

The Polarity of Ireland



Geographical Location:

Ireland is a small island/country located in the far northwestern corner of Europe and of the European Union.

Government:

The Republic of Ireland follows a parliamentary and representative democratic system.

NATO Membership:

Ireland has negotiated an opt-out from the Schengen area and is one of the five EU member-states that are not full time NATO members.

Historical Dates to take note of:

- 1922 Irish Independence
- 1991 Treaty on European Union at Maastricht
- 1998 Good Friday Agreement
- 2002 Euro
- 1990-2000s “Celtic Tiger” reputation
- 2008 Economic step back
- 2016 Brexit



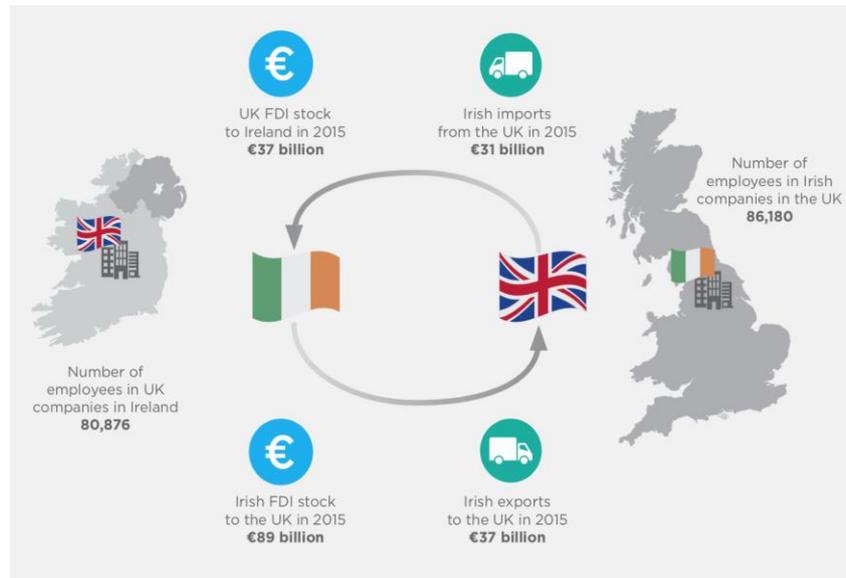
Economy:

- Ireland is considered to be the 2nd richest EU country in terms of prosperity and GDP per capita.
- As evident by the Debt-to-GDP ratio the Irish economy is a successful and net positive one.

The country relies heavily on its imports and exports by its partners:

- Imports - partners:
United Kingdom 31%, United States 16%, Germany 10%, Netherlands 5%, France 5% (2019)
- Exports - partners:
United States 28%, Belgium 10%, Germany 10%, UK 9%, China 5%, Netherlands 5% (2019)

Brexit:

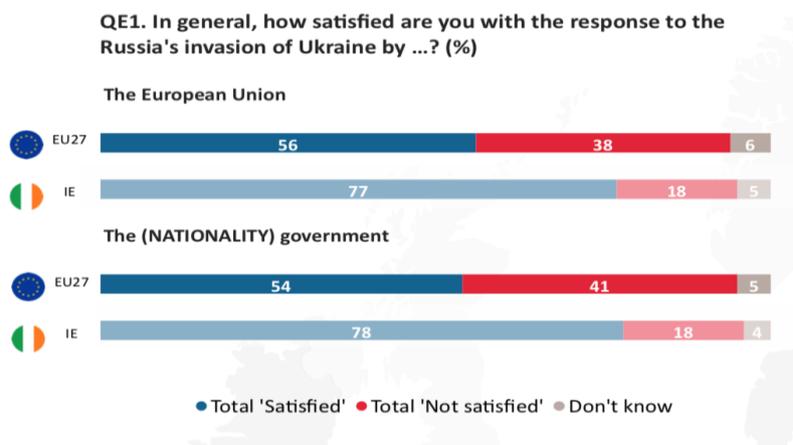


Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union was triggered and paved the way for negotiations on a Withdrawal Agreement, which came into force on 1st February 2020. This was followed by a transition period that allowed for an orderly UK exit and provided time to negotiate a new EU/UK partnership given how integrated the two societies are.

The transition period ended on 31st December 2020. Relationships between the European Union and the United Kingdom are now based on the four treaties, mainly the Withdrawal Agreement and the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

The invasion of Ukraine and its consequences:

Eurobarometer 99/ Spring 2023



Even though satisfaction by the society is rather high at 78% there has been continued uncertainty and unrest over the country's military neutrality and its ability to defend itself.

The country is no longer bound by its small size and close border with the UK. Ireland is generally thought to be an economically crippled nation that relies on the help of its EU allies and faces many challenges. In more recent times this EU member state has flourished and became not only financially stable but a shining example of the contributions and the benefits of EU membership. Thus, showcasing its polarity.