



Investing in Ireland

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Remember to visit our FDI website for more updates and detailed information (www.pwc.ie/fdi), including a range of recent publications.

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Welcome to the latest edition of PwC's newsletter on foreign direct investment ("FDI") in Ireland.

The FDI sector in Ireland continues to flourish, as reflected once again in the Irish jobs and investments announced since our previous edition in July (see page 3).

Budget 2027 brings a range of targeted tax measures supporting investment, R&D and innovation, while reinforcing Ireland's continued competitiveness as a location for FDI (see page 6).

Ireland's strong technology ecosystem, supported by global industry leaders, skilled talent, and research expertise, is helping position the country as a compelling location for Internet of Things investment and innovation (see page 7).

Finally, Ireland's strong rankings in a number of key areas for FDI investors are summarised (see pages 11 and 12) and we have included some recent PwC publications and podcasts on topical issues in the FDI space (see page 9).

Please do not hesitate to contact myself, any member of our team, or your usual PwC Ireland contact at any stage. We would be happy to tell you more about the topics raised in this issue or to include any interested parties on our mailing list.

Recent FDI investment announcements



Astellas Ireland announced a further expansion of its biopharmaceutical manufacturing facility at Kerry Technology Park in Tralee, strengthening the company's continued investment in Ireland. The expansion will include a second aseptic filling line and associated manufacturing infrastructure, doubling drug product manufacturing capacity at the site and creating additional highly skilled roles by 2029. The project builds on Astellas' previously announced €330 million investment in its new Tralee facility, which will manufacture medicines for global markets.

BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), a leading global medical technology company, has celebrated 30 years at its manufacturing facility in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, marking three decades of innovation, manufacturing excellence and investment in the region. Since opening in 1996, the facility has grown to employ more than 350 people and manufactures medical technologies supplied to healthcare providers and patients in over 60 countries worldwide. The milestone reflects BD's continued commitment to Ireland as a location for advanced manufacturing, innovation and talent.

Comtrade 360, a global software engineering and AI partner, has announced the establishment of a new delivery centre in Galway, marking a significant expansion of its operations and long-term commitment to Ireland. Having recruited almost 20 professionals in Galway during 2026, the company plans to grow the team to approximately 50 highly skilled roles. The new centre will provide expertise across software engineering, quality engineering, DevOps and project delivery, supporting customers in Ireland and international markets.

EPIC Investment Partners, an independent financial services and administration firm, is continuing to grow its Cork operations as part of the expansion of its Irish and European presence. Since establishing operations in Ireland in 2020, the company has steadily developed its capabilities and client services across Cork and Dublin and is approaching 50% of its initial target in the next coming weeks, creating up to 40 jobs across the two locations.

Highspring has announced the continued expansion of its international operations through its presence in Ireland, as they plan to create 50 new jobs over the coming years. The expansion will support the company's growing Managed Services, Consulting and Talent Solutions businesses and strengthen its ability to serve clients across Europe and globally.



KDP Ireland, an affiliate of US-based multinational Keurig Dr Pepper Inc., has marked the fifth anniversary of its Newbridge facility, celebrating five years of growth and innovation in Ireland. Since opening in 2020, the facility has developed into a beverage concentrate Centre of Excellence and strategic hub supporting customers across Europe and North America, with its workforce growing from nine employees to more than 150.

Mastercard has expanded its European Tech Hub in Dublin with the opening of a second office building at its Leopardstown campus, reinforcing the company's continued investment in technology and innovation in Ireland. The expansion builds on Mastercard's nearly 20-year presence in the country, with its Dublin workforce having grown from 36 employees in 2008 to more than 2,000 technologists today.

OpenAI has announced a new EU headquarters in Dublin and plans to create 250 additional roles over the next two years, supporting the company's continued growth across Europe. The new 88,000 sq. ft. headquarters in Dublin's Docklands will accommodate OpenAI's growing Irish workforce and support collaboration with customers and developers. With more than 100 employees already based in Ireland, the expansion further strengthens Dublin's role as the company scales its European operations.

Squarespace, the global platform helping entrepreneurs build, grow and run their businesses online, has announced an additional €70 million investment in Ireland, further strengthening its long-term commitment to Ireland as a strategic location for global growth. The investment will support product innovation and key research and development initiatives and builds on the company's announcement of 120 additional jobs in Ireland in 2025. Squarespace has operated in Ireland since 2013, with Dublin becoming an important hub for its international operations and innovation.

Stripe, the programmable financial services company, has announced plans to create a further 200 jobs at its Dublin headquarters, including roles across engineering and go-to-market. The announcement builds on significant growth in 2026, with Stripe's Irish workforce increasing by more than 35% since the start of the year to over 1,000 employees. Ireland serves as a hub for Stripe's operations across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, as well as for the development of products for the company globally.

