

Master LEA

Questions économiques et sociales

1 The Rise and fall of the celtic tiger

Teaching blog <http://johncmullen.blogspot.com>

The Republic of Ireland today

- Coastline : 1,000 km
- Capital : Dublin
- A Republic since 1949
- Population 4.5 million
- (Northern Ireland 1.8 million, entire island 6,2 million)
- 87% of the Irish are Catholics



Angry headline in October 2010





Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 80.56 years (Portugal 78,3; France 81,1; UK 79,4))

male: 78.28 years

female: 82.97 years (2015 est, CIA World facts handbook.)

Total fertility rate:

2.00 children born/woman (2015 est, ibid.)

Table T Usual residents by ethnic or cultural background

Category	2006	2011	% Change
White Irish	3,645,199	3,821,995	4.9
Irish Travellers	22,369	29,495	31.9
Other White	289,041	412,975	42.9
Black Irish or Black African	40,525	58,697	44.8
Other Black	3,793	6,381	68.2
Chinese	16,533	17,832	7.9
Other Asian	35,812	66,858	86.7
Other	46,438	40,724	-12.3
Not stated	72,303	70,324	-2.7
Total	4,172,013	4,525,281	8.5

From the 2011 census reports www.cso.ie

Urbanisation:

Urban population: 62.2% of total population (2011) (over 80% in England, 85.8% in France)

(source: United Nations)

Main cities with popn (2015)

Dublin 527 000 (city)

1.8m (Metropolitan area)

Cork 119 000

Limerick 96 000

Galway 76 000

Lisburn 72 000



Dublin



Dublin castle



Molly Malone

Religions in the Republic

Roman Catholic 87.4%,
Church of Ireland 2.9%,
other Christian 1.9%,
other 2.1%,
unspecified 1.5%,
none 4.2% (2006 census)

The **Church of Ireland** (Irish: *Eaglais na hÉireann*) is an autonomous section of the Anglican religion, existing everywhere in the island of Ireland.



Saint
Patrick's
cathedral



St Mary's Roman Catholic pro-cathedral in Dublin



Dublin mosque

Languages:

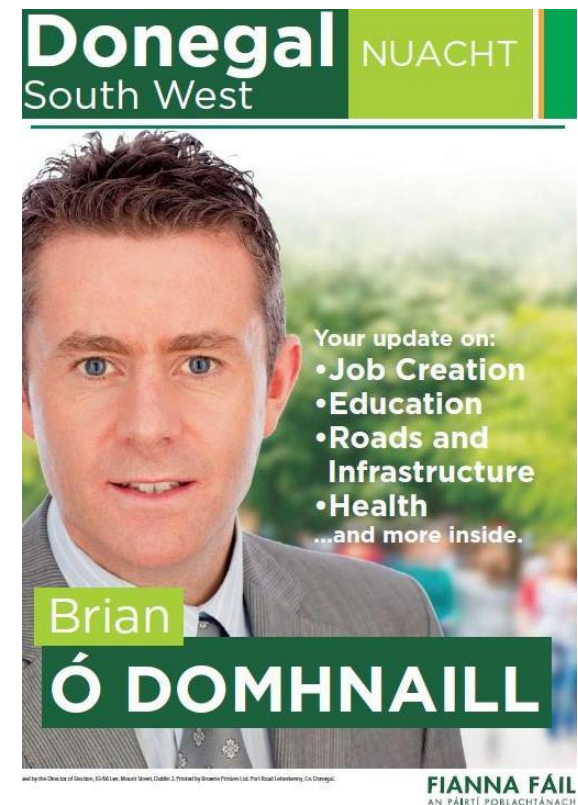
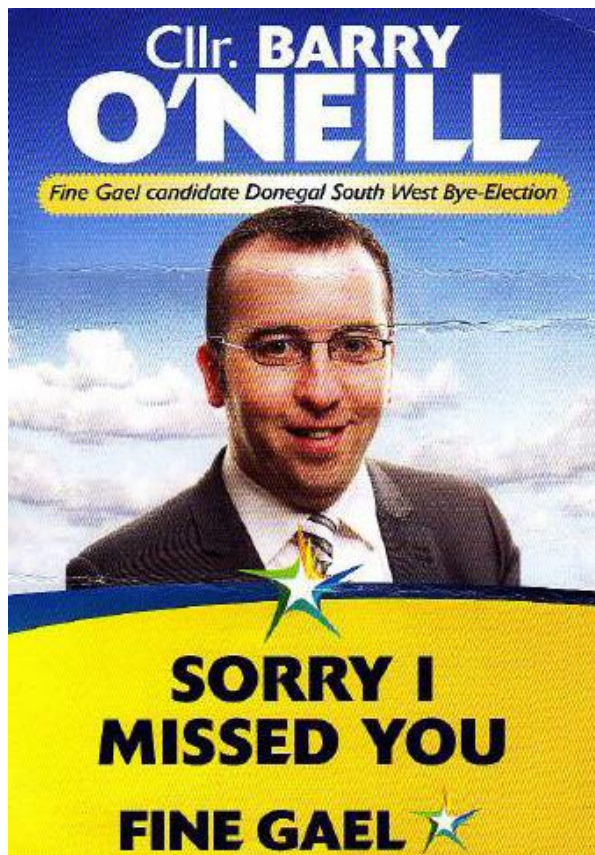
English is the language generally used, Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge) is also an official language spoken mainly in areas along the western coast



Around 70 000 people (under 2 % of the population) use Irish on a daily basis, 260 000 have a good knowledge of Irish and 1 600 000 have some knowledge.

Irish is studied in all schools in the Republic.

Irish political life



Ireland is a republic with a parliamentary system of government.

The **President of Ireland** serves as head of state, is elected for a seven-year term and can be re-elected only once.

The president is largely a figurehead, but has a constitutional role.

From 1990 to 2011 the president was a woman – Mary Robinson (1990-97) then Mary McAleese (1997 to 2011).



Michael Higgins, president of Ireland since 2011

The president appoints the Taoiseach, which is the equivalent of the prime minister in most countries. They always appoint the leader of the party with the most seats in the parliament,

This Irish word is pronounced /ti:ʃəx/

The current Taoiseach is Enda Kenny, from the Fine Gael party

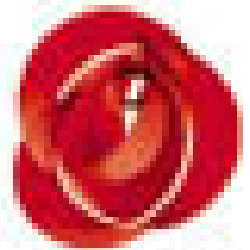
Most *Taoisigh* have been the leader of the political party that wins the most seats in the national elections. It has become normal for coalitions to form a government, as there has not been a single-party government since 1989.



The current government consists of a coalition of two parties; Fine Gael :
Labour.



FINE GAEL



Labour



The Dail

There exist all-Ireland institutions in
Transport
Telecommunications
Energy
Water

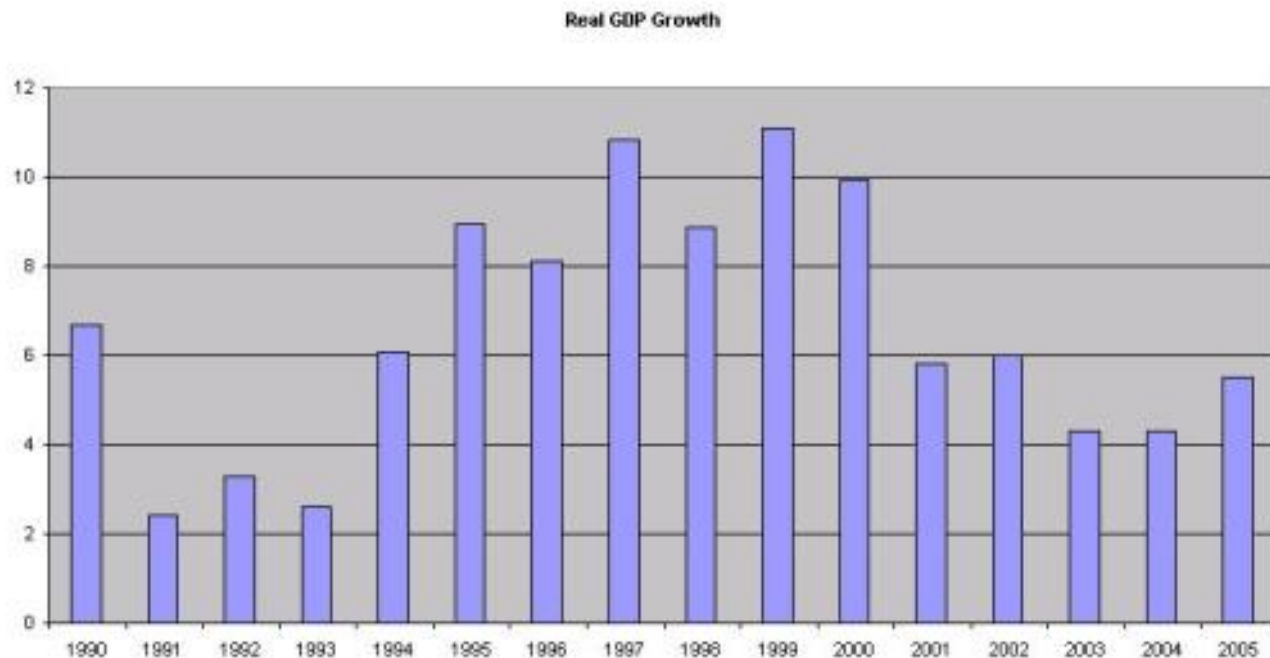
The North-South Ministerial Council,
set up in 1998, formulate all-Ireland
policies on questions such as
Food safety
Tourism
Agriculture



The end of the Celtic tiger?

