

10 KEY FACTS ON THE IRISH ECONOMY

1. Ireland continues to be one of the most prosperous countries in the world, and is forecast to remain the country with the third highest GDP per capita 2008-2010 in the EU.

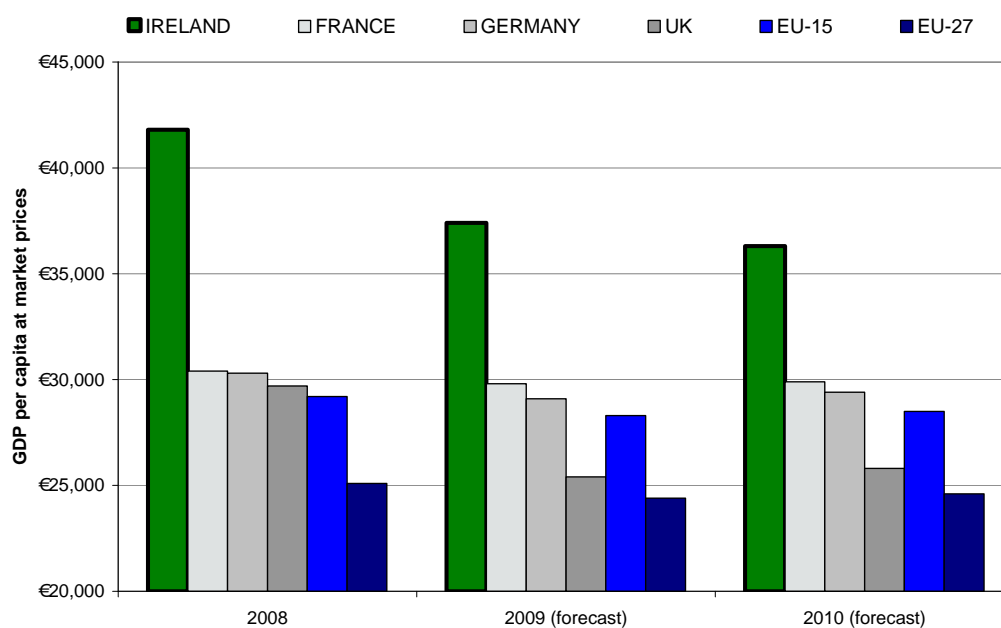


Figure 1: GDP per capita at market prices, 2008-2010

Source: Eurostats 2008 – 2010 forecasts.

2. Ireland has one of the most open economies in the world. We are well-placed to respond quickly and strongly to global economic recovery.

In terms of exports as a % of GDP, Ireland ranks as the 3rd biggest exporting country in the EU-15.

Source: Eurostat, External Trade.

3. Ireland is one of the easiest countries in the world in which to do business, and is ranked 7th out of 181 economies for ease of doing business by the World Bank, Doing Business Report 2009.

Source: World Bank, Doing Business Report, 2009

4. In terms of quality of life, Ireland is among the highest ranked countries in the world (fifth overall) in the UN's Human Development Index, which combines measures of education, health and income.

Source: UNDP, Human Development Indices Statistical Update, 2008

5. Ireland has one of the most highly skilled and highly educated labour forces in the world, particularly in terms of science, mathematics and computing.

Ireland's 25-34 year olds have an above-average level of qualification among OECD countries.

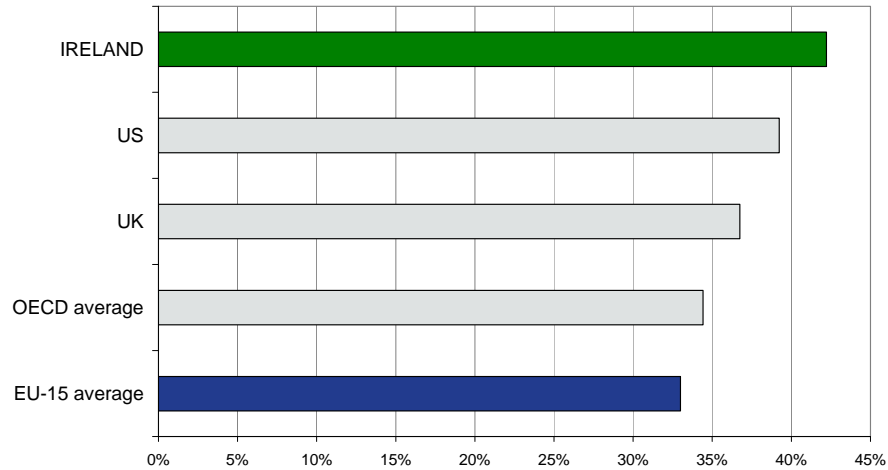


Figure 2: Population (25-34 years old) that has Third Level Education or better, 2006

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance, 2008

In 2009 Ireland was ranked 1st in the world in a survey of business executives conducted by the Institute of Management Development, asking respondents about the availability of skilled labour in the country they worked in.

