An Inside Look at Ireland’s Economic Growth

Ireland’s policed business ecosystem caters to foreign direct investment and nurtures innovation. The global footprint of Irish companies has never been greater.

Walking Through the cobblestoned streets of Dublin, the juxtaposition of modern buildings wedged between historic Georgian brick offices represents the tidal wave of change foreign direct investment has implemented across the nation. Growth is on the horizon, as dozens of companies continue to soar across the previously low Dublin skyline. With business investment at record levels, the infrastructural development is trying to keep up with the growing population and expanding economy. A decade after its financial crisis, Ireland has reengaged with phenomenal economic recovery, retaking a strong globalized business model with foreign direct investment (FDI) as a key pillar. The global footprint of Irish companies has never been greater, and the levels of FDI have skyrocketed. With companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon basing their European headquarters in Ireland, the EU markets, and an innovative, talented, English-speaking workforce. Additional attributes include an attractive corporate tax rate of 12.5%, an exceptional FDI track record, a high quality of life, a pro-business environment, and competitive investment incentives. Ireland’s workforce make not all the top recruiter’s ‘heat list’, with the skilled labor force of 25-34 year olds with higher level education.

A decade after its financial crisis, Ireland has reengaged with phenomenal economic recovery, retaking a strong globalized business model with foreign direct investment (FDI) as a key pillar. The global footprint of Irish companies has never been greater, and the levels of FDI have skyrocketed. With companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon basing their European headquarters in Ireland, the EU markets, and an innovative, talented, English-speaking workforce. Additional attributes include an attractive corporate tax rate of 12.5%, an exceptional FDI track record, a high quality of life, a pro-business environment, and competitive investment incentives. Ireland’s workforce make not all the top recruiter’s ‘heat list’, with the skilled labor force of 25-34 year olds with higher level education.

As Ireland’s economic fundamentals have resurged with phenomenal economic growth, the country is poised to become the only English-speaking country in the EU. In a global landscape, it is not just about tax strategy, but also about the common law legal system, cosmopolitan, English-speaking society, along with being anchored in the EU. When the opportunity arises, we will win big.

Ireland’s relations remain strong, and the US is set to sustain its position as the largest external investor in Ireland. US investment in Ireland surpasses investment in the BRIC countries combined, and across South America, the Middle East, and Africa combined. More than 700 US companies operate in Ireland, employing over 150,000 people, and individually 100,000, accounting for 20% of total employment. The US is the second-largest source of FDI, accounting for 446 billion dollars; 87% of all FDI in Ireland. Also, Ireland is home to the greatest beneficiary of profit shifting as US companies, which has been a topic of controversy. Nonetheless, Ireland continues to be ranked as one of the best countries for business, not just for large multi-nationals, but also for startups. With the prospect of Brexit looming, Ireland has become even more attractive with its stability. commitment to the EU, and the ability to become the only English-speaking country in the EU.

In post-Brexit world, Ireland will also be the largest common law jurisdiction in the EU. Ireland has won more than 80 Brexit-related FDI projects since the June 2016 referendum.

Martin Shanahan, CEO of IDA Ireland, the agency responsible for attracting inward FDI, said, “Ireland continues to be ranked amongst the top countries in the world to do business.” We are placed seventh most competitive country in the world and second most competitive in the EU, according to IMD 2019 rankings. Our value proposition remains strong, helping to achieve record levels of investment. FDI contributes significantly to Ireland’s economy and accounts for 67% of all export sales. Maintaining an attractive competitiveness as the economy grows is key in attracting foreign direct investment.

However, these investments are not a one-way street. Ireland is the ninth largest investor in the US. Irish companies are responsible for employing over 100,000 people across the US in 800 companies, and the US is the second largest single market for Irish companies.

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Ireland's agri-food sector is diversifying its markets and pioneered the approach to sustainable food production.

Agri-food is Ireland's largest indigenous industry, employing over 7.9% of the working population, and when employment in marketing, processing and inputs are included, the agri-food sector accounts for nearly 10% of total employment. The sector largely contributes to the vitality of the coastal and rural communities across the country. Ireland's agri-food sector has grown tremendously with exports jumping from €7.4 billion in 2010, to €12.1 billion in 2019. This increase highlights how the sector is one of Ireland's largest success stories.

The sector is on a trajectory for more growth and has huge ambitions for the future. Strategies like Food Wise 2025, an industry-wide plan that is transforming the sector with the objective of positioning Ireland as a world leader in sustainable agri-food production, and is supporting Ireland's exports to reach a goal of 19 billion euros by 2025. Ireland is increasingly becoming a key enabler to feed the world. With roughly 700 food and drink companies across Ireland, the sector exports food and beverages to over 150 countries worldwide.