One of the lowest corporate tax rates in the developed world, coupled with low paid but educated labour force, led to an annual growth rate of 6.5 per cent from 1989 until 2006.

Ireland got the nickname of the “Celtic tiger”



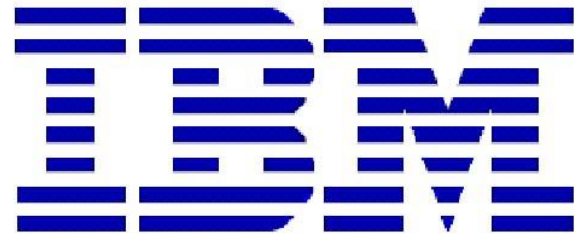
For the first time in over a hundred years, perhaps for the first time in its history, Ireland after 1995 was no longer a country people left in order to emigrate, but a country that immigrants were attracted to.

In 1987 there were 3.5 million inhabitants in the Irish Republic. By 2005 there were 4.1 million

Major investments were made in technical
Higher education.

More than 300 high technology companies came
to operate in Ireland,

This sector soon made up 25% of Irish exports,



In addition, around a hundred pharmaceutical companies established themselves in Ireland.

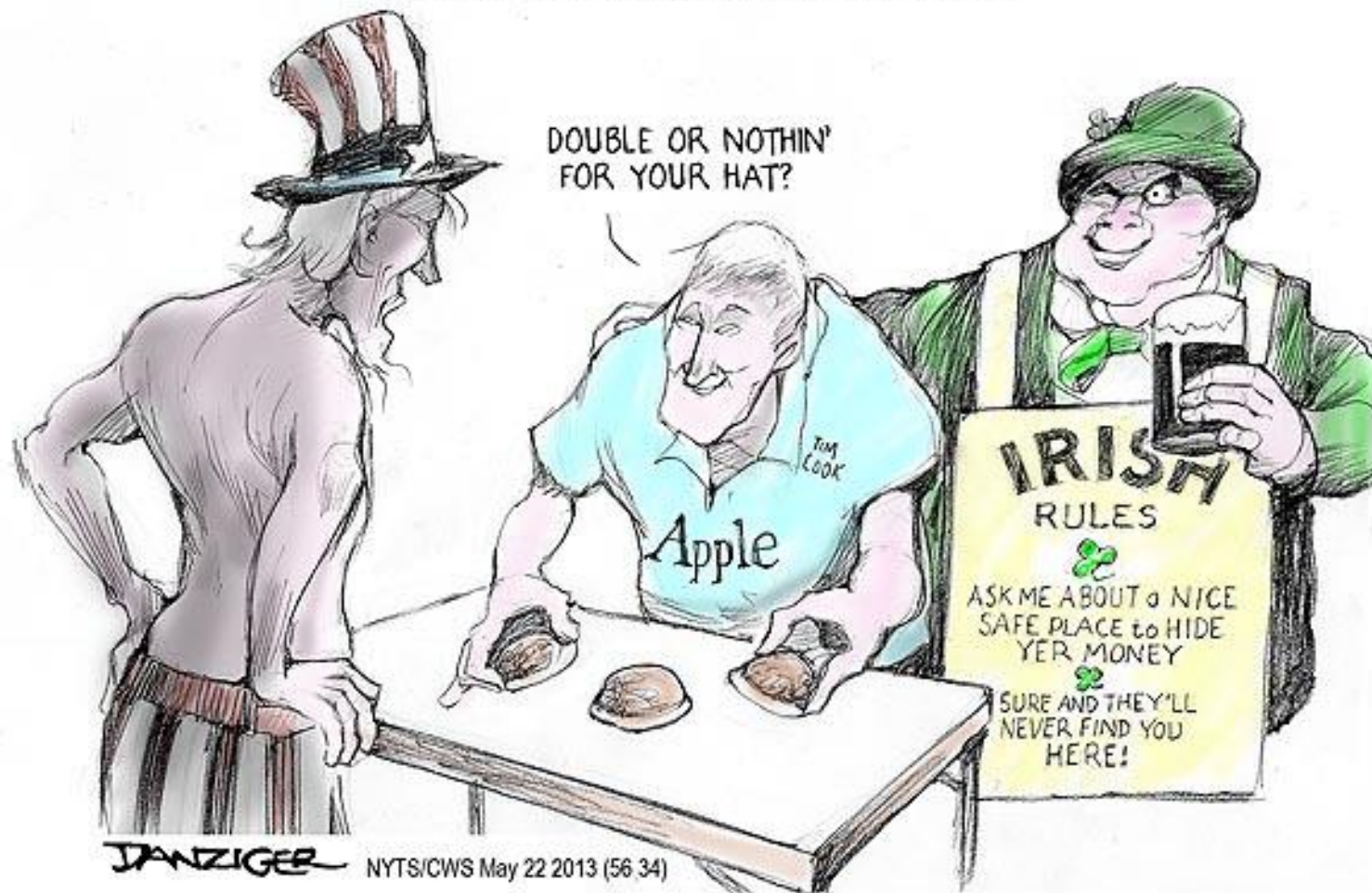


The companies were attracted by

- A well-educated workforce
- Extremely low levels of corporation tax
- Staff who spoke fluent English, the International language.

The republic's economy became much less dependent on that of Britain.

Want to Dodge US Taxes?
See the Good Old Honest Irish Government.



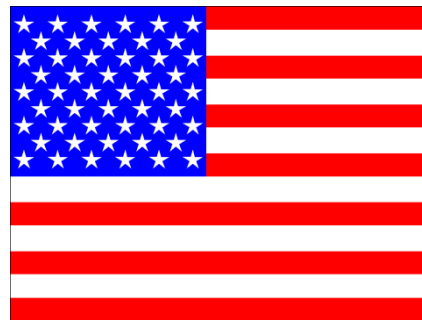
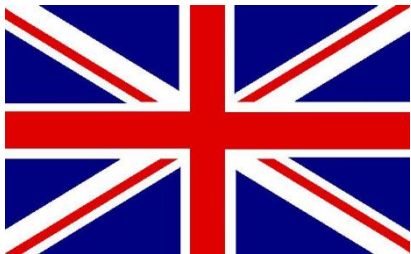


