



IRELAND



Population: 5,068,050 | GDP: \$353.3 billion | Language(s): English, Gaelic | Unicorns 2009-2018: 0



What did Ireland do right?

Ireland performs exceedingly well in markers of Freedom and Entrepreneurial Activity, where the country saw an improvement in its new business entry rate to 6.71 from 5.78 per 1,000 people. Over 37 percent of Ireland’s workforce is highly skilled.



What can Ireland do better?

Ireland can act to prepare for the use of self-driving vehicles and lift its ban on ridesharing services.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Ireland maintains its rank of Innovation Leader on this year’s Scorecard, earning healthy marks in nearly every category but faltering in its support for emerging technologies and the sharing economy.

Although it has a high individual marginal tax rate of 48 percent, Ireland has a low corporate tax rate of only 12.5 percent.

This encourages entrepreneurs to flock to the country to start new business ventures, producing an annual new business entry rate of 6.71 per 1,000 people—an increase since last year. In a further boon to innovation, Ireland spends 1.2 percent of its gross domestic product on research and development.

Self-driving vehicle technology, however, remains stalled in Ireland. The Automobile Association’s Director of Consumer Affairs, Conor Faughnan, said in late 2017 that the country is not ready for self-driving vehicles, and voiced concerns again in 2018 that Ireland will be left behind should it fail to prepare for this new technology.

In June 2018, Ireland also slapped short-term rentals with new regulations that limit rentals to 90 days per year, and it bans ridesharing services nationwide.

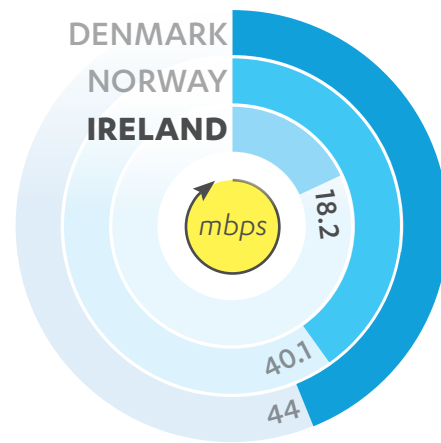
Sources: (Irish Times) (Irish Mirror) (Reuters)



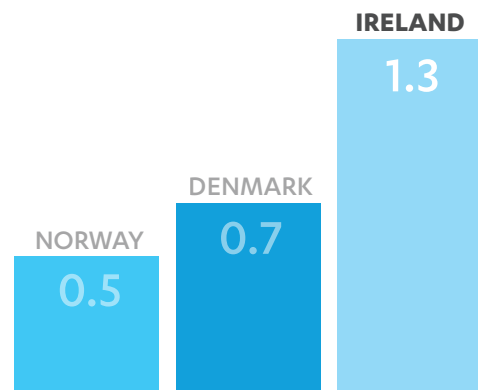
Credit: Giuseppe Mito, Flickr

New businesses are laying down roots in Ireland at a faster-than-average pace, boosting the country’s new business entry rate above other nations.

Mean Download Speed (Fixed & Mobile)



Fixed Broadband Cost Per Month



Shown as a percentage of gross monthly income per capita



R&D Investment

The country spends 1.2 percent of its GDP on research and development.



Broadband

The mean download speed of fixed and mobile internet is 18.2 Mbps. The monthly cost of fixed broadband is 1.30 percent of GNI per capita, and prepaid mobile broadband is 0.50 percent of GNI per capita.



Resilience

Ireland has a well-developed e-government presence and visible supply chain.



Tax Friendliness

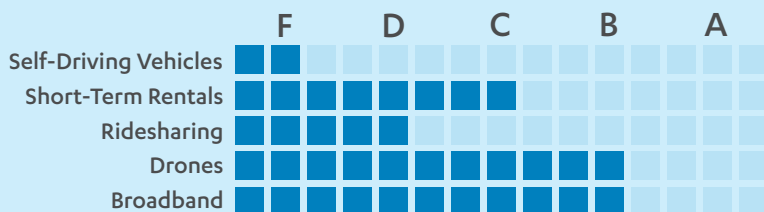
Streaming services are subject to tax. The corporate tax rate is 12.5 percent and the top individual tax rate is 48 percent. Ireland's grade decreased to a B from an A- in 2018.



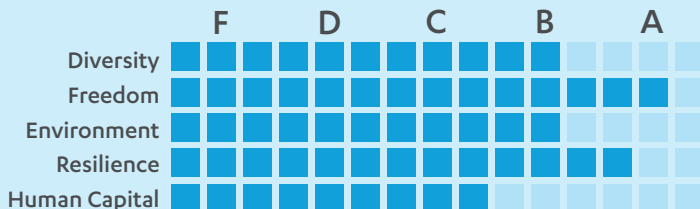
Diversity

Immigrants make up 16.9 percent of the population, and the country is somewhat ethnically diverse.

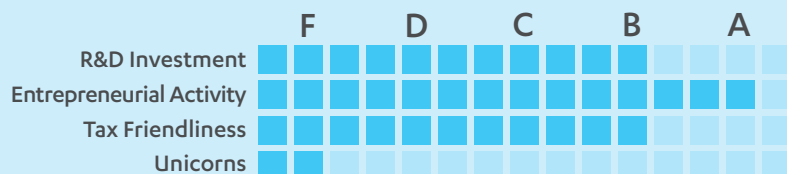
Technology



Society



Economy



ABOUT THE SCORECARD

With the 2019 International Innovation Scorecard, the Consumer Technology Association expands the report in breadth and depth, adding 23 new countries and two new categories. In this second edition, we evaluate 61 countries and the European Union across 28 indicators to determine whether they stifle progress or fuel the fires of innovation.

Each country on the Scorecard ranks in one of four tiers: Innovation Champions excel in almost all areas, followed by Innovation Leaders, which earn high scores in most. Behind the Leaders are Innovation Adopters, which promote innovation in some areas but not others. Finally, Modest Innovators may support innovation in one or more areas, but they show the greatest room for improvement.

ABOUT CTA

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA)[™] is the preeminent trade organization representing the \$398 billion U.S. consumer technology industry, which supports more than 15 million jobs. CTA serves over 2,200 companies, ranging from the startups and small businesses that make up 80 percent of its membership to some of the world's best-known brands. CTA also owns and produces CES[®], the world's premier gathering for consumer technology and the innovators who turn today's dreams into tomorrow's realities. Profits from CES are reinvested into CTA's industry services.

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