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Tara McCarthy
Bord Bia

Ireland has clear soil, clean air, and clean seas. We are able to build traceability, undeniable food safety, and highlight nutrition. Ireland can market itself on its credentials and global consumers are increasingly willing to pay a premium for the attributes inherent in our food and drink. We are building on years of commitment to quality assurance, traceability and sustainable measurements," stated McCarthy.

As the sector is looking to grow its exports, diversification is a priority. Ireland, already home to a hundred and different markets around the world, has already the ability of protecting Ireland’s agri-food exports from the complex and ever-changing international market. It is in the process of deepening its cultural understanding of global markets, and designing products catered specifically to those needs.

Discussing Ireland’s dedication to innovation, McCarthy highlighted, “Innovation is a core idea that many people associate to a new product; however, it is currently being transformed into services for the food industry, support systems that are sustainable, and a commitment to the consumer. For instance, Ireland is the largest organic vegetable producer in Europe. We are leaders in organic products, and the first European country to gain organic certification in the global market.

The Irish food industry is one of the most scientifically advanced globally, and the food ingredient segment is among the fastest growing areas. This land is becoming a food-processing

Irish Roots with Global Reach
Hurtling beginnings as a small box-making factory in Rathmines to becoming the first Irish multinutri, Smurfit Kappa is an innovative world leader in paper-based packaging.

How has Smurfit Kappa evolved across the years?

Smurfit Kappa is the world’s leading corrugated and carton manufacturer, driving organic seafood production, systems like Origin Green, and a dedicated commitment to such a measure, stated McCarthy.

We work hand-in-hand with companies to reduce their CO2 emissions by tailoring our products to their needs. We recently worked with Smurfit Kappa, one of our major customers, to develop a waste product. Through relentless innovation, McCarthy highlighted, “Innovation is a complex idea that many people associate to a" new product; however, it is currently being transformed into services for the food industry, support systems that are sustainable, and a commitment to the consumer. For instance, Ireland is the largest organic vegetable producer in Europe. We are leaders in organic products, and the first European country to gain organic certification in the global market.

How will legacy leave what you will be the Group CEO?

Ireland’s An Post Commerce delivers exactly that – a global business needs a partner with global reach.

Global business needs a partner with global reach.

Ireland's agri-food sector is diversifying its markets and pioneered the approach to sustainable food production.
**Building a European E-commerce Logistics Hub**

The development of ‘An Post Money’ and ‘An Post Commerce’ is future proofing the business for the long term.

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**Dublin’s Most Iconic Flexible Workspace Increases its Unique Property Portfolio**

In a complicated business world, flexible workspace solutions are a tactical advantage.

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**Project Ireland 2040**

The government’s National Planning Framework and National Development Plan

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**Project Ireland 2040 entails a diverse range of investments being made by the State. This long-term government 116 billion euro overarching infrastructure strategy aims to counterbalance the continued growth of Dublin with that of other regions. It seeks to develop and support new locations to give alternative spaces for employment and showcasing businesses and communities throughout Ireland. The project is expected to create thriving regional, compact, and smart urban settlements, with a focus on sustainable economic growth. The plan will enhance regional accessibility. A core priority is to ensure improved transport connectivity of rural Ireland to Dublin, and in between the regions. For example, the N30 Dock to Limerick and the Atlantic Economic Corridor will enhance the interaction between Ireland’s thriving west coast islands including Kerry, Limerick, Galway, Sligo, and Donegal. Stronger regional economies will play a role in driving Ireland’s national economy.

Dublin 2040 is developing the national infrastructure of roads, ports and railways as a backbone of connectivity for sustainable transport, on trains, cars, and rural areas.

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**What if sustainable sourcing was simple?**

Origin Green, the world’s first national food sustainability programme sets the stage. We support small and large businesses, and communities alike.

Visit OriginGreen.com to learn more.

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**Dublin Port is currently going through a 1 billion euro refurbishment to maximise its efficiency. New port facilities are being built in Ringaskiddy in Cork to handle the increasing amount of cargo moving between Ireland and the UK.**

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**What is the impact of broadband interconnectivity on An Post’s operations?**

The recent broadband rollout has positioned Ireland as one of the best European countries in terms of connectivity. Demand worldwide for online services is increasing massively, and this is leading to changes in the logistics sector. The changes have catalysed an e-commerce explosion, causing online sales to grow exponentially. Consequently, An Post had to adapt our business model to meet this demand.

**How is An Post improving services through digital innovation?**

Once the customer is tracing a parcel, we can provide an ecosystem of services, which is one of our biggest new initiatives. We are incorporating innovative solutions such as improving track and trace functionalities with delivery time and location options that have proven extremely effective.

An Post is also investing heavily in improving delivery technology through the renovation of our Dublin parcel hub, which incorporates innovative solutions that should keep us going on current procurements until 2023.

In business, An Post has been the leading choice for global e-retailers and global brands, and this resulted in a significant revenue increase through the e-commerce facilitation business. The new customs system being introduced in 2021 will ensure that the EU’s single market is fully connected, and global e-retailers value the tariff in Ireland.