In 1973 55% of the Republic's exports went to Britain,

In 2004 only 18% went to Britain

20% went to the United States

44% went to countries in the European Union other than Britain

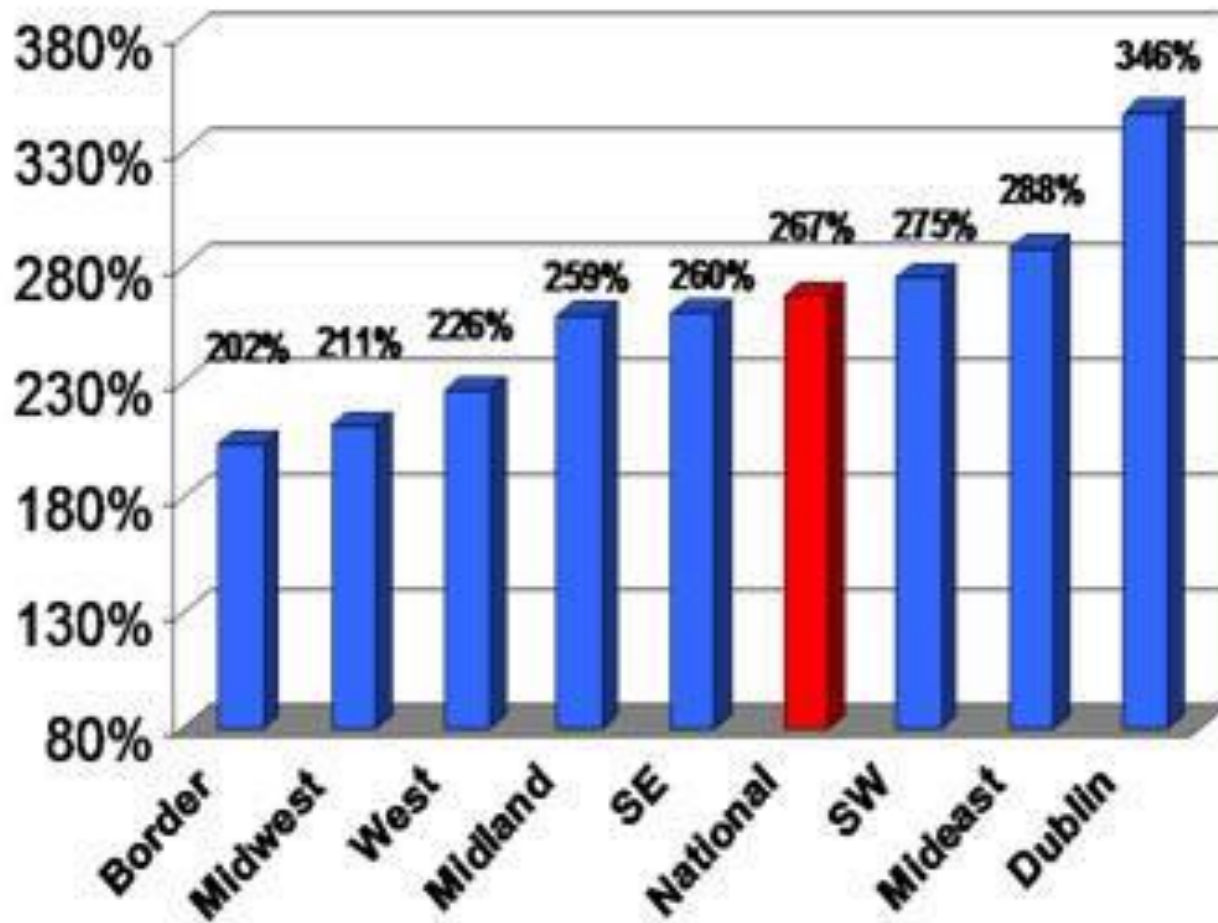


Many people had a better standard of living in this period in Ireland,

However, important pockets of poverty remained.
And rapidly increasing house prices cause many problems for ordinary irish people.

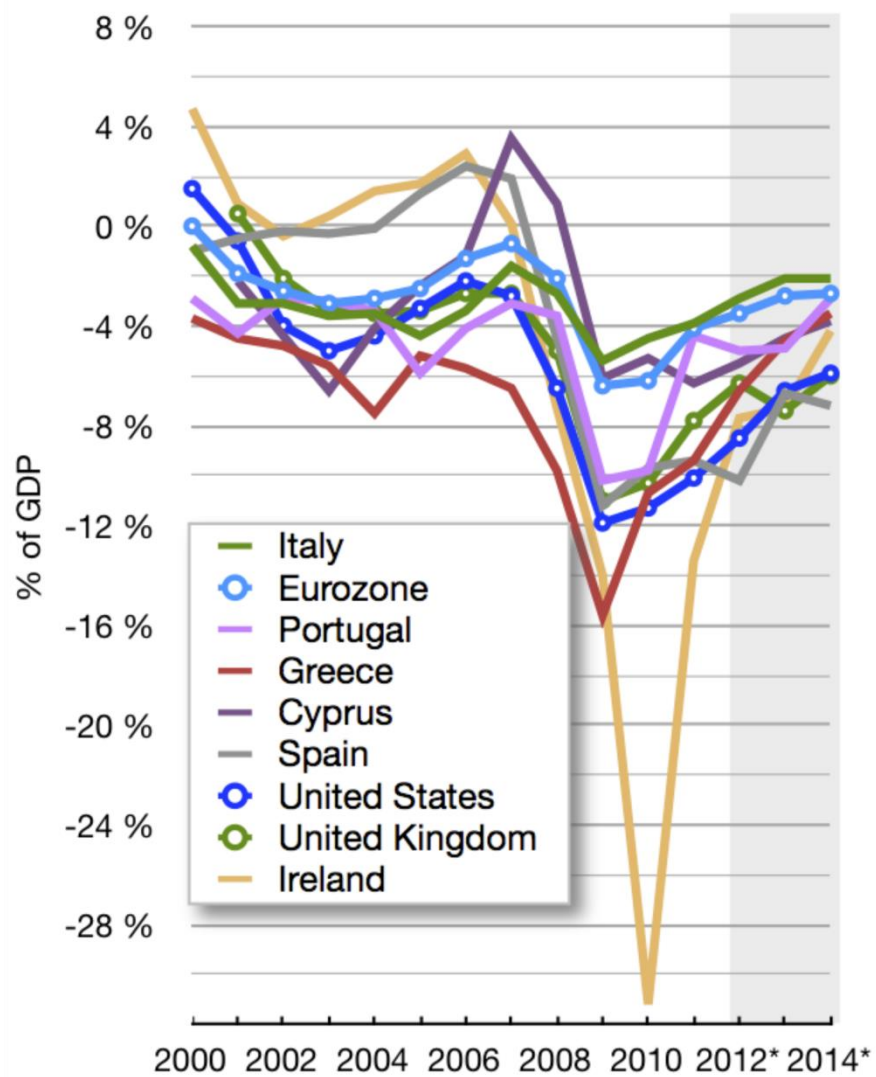
Regional House Prices - Growth since 1996

Dublin, Mideast & SW outstrip National growth



House prices 1996-2007

General government financial balances



Source: Eurostat and OECD

* 2012-2014 Eurostat estimates from January 2013

In 2010 the financial crisis hit Ireland's economy extremely hard. In October 2008 the Irish government bailed out the big Irish banks, going further than most other developed economies by guaranteeing all the transactions of the banks.

The Fianna-Fail/Greens coalition government predicted that it would spend \$US60 billion to bail out the banks in a country with an economy that has an annual GDP of \$US228 billion.

GOVERNMENT
CAPITAL INVESTMENT
IN ACTION....

A FEW MORE
BRICKS OF
THE 500s
THERE, BRIAN...

...KEEP THIS
BANK
SHORED UP...



■ Martin Rinkley ■ '08

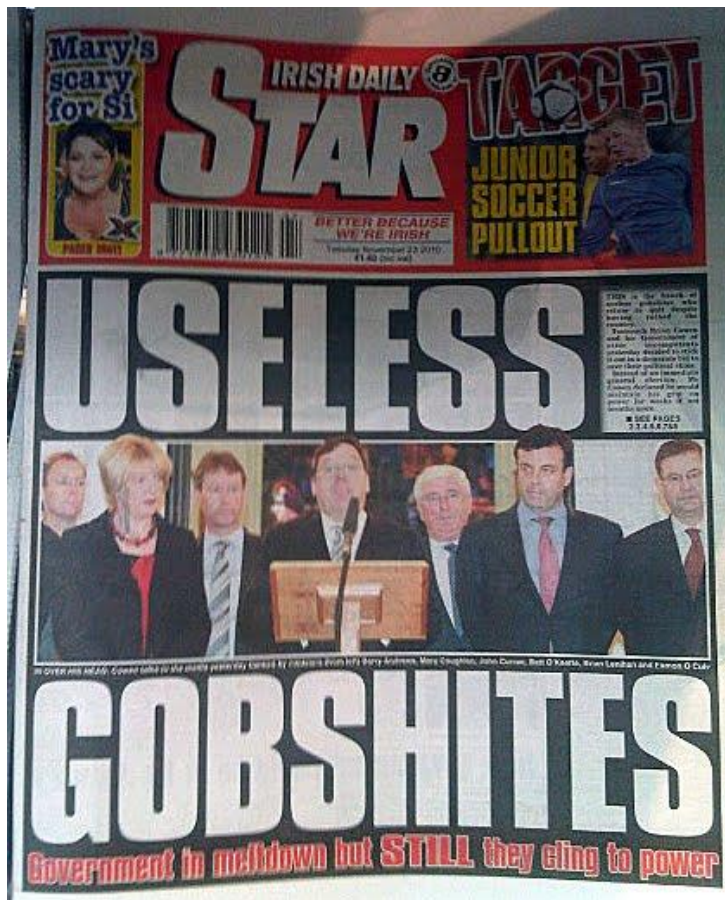


R.12. **"THIS IS A BAILOUT!"**

The result was strict austerity budgets, and some of the biggest protests seen for many years, Between 60 000 and 100 000 people marched in Dublin.



The government was extremely unpopular, and was replaced in the 2011 elections by the present coalition.



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH PROTEST AT THE BANK BAIL OUTS

WE WANT JOBS & SERVICES

MARCH TO THE DAIL

Tuesday 11th May Assemble 7.30pm
Garden of Remembrance,
Parnell Square, Dublin

Speakers:

- Fintan O'Toole (Journalist)
- John Kidd (SIPTU Firefighters)
- Janette Byrne (Patients Together)
- Walter Cullen (Unite trade union)
- John Bisset (Canal Communities Project)
- Professor Kathleen Lynch (UCD)
- Siobhan O'Donoghue (Community Workers Co-Op)



Organised by:
Right to Work Campaign Tel: 087-2604143 Email: righttowork@live.com

A short history of independent Ireland

- Ireland was one of England's first colonies.
The Cromwellian settlement in the 17th century left permanent scars,
Settlement of English and Scottish protestants in the North left deep social divisions, which have not disappeared even today,

The war of independence

- The war of independence 1919-1921 led to independence for the Southern part of the island.





