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## Introduction

Are you considering relocating to progress your career?

If so, Ireland may be the perfect option for you to begin your new life abroad and Solas Consulting, the most fitting partner to help you secure employment in your desired field within the IT sector. Below, you will find a comprehensive

guide on everything you need to know about Ireland: from the cost of living to the famous Irish “craic” culture.



“This is a greeting that's as Irish as Irish can be

It means

**“You are welcome**

**A thousand times over**

**Wherever you come from Whosoever you be”**

## IT Sector

In the past couple of decades, Ireland has emerged as a global hub for high-tech business. The technology sector is a key driver of the Irish economy and accounts today for more than a third of Ireland's total exports.

The sector's importance is amplified further as a result of Ireland's reliance on its export industry: a whopping 84% of our goods are exported. Ireland's technology sector boasts a wide variety of activities, ranging from developing hardware and devices, operating systems and providing software consultancy and services to systems integration, outsourcing, data supply and storage.



The IT sector in Ireland is a thriving and growing industry and is one of the country's most prevalent employers. See below some impressive statistics highlighting the booming industry.

- All of the top 5 software companies in the world have a significant presence in Ireland
- The total number of IT organizations in Ireland is approximately 5,400 and 233 of these are foreign owned ICT companies.
- The ICT Industry is currently responsible for approximately 25% of Ireland's total turnover, representing a huge one third of Ireland's exports by value.
- According to the CSO's 2010 employment figures, over 74,000 people are employed in ICT companies in Ireland.
- IT accounts for €50 billion of the Irish exports, a figure set to increase as companies continue to reap the benefits of our competitive opportunities and knowledge-based economy.



# WORKING - IN - IRELAND

Skilled expat professionals are actively recruited to work in Ireland to address skills shortages in the local workforce. European Union (EU) citizens are eligible to work without a work permit for Ireland, and have the least trouble finding employment opportunities.

It is increasingly strategically useful for specific industries in Ireland to hire expats. Fortunately for foreign candidates looking to move to Ireland, these skills gaps cover not just IT but various professions such as healthcare, construction management and medical research.

All professions in Ireland belong to an association and, depending on the type of organization it is, the association may in turn regulate the profession.

# Where to live in Ireland

As many visitors are most familiar with Dublin, it often becomes the first port of call when looking for a home in Ireland. But don't forget that Ireland has other great cities as well!

## Dublin

Looking for the excitement of a city in your prospective new home? Look no further than Dublin, the Republic's capital city. Recently voted the 34th best city in which to live (same as Boston and ahead of London) in the world by annual "Quality of



Living" list compiled by Mercer. Dublin boasts an abundance of job opportunities and is a young and vibrant city. Expats who manage to secure a job in Ireland are usually paid enough to ensure a good quality of life.

**Population: 1.800.000**

## Cork

Cork is situated in the south east corner of Ireland. It offers both country and city life in one medium-sized county, creating a truly unique living destination. It has a worldly recognizable university, varied food culture, great cultural venues / events and a diverse business / industrial base.

The explosive growth of the tech sector in Cork has created amazing career opportunities with some of the world's best technology companies.

**Population: 417,211**



## Galway

Galway is the capital of the west of Ireland, it is renowned for the numerous festivals, celebrations and events that take place throughout the year. Regarding the local economy, Galway boasts a variety of complementary business sectors, and it has attracted many major companies there.

Galway has a great advantage for being just 40 minutes from Shannon Airport - a newly completed motorway connecting to Dublin and a busy train station - offering the edge when it comes to infrastructure.

**Population: 179.048**



## Limerick



The city may be small, but it is a dynamic regional business hub with international companies choosing to invest there. Thanks to short commute times, affordable

house prices and excellent educational facilities the people of Limerick enjoy an unparalleled high quality of life. It is served by good train services and Shannon Airport only 12 miles away.

It has a sizeable international community due to 80 high-technology and knowledge-based companies.

**Population: 191.809**

## Westmeath

Westmeath is the largest county by population in the Irish Midlands. The largest town in the county is Athlone, this town in the heart of Ireland, serving as a mid-point between Dublin and Galway. With a population of roughly 22,000 people and an economy driven by investment from major multinational IT companies like Ericsson and Tyco, Athlone has one of the highest concentrations of developers in the country.

Well connected by road, rail and bus, Athlone has hourly train services to Dublin, Galway and Westport. For the outdoor enthusiast, the 89 mile Royal Canal Way is a walking and cycling road that leads from nearby Mullingar through lush countryside to Dublin.

The cost of living in Athlone is considerably lower than Dublin, and with most software development companies paying highly competitive salaries, you can expect the same money to go much further. Currently, a three bedroom house in Dublin's west suburbs is roughly €1700 per month, while a house of a similar build in tourist favourite Coosan rarely costs more than €800 a month.

**Population: 89.000**

## Weather

Temperatures in Ireland remain quite moderate, extremes are a rarity. Summer months settle between 16 to 22 degrees and winter months move between 4 to 10 degrees.