We are at the forefront, working in collaboration with EU countries on e-commerce facilitation, which is one of our biggest projects.

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**How do you evaluate Dublin’s property market?**

Dublin is the latter stages of a cycle, and sourcing new locations is increasing. Companies, particularly technology companies, are driving up prices and benefits. In general, Dublin real estate market is quite competitive for small entities to recover as many of their space requirements; therefore, flexible workspace solutions in Dublin are experiencing significant demand.

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**How is the flexible workspace sector segmented?**

The sector caters to startups, SMEs and multinationals. Flexible workspace increasingly makes commercial sense for major multinationals, as they ramp up employee numbers and headquarters. Even tech startups that expect incu-

bators are now beginning to utilize flexible and co-working spaces as a stepping stone. The increasing trend is not only chaotically driven in a short amount of the modern business world, flexible workspace solutions are a huge tactical advantage. Local players, like Iconic, are at the forefront and understand the challenges clients face and continuously and proactively provides solutions to support customers.

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**How is Iconic Offices developing its portfolio?**

Iconic is considered Ireland’s leading design-led flexible workspac

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**Roads:** 7.3 billion euro is planned for road projects including the M50 Donegal to Carlow, and the R448, with an expected completion date of 2023.

**Rail:** Dublin remains the only major capital city in Europe without a rail network to the airport and the 2 billion euro Metro Link project will finally connect Dublin’s city centre to the Dublin Airport via Swords. There is also a 2 billion euro plan to extend the Dart (train) to Drogheda, Maynooth, and Naas and the Luas (tram) to Bray, Firhouse, Lucan and Portobello.

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By Fadrique Álvarez de Toledo

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**Dublin’s Most Iconic Flexible Workspace Increases its Unique Property Portfolio**

In a complicated business world, flexible workspace solutions are a tactical advantage.
Manufacturing: Ireland's Second Largest Employer
With the arrival of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, smart factories and innovative supply chain integration are transforming the manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing accounts for over 30% of GDP, 122 billion euro in exports, and employs 250,000 people across 4,000 businesses in Ireland.

"Manufacturing is not the first thing that comes to peoples minds when they think of Ireland. It is not until people travel throughout the island that they realize how much manufacturing actually takes place," stated Martin McVicar, Founder and CEO, Combilift. "Combilift cannot compete in size with global industrial powerhouses like Chi, but has carved out a niche for itself within the global marketplace by innovating heavily in advanced manufacturing and developing innovative products. Fromagh electronics to pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutics to industrial equipment, the nation is learning with innovative Irish manufacturing and Irish products pushing out of Ireland."  

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is blurring the lines of what traditional manufacturing entails. Irish entities began adapting to changing environmental interactions. Smart factories and collaborative robots are allowing machines to adapt to a changing world by building their manufacturing hubs on the island. Ireland has invested 15 billion euro and built in last 10% of the newest most technologically advanced manufacturing facilities in Europe, producing next generation chips for the state of the art electronics of the future.

Pfizer, one of the first pharmaceutical companies to locate in Ireland back in 1969, has since invested 7 billion euro in Ireland is largest investment outside its home state. Their large manufacturing and R&D facility inside SDCG's New Castle Business Park is one of the largest integrated biotechnology plants in the world. Pfizer’s Irish facilities house state of the art equipment, and in collaboration with leading academic researchers from universities around the country, continuously work on early stage research. The Irish countryside is dotted with innovation manufacturing sites, and near

85% of these operations are outside of the company’s home country. Pfizer’s Irish operations are a shining example of why the island is the home of industry successes is Combilift. 

Combilift, an Irish forklift manufacturer, is revolutionizing how global warehouses and logistics operations handle their long materials. One of the key benefits of Combilift forklifts is the ability to cause a changing world by building their manufacturing hubs on the island. Ireland has invested 15 billion euro and built in last 10% of the newest most technologically advanced manufacturing facilities in Europe, producing next generation chips for the state of the art electronics of the future.

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Chanelle Pharma is Ireland’s largest indigenous manufacturer of generic human and veterinary pharmaceuticals. Innovative Irish chairman Michael Burke founded the company in 1983, and still leads the company today out of their headquarters in Loughrea, Co. Galway on the west coast of Ireland. Chanelle Pharma manufactures its own developed products, and also undertakes contract manufacturing for solid dosage forms, liquids and powders, which are packaged, stored, labeled and released and distributed worldwide. The company is also approved to manufacture controlled medicines. Some of Chanelle Pharma’s products include proprietary formulated anthistamines, anesthetics and antibiotics that have come to market in Ireland.

The award-winning company was named Irish Pharma Company of the Year, 2019, making it the first Irish company to win the overall award, which has previously been awarded to global companies. A commitment to research and development at the heart of the company’s success. Chanelle Pharma holds over 2,500 chemical and 1,900 product licenses for human pharmaceutical products, as well as the largest number of registered veterinary businesses in Ireland.