The partition was supposed to be a temporary measure.

It left a big catholic majority in the South, and a protestant majority in the North.

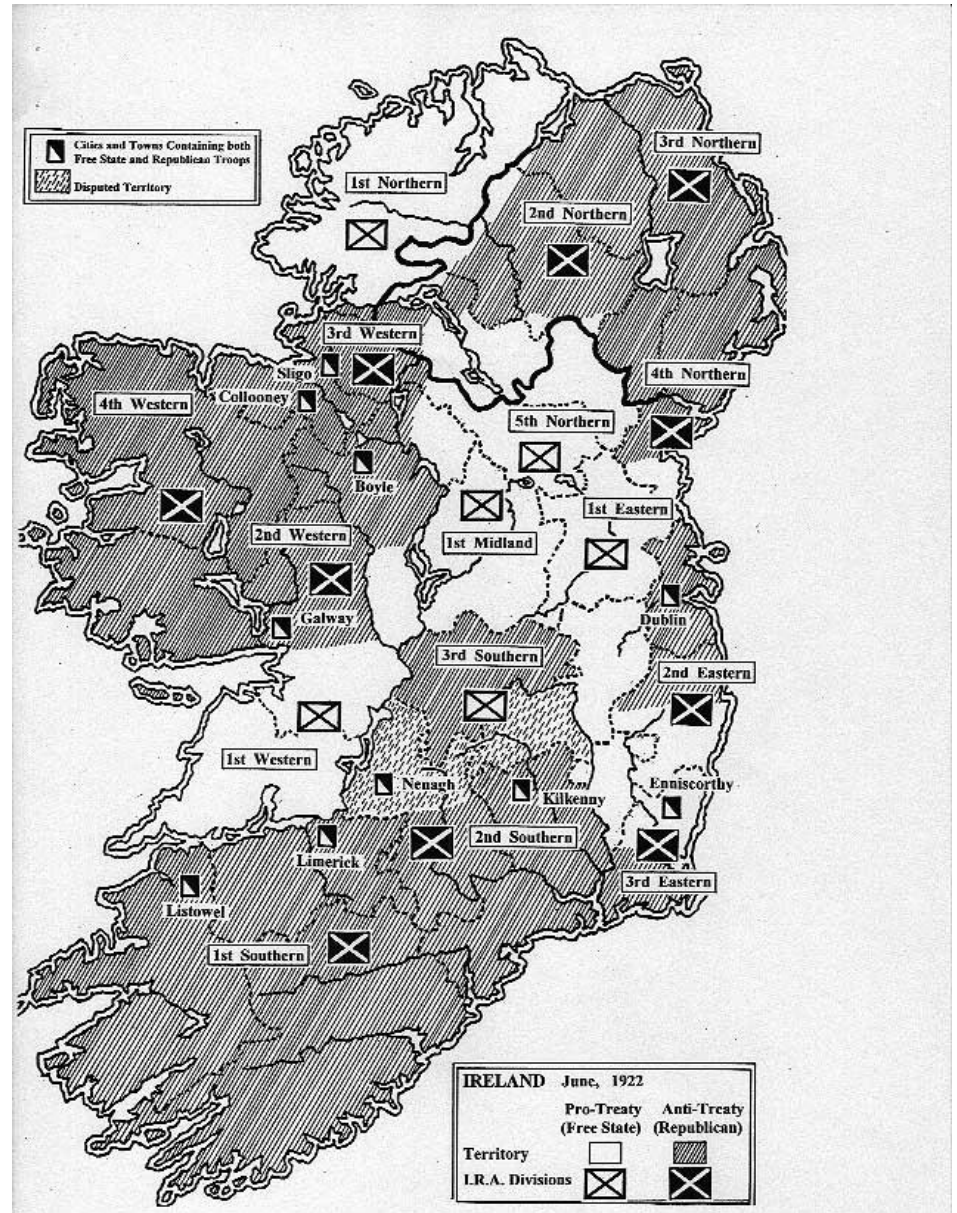
The Irish free state

The South became the « Irish free state »

- A member of the commonwealth
- Still in theory subordinate to the British King
- An independent legislature



The immediate result was a civil war between those who accepted the partition and the treaty and those who wanted immediate reunification of Ireland and a Republican form of government,



PROCLAMATION

OFFER OF AMNESTY

(1.) Bearing in mind the acceptance by Liam Deasy of an immediate and unconditional surrender of all arms and men, and knowing that the reasons dictating to him that acceptance must weigh also with many leaders, and many of the rank and file, who have found themselves led step by step into a destruction that they never intended, but which has been the sequel of the line of policy adopted by those to whom they looked for leadership,

(2.) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that with a view to facilitating such a surrender the Government are prepared to offer amnesty to all persons now in arms against the Government who, on or before Sunday, 18th February, 1923, surrender with arms to any Officer of the National Forces or through any intermediary.

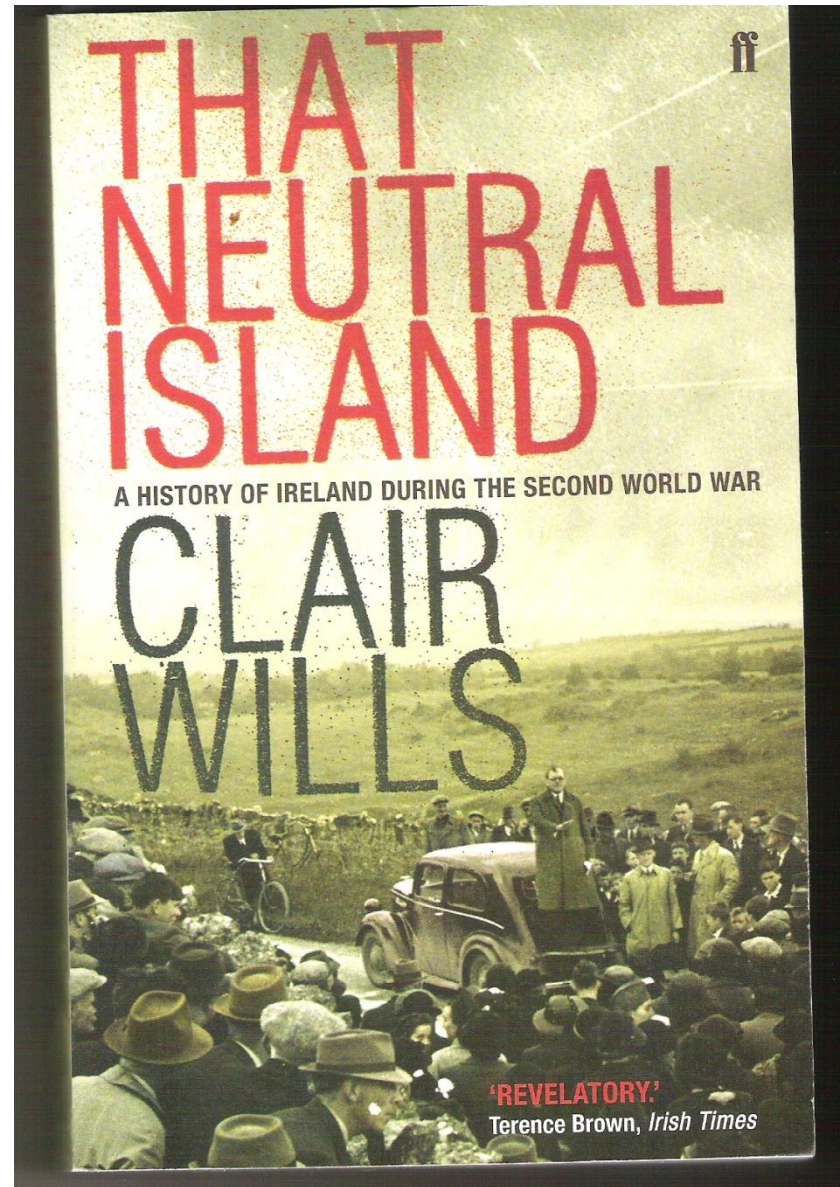
Risteard O Maolchatha, General,

Commander-in-Chief.

Dublin,

6th February, 1923.

1939-45 Ireland
remains neutral
in the Second
world war,
despite heavy
pressure.





