

I R E L A N D

Economic classification: Industrial Market economy			
Oil exporter or importer (net): Importer			
Annual per capita income:	US\$ 4,300		year 1983
Annual per capita GNP	US\$ 5,150		year 1983
Average annual growth 1960-80	3.1 %		
Annual inflation rate 1970-80	9.7 %		
Annual inflation rate (current)	8.3 %		
Volume of imports	11.5 billion US\$		year 1983
Of which food	13.5 %		year 1983
Of which fuels	15.0 %		year 1982
Principal foreign exchange earning export: Computers & Parts			
Debt service as % of GNP	16.5 %		year 1982
Debt service as % of exports	22.2 %		year 1982
Population	3.5 million		year 1983
Annual population growth	1.0 %		years 1980-2000
Annual Consumption:			
Flour	20.1 kg/capita		year 1982
Meat*	79 kg/capita		year 1982

* beef, mutton, pigmeat and poultry

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Crop Situation and Outlook

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Estimated Quantity</u>		<u>Estimated Value</u>	
	<u>(000 tonnes)</u>		<u>(IR£000)</u>	
	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Wheat	360	317	39,894	41,976
Oats	33	37	3,119	4,390
Barley	1,171	954	119,823	123,148
Sugar Beet	1,659	1,630	59,614	57,578
Potatoes	254	307	26,260	29,307
Hay	17	17	898	832

In the 1984 crop year the winter wheat acreage is expected to rise to 190,000 acres, which is 71% up from last year's figure of 111,200 acres and 2.25 times the 1981 figure of 84,100 acres. Most of the Irish wheat crop is made up of feeding varieties.

Winter wheat and spring barley yields are good although prices are considered poor. Winter wheat yields are up to four tonnes per acre and for spring barley up to 2½ tonnes per acre. The best ever yields for rape are also being achieved (1½-1¾ tonnes per acre).

2. Foreign Exchange Situation

The Irish pound (punt) has continued to weaken against the dollar. As of December 31, 1983, it was valued at \$US1.13.