Vertiv, a global leader in critical digital infrastructure, has announced plans to expand its manufacturing and testing footprint across Ireland and the Northwest, due to the growing global demand for infrastructure supporting AI and data centre deployments. The company plans to add 7,000 sq. m. of space at its Letterkenny facility, supporting the proposed creation of up to 300 new jobs.

WP Engine, a global web enablement company, is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Limerick office, marking a decade of growth and continued commitment to Ireland. Since opening in 2016 with a team of 10, the Limerick operation has grown into a strategic international office with more than 70 employees, while WP Engine now employs almost 100 people across Ireland.



“We continue to invest and grow in Ireland as we meet increasing demand across the region. Our new EU headquarters reflects our long-term commitment, helping businesses, developers and communities benefit from our innovation.”

Emma Redmond

Associate General Counsel & Head of OpenAI Ireland

“Ireland has played an important role in Squarespace's growth for more than a decade, and this €70 million investment reflects our continued confidence in Ireland as a strategic location for our business. As we look to the next generation of Squarespace, we're combining our strength in design with AI-powered technology and new commerce capabilities to make it even easier for entrepreneurs to start, manage and grow their businesses. This is a long-term commitment to innovation in Ireland and the talented team we have built here.”

Colm MacCarvill

Head of Squarespace Ireland

“KDP Ireland has become an important part of our global supply chain and a powerful example of the value created through investment in people, innovation and operational excellence. The Newbridge team has played a key role in supporting international growth and delivering strong results for our business. We remain committed to investing in this facility and the people who make its success possible.”

Tim Cofer

Chief Executive Officer, KDP



Budget 2027: Supporting Ireland's FDI Proposition



On 6 October 2026, Ireland's Finance Minister, Simon Harris and Minister for Public Expenditure, Jack Chambers announced Ireland's Budget 2027.

Budget 2027 reinforces Ireland's commitment to maintaining a stable and competitive environment for international investment, with targeted measures supporting innovation, investment and tax simplification. For multinational companies, the Budget offers continuity in the corporate tax framework alongside enhancements to R&D incentives and implementation of international tax reforms.

Below are the key highlights of Budget 2027 relevant to the FDI sector.

Rate Reductions / Reliefs

The standard Capital Gains Tax rate will reduce from 33% to 31% for disposals from 7 October 2026, while the small-company preliminary corporation tax threshold will increase from €200,000 to €350,000.

Relief from corporation tax for qualifying start-up companies will also be extended to 31 December 2030, reinforcing the range of tax measures available to support businesses establishing and growing their operations in Ireland.

Research & Development Tax Credit

Budget 2027 introduces several enhancements to Ireland's R&D tax regime, while retaining the existing 35% refundable R&D tax credit.

The limit applying to qualifying payments to third-party subcontractors and universities or institutes of higher education will increase from the greater of 15% of internal qualifying R&D expenditure or €100,000 to the greater of 20% or €200,000.

The first-year minimum payment threshold will also increase from €87,500 to €105,000, while documentation requirements will be reduced for regulated clinical trials.

International tax and Pillar Two

Budget 2027 also continues Ireland's implementation of the evolving international corporate tax framework. The OECD Pillar Two Side-by-Side package will be incorporated into Irish legislation with effect from 1 January 2026. Measures announced include an extension of the Transitional CbCR Safe Harbour and additional safe harbours intended to simplify the application of Pillar Two for in-scope multinational groups. Further amendments are expected to reflect OECD Administrative Guidance, alongside updates to Pillar Two filing and penalty provisions.

Investing for future growth

Budget 2027 also includes measures supporting the wider investment environment.

The Ireland Strategic Investment Fund is launching a €1 billion investment programme aimed at supporting the growth and scaling of Irish businesses. The extension of the Knowledge Development Box for a further five years also provides continued support for qualifying intellectual property and innovation activity.

Leading Internet of Things companies driving connected innovation in Ireland



From connected vehicles and intelligent factories to smart energy systems and healthcare technology, the Internet of Things (IoT) is becoming embedded across the global economy. Ireland's established technology base means it is well positioned to participate in this growth, bringing together expertise across semiconductors, sensors, cloud computing, connectivity and industrial automation.

The global opportunity is significant:

- **\$1.81 trillion** projected global IoT market volume by 2031.
- **8.91%** expected annual global IoT market growth between 2026 and 2031.
- **40.6 billion+** connected IoT devices expected globally by 2034, more than double the 19.8 billion recorded in 2025.

A connected technology ecosystem

Ireland's IoT proposition is strengthened by the presence of major international technology companies spanning different parts of the connected technology ecosystem.