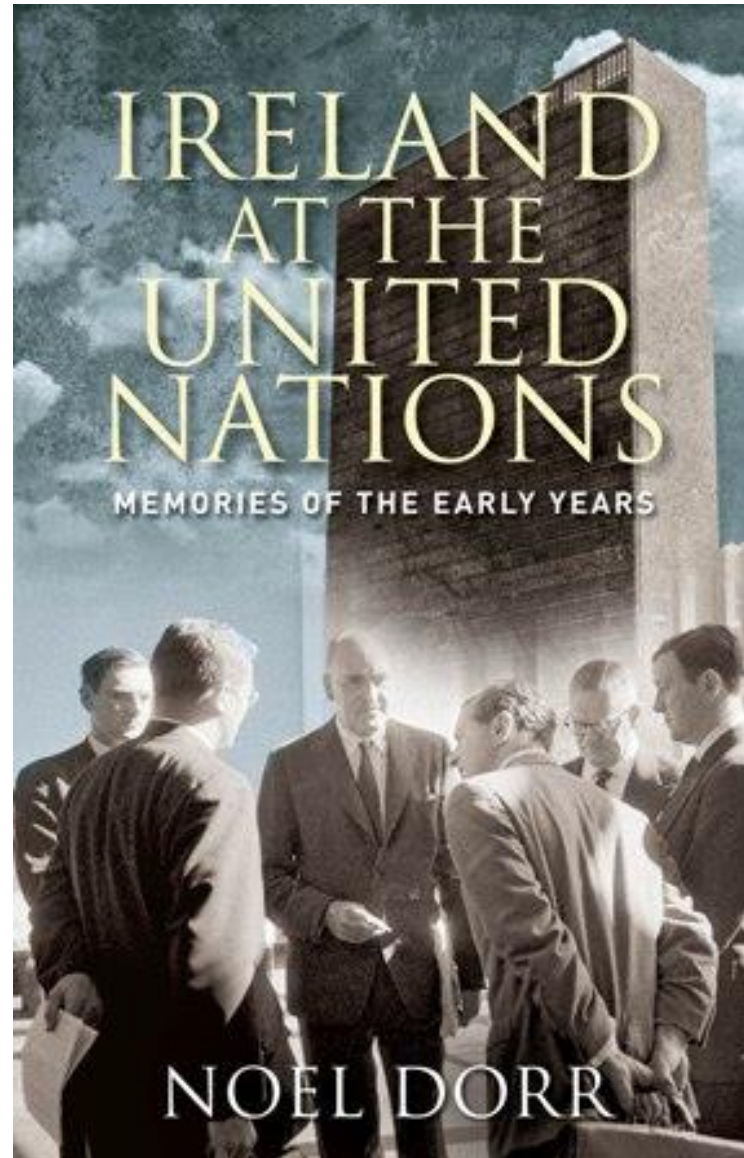
Medal from the
emergency



1949 Ireland leaves the commonwealth and declares itself a republic.

After the war
ireland was not
allowed to join the
United Nations
until 1955.

1955



In 1969 British troops were sent into Northern Ireland.

They quickly became seen as enemies of Catholics in the North .

Even some government ministers in the South were trying to raise money for the armed struggle in the North against Britain. They were removed from the government by the Taoiseach.

In 1972 after Bloody Sunday, Britain was hated in the South,
The British embassy in Dublin was burned down by a demonstration of 20 000 people,

1972

British embassy in Dublin February
1972

1972



In 1972 a referendum was held on whether or not to join the European Economic Community, ancestor of the European Union

A personal message from Liam Cosgrave TD



At present 65% of our exports go to Britain. When Britain joins the E.E.C., if we should stay out, all our exports to Britain and the rest of the European Economic Community would be subject to a crushing E.E.C. Common External Tariff of up to 24%. This would imperil the jobs of 35,000 of our workers who are engaged in industries exporting to Britain. It would also imperil the livelihood of 200,000 other Irish people who are engaged in farming.

Fine Gael has always emphasised — and time has proved us right — that Ireland's prosperity depended on being able to sell Irish goods abroad. It may seem incredible to the younger people today that Fine Gael had to defend that obvious concept not so many years past. But this is what our joining the E.E.C. will now ensure — the ability to sell our goods abroad which is our economic lifeline. Without the full support of Fine Gael in the forthcoming Referendum, Ireland's ability to sell her products abroad will once again be denied her — just as it was denied by the mistakes of the Fianna Fail government in the 'thirties.

Within the E.E.C. we will not only be able to keep our place in the British market on improved terms but in addition we will gain access to large European markets at present virtually closed to our products. Membership of the E.E.C. will make it more attractive to set up new industries in Ireland to produce goods for a market of more than 250,000,000 people. If we were not to join, foreign investment in the Republic, mainly concerned with export industry, would cease.

When we enter the Common Market, the Irish taxpayer will no longer have to foot the yearly bill of £30,000,000 to pay for agricultural subsidies. Fine Gael has demanded that this money should be used to improve the lot of our pensioners, welfare beneficiaries, young families and those with small incomes and to protect them against any increase in living costs. The Government has recently agreed to apply that £30,000,000 in this way.

We still have the great national problem of Partition. By not joining the Common Market, we would give greater economic and political permanence to Britain's claim to the North.

The Border between North and South would become the land frontier between Ireland and Europe.

Certain it is that joining the E.E.C. will not mean the solution of all our problems but our national, economic and social problems would be insurmountable if we were not to join.

The time is *NOW*.
I urge you to vote
YES on May 10.

Liam Cosgrave

**HERE'S WHY
FINE GAEL URGES
YOU TO VOTE
YES ON MAY 10**

211 891 voters said « No »

1 041 890 voters said « Yes »

In 1973 the Irish republic joined the European Economic Community at the same time as Britain did.

This was a period of high unemployment.
In 1973 unemployment was officially counted as 7.9%,
In 1985 unemployment was at 18.2%

Entry in the European Economic Community meant that funds were available

- From the common Agricultural Policy , to aid Ireland's bigger farmers (€44 billion of EU funds went to agriculture over 30 years).
- For the renovation and rebuilding of rapidly ageing or non-existent infrastructure

Water treatment plants, sewage works, rail lines, and bus services throughout the country have benefited from EU financial support.



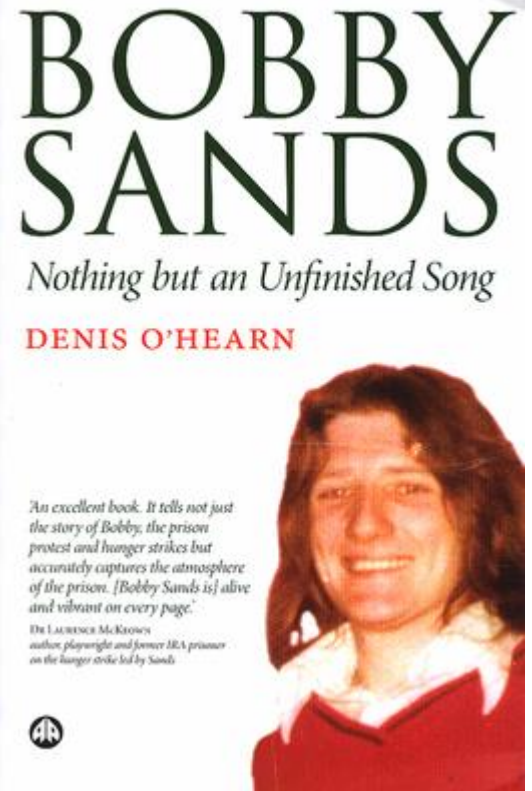
This aid increased at the end of the 1980s

During the period of 1989-1999 Ireland's receipts from EU structural funds averaged around 2.6% of Gross National Product (GNP).

1980s

After the death of Bobby Sands and nine others in the 1981 hunger strike, there was a huge wave of anger in the Republic against Britain.

Sinn Féin became much stronger in the South of Ireland. It was much easier for the IRA to raise money in the United States.



In 1998, a referendum was held in both parts of Ireland to decide whether to implement the Good Friday agreement, which hoped to reduce conflict in Northern Ireland, while putting the question of unification off until sometime in the future.

Referendum Communication **South Belfast**

Alliance says: **It's time for tomorrow**

Steve McBride says:
vote “Yes” to a Good Deal

“The long months of the Talks were often difficult and frustrating, but I believe that the Agreement reached on Good Friday has justified all the efforts we put into it.

“It is a fair deal. It is an honour-

able compromise which offers us all a chance to build a better future.

“It is a good deal for the people of Belfast and for all the people of Northern Ireland and it deserves your support.”



ARTIST



THE REFERENDUM:
FRIDAY 22 MAY
1998

It's Your Decision

MORE O'FERRALL



REFERENDUM
COMMUNICATION



REFERENDUM
COMMUNICATION

AN OVERWHELMING **YES** on May 22nd 1998 WILL MEAN A NEW BEGINNING

The Agreement should be supported by all working people and democrats.
We believe it will,

- CREATE THE MEANS TO END THE VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED,
- ESTABLISH A HIGH LEVEL OF DEMOCRACY AND RE-FOCUS POLITICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND,
- BE A JUST AND REASONABLE COMPROMISE THAT RESPECTS AND GIVES A FAIR PLACE TO ALL TRADITIONS.

- ⇒ An overwhelming YES will be a chance for peace, democracy and stability,
- ⇒ The new stability will mean prosperity, jobs, more opportunities - a better life for ordinary workers, the people LABOUR represents,
- ⇒ It will mean an increased ability for people to influence social, political and economic decisions,
- ⇒ It will mean opportunities, a decent life, and new freedoms for the youth,
- ⇒ It will not just get gunmen off our backs, it will get all those who live by stirring sectarian and racial divisions,
- ⇒ The ordinary people are always the victims. They have been used, divided, and exploited, while "Technicolor" politicians have thrived.