Ireland is well positioned to continue to expand into new markets and is currently being attractive to companies looking for innovative ways to improve safety in the workplace, and Combilift provides just that. "The Irish manufacturing sector is consistently looking for innovative ways to improve safety in the workplace, and Combilift provides just that," Combilift has doubled its business in Ireland in the last three years, and we are confident we are again on the cusp of another prosperous year in the island’s largest manufacturing sector. Chanelle Pharma remains an Irish owned company, and is heavily focused on its Irish production facilities, and expanding into over 26 countries international market.

Chanelle Pharma received a lot of support in its early years from Enterprise Ireland, and since 2005, Combilift has provided a lot of support for the last two years, and we are very grateful to them for their continued support," said Burke, "We have appreciated the financial support, but more importantly, we have appreciated the support and the advice we have received. Enterprise Ireland has provided us with a lot of support in the early stages of our business. They have been a great support to us." 

By Fadrique Álvarez de Toledo
Ireland is allocating 22 billion euro to transform into a low-carbon economy by 2050. The private sector in turn is doing its part to export its own expertise globally.

Martin Naughton is one of Ireland’s most prominent industrialists and philanthropists. His efforts in promoting the private sector’s contribution to peace and environmental sustainability led him to become the first Irish honoree of the Osb Business for Peace Award, previously given to Elon Musk and Sir Richard Branson. Naughton’s valued diplomatic voice also peace on the Irish border, while his contributions to society and determining in sponsorship future generations to change the world are renown. Naughton was awarded as an Honorary Knight of the British Empire, and undoubtedly has a remarkable life. The company he founded, the Glen Dimplex Group, has in parallel had a remarkable journey. Acting as the Founder and Chairman of the Glen Dimplex Group, Martin Naughton has transformed the company. From humble beginnings in 1973 as a small manufacturer of refrigeration equipment, while his contributions to society and determining in sponsorship future generations to change the world are renown. Naughton was awarded as an Honorary Knight of the British Empire, and undoubtedly has a remarkable life. The company he founded, the Glen Dimplex Group, has in parallel had a remarkable journey. Acting as the Founder and Chairman of the Glen Dimplex Group, Martin Naughton has transformed the company. From humble beginnings in 1973 as a small manufacturer of refrigeration equipment, the company has become a global leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of heating, ventilation, and heat recovery. It is a global leader in research and development and has a track record in developing breakthrough technologies. Naughton realised early on how critical R&D is to create game-changing innovation, and continued to be involved in major projects around the world.

He stated, “If you do not innovate, you will evaporate, and this is a drivel for Glen Dimplex. Every heater we make is a smarter heater full of sensors. If we have a heater in the room and people are not in the room, the sensors will detect this and turn off if you open a window, the heater will sense it is not needed and turn off. We seek to bring maximum comfort at an affordable cost. In Ireland and across the world, the energy landscape is changing at an extraordinary pace, and the sector faces new challenges we are ramping up to meet.”

As buildings are the largest energy consumer in the world, Glen Dimplex’s Group solutions can have a lasting impact on creating a greener, cleaner world. Electricity from carbon-neutral generation is the cleanest energy carrier. The Group offers solutions that include renewable energy grants for Glen Dimplex. Every heater we make is a smarter heater full of sensors. If we have a heater in the room and people are not in the room, the sensors will detect this and turn off if you open a window, the heater will sense it is not needed and turn off. We seek to bring maximum comfort at an affordable cost. In Ireland and across the world, the energy landscape is changing at an extraordinary pace, and the sector faces new challenges we are ramping up to meet.

The Group offers solutions that include low temperature networks, mechanical ventilation and water heating, cooling, ventilation, and heat recovery. It is a global leader in research and development and has a track record in developing breakthrough technologies. Naughton realised early on how critical R&D is to create game-changing innovation, and continued to be involved in major projects around the world.

Ireland Set to Become the Largest Common Law Jurisdiction in the EU Post-Brexit

There is a strong initiative across the Irish legal sector to promote Ireland as a convenient and appropriate hub for international transactions. How is Grant Thornton ensuring its services to US clients? Over the past several years with Brexit looming on the horizon, there has been a noticeable shift of US multinationals moving part of their operations to Ireland, particularly Dublin, in order to maintain stable access to the EU marketplace. It is estimated that of the financial services groups who have relocated a part of their business to the UK, 80% of US-based and European-based firms have selected Ireland as their new hub for their financial services operations. In addition to the common law and professional service markets Ireland stand out as an attractive destination for business.

“American companies see the benefits of the EU’s 400 million consumer market,” said Martin Naughton, Founder and Chairman of Glen Dimplex Group

Grant Thornton Ireland: Driving Business with Purpose

How do you assess Ireland’s economic environment?