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2009

6. Ireland has an attractive tax regime, with a focus on promoting growth and encouraging sustainable economic activities in areas such as research and development. As well as a low rate of corporate tax at 12.5%, Ireland has a relatively low level of tax on labour, and has fully implemented the OECD internationally agreed tax standard.

Source: Eurostat, Taxation Trends in the European Union, 2008, Department of Finance, 2009.

7. Ireland is a significant global player in both the pharmaceutical and commercial services industries.

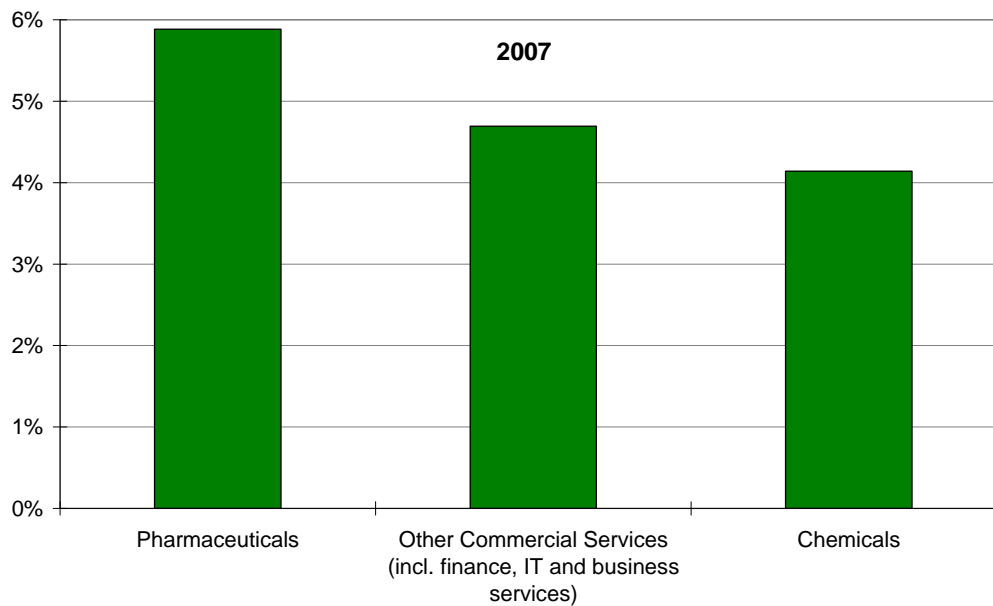


Figure 3: Ireland's Share of World Exports by Sector (%), 2007

As well as being the European hub for major ICT companies such as Microsoft, Google and Intel, nine of the top ten global pharmaceutical firms have a major regional presence in Ireland.