NOW THERE IS A CHANCE TO CHANGE THINGS!
DON'T THROW IT AWAY! - VOTE YES ON MAY 22nd!
AFTER VICTORY THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WILL SHOW THE BIGOTS AND PESSIMISTS WHAT THEY CAN DO WHEN THEY AREN'T BEING MANIPULATED.

JOIN IN THE YES CAMPAIGN - DON'T BE INTIMIDATED
MAKE THE CAMPAIGN A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF SOMETHING NEW - NOT THE MORBID FUNERAL THE "NOT AN INCH" BRIGADE WANT US TO ATTEND.

LABOUR was one of the parties in the Stormont Talks. We represented the interests of all working people and democrats. Our central aim now is to help re-establish a powerful, inclusive, Northern Ireland labour party.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY, HUGH CASEY, 17 HAWTHORNE AVENUE, LURGAN, BT66 6DU.

In the Republic of Ireland 94.4% of voters said « Yes. »

In Northern Ireland 71.1% said « Yes ».

1998

So the Good Friday institutions were established, though they were suspended four times between 2000 and 2007, such was the tension between nationalists and unionists in the North.

In 1999, the Republic joined the Euro



1999

In 2005 an international commission was invited to witness the decommissioning of all IRA weapons.

The IRA now believed that a political way forward was possible

2005

Small breakaway groups like « Real IRA » and « Continuity IRA » continued to believe that continuing the armed struggle for a united Ireland was justified .



A few argued that the armed struggle should continue, like the painters of this mural who remind passers by of the events of 1969 and the burning of dozens of catholic houses by loyalists.



In 1998 at Omagh, 28 people were killed by a bomb planted by the small breakaway group « real IRA », A warning was given, but was not clear enough to evacuate the right area,

In 2005 the Irish language was recognized as a working language by the European Union. Euro MPs and administrators who want to work in Irish may do so.



2005



Find your section here:

Choose a Section

Today

Tomorrow

Raidió Na Gaeltachta

Channel: Raidió Na Gaeltachta

3 December 2010

Time	Programme Description
01:00	Scoth an Déardaoin A selection of Thursday's best programmes on RnaG
07:00	Ceannlínte na Nuachta National, international and regional news headlines
07:02	Réamhcheoil Music prelude
08:00	Adhmhaidin News and current affairs
09:08	Iris Aniar Magazine programme
10:15	Geantraí Ghráinne Presented by Gráinne Ní Dhomhnaill

RTÉ Radio

LIVE



FM Radio

(How to listen)

- RTÉ Radio 1
- RTÉ 2fm
- RTÉ lyric fm
- RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta



Digital Radio

(How to listen)

- RTÉ 2 XM
- RTÉ Choice
- RTÉ Junior / Chill
- RTÉ Gold
- RTÉ Pulse
- RTÉ Radio 1 Extra



RTÉ Radio Worldwide



Launch Media Player



Arts & Traditional Music



mp3 Downloads/Podcasts

This Month's Top Downloads:

1. Pat Kenny - RTÉ Radio 1

Ireland has been a country of emigration for a long time.

In 1840 the population was more than 8 million

In 1851 it was 6.5 million

In 1941 it was down to 4.3 million.

Today the population of the whole island of Ireland is only 6.2 million

The Oireachtas [ɛrˠax̪t̪ˠas̪ˠ] is a bicameral parliament consisting of the President of Ireland, the upper house *Seanad Éireann* , and the lower house *Dáil Éireann* .

The Seanad is composed of sixty members, Eleven are nominated by the Taoiseach,
Six are elected by two universities
43 are elected by public representatives

The Dáil has 166 members (*Teachtaí Dála*) elected under a system of proportional representation.

Parliamentary elections must be held at least every five years.

There are currently 55 trade unions with membership of Congress, representing about 600,000 members in the Republic of Ireland.



Trade union members represent 29.6% of the Republic's workforce. (OECD 2013)

This is a significant decline since the 55.3% recorded in 1980 and the 38.5% reported in 2003. In the Republic, over 60% of union members are in the public sector.



Jack O Connor , president of the ICTU, on a Coca Cola picket line in 2009

The levy's too heavy The cost is unjust

Fight for Ireland's public service before the government destroys that too.

IT'S NOT A LEVY. IT'S A BOUNTY

The government's vicious and cynical decision to target ordinary working families with a crippling levy - or more accurately a salary slash - is gloriously unfair, unworkable, damaging, divisive and stupid. Before entering talks with government, people who work to provide public services had made a solemn commitment to bear their share of Ireland's common pain - to join with our hard-pressed family members, co-workers and colleagues in the great sector and play a leading and fair part.

But in a shocking, unilateral and divisive move, the government has tried to turn private against public and lay the burden for economic recovery on the backs of public service workers on low and middle incomes. This is not a pension levy. It's a bounty on the heads of public servants and their families - workers who have been demoralised and demonised because the government needs an easy target.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE IS YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, CUSTOMERS

People who work to provide public services are not anonymous, faceless bureaucrats. They are caring people with families, worries, feelings, pride, responsibility. They're at the heart of Ireland. The vast majority of those who will be decimated by this levy are ordinary people who earn ordinary salaries between €30,000 and €50,000. Because of this, the levy is not just disastrous for public sector workers - it is disastrous for Ireland.

A GOVERNMENT OF THE DEVELOPERS, BY THE HIGH ROLLERS, FOR THE BANKERS

Now many commentators are saying this is a hum-fisted and damaging move driven by panic or cynicism. Meanwhile, this disaster is being handed over to the bankers and the developers who caused this debacle.

The truth is the levy will decimate family incomes. It will weaken their ability to pay for absolute necessities like their mortgages, loan repayments, children's health costs, education fees, and household bills. It will shut down people's ability to contribute to the national need for economic recovery.

WAVES OF ANGER AND HURT

Thousands of public service workers are coming forward with hard evidence - their own family budgets - demonstrating how this discriminatory tax will bring them to the economic edge and beyond. It has already broken the patience of people who work to provide public services. Among IMPACT members, and workers from other unions, a hurricane of anger is swirling up against it. And like a storm levee that is in the wrong place, it is badly planned and has no foundation - this levy will break under the pressure.

8 REASONS TO CHANGE THE LEVY

- 1 THE LEVY IS LOADED.**
Ordinary workers in both the private and public sectors are being forced to bear the brunt of the economic crisis. Meanwhile high earners and those who caused the problems are being rewarded.
- 2 THE LEVY IS A LOSER.**
It will not create jobs.
- 3 THE LEVY IS LOCAL.**
It will hoover money out of local economies across the country.
- 4 THE LEVY IS LEAKING.**
It will flush away more jobs and drive more consumers to beyond north of the border.
- 5 THE LEVY IS LARCENY.**
It is totally unjust and fair-minded. Why hit low and middle income workers hardest?
- 6 THE LEVY IS LUDICROUS.**
It is unfair and stupid because it only targets ordinary workers and does so regardless of their income or circumstances.
- 7 THE LEVY IS A LIE.**
Who ever heard of a pension levy that is not related to pension entitlements? It is payable on all earnings (overtime, flexible allowances etc.) and not just on pensionable salary. Some people who pay this will never get a pension bonus. What's more, public servants already make a compulsory contribution to their pension - most at 6.5% of salary.
- 8 THE LEVY IS LUNACY.**
It will create a range of ridiculous anomalies between different categories. Lower paid workers receiving tax relief at 30% will end up paying a higher net pension-related payment than some higher paid people paying tax at 40%.

**JOIN OUR MASSIVE
NATIONWIDE LOBBY OF TDS.
VISIT WWW.IMPACT.IE**

IMPACT

TRADE UNION

Join our campaign to defend ordinary workers and change the levy today

A gathering storm of anger

Public servants will take pain. But they can't and won't take abuse. As IMPACT members dig in to fight for their livelihoods and families, TDs of all political parties are bracing themselves for an unprecedented wave of anger, hurt and frustration. IMPACT is co-ordinating a mass lobby of local constituency clinics. Some 60,000 members of IMPACT are mobilising, along with members of other unions, against the blatant abuse of their vital role by commentators, public representatives, government TDs and ministers.

Any objective analysis proves that the vast majority of public services are good quality and highly valued by the people and authorities that use them, whether it be schools, hospitals, care services, parks and heritage, transport, public safety and security, or the hidden necessities like sewage, health inspections and clean water.

READY TO ACT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST

People who work to deliver public services take 'serving the public' very seriously and have been working harder to deliver more and better services. International surveys confirm that Irish public sector workers are doing a good job, and provide excellent value for money. But over and over, they have been pilloried, blamed and demeaned by politicians and commentators.

