

Why Ireland



Why Ireland for US Business



- Ireland has ranked among the top 15 most competitive economies globally for the last decade and is the most competitive country in the euro area
- Ireland is the core strategic bridge for US companies into the EU
- Ireland was ranked 10th globally for institutions, reflecting government effectiveness, regulatory quality and a stable business environment
- Ireland is the only English-speaking, common-law country in the EU

A Highly Skilled, International Workforce



- Ireland has the highest labour productivity in Europe
- Ireland has the youngest average population in the EU
- More than 1 in 4 workers in Ireland are non-Irish nationals

Innovation & R&D



- Ireland ranks among Europe's most innovative economies
- Business R&D expenditure grew by 81% between 2021 and 2023, reaching €7bn
- Ireland ranks 1st globally for ICT services exports and 2nd for intellectual property payments
- 51 research centres supporting industry-academia collaboration across multiple sectors

A Stable, Pro-Business Policy Environment



- Ireland ranked 5th globally for government efficiency
- Ireland offers a 35% R&D tax credit
- Ireland has consistently had successive, pro-enterprise governments

World Class Talent Pipeline

- Ireland ranks 2nd globally for third-level education attainment (OECD) and 1st in the EU for tertiary education
- Ireland has the highest per-capita STEM graduates in the EU among 20-29 year-olds
- 16% of third-level students in Ireland are international, reflecting strong year-on-year growth



A Proven Investment Track Record

- 2025 was a record year for FDI in Ireland
- Ireland is among the top 5 global destinations for US FDI and also ranks among the top 5 countries investing in the US
- US MNCs in Ireland employed 245,000 people in 2025



Global Industry Clusters & Regional Opportunity

- 9 of the top 10 US technology and software companies operate in Ireland
- 15 of the top 30 global semiconductor companies have operations in Ireland
- 90+ pharmaceutical companies operate in Ireland
- More than half of all FDI into Ireland in 2025 went to regional locations
- 88% of new jobs added in H1 2025 were located in regional areas



Integrated Supply Chains & Global Market Access

- Ireland ranks 13th globally for infrastructure
- Ireland is the only country in Europe with US pre-clearance facilities
- All of Ireland's main airports reported record passenger numbers in 2025



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Why Mid-West

A Proven Investment Location



- Over 28,000 employed across 158 IDA client companies in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary.
- Employment in IDA-supported companies across the Mid-West has increased by 18.5% since 2020.
- Limerick has ranked as Europe's 2nd Micro City of the Future for three consecutive years.

Energy & Sustainability



- Shannon Estuary has the potential for 70GW of offshore wind.
- ESB has commenced transforming Moneypoint into a green energy hub with plans to invest in green hydrogen production, storage and generation facilities by the end of the decade.
- The Shannon Estuary could create 50,000 high-quality net-zero industry jobs by 2050.

A Competitive Place to Live & Work



- Residential property in the Mid-West costs 22.14% less than national average.
- New dwelling completions in the Mid-West rose by 266% in a decade (comparing Q1 2016–Q1 2026).
- There are 6 hospitals in the Mid-West Region including University Hospital Limerick - the first public hospital in Ireland to install the Da Vinci Xi surgical robot.

Investing for Future Growth



- The €150 million Adare Bypass is expected to be completed ahead of the 2027 Ryder Cup, improving regional connectivity while supporting the wider Foynes–Limerick Road project.
- €1.93 million in capital funding allocated for Shannon Airport in 2026, the first year of the 2026–2030 Regional Airports Programme.
- Planning permission has been granted for a new Moyross railway station on the Limerick–Galway line, improving connectivity between Ireland's regional hubs.

World-Class Talent & Education

- Limerick is ranked 1st in Europe for Human Capital and lifestyle in a Micro City.
- UL and TUS produced 1,995 engineering, manufacturing and construction graduates in 2024, accounting for 20% of Ireland's total.
- 96% of UL postgraduate diploma graduates and 95% of taught master's graduates are in employment or further study.



Innovation & R&D

- Ireland's Mid-West region is home to a strong ecosystem of national research centres, specialist research institutes and centres of excellence, including Lero, SSPC, CONFIRM, IDEAM, the Bernal Institute and Digital Manufacturing Ireland.
- LERO Research Centre generated gross national output of over €515 million between 2005 and 2018.



Connected to Ireland & the World

- Shannon Airport welcomed over 2.3 million passengers in 2025, connecting the Mid-West to 41 destinations across 14 countries.
- Shannon Airport is one of 15 airports globally to offer US pre-clearance.
- At 32m deep, Shannon Foynes is Ireland's largest bulk port, with the capacity to handle over 10 million tonnes annually, with further infrastructure investment, capacity is projected to exceed 17 million tonnes by 2041.



Global Industry Clusters

- Ireland's Mid-West is a global hub for advanced manufacturing, with established strengths in medical technology, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and engineering.
- The Mid-West had an estimated 275,600 people in employment in Q2 2026, with 35% employed in professional, scientific and technical activities, industry and construction, and financial, insurance and real estate activities.



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