## Cost of living

Expats will find the cost of living in Ireland is quite manageable thanks to expat salaries being typically supported by well-paying jobs that enable them to enjoy a high quality life.

Dublin being the most expensive place to live. This was confirmed by the Mercer Cost of Living Survey for 2017, but if you look to smaller towns and rural areas you'll find rents are usually much lower. Average monthly rent for a two-bedroom property in County Leitrim is €426. In County Longford it's €477 and in Donegal €509.



## Accommodation

Depending on how much you can afford per week or month, there are plenty of options available. If you need a townhouse for your family or just need a room in a shared house, you can be sure you will be able to find it. (Typically most rental accommodation are furnished)

A room in a shared house in Dublin will cost around €750. A self-contained apartment can cost upwards of €1600.

Rent is usually paid monthly and in advance. A deposit of at least one month's rent is usually expected to secure accommodation. Utility bills will average €130 per month, which includes electricity, water and heating.

## Education

Ireland has a well-developed education system. In fact, its education system is one of the best in the world according to the independent IMD World Competitiveness Report. As a result of a sustained investment in this area, Ireland now has one of the highest educational participation in the world.

Children residing in Ireland are entitled to attend primary and post-primary school. Every child in Ireland is entitled to free, state-run primary and post- primary education.

## Healthcare

Both private and public healthcare are available in Ireland. The public system is funded by general taxes. If you need immediate attention you will probably

have to pay a subsidised fee depending on age, income, disability, etc., but you will be seen to and the cost will be minor.

## Transport

Ireland's size makes travelling very easy. So when you want to get around, it's relatively easy depending on how you want to travel. Rental cars are incredibly cheap, buses run all over the country, as do trains. There are a number of private bus companies which cater for commuter and local services.

## Travel, shipping and removal

Ireland is a perfect launching pad for travelling. In two hours you could be in Barcelona, three hours in Rome or merely 45 minutes in the UK. Also Ryanair and Aer Lingus fly to Zadar, Dubrovnik, Pula and Zagreb.

There are plenty of shipping removal services to Ireland, particularly to Dublin. Expats from the European Union countries can easily bring their cargo into Ireland with few restrictions.

## Culture and leisure

Ireland has an incredible rich cultural history, and is a powerhouse of musical, poetic, and literary creativity for centuries. The Irish language, also called Gaelic, is one of the few surviving Celtic languages in the world.

And let's not forget the ever-popular "craic", always in vogue with every age group. You can start a conversation with a stranger in Ireland without getting the strange looks.

And the pubs! Take a walk around through any city and you will find more pubs per square foot than anything else. The variety of pubs available is overwhelming. Whether you prefer a small quiet pub with a handful of patrons, or a full on standing room only, dancing/screaming over the noise pub, Ireland has it.

## Essential info

**Population:** about 4.803.748 million (544,350 non-Irish nationals)

**Capital:** Dublin

**Major religions:** Roman Catholic 84.16%; No religion 5.88%; Other Religions 4.59%; Church of Ireland 2.81%; Not stated 1.59%; Islam 1.07%.

**Legal system:** Parliamentary democracy

**Main Languages:** English and Gaelic

**Time:** GMT +1

**Electricity:** 230 volts, 50Hz. Square and round three-pin plug are standard

**Currency:** The Euro (EUR)

**International dialling code:** +353

**Internet TLD:** .ie

**Drives:** on the left

## Useful websites

[www.solasit.ie](http://www.solasit.ie)

[www.itshappeninghere.ie](http://www.itshappeninghere.ie)

[www.citizeninformation.ie/en/moving\\_country/moving\\_to\\_ireland](http://www.citizeninformation.ie/en/moving_country/moving_to_ireland)

[www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)

[www.daft.ie](http://www.daft.ie) (accommodation)

[www.movetoireland.com](http://www.movetoireland.com)

<b>Cost of living chart</b>	
<b>Accommodation (monthly)</b>	
One-bedroom apartment in city centre	€1,300
Three-bedroom apartment in city centre	€2,300
One-bedroom apartment outside city centre	€1,000
Three-bedroom apartment outside city centre	€1,700
<b>Shopping</b>	
Milk (1 litre)	€1
Dozen eggs	€3
Rice (1kg)	€1.65
Loaf of white bread	€1.50
Pack of chicken breast (1kg)	€8
Coca Cola (2litres)	€2
Pack of cigarettes (Marlboro lights)	€11
<b>Eating out</b>	
Big Mac meal	€8
Cappuccino	€3
Bottle of beer (local)	€5
Three-course meal at a mid-range restaurant	€30
<b>Utilities/Household (monthly)</b>	
Mobile call rate (per minute - mobile to mobile)	€0.27
Internet (8MB - average per month)	€45
Hourly rate for a domestic Cleaner	€15
Utilities (gas, water, electricity)	€150
<b>Transportation</b>	
Taxi (rate/km)	€1.50
City centre bus fare	€2.70
Petrol/Gasoline (per litre)	€1.30