Ireland is a small and open economy that is heavily affected by global economic events. It is the reason why our economy was severely impacted a few years ago. We are a small economy, but with a strong rebound. Brexit is Ireland’s biggest current external issue, but it can become an opportunity for those that are well positioned. In recent years, Ireland’s economy has diverged away from the construction and real estate sector, and our economy is now in a position to become balanced. Today what we do is focused on innovation, research and development, and earnings. Overall, the economy is much more balanced.

How do you assess Ireland’s role as a hub for American investment?

American companies see the benefits of the EU’s 400 million consumer market. Ireland will soon be the only English-speaking country in the EU, and is the closest culturally to the US. In fact, we are the most English-speaking country in Europe with a strong US presence. In fact, we are the most English-speaking country in Europe with a strong US presence. In 2019, the US-EU-US flights out of Dublin, and a 12.5% corporate tax rate benefits the Irish legal sector can offer. Multinationals should remember the benefits that Ireland can offer when considering basing operations abroad.

The sector provides business advantages to the North American market, in particular because of the similarity between the Irish and US legal systems. Ireland, and of course, England and the US are English speaking. The law is the same around the underlining fundamental legal system is easily transferrable when choosing a jurisdiction. People also like the certainty of Irish courts. There is a strong initiative across the Irish legal sector to promote Ireland as a convenient and appropriate hub for international transactions. Ireland is the cleanest energy carrier. The Group offers solutions that include low temperature networks, mechanical ventilation and water heating, cooling, ventilation, and heat recovery. It is a global leader in research and development and has a track record in developing breakthrough technologies. Naughton realised early on how critical R&D is to create game-changing innovation, and continued to be involved in major projects around the world.

How is Grant Thornton ensuring its services to US clients?

It is specialized on five jurisdictions, and has over 2,000 people from San Francisco to Dublin is our second largest global office. The Group’s solutions can have a lasting impact on creating a greener, cleaner world. Electricity from carbon-neutral generation is the cleanest energy carrier. The Group offers solutions that include low temperature networks, mechanical ventilation and water heating, cooling, ventilation, and heat recovery. It is a global leader in research and development and has a track record in developing breakthrough technologies. Naughton realised early on how critical R&D is to create game-changing innovation, and continued to be involved in major projects around the world.

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New design leads to fastest delivery of a 10 MW data center in Europe

Barry English, Winthrop Engineering

As a more practical level, the partner- ship model has helped deliver a number of solutions and projects for our clients. The process has been quite simple. For example, if we are building a new data center design and need to develop the infrastructure, we have a clear understanding of the requirements and can provide a comprehensive solution within a timeframe that is acceptable to our clients.

Winthrop’s model also streamlines the design process. By consolidating the design and engineering work, our clients are more easily accessible and we can provide a more tailored solution.

Barry believes that Winthrop Engineering is well placed to lead the industry in the future, as the company has a strong focus on innovation and the development of new technologies. The company has a strong team of experienced professionals and is committed to delivering high-quality projects on time and within budget.

Winthrop Engineering is a leader in the data center industry, providing world-class solutions that are trusted by businesses around the world.
Dublin’s Silicon Docks

The nickname alludes to Silicon Valley, and was embraced to illustrate the concentration of European universities of high-tech companies

Dublin’s docksides were historically a picturesque locale. Today it is home to multiple multinationals including: Google, Amazon, Microsoft, PayPal, Facebook, Intel, IBM, Apple, Tesco, LinkedIn, Ireland’s leading software firms, and a host of newer, smaller US technology companies, eight of the top ten global software companies, and the top three global enterprise software companies. European, African, and Middle Eastern online services, software, and social media companies are also increasingly establishing their headquarters in Dublin.

Ireland has many benefits, and Dublin, as the capital, allows companies to penetrate European markets efficiently. The IDA has attracted vast foreign direct investment (FDI) and multinational enterprises with recruiting real estate and other services. The Information Communications Technology (ICT) sector now employs 37,000 people and generates 25 billion euro in exports annually.

Dublin is a true European tech hub, attracting thousands of local and international firms. It is home to nine of the world’s top ten software companies. European, African, and Middle Eastern online services, software, and social media companies are also increasingly establishing their headquarters in Dublin.

How is SDCC preparing to accommodate future FDI?

SDCC is home to Grange Castle Business Park, the largest wholly owned local authority FDI site in Ireland. It has become the location of choice for world-class multinationals such as Pfizer, Microsoft, Intel, and Amazon. It is a world class facility with investments of over 5 billion euro and a significant pipeline of ongoing investments. For investors considering Ireland, Grange Castle Business Park is a natural first visit. The park offers all the services imaginable, including broadband, energy, and waste services. Grange Castle Business Park is conveniently located six miles from the city center and less on various arterial transport routes of the national road, bus, and cycling networks, with access to the park. It is a mere 25-minute drive from Dublin airport and 30 minutes to seven other destinations.

