cereals is expected to be down 5 to 7% from the 1985 level of 950,000 acres. This can be attributed primarily to the higher quality standards for sale of grain into intervention and subsequent poor prices for lower grade grains. Also due to the coresponsibility levy on grains. The biggest decline in 1986 will be in winter cereals (-15%), whereas there will be a drop of some 5% in spring barley.

2. Foreign Exchange Situation

The Irish pound has strengthened against the dollar and British sterling, having been at an all time low during the first quarter of 1985.

No priority given to food/agricultural imports in terms of foreign exchange earnings. Not an international aid recipient.

3. Fertilizer Situation

Nutrient tonnage of fertilizers sold for 1985/86 (estimate)

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Nitrogen | 318,000 tonnes |
| Phosphorus | 65,000 " |
| Pottassium | 161,000 " |

Nitrogen consumption in particular has been increasing, due to increased silage production.