

Demographic Trends	Ireland					EU-25				
	1960	1980	2004/5	2030	2050	1960	1980	2004/5	2030	2050
Population in Millions	3	3	4	5	5	378	426	457	469	450
Total Fertility Rate (number of children per women)	4,0	2,9	2,0	1,8	1,8	2,6	1,9	1,5	1,6	1,6
Life expectancy at birth for women in years	72	76	81	85	87	73	76	80	84	86
Life expectancy at birth for men in years	68	70	76	80	82	67	69	74	78	81
Net migration in the population in thousands			16	13	12			1.464	835	822
Mean age of women at childbirth			31					29		
Population share of persons under 25 in %	45	48	36	30	26	40	38	29	24	23
Population share of persons aged 25-64 in %	44	41	53	52	48	50	49	54	51	47
Population share of persons aged 60-79 in %	14	13	13	20	24	13	15	18	25	25
Population share of very old persons 80+ in %	2	2	3	5	8	1	2	4	7	11
Old age dependency ratio (15-64) in %	19	18	16	28	45	15	21	25	40	53
Gender Equality and Family situation			2004/5					2004/5		
Employment rate women/men in %			58/77					56/71		
Gender pay gap in %			11					15		
Share of part time work among women/men in %			32/6					33/7		
Childcare availability for children (0-3 / 3 - compulsory school age) in %			∴					∴		
At-risk-of-poverty after social transfer in total/children in %			20/19					17/20		
Ageing and the Labour Market			2004/5					2004/5		
Employment rates for persons aged 55-64 women/men in %			37/66					34/52		
Employment rates for persons aged 60-64 in %			43					27		
Employment rates for persons aged 65-69 in %			15					8		
Average exit age from the labour market			63					61		
Inactive for health reasons in % of inactive (aged 50-64)			1,2					16		
Internet use total/people 65-74 in %			37/8					51/12		
Education, R&D and Productivity			2004/5					2004/5		
Early school leavers women/men in %			10/15					13/17		
Youth educational attainment levels women/men in %			89/83					80/74		
Total population having at least completed secondary edu. in %			65					69		
Lifelong learning			6,9/7,2					9,4/11		
R&D share in % GDP			1,2					1,9		
Productivity per hour relative to EU15 in %			120					100		
Migration and Integration			2004/5					2004/5		
Share of non nationals in the population in %			6					6		
Employment rate of nationals in %			67					65		
Employment rate of non EU-25 nationals in %			57					55		
Unemployment rate of nationals in %			4					9		
Unemployment rate of non EU-25 nationals in %			7					17		
Low education of nationals in %			44					35		
Low education non EU-25 nationals in %			19					49		
Sustainability of Public Finances and Social Protection			2004/5	2030	2050			2004/5	2040	2050
Government debt as % of GDP			27,6					63,4		
% of government revenue in GDP			33,9					43,7		
% of public expenditure on pensions in GDP			4,7	7,8	11,1			10,6	11,9	12,8
% of public expenditure on health care in GDP			5,3	6,5	7,3			6,4	7,4	8,0
% of public expenditure on long term care in GDP			0,6	0,7	1,2			0,9	1,1	1,5

Demographic challenges and ...

Ireland currently has the highest fertility rate in the EU and the proportion of young people in the population is also high. Life expectancy matches the EU average. The projections assume that fertility rates will remain high and that life expectancy will stay close to the EU average. The old-age dependency ratio could more than double, but would remain significantly below the EU average by 2050.

... opportunities for tackling them

Female labour force participation is already relatively high, but there remains scope for improvement with an employment rate gap between men and women of almost 20 percentage points and about one-third of women working part-time. Labour market opportunities for women could benefit from more accessible childcare. The gender pay gap is below the EU average. An increase in public spending on R&D and a reduction of early school leaving would help to raise future productivity. Although employment rates of older workers are above the EU average, potential still exists for improvement. Public debt is low, but a large ageing-related increase in public social protection expenditure is projected.