SDCC has a proven track record in the planning, development, and management of the park, streamlining the process for new investors. Grange Castle Business Park is the ideal location for accommodating substantial new businesses, and we are developing an additional five hundred acres, including the landscaping of all existing infrastructure, with a view to be ready to accommodate these businesses and FDI later this year.

What benefits does South Dublin life offer residents?

The ecosystem actively supports new businesses and attracts global talent. Dublin is one of the most pros- perous areas of the country, and continues to grow by fostering startups and maximizing its potential. Indigenous startups find flexible business support services and can scale up fast to compete from the on the ground expertise. Tech giants are helping increase employment and GDP but also developing, medical devices, and IT services sectors are also experiencing unprecedented growth. These investments are not recent and have been compounding since the 1990s. Although Ireland’s economy was hand hit by the global financial crisis, the economy recently finished beyond reassembly. This was in part thanks to FDI and Irish staff continuing to move to Ireland even during the crisis. Alan Fox, General Manager of FREE NOW Ireland said it best, “Ireland is the first choice and offers capacity for growth, world-class multinationals such as Pfizer, Microsoft, Intel, and Amazon. It is a world class facility with investments of over 5 billion euro and a significant pipeline of ongoing investments. For investors considering Ireland, Grange Castle Business Park is a natural first visit. The park offers all the services imaginable, including broadband, energy, and waste services. Grange Castle Business Park is conveniently located six miles from the city center and less on various arterial transport routes of the national road, bus, and cycling networks, with access to the park. It is a mere 25-minute drive from Dublin airport and 30 minutes to seven other destinations.

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How is SDCC mitigating the supply problem of sustainable waste heat?

SDCC has invested 20 million euro in a 30 MW condensing turbine which can capture Ireland’s first district heating system. The nickname alludes to Silicon Valley, and was embraced to illustrate the concentration of European universities of high-tech companies.
Cork: Ireland's Second Largest Economic Driver

On track to be the fastest growing county over the next two decades

Overlooking the coastal city with a win-
dow and may reveal rolling hills sur-
rounding the parameter, Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Tim Lucey, was pleased to showcase his county. Cork is the largest county in Ireland, and home to the second most populated city in Ire-
lan d. The county is dynamic and houses the European headquarters of John Apple, and the headquarters of Dairy-
gold, a renowned dairy company. Cork has continually been high on the chart for attracting FDI, and is home to 196 FDI companies, such as Dell EMC, Phase One, IBM, and Brown-Quinlivan, all of which provide a high quality of life and value for money. Cork will continue to attract giants of industry. Cork County is Ireland's second largest economic driver, and on track to be the fastest growing region in the country for the next decade.

Tim Lucey stated, "Cork offers a unique balance between business and quality of life, which has been an asset in deve-
lopment to the region. The University of Cork and Cork and the Cork Institute of Technology, producing more businesses than any other institution in Ireland. This gives the region's popula-
tion opportunities for personal develop-
ment, and businesses a talent pool that
will continue to attract giants of industry. Cork County is Ireland's second largest economic driver, and on track to be the fastest growing region in the country for the next decade.

There has never been a better time to be in Cork County

On the edge of Europe, County Kerry - known as the "Emerald Isle," known for its breath-taking scenery and a rich quality of life - has a strong track record of enterprise, innovation and business activity.

Located on the west coasts and the Atlantic Economic Corridor, Kerry is not just a base for small and medium enterprises and business but is also home to some of Ireland's best and most successful international firms. County Kerry is also known for its innovative, training, and skill development, coupled and cooperation have proven to be key to Kerry's economic growth, and its ability to attract international investment.

With an exceptionally welcoming people, Kerry is known for its unique beauty, rich heritage and entrepre-
norial spirit. Kerry is renowned for its scenic countryside, sandy beaches, lush green fields, and its companies thrive. Like Pfizer, who has been in Cork for 50 years, but in this relationship. There is also plenty of room to grow operations in a sustainable manner not in relation to a discounted rate relative to the capi-
tal. FDI employs around 40,000 people in Cork. We have FDI duties in life sciences, food technology, and global service delivery. We are proud to be recognized for our innovation and entre-
preneurship, and have put indigenous businesses on the map and attracted global market leaders.

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In addition to our growth and develop-
ment, the beauty of our region is that it
will continue to attract giants of industry to Cork. We are proud to be a home for FDI and attract global market leaders.

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Louth County: The Land of Legends

Although Louth may be Ireland’s smallest county, it has plenty to offer. It is the second most densely populated county in the country. The county is considered the center of Ireland, with its two largest towns of Drogheda and Dundalk. The county is centrally located in the heart of Ireland. The two main towns in the county are Dundalk and Drogheda.

The county has a rich history, the county is considered the birthplace of the Irish people. It is known for its beautiful landscapes and historical sites. The county is blessed with an almost perfect location, and it is easy to access both the north and south of Ireland. The county is also home to a number of attractions, such as the Boyne Valley and the Monasterboice.