Analog Devices has operated in Ireland since 1976, with its Limerick campus serving as a major European centre for semiconductor research, design and manufacturing. Intel, Qualcomm and Infineon Technologies further strengthen Ireland's semiconductor capabilities.

Investment is continuing. Earlier in 2026, Qualcomm announced a €125 million investment to upgrade its Cork site into a "strategic AI pillar" over three years, as the company expands into areas including IoT, automotive, XR and data centres.

Ireland also hosts businesses providing the infrastructure surrounding connected devices. AWS and IBM bring cloud and data capabilities, Vodafone provides managed connectivity, while Siemens and ABB contribute expertise in industrial technology and automation. Together, these businesses connect the IoT value chain, from semiconductor and product development through to connectivity, data processing and industrial applications.

Irish-founded businesses such as Cubic3 and Davra are also providing connected solutions, and this combination of established international businesses and specialist Irish companies adds further depth to the ecosystem and demonstrates how connected technologies are being applied across sectors



16 of the world's top 20 technology companies already have a presence in Ireland.



Ireland has Europe's highest proportion of third-level STEM graduates per 1,000 people.

Why Ireland?

For international companies considering where to develop and scale IoT technologies, Ireland combines several complementary strengths:

- **16 of the world's top 20 technology companies** already have a presence in Ireland.
- Access to the **EU Single Market** from an established international technology hub.
- Expertise across **semiconductors, software, engineering and cybersecurity**.
- Europe's **highest proportion of third-level STEM graduates** per 1,000 people.
- Research capabilities through centres including **Tyndall, Rinn AI, Lero and CONNECT**.
- Further IoT expertise through **Enterprise Ireland's Applied IoT Cluster**, covering areas including sensors, communications, data analytics and Industry 4.0.

The breadth of this ecosystem is an important part of Ireland's investment proposition. Rather than specialising in one element of IoT, Ireland brings together many of the capabilities required to develop connected products, from semiconductor design and sensing technology through to software, cloud infrastructure and industrial applications.

Ireland's research environment adds another dimension. Collaboration between industry, universities and specialist research centres gives companies access to expertise across areas closely linked to IoT development. For international investors, the combination of

these research capabilities with an established technology cluster and STEM talent base can support activities ranging from R&D and product development to engineering and advanced manufacturing.

As IoT adoption expands across manufacturing, mobility, healthcare, energy and other industries, this combination of multinational investment, indigenous innovation, research expertise and skilled talent provides a strong platform for companies looking to develop and scale connected technologies in Europe.

For more information on Ireland's IoT ecosystem, please see [here](#).



Publications and podcasts

What Budget 2027 means for you and your business

Our tax experts examine the measures that matter for businesses, investors, employers, and households.

For more information, please see our report [here](#)

Evolving the tax function with AI

AI is reshaping the role of tax teams, moving them closer to the centre of business decision-making, forecasting and risk management.

For more information, please see our article [here](#)

Irish Master Trust Report 2026

Ireland's master trust market has grown rapidly, with more than half of Irish defined contribution pension assets now held in master trusts.

For more information, please see our report [here](#)

PwC's Ireland Hopes and Fears Survey 2026

Based on responses from more than 1,000 workers, the survey examines how Irish employees are responding to AI, workplace change and economic pressures.

For more information, please see our report [here](#)



Economic update

- Despite global uncertainty, Ireland's economy remains resilient, with GDP projected to return to strong growth of 6.9% in 2027 following a temporary contraction in 2026 linked largely to multinational and trade-related volatility according to [ESRI's Quarterly Economic Commentary, Autumn 2026](#).
- Modified Domestic Demand is projected to grow by **3.8% in 2026**, according to the [Central Bank of Ireland](#), supported by strong investment in AI, data centres and infrastructure, alongside resilient consumer spending.
- Ireland's labour market remains resilient, with the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate standing at **5.0% in June 2026**, according to [PwC's Quarterly Economic Digest – Q3 2026](#).
- [PwC's Quarterly Economic Digest – Q3 2026](#) forecasts inflation of **3.1% in 2026**, before easing to **2.3% in 2027 and 1.8% in 2028**.
- Following strong export growth of 7.5% in 2025, Ireland's exports are expected to decline marginally by 0.6% in 2026 before returning to growth of **7.1% in 2027**, according to [ESRI's Quarterly Economic Commentary, Autumn 2026](#).
- Ireland continues to benefit from significant investment in **AI infrastructure, data centres and technology-related activity**, while investment in housing, infrastructure and energy projects supports longer-term growth and competitiveness, according to [ESRI's Quarterly Economic Commentary, Autumn 2026](#).
- Ireland recorded a **budget surplus for the fourth consecutive year in 2025**, while the debt-to-GNI* ratio is projected to fall below **60% in 2026**, according to [PwC's Quarterly Economic Digest – Q3 2026](#).