Despite this, already hard-pressed IMPACT members, and members of other public sector unions stand ready to act in the national interest. The homework agreed by ICTU, Government and employers before the talks promised so much - fairness, protection for the least well off, a bigger contribution from the wealthy, regulation of the banks and executive salaries, job creation measures, protection for mortgage holders in difficulty, and action on the public finances. IMPACT members are ready to play their part and know that means taking some pain. All we got was a vicious attack on ordinary working families. Now it's time to fight for 'middle Ireland'.

How the levy hurts modest family budgets

The following are actual extracts from hundreds of letters from IMPACT members to their local TDs. Real names are not used.

LIZ I am a Special Needs Assistant. My bi-weekly net pay is €1090. I am a single mother. My child's father is now unemployed from the commercial industry. I pay rent of €480 a week so that brings my pay down to €610. I pay €29 a week for children. The car lease which I need to get my daughter to school brings my net wage down to €540. My weekly grocery bill, petrol, phone, leaves me with €100. Electricity comes to about €40 a fortnight. That leaves €60 to last five weeks.

DAVID My deep concern is the unfair method. I have no problem making a proportionate contribution to economic recovery, but I certainly take issue with a 'levy' of 8.4% on my bonus income when higher paid workers contribute a lesser percentage. This is grossly unfair.

MARY My husband and son have both lost their jobs in recent months so now I am the main wage earner in our house. As a result of these reductions my net income will be reduced by approximately €7450 per annum. As someone who earns considerably less than the average wage this is a substantial amount of money. I feel that a disproportionate burden has fallen on those who can least afford to pay it.

JOHN When I read the papers, watch the news and hear about all the wasted money within government departments, private jobs, organisations and the banking sector my blood boils with anger and frustration. I am just a very small dog in the street and cannot do anything. But this time I will not sit back and let this happen. Now does this think that we can be without all these? There is no government left as we are all sick of this whole situation, and not prepared to invest any more. The whole service is at breaking point, and so are the employees.

2009 campaign
against levy on
public service
pensions



2010



Referendum on the legalization of
divorce, 1995

Yes: 50.28%

No: 49.72%



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The Observer

Ireland gives huge backing to same-sex marriages

- Poll result – Yes: 62% No: 38%
- Equality minister 'proud to be Irish'

by Henry McDonald
Dublin

Ireland voted by a huge majority yesterday to legalise same-sex marriage, becoming the first country in the world to do so by popular vote in a move hailed as a social revolution and welcomed around the world.

Some 62% of the Irish electorate's electorate voted in favour of gay marriage. The result means that a republic once dominated by the Catholic church ignored the instructions of its cardinal and bishops. The huge Yes vote marks another milestone in Ireland's journey towards a more liberal, secular society.

Out of an electorate of more than three million, 1,201,667 backed gay marriage, while 744,300 voters said No. The result prompted a massive street party around the gay district of central Dublin close to the national court centre.

All but one of the republic's 41 parliamentary constituencies voted Yes to same-sex marriage. And four of its urban-rural, Yes/No split were not real-

ised either. Constituencies such as Donegal South West, which is the poorest against divorce and abortion reform, backed the Yes side.

"This is a win for equality," Aníallín Ó Riordáin, said on Twitter. "A landslide across Dublin. And I'm so proud to be Irish today."

Health minister Leo Varadkar, who this year came out as the country's

ON OTHER PAGES

Ireland might just have become a great little country in which to be gay 2-3

First openly gay minister, said the campaign, had been "almost like a social revolution".

The social transformation of the country was on display in the grounds of Dublin Castle, former seat of British rule in Ireland and the site of the national court for a referendum that was unthinkable just two decades ago – it was only in 1993 that homosexuality

Continued on page 2



A Yes supporter in Ireland's historic vote to legalise same-sex marriage waits for the result in the grounds of Dublin Castle. Photograph by Peter Morrison/AP

Duncan Smith in cabinet row over £12bn welfare cuts

by Daniel Boffey
Policy Editor

Iain Duncan Smith is "pushing back" against attempts to "make nice" through the welfare budget to deliver the prime minister's pledge of £12bn in savings, allies of the work and pensions secretary have hinted.

Duncan Smith was surprised when the sheer scale of the cuts was announced in January last year, and is now fighting a rearguard action against changes that would involve slashing at key benefit schemes in his budget.

ON OTHER PAGES

Can Cameron make Tories the new party of social justice? 6-9

It is understood the cabinet minister has long been frustrated by a failure within the leadership of the party to get to grips with how the reduction in spending will be made. He fears that much lethargy could ultimately lead to a rash and deeply unpopular cuts.

One ally of Duncan Smith told the Observer that a major problem had been that key figures did not expect to have to implement such heavy cuts in welfare spending, assuming the pledge could be watered down during

Continued on page 9



Referendum on marriage equality 2015

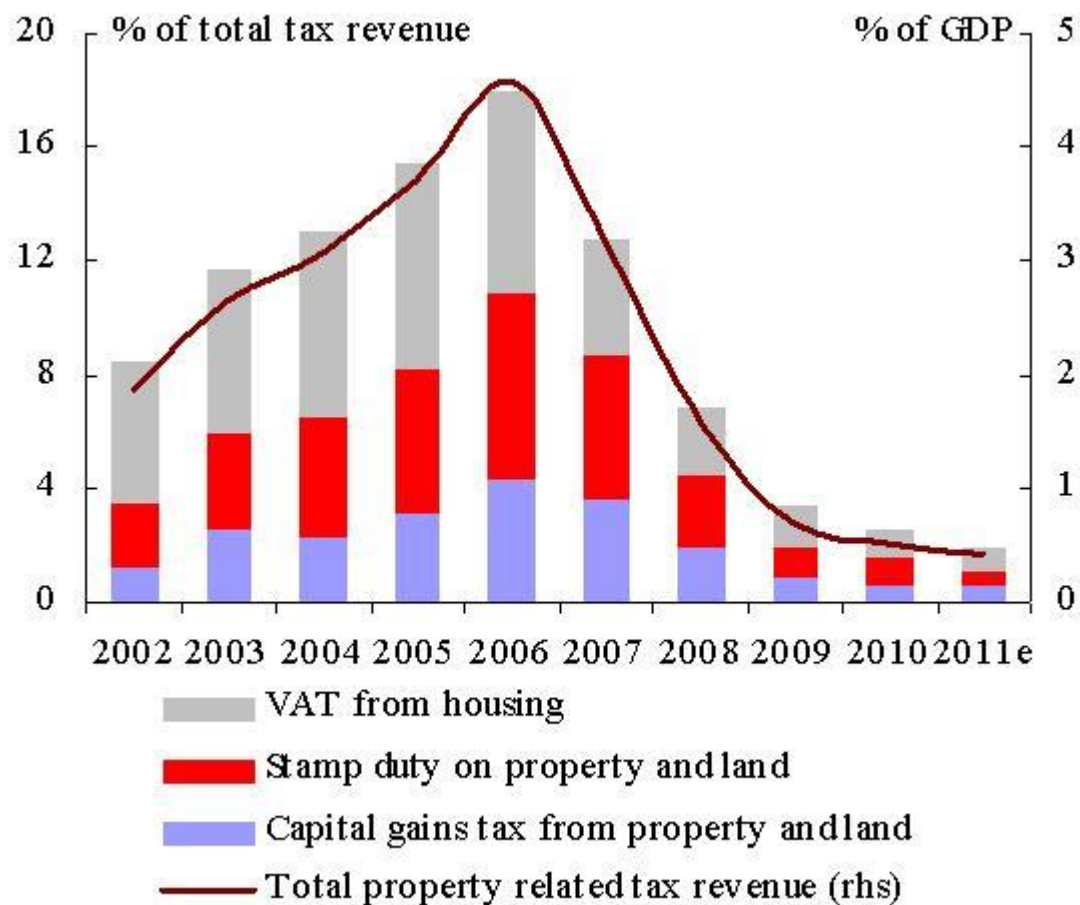
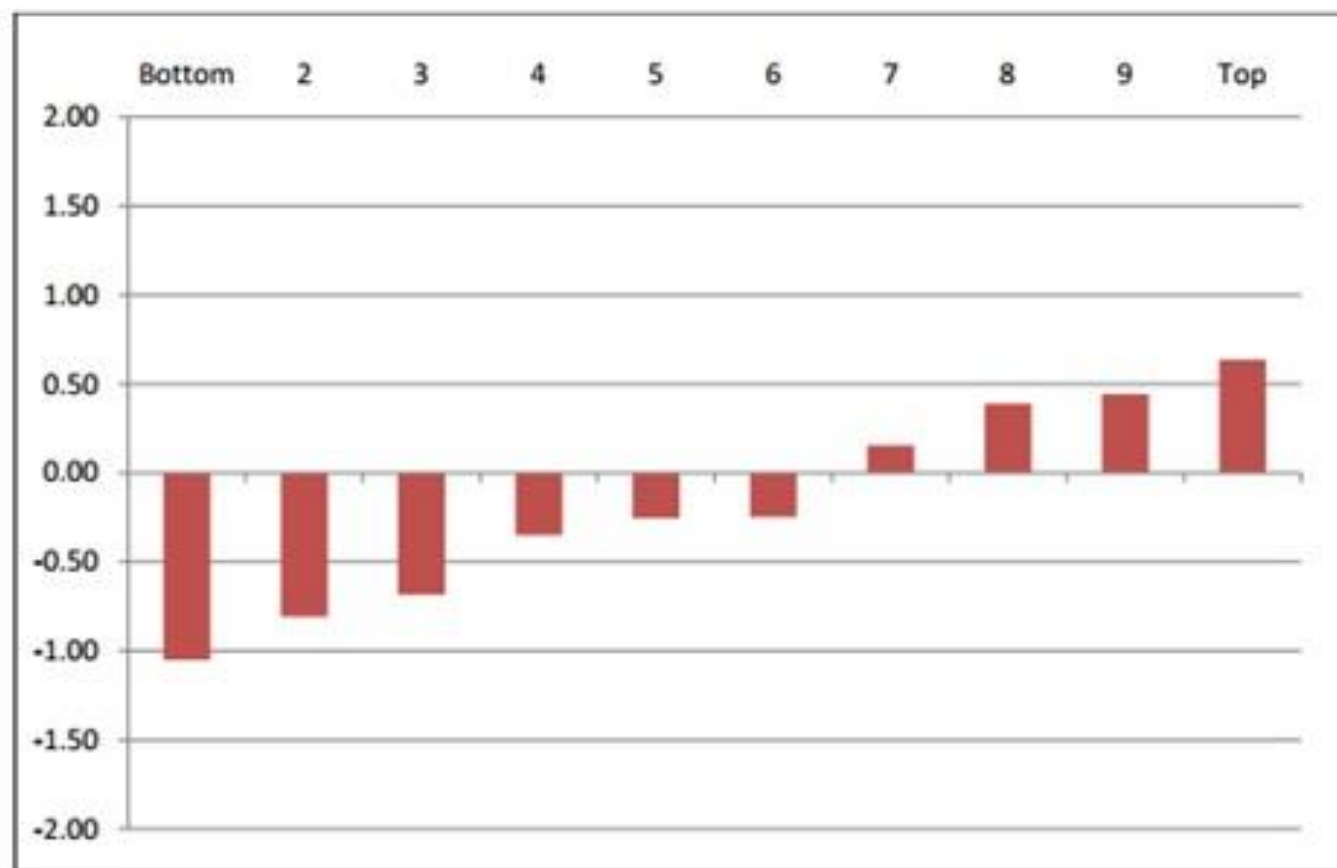


