

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



For information about how to engage with AmCham on Public Affairs and Advocacy matters, Communications tools, and on AmCham's Networks, Programmes and more, visit www.amcham.ie

Why South

A Proven Investment Location



- Over 53,500 people employed by IDA-supported companies in Cork and Kerry in 2025, the largest concentration outside Dublin.
- IDA-supported employment grew 12% since 2020, adding 5,800+ jobs.
- Cork ranked 2nd overall among Small European Cities of the Future 2025, 2nd for Economic Potential and 3rd for Business Friendliness.

Energy & Sustainability



- Cork and Kerry account for 23%+ of Ireland's installed wind capacity, generating electricity equivalent to the annual use of 700,000+ homes.
- The Port of Cork is investing €100m in deepwater infrastructure to support Ireland's offshore renewable energy sector.
- Wind generation across Cork and Kerry saved an estimated 874,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

A Competitive Place to Live & Work



- Cork ranked 2nd in Ireland for work-life balance in the 2025 Switcher.ie Index.
- Almost 793,000 people live in Cork and Kerry, with the population growing almost 8% since 2022.
- Cork and Kerry have six acute hospitals, including Cork University Hospital, one of Ireland's two Major Trauma Centres.

Investing for Future Growth



- The €456m M28 Cork-Ringaskiddy motorway is under construction, improving access to major employment centres and to the Port of Cork.
- The Cork Area Commuter Rail Programme will expand and electrify the network, with new stations and services up to every 10 minutes.
- €100m+ is being invested to more than double Tyndall's footprint, expanding Ireland's semiconductor and research capabilities.

World-Class Talent & Education

- UCC and MTU enrolments have grown 39% since 2009/10, reaching 40,000+ students in 2024/25.
- More than 5,400 international students enrolled at UCC and MTU in 2024/25.
- UCC and MTU produced 3,900+ science, ICT and engineering-related graduates in 2024.



Innovation & R&D

- Ireland's Southern region ranks 1st of 241 European regions for innovation expenditure per person employed, 176% of the EU average.
- Tyndall engaged with 98 industry partners and secured €8.5m in industry funding in 2025.
- MTU recorded almost €33m in research expenditure in 2024, the highest of any Irish Technological University.



Connected to Ireland & the World

- The Port of Cork provides direct global shipping links, including new weekly services to New York and Savannah which launched in 2026.
- Cork Airport welcomed a record 3.46m passengers in 2025, with 50+ routes and major European hub connections.
- Kerry Airport handled 440,000+ passengers in 2025, with direct connections to Dublin, Great Britain and continental Europe.



Global Industry Clusters

- 7 of the world's top 20 biopharma companies operate in the South-West, alongside a significant MedTech cluster.
- The South-West has a network of 250+ tech-producing and tech-enabled businesses.
- The South-West has 100+ cybersecurity companies and operations, and Ireland's highest concentration of cybersecurity multinationals.



To find out more, please contact:



info@amcham.ie



+353 1 661 6201

www.amcham.ie