

Bertie Ahern

Prime Minister of Ireland

Bertie Ahern was born in Dublin on Sept. 12, 1951, and completed his education at Rathmines College of Commerce and University College, Dublin. His post-secondary school studies in taxation, business administration and computers led to a career in accounting.

Mr. Ahern's political career began in 1977, when he was elected to the lower house of Parliament. In 1981, he was appointed party spokesperson on youth and, in 1982, Opposition Chief Whip and Leader of the House for his party, the Fianna Fáil. In 1983, he became party vice-president, a position he maintained until 1994, when he was unanimously elected party leader.

Mr. Ahern has held a number of positions in government, including Minister of State for the Department of the Prime Minister and for Defence, Government Chief Whip, Minister of Labour and Minister of Finance.

On June 26, 1997, Mr. Ahern was elected Prime Minister of Ireland.

Mr. Ahern has two children.