FIGURE 1 Impact of Budget 2015 - Percentage Change in Disposable Income by Income Decile

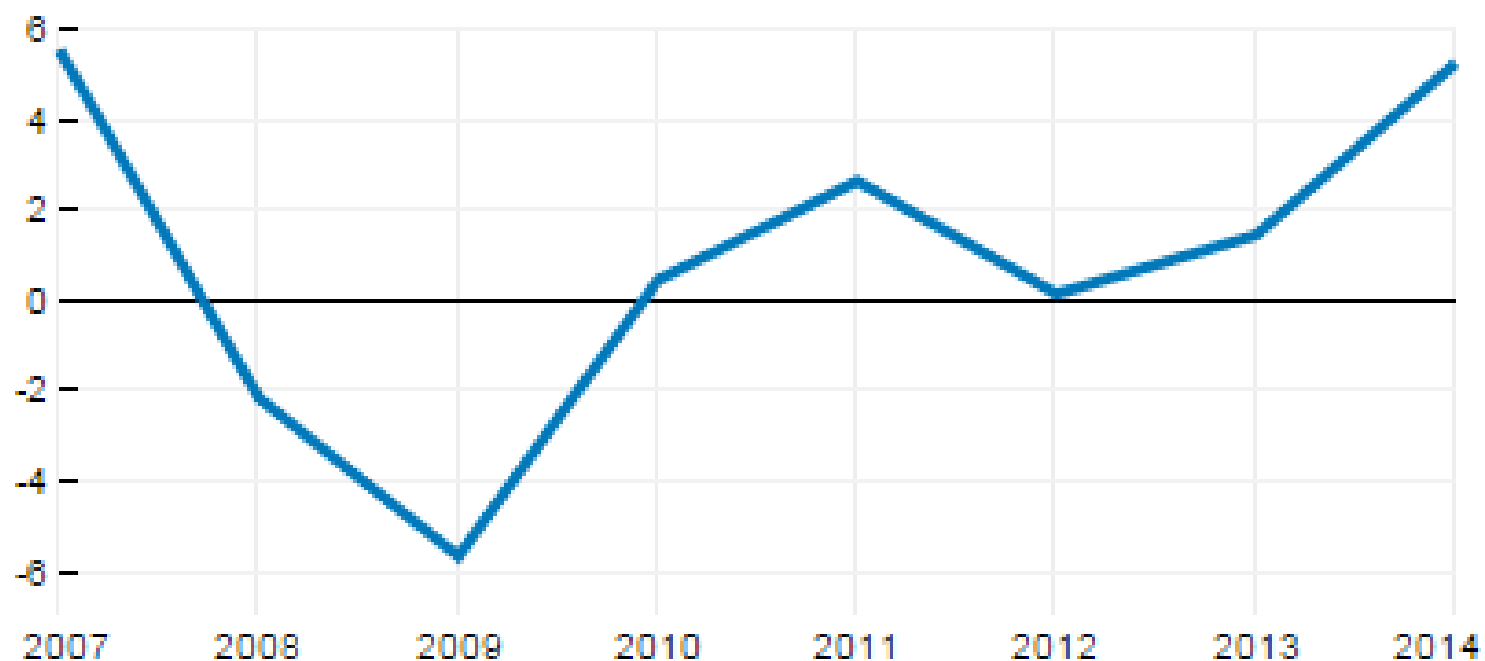


Source: SWITCH estimates at December 2014, including the impact of water charges, changes to income tax bands, changes to USC and the welfare measures specified in the text.



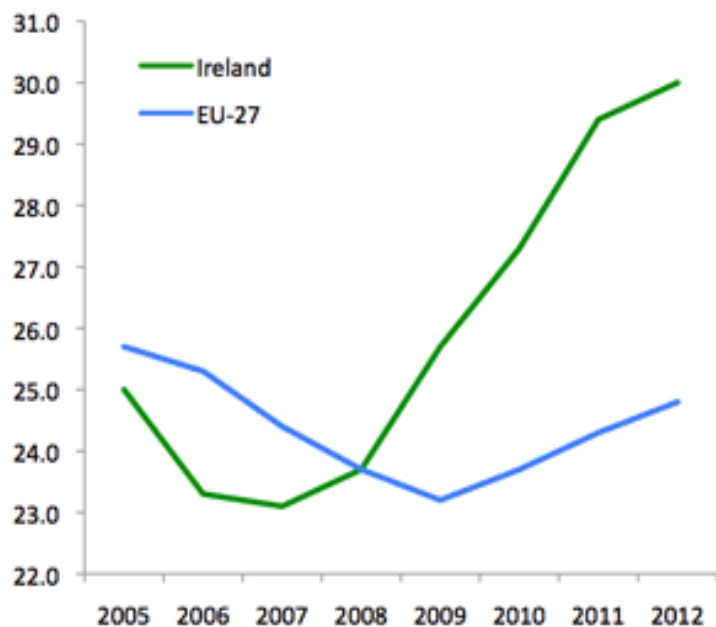
Strong growth is returning to Ireland

Real GDP growth, % change from previous period



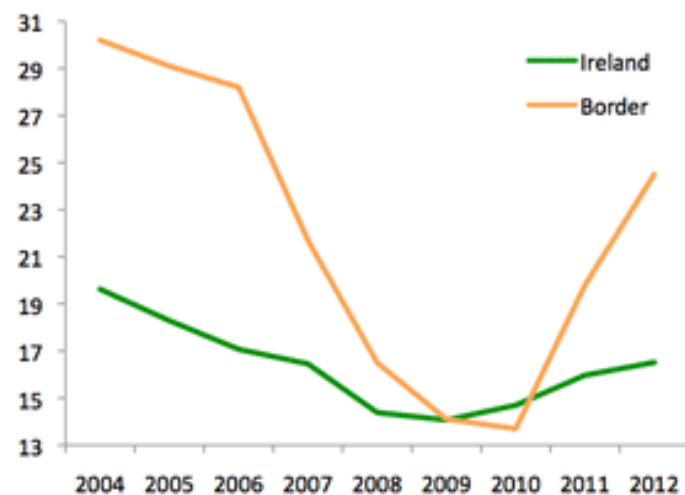
Source: OECD, Economic Survey of Ireland 2015

Persons at risk of poverty (%)
2005-12



Source: Eurostat

Persons at risk of poverty (%)
2004-12



Source: CSO