Source: World Trade Organisation

8. Ireland ranks as one of the highest countries in the EU-15 in terms of capital investment as a % of GDP.

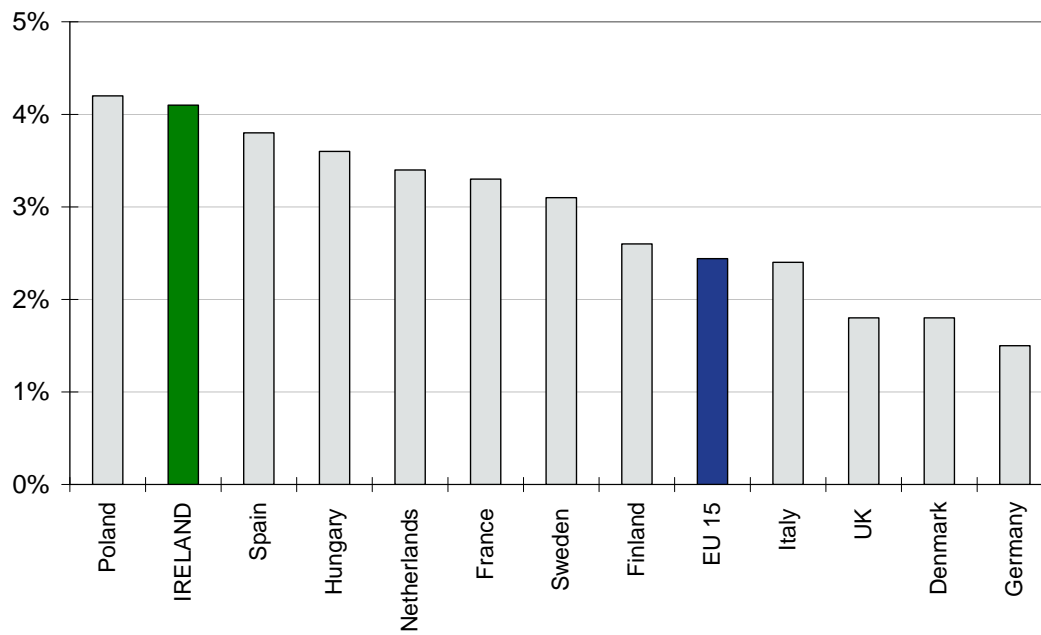


Figure 4: General Government Gross Fixed Capital Formation (as a % of GDP), 2007

Source: Eurostat, Economy and Finance Indicators

9. Ireland's Government debt to GDP was the fifth lowest in the Euro area in 2008 and is forecast to remain below the EU-15 average over the period to 2010.

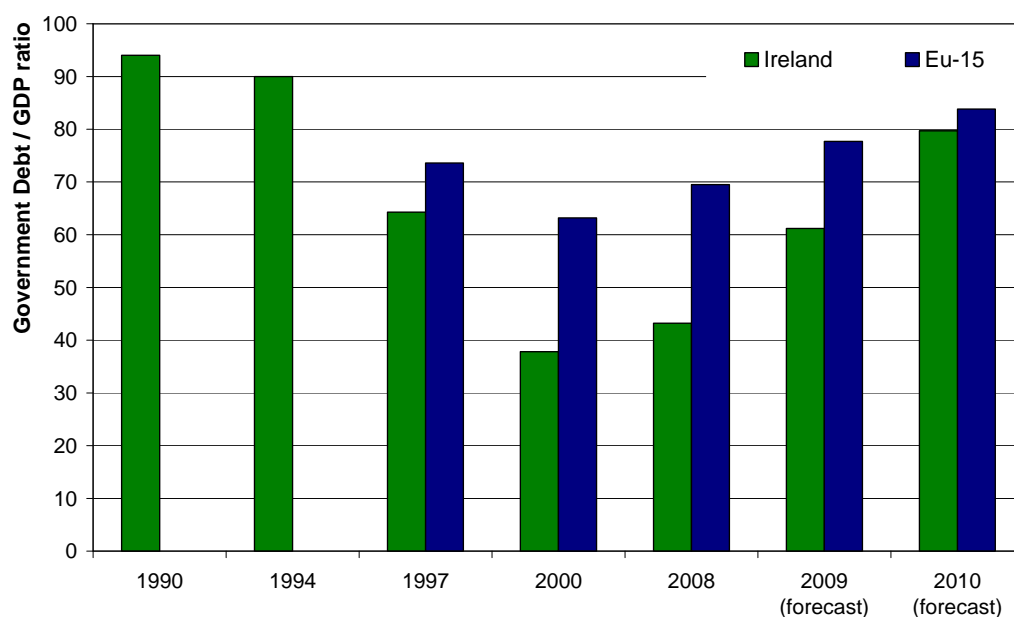


Figure 5: Ireland and EU-15 Government Debt / GDP Ratio (%) 1987 – 2010

In the medium-term, as with all Euro area countries, Ireland's debt-to-GDP ratio will rise. However, because it is doing so off such a low base, the EU Commission's forecasts show that Ireland's debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to remain below the euro area average in 2009-2010.

Source: Eurostat. Forecasts from 2009 onwards are from the European Commission Spring Economic Forecast, May 2009

10. Ireland's dynamic Research Development & Innovation sector is driven by an exceptional level of collaboration between industry, academia, government agencies and regulatory authorities.

Ireland has trebled economy-wide R&D spend in the last decade. The Government remains committed to using investment incentives and other measures to achieve an R&D target of 2.1% of GDP by 2013.

Dublin will be the European City of Science in 2012.