For additional PwC Ireland insights on Ireland's economy, please see [here](#) for our Q3 2026 quarterly economic update.

Ireland's position

1st in the world for:

- Skill readiness¹
- Attracting and retaining talent²
- Females employed with advanced degrees²
- ICT service exports²
- Intellectual property payments²
- GDP per unit of energy used²
- Domestic economy²
- Real GDP Growth²
- Knowledge diffusion²
- 3rd level education participation³
- Projected GDP growth¹⁰

1st in Europe for:

- AI Adoption⁴
- Economic Potential – Major European Cities of the Future (Dublin)⁵
- FDI Strategy micro city (Limerick)⁵
- Work Life Balance⁶
- Sports tech investment⁷
- Quality Education¹¹

1st in Eurozone for:

- Competitiveness¹
- Peacefulness⁸
- Hiring⁹

Sources

1 International Monetary Fund Skill Readiness Index 2026

2 IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025

3 CBRE Global Tech Talent Guidebook 2025

4 Microsoft AI Diffusion Report 2026

5 European Cities and Regions of the Future, FDI Intelligence 2025

6 Remote Global Life-Work Balance Index 2025

7 Enterprise Ireland - Ireland's Sports Tech Landscape 2025

8 Global Peace Index 2025

9 Where to Hire Index 2026

10 International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook 2026

11 Sustainable Progress Index 2025



Ireland's ranking

- Ireland is ranked 1st in **MIT Technology Review's Green Future Index's "Green Society and Clean Innovation"** because of its reforestation efforts.
- The Irish passport is 2nd in the world, allowing visa-free access to 176 nations and territories according to **"Nomad's Passport Index 2025"**.
- Ireland's economy ranked 2nd in the world in 2025 according to **the Economist**
- Ireland ranks 2nd in International Peace & Security according to the **"Good Country Index 2024"**.
- Ireland ranks 2nd globally for Work-Life Balance according to **Remote's 2025 Global Life-Work Balance index**.
- Ireland is ranked the 2nd most peaceful country in the world and in Europe, according to the **2025 "Global Peace Index"** by the **Institute for Economics and Peace**.
- Dublin is ranked in 2nd place overall as one of the leading "European cities of the future", and Cork ranks 2nd as one of the leading small European cities of the future according to the 2026 **"Financial Times' FDI Intelligence"**.
- Ireland is ranked second in the Europe Union for Digital Skills, according to the European Commission's 2026 Digital Decade Country Report.
- Ireland is ranked 3rd in the World and in Europe for the highest GDP per capita for 2025 according to **"Visual Capitalist"**.
- Ireland ranks 4th globally for AI Adoption in 2026 according to Microsoft's **"AI Diffusion Report"**.
- Ireland is ranked the 4th freest country in the world according to the **Human Freedom Index 2025**, which was co published by the Cato Institute and the Fraser Institute.
- Ireland ranks 5th in the EU for **Generative AI Adoption**, per the European Commission's 2026 Digital Decade Country Report
- Ireland is ranked 6th for innovation according to the European Commission's **European Innovation Scorecard** in 2026.
- Ireland is ranked the 7th most competitive economy in the world according to **IMD's "World Competitiveness Report 2025"**.
- Ireland is ranked the 8th most socially progressive nation in the world, according to the new **"Global Social Progress Index"**.
- Ireland is ranked 9th in the world for Business Efficiency according to **"IMD World Competitiveness Report 2025"**.
- Ireland is ranked the 10th most innovative country in Europe, according to the **World Intellectual Property Organisation – WIPO**.



Would you like to know more?

Should any of the topics cover in this newsletter be of particular interest to you, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the FDI team, or your usual PwC Ireland contact. If any of your colleagues would like to be included on our mailing list, please let us know.

Please click on our website for additional information. Various topics of interest for foreign investors can be found in the publications link in the tax section, including:

CEO Survey 2026



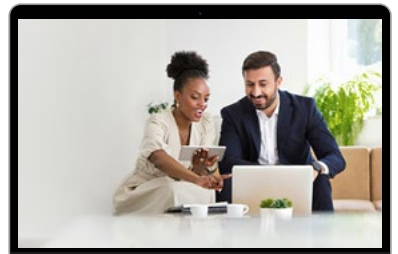
[Click here](#)

Budget 2027



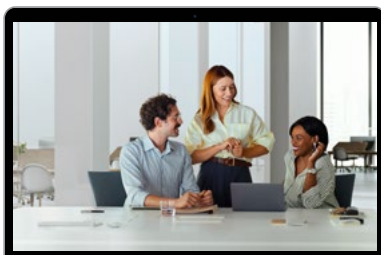
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Finance Bill 2026



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Tax Facts 2026



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