Dundalk is the county’s largest town, and it is home to the University of Louth. The town is also home to a number of businesses, such as the International Airport, which is the second busiest airport in Ireland. The town is also home to the Dundalk Institute of Technology, which is one of the country’s leading universities.

Drogheda is the county’s second largest town, and it is home to a number of businesses, such as the International Airport, which is the second busiest airport in Ireland. The town is also home to the Dundalk Institute of Technology, which is one of the country’s leading universities.

Westmeath: In the Heart of the Ancient East

Westmeath is the county in Ireland that is bordered by the counties of Offaly, Longford, and Cavan. Westmeath is centrally located in the heart of Ireland, and it is known for its beautiful landscapes and historical sites. The county is blessed with an almost perfect location, and it is easy to access both the north and south of Ireland. The county is also home to a number of attractions, such as the Boyne Valley and the Monasterboice.

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The Midlands: Ireland’s Hidden Heartland

Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands is the newest Irish tourism brand, exposing the beauty and charm of the midlands region. For over a century, Ireland has been on the top of Americas’ travel destinations, but only recently has the midlands been given the recognition it deserves. Often, investment will flow towards tourism and Padra Mahon, Chief Executive of Longford County Council, believes in this strategy. He hopes international visitors will fall in love with the beauty and charm of the region, and consider the midlands as an alternative to the traditional investment destinations.

For those holidaymakers and investors that are particularly new to our counties, and enjoy more off-the-beaten track on lifestyle, Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands is the ideal destination. The region spans across several counties, including Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford, Clare, Westmeath, Cavan, Tipperary, Galway, and Offaly. Each area focuses on its transport infrastructure, scenery, and culture, and also on its native cultural experiences, unique to each county. Previously neglected, Longford has been Ireland’s least visited county for several years. It only attracted 25,000 overseas visitors in 2016. However, with the new Center Parcs, the first Irish resort in Longford Forest, this is sure to change Longford’s destiny as a tourist destination. Mahon mentioned, “A massive investment has recently been made within Longford by Center Parcs. A 230 million euro forest park with 900 units of accommodation is being built and due to open the summer of 2019. It will host indoor and outdoor activities that have never been seen before on the island of Ireland, and will attract over 200,000 new visitors to a confined and beautiful woodlands in County Longford.” The Center Parcs investment has created employment, will lift local businesses, and will likely result in visitors exploring other areas of the county. Mahon shared the excitement for pulling Longford on the map and mention several other attractions in the county. “County Longford has several iconic natural locations and tourist amenities including the River Shannon, Lough Ree, St Mel’s Cathedral, River Carron, Lough Gowna, Nannagh, Drumconrath Forests, and the Corliss Tractway Visitor Center. The Royal Canal Greenway is also a gorgeous pathway that extends from Sparrow Dock in Dublin to the River Shannon in Cloondara, a small quaint village in County Longford. We have a literary trail in the south of County Longford, which is based on the literary heritage of Maria Edgeworth in Edgeworthstown, and Oliver Goldsmith in Ballymahon, among other significant Irish literary icons.”

“A massive investment has recently been made within Longford by Center Parcs.”

Padra Mahon, Chief Executive
Longford County Council

“Longford is an excellent place to live, work, and be a tourist. The county has the natural infrastructure needs of its residents, and the Midland’s Heartlands brand has the necessary energy, mobility, and broadband to attract the vital infrastructure needs of its residents, tourists, and the business community. Longford County Council have the power and will to invest, and invest in.”

By Jennifer Jurdusa

Ireland’s Regions Seek Investment

Meath: Europe’s Business Ready Region

Meath is fast becoming Ireland’s first choice for considering business relocation. With strong emerging opportunities, the county is fast becoming one of Europe’s most attractive business destinations.

John Mulholland
Chief Executive
Laois County Council

“Ireland’s regions try to overcome the public perception and cultural hesitancy with regards to investing outside the glittering capital. County Laois offers a prime environment, and an unparalleled quality of life. We are re-purposing the town center to focus on cultural aspects of investing, including entertainment, arts, creativity, and culture.

Furthermore, the county has a strategic location hosting large scale events. One of the biggest music festivals in the world is Electric Picnic Festival, which is a three-day event with musicians and artists from all over the world. This takes place in Stradbally every autumn.

What’s more, seeking the county offers tourism to go back in time to when Monks established themselves with their ecclesiastical center in Ough- na, which is the literary heritage of the county. The Seven Sepulchrs of Laois, where the original Irish clans in the area had their inheritance. The Slieve Bloom Mountains have beautiful cycle tracks, and are right in the middle of the countryside with fishing and golfing.”

By Jennifer Jurdusa

There is not a shortage of interesting events and picturesque towns, and relaxing getaways awaiting tourists and investors in the midlands: Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands.

By Jennifer Jurdusa
Sligo Witnessing Unprecedented Investment
Ireland’s new hub for innovation?

