

Why West-North-West



A Proven Investment Location



- 32,562 people were employed by IDA client companies in the West (Galway, Mayo and Roscommon) in 2025.
- 51 IDA client companies supported more than 8,000 jobs across Donegal and Sligo in 2024.
- Galway ranked 3rd overall among Micro European Cities of the Future 2025, and 2nd for both Economic Potential and Business Friendliness.

Energy & Sustainability



- The Western Region has 1,694 MW of installed onshore wind capacity — 29% of the national total — with Donegal, Mayo and Galway among Ireland's top six counties.
- The Northern & Western Region accounts for 45% of Ireland's identified future onshore wind potential.

A Competitive Place to Live & Work



- Galway ranked 1st for work-life balance in Switcher.ie's 2025 index, with Roscommon, Sligo and Mayo also in Ireland's top 10.
- Median property prices in Donegal, Roscommon, Mayo and Sligo were €100,000+ below the national median in the 12 months to June 2026.
- The West-North-West is served by five acute hospitals, including University Hospital Galway, one of Ireland's leading teaching and research hospitals.

Investing for Future Growth



- 11 road projects in the Western Region represent an estimated €2.5–€4 billion in investment, with works intended to commence by 2030.
- A €29 million Lough Mask upgrade will provide capacity equivalent to 20,000 homes across Mayo, Roscommon and North Galway, alongside major wastewater investment supporting growth in Donegal.
- New dwelling completions in the Northern & Western Region reached 4,100 in 2025 — up 172% since 2016, according to CSO data.

World-Class Talent & Education

- Enrolments at University of Galway and ATU have grown 49% since 2009/10, to more than 47,000 students in 2024/25.
- More than 7,000 international students were enrolled at University of Galway and ATU in 2024/25.
- Sligo and Galway ranked 4th and 6th for Human Capital & Lifestyle among European micro cities in 2025.



Innovation & R&D

- Innovation performance in the Northern & Western Region grew 26.7% between 2018 and 2025 — the strongest growth of any Irish region.
- The Northern & Western Region ranked 1st of 241 European regions for sales of new-to-market and new-to-firm innovations, at more than twice the EU average.
- University of Galway-based CÚRAM contributed €756 million to the Irish economy over its first 10 years.



Connected to Ireland & the World

- Ireland West Airport handled a record 946,381 passengers in 2025, serving 20+ international destinations with 80+ onward connections via Heathrow, while Donegal Airport provides direct connectivity to Dublin.
- The planned Port of Galway expansion will deliver approximately 27 hectares of port and enterprise land, with provision for direct rail freight.



Global Industry Clusters

- The West (Galway, Mayo and Roscommon) is a key Irish MedTech hub, with a 16,000-strong workforce.
- The West's technology cluster comprises 40 companies employing nearly 7,000 people.
- IDA's Northwest region (Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim) is home to close to 60 businesses across Biopharma, MedTech, Advanced Manufacturing, Technology and International Financial Services.



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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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