

Ireland Fact Sheet

Basic data

Capital	Dublin
Total area	69,040 km ²
Population	3.5 million
Currency	Punt (\$1 = 0.5173 I£)
Language	English, Gaelic
National holiday	March 17

Political data

Type of state	Republic
Type of government	Parliamentary democracy
Head of state	Mary Robinson (elected in 1990 for seven years)
Head of government (Taoiseach)	Charles Haughey (since 1987)
Minister for foreign affairs	Gerard Collins (since 1989)
Main political parties	Fianna Fail (Soldiers of Destiny, FF), Fine Gael (Tribe of Ireland, FG), Progressive Democrats (PD), Labour Party (LP), Workers' Party (WP)
Chamber of deputies (Dail)	166 members elected for five years by proportional representation. Seats following ballot of 1989: FF=77, FG=55, PD=12, others=22
Senate (Seanad)	60 members elected for five years: 11 appointed by Taoiseach, 6 elected by universities, 43 elected on vocational basis
Next elections	Legislative and senatorial must be held by 1994. Presidential elections to be held in 1997

Economic data*

Minister of industry and trade	Desmond O'Malley (since 1989)
Minister of finance	Albert Reynolds (since 1989)
GNP	\$38.54 billion
GDP per capita	\$11,013
GDP growth rate	3.6%
Unemployment rate	17.2%
Inflation rate	3.3%
Total national debt	\$48.3 billion or 118% of GNP
Budget deficit	\$889 million, 1.9% of GNP
Imports	\$14.65 billion of which \$125 million is imported from Canada
Exports	\$16.87 billion of which \$257 million is exported to Canada

* 1990 figures unless otherwise specified.