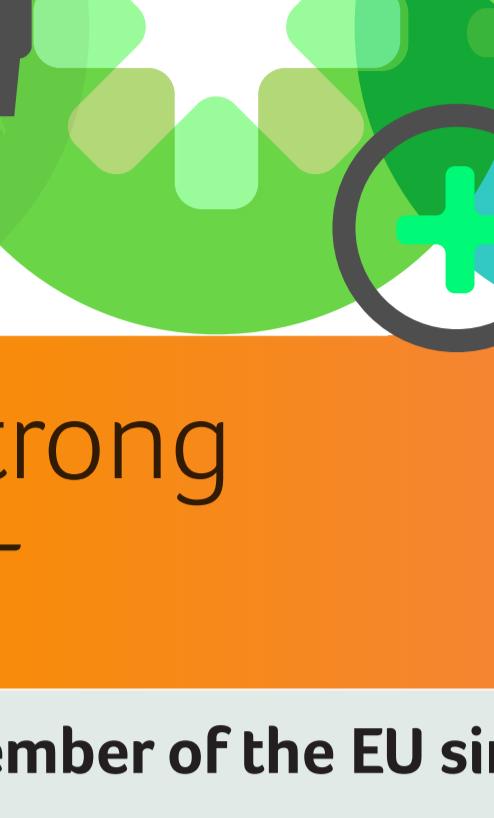
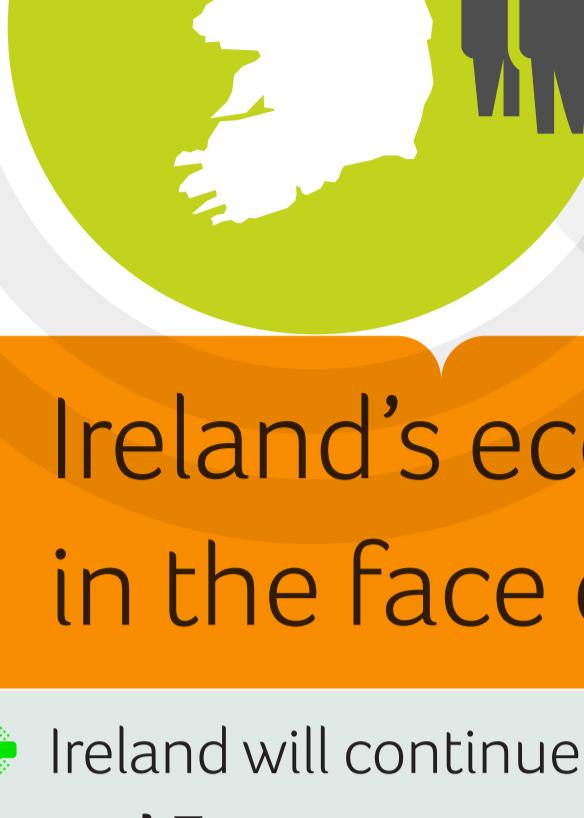




Ireland's Economic & Competitiveness Update Q3 2016



Ireland's economy strong in the face of BREXIT

- + Ireland will continue to be a **core member of the EU single market and Eurozone**.
- + Rating agency S&P maintained **Ireland's A credit rating** noting that they "expect the Irish economy to stay resilient enough to withstand the negative impact of the Brexit".

Increasing FDI into Ireland

- + **Strong FDI investment** into Ireland in first half of 2016 with investments **up 10% yoy**.
- + IDA client direct employment in Ireland is at a record level. FDI directly and indirectly accounts for **one-fifth** of private sector employment in Ireland.
- + FDI makes significant contribution to the Irish economy; IDA clients directly **employ 187,000+**, **spend €9bn** on Payroll annually, **invest €1.5bn in R&D** and account for 67% of national exports and 65% of corporation tax.

Among the leading investments secured in the first half of the year were



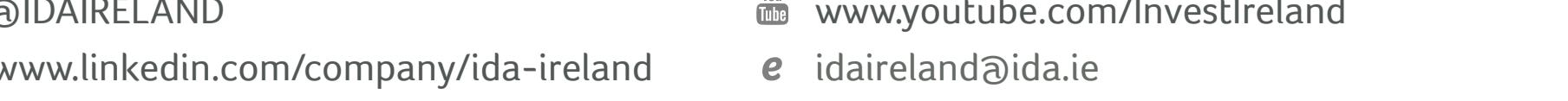
Ireland enters 5th year of economic expansion

- + Ireland continues to be the **fastest growing economy** in Europe.
- + Competitiveness gains have been sustained as the economy grows strongly. In 2016 the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook ranked **Ireland 1st in the Eurozone, 5th in the OECD and 7th in the world** for overall competitiveness.
- + **Exports contributed positively** on the back of competitiveness improvements and healthy FDI flows.
- + **Domestic growth is also strong** with positive contributions from consumer spend and building and construction activity.
- + Ireland's debt ratio has fallen from **120% in 2012 to 79% in 2015**.
- + The Irish Government is implementing its Capital Investment Programme to **rapidly expand the capacity of the economy in areas such as infrastructure, commercial real estate and housing**.

Dynamic Labour Market

- + Employment has increased significantly, and **unemployment down to 7.8% in June 2016 from peak of 15.1% in 2012**.
- + Employment growth driven by exporting companies which created **one in every three additional jobs** in Ireland since 2012.
- + **Irish labour costs have remained stable** since 2012, increasing by just 2.1% in total.
- + **Multicultural dynamic workforce**; 11% of people employed in Ireland are from other EU countries; compared to just 7% in UK, 5% in Germany, 2% in France and 2% in the Netherlands.

% Unemployment Rate



Source: Monthly Unemployment Rate June 2012 – June 2016, CSO