Clare Hayes
Chief Executive
Sligo County Council

Sligo is not only a charming location for tourists, but also a highly profitable destination. Siro, the leading provider of high-speed broadband, has selected Siro, the leading provider of high-speed broadband, has selected Siro for their new campus.

What is Sligo’s track record for attract- ing multinationals?
Siro has an established track record of being an excellent location for business, and attracting multinationals to Sligo.

Dublin: A Melting Pot
Ireland’s first Japanese restaurant celebrates
Dublin’s vibrant demographics

Denis and Graham Ryan
Group Founder and Director
Yamamori Group

Denis and Graham Ryan, Group Founder and Director of award-winning, Yamamori Group restaurants, have been finalists in the recent World Restaurant Awards. The Group now delivers unique culinary adventures across three thriving restaurants and bars in the city center.

What is Sligo’s tourism offering?
Sligo has rich traditions in literature, history, and culture. The secret to its success has been continuous innovation, and adapting to Dublin’s vibrant demographics. Sligo has no other competition. Moving forward, we plan to open a restaurant in Dublin.

How do you assess Donegal’s eco- nomy?
Donegal’s economy is performing strongly, and employment is on the rise.

How is Sligo developing itself as an smart city?
A multitude of entities are collaborating in Sligo to reach the united smart-city plan.

Looking for world class connectivity and an English speaking EU location to do business from?

Delia McShea
Sales Executive
Donegal Connect

Donegal’s FinTech Hub Develops
Letterkenny designated Regional Growth Center in the National Planning Framework

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Donegal in Ireland is the place
Where to work, quality of life

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Solving Ireland's mobility challenges

Anyone visiting Ireland will notice a deficit in transport infrastructure services, impacting mobility for residents and tourists. Dublin, ranked one of the last major European capitals lacking a rail connection between downtown and the main international airport. Also, the interconnectivity and reliability of city trains, buses, and road networks are lagging. However, there is a clear national strategy to deal with these burdensome transport inefficiencies. The government is relying on modern technology to advance this cause.

Current legislation does not reflect the fact that Ireland has an infrastructural deficit. For instance, road traffic legislation dates back to the 1920s, and rural roads lack clarity. For example, the legislation of electric scooters would aid in solving Ireland’s mobility challenges, but their use is currently in limbo. Thankfully, pedestrian and cyclist pathways are improving, and the country has been termed “the best place in Europe for cycling.”

BWM Group and Daimler recently po- sitioned their combined mobility services to meet similar demands. Their new entity, BWM Group, claims it is the “most connected urban mobility service in the world.” BWM Group delivers a variety of services, including car-sharing, bike-sharing, and car-rental services. In Ireland, the company offers bike-sharing services in Dublin, Cork, and Galway. BWM Group’s aim is to provide a seamless mobility experience for customers, allowing them to easily navigate the city without the need for a car.

However, the company’s rapid growth has also brought challenges. In June 2019, BWM Group announced a €1 million investment in Cork, which is the main entry gate for visitors. “We are an integral part of a mobility powerhouse in Europe that seeks to solve Dublin’s mobility challenges,” stated Alan Fox, General Manager, FREE NOW Ireland.

“An Irish Adventure Awaits

Long hanging clouds sweep across a still lake. The water reflects a colorful sunset, and the sky is dotted with white clouds. The sun sets behind the mountains, casting a warm glow over the entire landscape. The air is cool and crisp, and the scent of freshly cut grass fills the air. The water in the lake is still, and the sky is clear.

Starting with the warm welcome on ar- riving at the airport, the Irish are well-known for being excellent ambassadors to the coun- try. Passengers often have a wonderful experience as they travel through Ireland. The airports are clean and well-maintained, with friendly and helpful staff. The landscape is beautiful, with rolling hills and green fields. The weather is mild, with an average temperature of 60°F. The coldest month in Dublin is January, with an average temperature of 45°F. It is recommended to visit Ireland between March and May, and September to November, in order to enjoy the mild temperatures without the larger summer crowds.

Ireland welcomed 11.2 million overseas visitors in 2018, generating over 6.1 billion euro. The North American markets of the US and Canada deliver 15% of all overseas visitors and 27% of all overseas tourism revenue, as they tend to stay longer and travel across the entire island. According to Alice Molino, Tour- ism Ireland’s Head of North America, “Tourism Ireland has prioritized North America as a market,” and in 2019 the entire area, "to surpass the record-break- ing performance of 2018 and to grow revenue from North American visitors by +8% to 1.19 billion, generated by 2.17 million visitors.

With nearly 80% of visitors arriving through the Dublin Airport, Dublin is an obvious first destination. Dublin is rich in culture and history. Embrace cozy pubs, stroll through “the fair city,” and get ready to lose yourself in Ireland’s gorgeous landscapes.

By Fadrique Álvarez de Toledo